



Michael Hollett
Herald editor

This weather is torture

It's torture - that's what I call this kind of weather. I have no idea what the weather is up to as you read this. I wrote it Tuesday and anything from a hurricane to a drought could have happened in Halton Hills in the meantime. It's been like that lately.

I don't know about you but I can't help getting caught up in the weather. It effects my entire state of mind. And winter effects it the most adversely, so you can bet I heartily greeted the warm spell we in Halton Hills found ourselves treated to last week.

WAS A PLEASURE

It was a pleasure to come to work. Everyone was in a good mood. The sun poured in the open windows of the office along with the sounds of birds, kids playing outside and assorted summer, or at least spring sounds.

The positive mood in town caused by the great weather was infectious. It seemed like it even had the makings of a good column. And then womp - White Monday.



There are a few things worse than waking up to a world full of cold, boring white, damp and dreary snow

when you are expecting to face a warm, sunny spring day. You can keep your winter wonderlands.

I've never really been a snow man, even at the best of times, but I find the white stuff hardest to take after being tantalized with a taste of spring. And that's what we had last week.

It would have been perfect, if it had lasted. The arrival of spring weather actually coincided with the first calendar day of spring, a rarity in Halton Hills. And it was great for the kids, as local students were unleashed on the town for spring break. The sunny weather led to the students jamming local parks and streets. Downtown Georgetown was absolutely jampacked throughout the entire week during the day, and that's a rarity. Downtown shoppers were even faced with midway lineups in many stores because of the influx of kids.

CULINARY TREATS

Local restaurants reported a booming business in french fries with gravy and cokes during the March break as local students dug into the town's culinary treats.

All the young faces, along with the great weather made for a nice week in town. The oldtimers who had their favorite benches usurped by the vacationing kids didn't even complain, because of the good mood running through town.

Then the snow had to come along and ruin everything. The worst part of Monday's winter relapse is that it allowed all of those lucky people returning from March break trips down south to gloat about the lousy weather they had left behind.

I was so looking forward to being able to counter their re-hash of daily high temperatures in Miami and Ft. Lauderdale with Halton Hills' own temperature tales. Now they won't even believe it was safe to take your ear muffs off while they were gone.

Worst of all, we'll still probably get hit with the "so you thought winter was over", end of March or beginning of April, blizzard. Bah, humbug.

Letters to the Editor

'No strikes for teachers'

To the editor of The Herald: Bill 100 made negotiations compulsory between School Boards and Teachers of Ontario in 1975. The Act laid down the steps (where previously there were none) for Boards of Education and Teachers Affiliates to follow. It is an excellent Act but as time has passed the practices are necessary. The Act is not a panacea for all times.

In many cases, today's collective bargaining has reached a stage where frustrations have begun to develop. New changes are needed to prevent the "cat and mouse" actions, the "wait and see" attitudes and the "confrontations syndrome" which are becoming evident. The greatest losers are the students who are our most important resource.

Meaningful negotiations based on facts, goodwill, understanding and sincerity are more than ever needed to prevent a disaster in education. The framework for negotiations is certainly positive, but there are areas which need improving. In reviewing the present Act weaknesses that can be corrected are - that negotiations are extended for too long a period and that teachers and trustees can disrupt students' education through strike and lock-out actions. Where these actions have taken place, they have proven to be very detrimental to the young citizens of Ontario.

The machinery could be tightened up by simply being more firm with dates and the elimination of strikes and lock-out actions. No party should have the right or power to jeopardize the education of the students. Children should never become pawns for any negotiating party.

The Act provides for a date to start negotiations but it should also include a date whereby all negotiations should be finalized and completed. The steps outlined in the Act and supervised by the Ontario Education Relations Commission are - a letter of intent to start negotiations, assistance by the E.R.C., Fact Finding, Mediating, Voluntary Arbitration and Final Offer. These are commendable steps, but they do not always work. An improvement will come when both sides, having reached an impasse and not coming to an agreement within a specified time limit the Legislature should take the appropriate action of amending the Act to enforce a settlement through compulsory arbitration or final offer.

