

# Court ruling threatens Halton board

A recent Ontario divisional court ruling has serious implications for the Halton School Board as well as school boards across Ontario.

The court upheld a previous County Court ruling suspending two Toronto school board members from participating in board business for one and two months and also ordering them to pay the \$20,000 court costs incurred so far.

So much for democracy. The 'crime' the Toronto trustees Bob Spencer and Bill Fisher are supposed to be guilty of is voting on a contract for high school teachers while their wives are employed by the Toronto board as PUBLIC school teachers.

So where's the conflict? Neither man's spouse will be directly affected by the contract the trustees voted on.

Neither trustee stood to benefit directly from the matter they voted on and neither did their wives. Certainly when conflict of interest legislation was drafted, it was meant to end the days when politicians granted contracts to their own firms along with similarly blatant acts, not to muzzle democracy.

And that's what happened in Toronto, and as a result, across Ontario. The Toronto school board is currently in a high state of politicization. Until the court rulings, the board was almost evenly split between left-leaning members, supporting the NDP and right-wing conservative members.

Any doubt that the conflict of interest charges were politically motivated was removed last week when David Moll the man who filed the charges, admitted in a Toronto newspaper that he took the trustees to court because of their left-wing beliefs.

Mr. Moll's charges came immediately after the boards' closest vote of the year, on the high school contracts, which had ended in a 13-13 tie. The court ruling depriving the trustees of their vote now ensures that the vote will now pass in favor of the right, the group Mr. Moll supports. Surely this type of manipulation of the courts cannot be considered in the best interests of the democratic process.

# Milne's tabloid is a false issue

A false issue has been introduced into the Brampton-Georgetown federal election campaign.

Last week supporters of Conservative hopeful John McDermid filed a complaint with the Canadian Chief Returning Officer's office claiming that Liberal candidate Ross Milne has violated the Election Act.

They charge that a campaign newspaper published by Milne and distributed with two weekly newspapers in the riding on April 18 constitutes a violation of the Election Act ban on newspaper advertising until April 22.

Mr. Milne denies this saying the tabloid was distributed with the newspapers simply for convenience sake. He said the tabloid is similar to any other piece of campaign literature published during the race and, adds these may be distributed at any point during the campaign.

Conservative candidate McDermid argues that the tabloid is like any other supplement included with a newspaper, like a brochure promoting a hardware store, supermarket etc. — he says it's advertising and therefore illegal.

We think that trustees like Mr. Spencer and Mr. Fisher are accountable enough to their voters. The voters should decide whether or not the two men are voting appropriately.

We believe that the muzzle being applied by the court ruling will deprive future boards of valuable trustees. For if a teacher, student or spouse of the same knows that he or she will be unable to vote on many matters of board business, what will be the point of running.

The Halton board has already suffered a reduced level of service from Noel Cooper simply because he is a teacher with another board. Mr. Cooper decided to withdraw from the Halton salary committee because of the ruling. Certainly, it seems to us that the input of a teacher into salary proposals would be worthwhile. Who can better tell the board of the needs and desires of teachers than another teacher? We trust Halton voters to tell us at the ballot box whether or not they feel Mr. Cooper's voting is influenced by feelings of teacher solidarity.

Using the conflict of interest thinking, students should not be eligible for board positions. After all, who has more to gain than students of a school board themselves. In Ontario many school boards now have valuable student members serving on their boards.

Taking Mr. Moll's conflict of interest thinking to its logical extreme, taxpayers would also be disqualified from board membership. Certainly the voting to set taxes has to represent a direct conflict of interest since the rates will directly affect those who vote for it.

Of course, depriving taxpayers of a right to sit on school boards would be ridiculous, but not much more ridiculous than the court's ruling.

The Halton school board should pass a motion expressing their opposition to the anti-democratic court ruling and expressing their support for the muzzled trustees. If they don't and the ruling is allowed to stand unchallenged, the make-up and democratic nature of our local school, and those across the province, will be greatly effected.

NDP candidate David Moulton has the best comment on the affair, he says, it's not important. He argues that the real questions that must decide this election are the candidates' stands on the many serious issues facing this nation.

