

Halton Hills 1978 as seen in the Herald

Municipal elections, Focal dispute highlight town's news-packed 1978

In the following week by week summary of the year in Halton Hills, as reported in The Herald, the bold-face dates indicate the issue in which the story was reported.

JANUARY

January 4 — The committee trying to save the old Acton town hall have asked town council for an extension of their Dec. 31, 1977 deadline to raise funds to pay for the preservation of the building.

Members of the Save the Parkland committee, opposed to the proposed Cedarvale Park site for the new Georgetown Library are investigating the legality of the town's by-law deeding two acres of parkland for the construction of the new building.

Georgetown's new post master, Gilbert King becomes the first native to be appointed to the post.

January 11 — Eighty-five year-old Walter Gray is named Georgetown's citizen of the year by the local Lions Club. Mr. Gray was chosen for his long record of working to help the underprivileged as well as for his work as a member of town council. Mr. Gray chaired the committee in charge of distribution of Christmas hampers for many years.



Remember those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer? We had a few days at least of real scorching heat, and everybody had their own way of cooling off. This photograph was taken at Fairy Lake one Wednesday afternoon when The Herald photographer toured the local watering spots to see how people were handling the heat.

A steering committee to investigate the establishment of a shelter for battered wives and their children was established following a meeting in Milton earlier this week.

A school board report on declining enrolment predicts there will be 6,000 fewer students in Halton's school system by 1982.

Angie Lynn Given, weighing in at seven pounds, ten ounces, is Halton Hills' first baby in 1978.

January 18 — A government prediction of 19,000 unemployed in the Brampton and Georgetown area in February is conservative according to Bill Cumpstey of the local labor council. Mr. Cumpstey predicts that the number of total unemployed in February will top 20,000.

New Democratic Party leader Stephen Lewis tells the Herald Halton has "a clear need" for chronic nursing home beds.

The director of Halton's public works committee tells the committee that the road system in the region "has the most serious deficiencies of any region."

January 25 — A request presented to the provincial government in the form of a petition signed by over 2,000 Acton residents for a cost breakdown detailing the "benefits" to the community of regional government, was turned down because of its cost and a lack of manpower.

The Halton region's new budget was set at a total of \$34 million, representing a four per cent increase over last year.

FEBRUARY

February 1 — Halton Hills is hit with what is billed as the "storm of the century." One local man died and another lost a leg in the storm that dumped 11 cm of snow locally.

A Credit Valley Conservation Authority report recommends the immediate beginning of anti-erosion work on the Metcalfe ravine to avoid further, serious erosion damage to the area.

A three day Ontario Municipal Board hearing considering a proposed construction of a library in the Cedarvale

Park wrapped up and a board ruling is predicted within six to eight weeks.

February 8 — Halton Hills council is "berated" by residents from the Metcalfe Ravine area, objecting to council's lack of action to repair the eroding area.

Kevin Parker of Acton finishes fourth in the Canadian Men's Junior Figure Skating Championships in Victoria, B.C.

Preliminary mill rates from the Halton treasurer show that Georgetown taxpayers will pay a higher rate this year while Acton taxes are going down.

February 12 — The town council came under attack by two Georgetown residents objecting to the town's by-law

limiting early morning road side parking to only three hours. The streets on which cars are being ticketed are not being plowed by the town.

A truck carrying a full load of gravel from Indusmin quarry overruns on the 17 Sideroad dumping the truck's entire load. There were no serious injuries.

February 22 — Georgetown's hockey Raiders dominate the Yugoslavian national team, beating them 9-5 in an exhibition game played before 1,500 spectators at the Gordon Alcott Arena.

Four hundred people packed the Holy Cross Auditorium on Feb. 14 to honour Jack Harrison, the Georgetown Raiders trainer who has spent half of his life involved in hockey. Mr. Harrison was presented with a full color portrait of himself by Herald publisher Bill Evdekinoff in honor of his service. The portrait now hangs in the Gordon Alcott Arena. Boston Bruins winger Terry O'Reilly was the guest speaker at the hockey heritage dinner.

Halton region rejects a plan for uniform water and sewage rates across the region that would have entitled Halton to \$4 million in provincial grants.

Halton school board trustee Don Long of Georgetown loses his seat on the board after failing to attend three meetings in a row, in violation of the board's by-laws. The board will appoint a new trustee to replace Mr. Long.

GO service to Georgetown was interrupted Friday after an early morning derailment on a CN line one-quarter mile east of Georgetown. Five cars were involved in the derailment and there were no injuries.

MARCH

March 1 — Georgetown's citizen of the year, Walter Gray was unable to attend a banquet in his honor held on Friday because an arthritic hip confined him to a hospital bed. The banquet went on as planned and Mr. Gray was presented with a plaque and tape recordings of the speeches the following day in his hospital bed.

Despite missing the big event, Mr. Gray termed his award the thrill of his life, next to his marriage to his wife Edith.

Halton Hills mayor Tom Hill is urging council to end the "damn foolishness" of a multi-thousand dollar recreation study of the community's needs. Phase one of the project cost \$8,000 and was funded by the federal government. Phase two would cost \$27,000 and the federal government is not

committed to supplying the funding.

March 8 — MP Otto Jelinek, hoping to carry the Tory banner in the next federal election in the revamped Halton riding, spoke at a weekend campaign meeting in Acton to rally support for his party's April nominating meeting. In his speech, Mr. Jelinek advocated return of the death penalty, no gun control laws and, "no deals with Quebec."