A letter of intent to negotiate should be given in January (if the contract ends in August) by either party and serious negotiations should start by February and negotiations should conclude by the end of March. If any items are not finalized, then the remaining items should go to the Fact

Finder who has but fifteen (15) days to give each party a copy of his report. Each party (Board or Affiliate) after receiving the Fact Finder's Report has but five (5) days to agree or disagree with the findings. Both sides should then state their rationale on the points not agreed upon.

In any event any items not agreed upon and the rationale should go to a final offer selection or arbitration (one member or three member board with one person representing the Board, Affiliate and the Government). The report should be completed by May and it should be binding on both sides. Both parties should then draw up an agreement following the outcome of the report, the items agreed to in the Fact Finder's Report and the items agreed to in the early rounds of negotiations.

The present Act provides for Fact Finding, Mediation, Voluntary Arbitration and Final Offer, Strike, and Lock-out. Some of these steps have proven to be disastrous in terms of human resource, frustration and cost; therefore, the voluntary aspect of arbitration and final offer should be eliminated and some teeth put in the act. It should be clearly stated that if both parties cannot come to terms within a specified time, then it must be construed that they will leave it in the hands of others to make the decision.

The time to act is NOW. Serious negotiations must take place and the loose ends in the Act have to be amended. The introduction of a time limit to end negotiation compels each party to bargain in good faith, to work out any problem area and to become aware that if they do not want the responsibility of making a contract agreement between themselves then the Act must state unequivocally that others will make the decision.

Tom Ramantasingh,
Past-president of the Halton
Secondary School Teachers
Federation
Georgetown, Ont.

Doctor compares papers

To the editor of The Herald: As our hospital administrator is fond of saying, "Free advice is worth exactly what you pay for it."

I notice that the Independent is asking its readers to pay 20 cents per copy, while The Herald is still free. I feel you have made an accurate evaluation of the two newspapers.

Alex Furness, M.D.
Georgetown, Ont.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for September 1979

The Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board

ADVANCED registration for those children who will be attending kindergarten in the Separate Schools in Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Georgetown and Acton (Halton Hills) will be held at all Catholic schools on

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4th, 1979

9:00 a.m. to noon
1:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

AGE OF ADMISSION AND REQUIREMENTS
• Children are required to be 5 years of age on or before February 29th, 1980.
• Proof of age is required.
• Family O.H.I.P. Number.

For further information, please contact the principal of your nearest Catholic School.

R.J. O'Brien, Chairman of the Board
C.G. Byrnes, Director of Education

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Boys' 8-18 SPORT SHIRTS 4⁹⁹

Boys' Asstd. 8-16 JEANS 6⁹⁹

Ladies' Summer TOPS 3⁹⁹ And Up

Ladies' Pull-On PANTS 8⁹⁹

Men's Short Sleeve DRESS SHIRTS 6⁹⁹

Men's PULLOVERS 1/2 Price

SILVER'S

Caterer says thanks

To the editor of The Herald: For the nineteenth year we have seen the Annual International Bantam Hockey Tournament come and go, and as usual we were host to a goodly number of young men and their supporters from many points across the country and the U.S.A. This has meant a great deal of planning and work for many people.

It has been my privilege over the years to have worked with many fine ladies organizations and I think they deserve to be mentioned and given a vote of thank from us all for their contribution to the reputation of hospitality that the town is well known for.

These are The Lionettes, The Hockey Mothers, St. George Church Ladies, Br. 120 Legion Aux, St. Andrews Church Ladies, The Catholic Womens League, Knox Pres. Ladies, the Jayettes, The Rotarians Ladies Aux, The Firefighters Ladies Aux, The Teenage Girls who so willingly gave up their school holiday to wait on the tables and clearing up the dining area. A special big thanks to Legion Aux, Pres. Hazel Dumper for her help every day, and to Lionette Rita Zorge who coordinated the scheduling of the ladies groups. My appreciation and thanks to Mr. George Laska and Mr. Norm Lockhurst for their cheerful and willing help throughout.

Finally, but not any less appreciated, many thanks to Members of Br. 120 Cdn. Legion, and Ladies Aux. for the use of the kitchen and auditorium during the week, also to The Oddfellows, for the use of their hall and facilities on the two Saturdays.

Jessie Hayes,
Catering Supervisor,
The International Bantam
Hockey Tournament

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