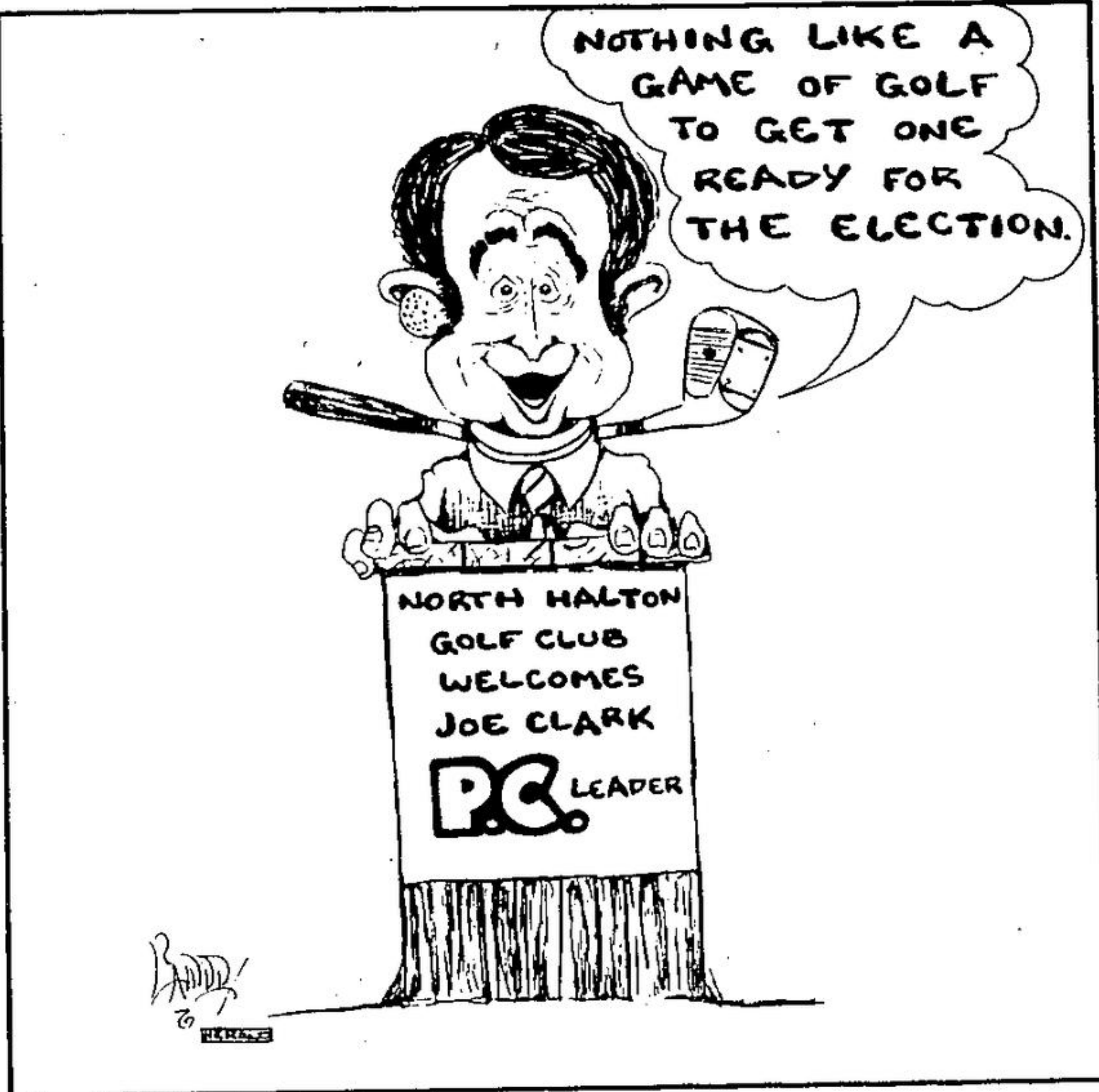
Mr. Moulton's right. We feel confident in saying that whether or not he did violate the election act, Mr. Milne and his campaign workers did not purposely set out to violate the act. He is not a stupid man and we don't think he would consciously jeopardize his campaign simply to have a one week advertising head start on the other candidates.

So at worst the Milne campaign made a rather stupid mistake, at best, he did nothing wrong.

Either way we don't really think the move reflects that strongly on the candidates' ability to serve as Georgetown's Member of Parliament.

What does matter, as Mr. Moulton has said, is Mr. Milne's stand on the issues that concern local voters. And the same goes for all five candidates vying for the Brampton-Georgetown seat.

So let's get back to the campaign and let the CRO deal with the peripheral issues.



# Province's record worst in manpower training



**Queen's Park**  
By Derek Nelson

**Queen's Park Bureau**  
OF THE HERALD  
TORONTO — Probably in no area of provincial responsibility do the Conservatives have a worse record than in the field of manpower training.

And an advertisement in an English newspaper has given the opposition here, in particular the New Democratic Party, a chance to rake political hay from their failure.

The ads are seeking 350 skilled workmen for a General Motors plant in Windsor.

