

# New McNally apartments are badly needed

Congratulations are due all around for the recent speedy efforts by local politicians, as well as the Ontario Municipal Board, to hurry up construction of Georgetown's desperately needed McNally apartments.

The 209 unit Park Avenue apartment complex has been on the drawing boards since 1972 but numerous slowdowns, by both the developer and government officials have stalled the project.

But in a bid to beat a federal government year-end deadline to qualify for grants, the town of Halton Hills, the region and the OMB went into high gear to make sure the necessary approvals and by-law changes were completed in time to meet the year end grant deadline.

And they did it. Work should get underway almost immediately on the apartment complex on the old Beaver lumber site on Park Avenue near Mill Street, on the edge of downtown.

Certainly Georgetown is a community in desperate need of more rental accommodation. Just ask any single person who has tried to rent an apartment. We hope the town and the region will continue to investigate ways to encourage construction of rental accommodation in this apartment starved town.

At the same time, those involved in the construction of the McNally apartments are also to be commended for its excellent location. One of the best ways to maintain a strong and vital downtown core is to encourage residential development adjacent to the business area.

Recent planning decisions in the city of Toronto, where downtown apartment construction has been encouraged, show the validity of this type of planning.

The construction of the McNally apartments is a big step towards increasing Georgetown's downtown core residential population.

# A heavy sigh greets latest hearing

It is no doubt with a heavy sigh that many Halton Hills newswatchers read that yet another Ontario Municipal Board hearing is underway locally, and furthermore that its subject matter is once again that dreaded hydro corridor which the media has made such a fuss over during the past few years.

The collective sigh that must have reverberated around the Gordon Alcott Arena hall as the hearing began yesterday must be a signal to Ontario Hydro that these plucky Halton Hills citizens who have been putting up a very expensive fight against the Bruce to Milton corridor for so long are finally ready to break. Has the unending bureaucratic pressure at last had its desired effect?

We feel that many local people long ago accepted the fact that the corridor would eventually march through Halton Hills somewhere between Acton and Georgetown regardless of the praiseworthy efforts by farmers and other landowners to draw out the covert political reasons for the selection of this particular route. This route, it became apparent, was a fait accompli, and nothing short of violence against Ontario Hydro and the government that fuels its greedy ambitions could stop it.

Perhaps it's all true; perhaps it should be no surprise at all if the current Municipal Board hearing follows the precedent already set last year when the local municipality's planning policies were buried by

another board ruling that has allowed a similar corridor to be built across southern Halton Hills.

If this is indeed the case, then the board's ruling will be accepted passively and the corridor will be erected along the town's fifth concession to carry power that may not be needed to a switching station that may not have been needed either.

What must not be accepted so passively is the government's original decision to bring the corridor our way, a decision that has been established as a political blunder of the worst kind, necessitating an immense technological cover-up that has and will cost Ontario taxpayers millions of dollars.

And whether or not the corridor opponents were right, we will likely never know, since the government is intent on getting the corridor built without having to commission the long-requested independent study of the corridor route which would no doubt uncover the cover-up.

If the voters who have read reports of the corridor controversy since it began making headline in 1973 have decided, as so many have, that justice has been done, they will react accordingly to the board's forthcoming ruling on the Bruce to Milton corridor.

Passive acceptance of the ruling itself; active resistance to the potential for similar mistakes in the future, come election time.

## Letter to the editor

# Teenager would miss Hungry Hollow land

To the editor of The Herald:

Dear Editor,  
I am just a young teenager of age thirteen and I know what I say will have little effect on the McLaughlin situation near Hungry Hollow. I have lived in my ravine home for nine years and was much disgusted when the ravine was fenced off. I understand that Mr. McLaughlin wants the land for building homes and these would make Georgetown a larger town. But there are many homes right now that don't have an owner and if these aren't sold it could put a Real Estate company close to bankruptcy. There is also a

chance that the people moving into these homes won't have a source of employment. I feel that the present Georgetown is at its optimum population and development occurs it will cost an enormous amount of money to build a sewer, a larger dump, water, sewer and sewage treatment plant. I think McLaughlin is being stubborn and inconsiderate. I would like to request that the fence be taken down and that the development be held indefinitely.

Thank You  
Rick Allan



# MPP's humorous remarks rare, his revenge delights columnist

By DEREK NELSON  
Queen's Park Bureau  
Of The Herald

TORONTO — Humor is not a big item in the Ontario legislature. There are a lot of jokes and wise-cracking but bellylaughs are few and far between. There was one this session, a classic piece of work by Tory backbencher Mickey Hennessy (PC-Fort William).

Toronto Sun columnist Claire Hoy had written one of his vitriolic specials in which he labelled all politicians "jerks."

Hennessy, first elected in 1977, probably hadn't seen the like before.