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital chief administrator Fred Morris says the hospital will be unable to provide previous levels of service and operate within the budget dictated by the provincial government's recently announced 4.5 per cent hike in the hospital's funding.

March 15 — The town has held two meetings during the week and managed to hammer out an agreement that will see a \$2 million, 62,500 square foot shopping mall adjacent to the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena. Traffic lights, drainage and sidewalks were three of the touchy areas council had to clear up before approving the plaza plan.

Acton's old town hall is ordered closed by the Ontario Ministry of Labour. The ministry said the building cannot be occupied until the roof and the floor are reinforced to support loads likely to be applied to it.

Georgetown's Barry Shepherd, 33, has been appointed to fill the Halton school board seat vacated by the resignation of Don Long. Mr. Shepherd, who ran second to Mr. Long in the 1976 municipal election race for the seat was chosen from 11 candidates.

March 22 — Halton Hills council has approved a \$5.1 million budget, representing an increase of 3.4 per cent over last year's budget. The budget is described by town employees and councillors alike as the "lightest in years."

Gordon Massie, circulation manager of the Canadian Tribune, has been nominated as the Communist Party of Canada's candidates for the Brampton-Georgetown riding.

March 29 — Acton's volunteer firefighters were chosen as that town's citizens of the year, by the Acton Chamber of Commerce.



One of the biggest fires in Halton Hills in 1978, and probably the most spectacular one, was the one which destroyed a barn in Glen Williams belonging to Mel Smith. Flammable vapors from liquids being used to refinish antique furniture ignited, and the resulting blaze sent Mr. Smith and Mike Spitzer to hospital. Two firefighters Ed Pearce and Bud Hyde, received minor burns fighting the blaze. Firefighters concentrated mainly on keeping two propane tanks and a fuel tank next to the barn from exploding.

(Herald staff photo)

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April 12 — Otto Jelinek is chosen by local Tories to carry that party's standard into the next election as the candidate in the revamped Halton riding. Mr. Jelinek defeated two candidates on the first ballot polling 51 per cent of the vote.

April 19 — Long time Tory campaign worker John McDermid, 38, was nominated as the Conservative candidate in the next federal election in the new riding of Brampton-Georgetown. Mr. McDermid defeated Everett Biggs in front of over

1,000 supporters who jammed the Mayfield High School auditorium in Caledon.

April 26 — Plans for a major anti-NEC plan rally in Orangeville, to be held later in the month, are announced.

MAY

May 3 — The Halton school board approves twinning of two rural schools in Speyside and Limehouse. Limehouse parents vowed to appeal the twinning.

Georgetown's Buzz Hargrove is appointed as the new administrative assistant for the director of the Canadian region of the United Auto Workers union.

Ross Milne wins the Liberal nomination as their candidate in the next federal election in the Brampton-Georgetown riding.

May 10 — Over 2,000 people, including many from Halton Hills, attend an anti-NEC rally in Orangeville.

JUNE

June 7 — Over 1,500 people attend Georgetown's first Summerfest held Saturday on what is described as "a perfect day."

The trial of Limehouse resident Dennis Scallen for impersonating a priest gets underway.

June 14 — Over 8,000 people crowded the Georgetown fairgrounds to watch the annual Speyside Highland games.

June 21 — Dennis Scallen, the Limehouse resident who posed as a priest, is convicted of three counts of fraud after the jury hearing the case deliberated for 10 hours.

June 28 — Georgetown High School wrestler Peter Fournier is chosen Halton Hills athlete of the year in a contest co-sponsored by The Herald and Royal Bank. Fournier beat runner Ian Clark and figure skater Kris Barber in taking the town's top athlete prize.

Georgetown's revamped three-day summer festival, Pioneer Days, was rip roaring soaring success as perfect events and a packed schedule combined to make the event a hit.

The Halton Regional Police Association release a 70 page report detailing their criticisms of the local force. Poor moral is cited as a major problem on the force.

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Georgetown and District

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NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR

Halton Hills' newsmaker of the year for 1978 has to be newly elected Mayor Pete Pomeroy. Few could have foreseen Mayor Pomeroy's meteoric rise to Halton Hills' top spot back in 1976 when the Norval native finished second to Walter Biehn in Ward three voting. During his inaugural term on council, Mr. Pomeroy was not a particularly vocal councillor although he seemed ready to speak his mind openly on issues he felt strongly about.

Once this year's municipal election rolled around, Pomeroy and his team moved into high gear conducting the most organized and dynamic municipal campaign in Halton Hills history.

Although many were impressed with Pomeroy's high profile campaign, few envisioned his stunning win at the polls defeating the town's acrid, but respected, Mayor Tom Hill.

Pomeroy beat Mayor Hill by 4,503 votes polling 7,864 votes to Hills 3,361.

Pete Pomeroy has now been officially installed as the town's mayor but it is still much too early to begin evaluating the new mayor. That remains to be done during 1979 at which the voters will have to decide just what type of newsmaker the mayor is for that year.



Halton Hills' newsmaker of the year, Mayor Pete Pomeroy is doused with champagne, by celebrating campaign workers at the mayor's election headquarters on election night.



Astra is pretty brave when she has her big friend, Chrissy to back her up. Astra, Chrissy and their friend were entrants in the St. Bernard puppy match held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hansford near Terra Cotta. The match was a fun competition held in August, with about 30 people participating. It was organized by members of the St. Bernard Association of Ontario.