That same city is also the location of a proposed Ford engine plant, to which the province granted \$25 million so it would

locate here, and for which 500 skilled workers will be needed.

New Democrats fear that there won't be enough trained Canadians for the jobs, or alternatively, Ford will steal people from small business firms already operating in the area.

**MANPOWER MINISTER**  
They place much of the blame on the province's apprenticeship programs, which are the responsibility of Education Minister Bette Stephenson, and before her, Colleges and Universities Minister Harry Parrott.

In addition, the recent Throne Speech designated Labor Minister Bob Elgie as "labor and manpower minister," signifying some kind of shift in his role.

As he himself said, he'll be "assuming some guiding and co-ordinating roles with regards to manpower activities" but unfortunately all that's been done to date is "gathering together information" for further study.

Great. Which brings the questions back to Stephenson, and MPP Dave Cooke (NDP-Windsor-Iverside) had a few pertinent ones for her.

**NO ANSWER**  
Why are there only 20 people in apprenticeship programs at General Motors Windsor plant?  
Why isn't any auto manufacturer

represented on an advisory community industrial training committee in Windsor?

And why are there more applicants for apprenticeship positions in Windsor than there are openings, considering existing industry in the area and Ford moving in as well?

Stephenson put as good a face on it as she could, considering the obvious inadequacy of the government's programs over the years.

**NEWSHIFT**  
In 1977, for example, Robertson, Nickerson Group Association filed a report with the federal government on the existing status of apprenticeship programs across the country.

"Piercing the fog of rhetoric, theorising, and posturing, one finds their use in industry to be practically nil."

It's just about that time, two years ago, that Parrott began the studies intended to shift emphasis towards vocational training.

Now Stephenson says "just four weeks ago" an employer-sponsored training program involving 2,000 people, and connected with the automobile industry, started up in Windsor.

Still, as NDP leader Michael Cassidy put it, there's a quality of "too little, too late" about the whole business.

# Education minister's speech raises 'nit-wit' question

By DON O'HEARN  
Queens Park Bureau  
OF THE HERALD

**TORONTO** — I don't know if you happened to catch up to the most recent little tempest over Education Minister Bette Stephenson. But if you did you may have been a bit bewildered by it.

The education minister made a speech, a wide-ranging bit of business, in which she talked about the need to take a fresh and broad look at the educational system and bring our thinking on it up to date.

A typical point was that the present school year and classroom day had been designed for a largely rural society and that we should at least take a look at it.

**A NIT-WIT?**  
The next day it was a bit of a shocker to some of us who had ready the speech to see that the reports of it said the minister had been proposing longer school days, larger classrooms and a return to "the little red school house" to meet the problem of "declining enrolments."

A good thing she didn't read that in her book. She might have been in danger of drowning.

Letter to the editor

# 'Good, clean fun' warms readers

To the editor of The Herald:  
It gives me great pleasure to write to you with good news about a group of young people. So many times we forget to talk about our young people and give them a pat on the back for a job well done. Most of the time it is the bad news that makes the press.

On April 22nd my wife and I attended the 2nd down Credit River Race organized by the 1st Georgetown Rovers. It did our hearts good to see 50 to 60 young people enjoying themselves and having good clean fun.

As for you, the reader, you well would have had reason to wonder if the much respected Dr. Stephenson had suddenly turned into a nit-wit.

She hadn't, of course. But she had lived dangerously. In talking about the "hundreds of things" that might be considered she had given examples.

For instance, she said that perhaps the need to close some schools might be avoided if classes were combined; this had been done in the little red school house, and it hadn't been all that bad.

Then perhaps there shouldn't be rigid standards on class-room size; a history class could, without suffering, be larger than a science class, for example.

**ONE TABOO**  
This was breaking the number one taboo in political communication today: You don't mention specifics unless you want them talked about, and only then.

For it is one of the facts of the media that if there is something concrete to be reported, and this is what will be reported, and perhaps not to accurately reported at that.

To hold this event took a lot of hard work by the 1st Georgetown Rovers, who themselves are young people. I thought it might be good for the people of Georgetown and surrounding area to know about his hard working group of young people. The result of their efforts was a lot of good fun enjoyed by the boys and girls at this event. Our congratulations to the 1st Georgetown Rovers for a job very well done.  
Olwyn and Robert Gracey  
(Rover Leader 1st Hornby Rover Crew)

# Halton's History

From our files

**LIONS BANDSTAND**  
**THIRTY YEARS AGO** — Construction has started on the new bandstand which the Lion's Club is erecting in the park. McNally and Lane are handling the job, and the old judge's stand has been wrecked. The new bandstand will stand on this site. It will stand about four feet high with a solid platform mounted on posts, with lattice work to the ground.