"If Mr. Hoy will do me the favor of calling me that personally in front of my face outside the House, I'll punch him right in the mouth," Hennessy told a legislature that immediately dissolved in waves of laughter. Mickey is a wiry five-foot-five, and aged 63. But he is also an amateur boxer who won 13 titles and represented Canada at the 1936 Olympics.

## SUPPORT

Hoy five-foot-ten and 215 lbs. "Go get him, Mickey," Don Macdonald (NDP-York South) said.

"This guy is going to sell tickets," Bob Welch (PC-Brock) said.

"I'll hold the belt," Mac Makarchuk (NDP-Brantford) offered. "I will gladly yield my place to the member for Fort Williams if he wishes to continue," Liberal leader Stuart Smith said generously.

Part of the pleasure MPPs derived from the Hennessy challenge probably came from its unexpectedness, and part from the relative size of the contestants, but part may have been from a deeper source.

Politicians rarely criticize the press, and never about what they're called, "jerks" or otherwise. It's a wise rule, for the press always gets the last word.

## PERHAPS SYMBOL

The next day the Sun had a picture of Hoy in boxing gloves, ready and waiting, plus another Hoy special savaging Hennessy. Members must have been delighted to hear the sweet words from Mickey that they'd like to have thrown themselves a few times.

While Hoy's writing about politicians is

more abrasive than most, he could well stand as a symbol in this case.

In an aside at the time of Hennessy's challenge, Health Minister Dennis Timbreil asked Smith how he liked being labelled "Cookie Monster," a nickname with wide currency around the press gallery.

"How do you feel about the term?" Timbreil asked. "You never said."

And under the rules of the game, Smith can't and won't. A protest would make him look as small as an acknowledgement.

## PRESS POWER

That brings up a serious point, and one that is far too often sloughed over or ignored in today's world.

The power of the press comes from their ability to determine what is news — in a phrase, "to set the agenda."

The press filters the news. They don't report it.

If it is the conclusion of the press, with its tendency to hard journalism, that all politicians are jerks or whatever, then that in fact is the impression the public will get.

That's why I think MPP's loved Hennessy's crack so much. It's known as revenge.

# Conservatives are up in arms say Turner abused position



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

The Tories are up in arms because, they say, John Turner is abusing his former position as minister of finance to peddle economic information to Canadian business.

That's not my beef. The only fault I can find is with the amount of money Turner can command to state the obvious. I wish I could get in one the act.

In talking about a possible conflict of interest, Tory finance critic Sinclair Stevens said that Turner, who quit as Liberal finance minister more than two years ago, is providing information to 10 or 12 Canadian corporations at \$15,000 a year. That means his law firm could be hauling in up to \$180,000 a year just for these monthly newsletters.

Stevens suggested that Turner's activities present a contravention of prime ministerial guidelines which discourage former ministers from using confidential or official information for personal gain. What makes this so fascinating for the Tories, of course, is the fact that Turner is generally viewed as being more than a little bit of a mischief-maker.

It's not the first time Turner has become embroiled in controversy over his newsletters. Three months ago, one of his epistles said that Jean Chretien had lost his leverage as finance minister, and he later felt obliged

to apologize for this personal reference.

But I don't see much in the latest newsletter that would suggest an apology. Take this, for instance:

## STATES OBVIOUS

"There has been a decline in the traditional strength and independence of the department of finance as a powerful countervailing force within the federal government to bring economic and fiscal reality into effective confrontation with the political requirements and aspirations generally reflected in other governmental departments and ministers."

It went on to say that "there has been an increasingly poor economic performance reflected in the continued inability of the federal government to bring its fiscal house in order or to bring about a sustainable external economic performance..." There was also an observation that the Economic Council of Canada has done little to help the situation.

If Turner can get \$180,000 a year for recycling this type of current comment, I shudder to think what real inside information might be worth.

One Turner memo advised a client that "we have in place and working pretty well a steady, reliable reconnaissance operation on political and governmental developments, particularly in Ottawa and Ontario." Another one said that it was urgent to "find out precisely the state of thinking of the post-controls teams" and to co-ordinate the business approach to a post-control society.

## NO SECRETS

Stevens suggested that his disclosures would change the public's perception of John Turner who "has been looked upon as a kind of white-haired boy who didn't do this type of thing."

Presumably, the Tory MP is referring to a possible breach of guidelines with his reference to "this type of thing" but so far there is certainly no indication that valuable

# Halton's History

From the Herald's files

## RAIDERS WIN PLAYOFF

THIRTY YEARS AGO — Thanks to the generosity of various local organizations, Christmas this year was made a little brighter for many of the needy children of Halton County. During the past month the Children's Aid Society has been very happy to receive numerous donations of toys, clothing and cash ear-marked for Christmas treats, all of which have been distributed where it was felt the need was the greatest.

Georgetown Raiders defeated Weston in their first game of the playoffs 8-6 in a fast wide-open hockey game. Max Bradbury was the star of this game with a beautiful goal that brought Georgetown from behind to tie it all. Georgetown's two later goals were scored by Currie and Nash.

A fire at the Bost Greenhouses, Brampton, recently caused damage estimated at \$2,000. The fire broke out in the boiler room and destroyed the roof of the heating plant and broke windows in the nearby greenhouses. Mr. Bost is married to the former Muriel Ostrander of Georgetown.

## FIRE AT DELREX

TWENTY YEARS AGO — Had a police officer not been patrolling the area at the time, Georgetown's partially built Delrex Plaza could have been reduced to smouldering ashes New Year's morning. Cpl. Jim Bilsborrow was checking the area in the police cruiser when he noticed flames licking from the roof of the structure while approaching the highway on the 9th Line. He notified the fire brigade, who promptly doused the blaze before any damage could be done. The blaze was still confined to a pall of tar on the roof of the plaza when they arrived, but had it started to spread, it would have spread rapidly, probably razing the entire building.

Maurice Manderson, whose law office is located at 61 Mill St., can now add Q.C. to his name. Mr. Manderson was one of several Ontario lawyers honored in the Queen's New Year's list with the title of Queen's Counsel.

Extensive damage was done to the rear of the Hydro building on Water Street, Friday January 2, when a truck owned by Hume's Transport of Toronto collided with it after sliding down an icy embankment while attempting to cross the town parking lot.

A gala birthday party on Christmas Day marked the birthday of 98-year-old Thomas Ross, born at Langside in Bruce County in 1861. A picture of Mr. Ross, blowing out the candles on his cake with some of his ten great-great-grandchildren looking on, appeared in the Toronto Telegram.

The new rectory makes a handsome addition to St. Alban's Anglican Church in Glen Williams. Rev. and Mrs. John Rathbone and their family moved into their new home in time to spend Christmas there. The house contains living, dining, kitchen, washroom, bedroom and study on the ground floor and two bedrooms and bathroom upstairs. Care was taken in selecting materials to match the church, to which it is hoped to join the rectory by a cloister and eventually to build a new parish hall.

## CUNNINGHAM NEW CHIEF

TEN YEARS AGO — A veteran member of Georgetown volunteer fire department was elected chief on Sunday. Jack Cunningham succeeds Erwin Lewis in the post which Mr. Lewis has held for the past five years. Mr. Lewis was elected deputy-chief for the coming year. Treasurer Gordon Ingils and secretary Clarence Spence continue in office.

The volume of Christmas cards mailed here dropped twenty per cent over last year, according to the post office. With an increase in population of almost two thousand over last year this is a significant decrease. While there was a decided decrease in five cent mail, oddly enough, there was a similar increase in six cent mail. The post office does not hazard a guess why this should happen. It is possible people decided to write letters instead, or because of late mailing, sent their cards first class, in hopes of speeding them up.

In an inaugural night address at the traditional mayor's dinner at Knox Church Hall, Mayor Wheldon Emmerson Monday night indicated he hopes to see during his first term in office the shifting of more responsibility to town employees, the establishment of a priority list for major capital projects, and emphasis on town beautification.

Georgetown District High School Board will, in about two weeks, be looking at the completed working drawings for the million and a half dollar building project that will add 47,000 square feet of floor space to the school. Outstanding features in the plan are a cafeteria, with thrust type stage, a lecture room with tiered seating and a large resource area. Construction of a new playing field with an automatic watering system and proper drainage has also been incorporated into the building project.

Two "saucer-like" flying objects seen near Norval during the holidays were NOT the result of Christmas cheer. The two objects circled for two hours near a local dairy farm, but have not been seen since. Jim Clark, part owner of Clark Brothers farm at the 4th Line West and 15 Sideroad noticed the two mysterious lights while checking his barn at about 8 p.m. The lights would disappear behind clouds and then reappeared as they maintained the same distance from each other while sweeping in wide clockwise circles in the direction of Richmond Hill, Mr. Clark said.

## POSTMASTER SWORN IN

ONE YEAR AGO — Georgetown's new postmaster, Gilbert King, was sworn in Thursday. A native of St. Regis, Quebec, he is 35, single, and so far as he knows "the first Indian to become postmaster in a staff office." Mr. King was transferred to his position from the Gateway post office in Mississauga.

The committee trying to save Acton's old town hall from demolition has written the financial report for council asking for an extension of the December 31 deadline for raising the necessary funds for the project. Committee chairman George Elliot says the report also includes a copy of the letter received from the Ontario Heritage Foundation saying that the decision on a grant for the building is deferred pending further municipal input on the restoration project.

An in-camera council meeting last Tuesday evening resulted in a resolution to take positive action on the parking problems of Acton's volunteer firefighters. A resolution was passed designating specific areas as parking for firefighters and emergency vehicles only and authorizing the purchase of property on Willow Street to be converted into a parking lot.

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