Council discussed a new location for the town dump Monday, after receiving a letter from a firm of Toronto solicitors writing on behalf of their client, Will Ford, who complained that the smoke and flames from the present dump at the park were creating a nuisance and injuring shrubbery on property owned by him at the foot of Maple Avenue. Mayor Joseph Gibbons said the dump was a problem which would have to be decided very soon, as the present property was almost filled.

The fire brigade was called this morning when the tire on a Bell Telephone truck caught fire. The truck had parked on the highway across from the Old Town Hall and burning embers from an old bonfire caused the fire. There was no damage other than the fire.

**LETTER CARRIERS INTRODUCED**  
**TWENTY YEARS AGO** — Another phase of Georgetown's growth will be reflected later this year in inauguration of letter carrier service for all Georgetown. The Herald was informed this week by Sandy Best, MP, of the decision at Ottawa that Georgetown is now ready for operation of such a system. Door to door delivery will be inaugurated as soon as 90 per cent of those to be served have installed suitable receptacles for their mail, Mr. Best said.

From "Controversial Corner" by Ian Case: At the present moment, much of Southern Ontario is in the grip of a gasoline price war which will probably be more vicious and more durable than any we have seen in the past. No doubt many motorists will view this situation with glee, at the same time making sure that their gas tanks are always kept well-filled at 32 cents a gallon.

Plans were finalized at Monday's council meeting for greeting a distinguished guest on Thursday, May 14, when His Excellency the Rt. Honorable Vincent Massey, Canada's governor-general, will spend half an hour in town. Mr. Massey will arrive by special train at the CNR station at 4:30 p.m. While Georgetown has had many prominent visitors in the past, it is believed that this is the first official visit of a representative of royalty.

In The Herald classified columns, under Homes for Rent: Brick house for rent, centrally located in Georgetown. Available June 1, \$75 a month.

Ted McDowell of Erin had the misfortune to upset his car and hit the corner of the barn beside Smith's store last Wednesday night. Apparently he was attempting to pass another vehicle when the car went out of control on the wet pavement. He was taken to the Guelph Hospital in the ambulance for treatment and damage to the car was estimated at \$1,500.

**NORVAL FARM BLAZE**  
**TEN YEARS AGO** — Water and sewage systems are on the horizon for Glen Williams. Provincial MPP Jim Snow told The Herald this week that the Ontario Water Resources Commission has ordered design reports from Procter and Redfern, a firm of consulting engineers which has engineered many projects in Georgetown. The report will include plans for a complete water supply and distributing system for the Glen as well as a sewage collection system.

Fourteen calves, hay, grain, milking equipment, stable cleaning equipment, and a late heifer were lost in a blaze which levelled a huge barn and two silos on the farm belonging to Jim and Hugh Clark outside Norval Saturday afternoon. Most of the world-famous Clark herd were saved, however, by neighbors who swung into action when the fire broke out and led most of the animals to safety.

Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough has spoken out against an independent Halton regional government. He said that he does not believe Halton can be reformed alone to create an "enduring region". He had defined an enduring region as a government area able to stand on its own two feet in its own operations and its dealings with its neighbors.

All secondary schools in the county will now employ health attendants. Georgetown High School has had the full time services of a health attendant for several years, but less than half the county schools were in this category.

**LOCAL SCHOOLS TWINNED**  
**ONE YEAR AGO** — Halton board of education twinned two pairs of schools in Halton Hills with a mixed reaction from parents who'd urged the board not to. Effective September 1, Limehouse school will be twinned with Joseph Gibbons school in Georgetown and Speyside school with Robert Little School in Acton. Limehouse parents vowed after the boards' action that they would appeal the twinning to Education Minister Tom Wells and perhaps Ontario Ombudsman Arthur Maloney.

After 75 years of service to the community of Georgetown, the Georgetown Women's Institute has been disbanded. The decision, which was made in March, came after 75 years of work by the WI members to the benefit of the community, from donations to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital to the supplying of food and clothing for the relief of Hurricane Hazel flood victims.

Friends and relatives of Jack and Willa Hargrove of Acton helped the couple celebrate their Diamond wedding anniversary Saturday at St. Alban's church in Acton. Mr. Hargrove, 81, and Mrs. Hargrove, 78, were married May 1, 1918 in Toronto. They have lived in Acton for 39 years.

Superintendent Floyd Schwantz doesn't believe there will be much of a difference between his job as superintendent in the Halton Regional Police force and his new position as chief of police in Timmins.

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