

Boat People bring out best in community

In an age dominated by international xenophobia and mistrust, it is particularly heart-warming to see people of so many nationalities pooling their humanitarian efforts to help the so-called Boat People of Indo-China.

Two interesting thoughts to mind while appraising this unprecedented joining of hands and both are at once inspiring and enlightening.

The first is that the culture and nationality of the refugees themselves appear to have little bearing upon the decision being made by benefactors around the world to come to their assistance. That the refugees are fleeing the quasi-Communist elitism of Hanoi's rule similarly seems comparatively irrelevant.

Instead, the political and nationalistic overtones of adopting families of refugees have become de-based in favor of something that can only be described in humanistically compassionate and even self-congratulatory terms. This will all make a great movie some day and sympathetic Canadians can be expected to land a leading role.

The second thought, one which seems to involve North American residents in particular, is the way in which our communities have taken a commanding role themselves in coming to the aid of the Boat People. While federal officials and to a lesser extent those at the provincial level were bureaucratically considering the implications of quotas and grants, the ordinary citizens at the grass roots level were already organizing committees to recruit sponsors and arrange rescues.

Here in Georgetown, a handful of citizens who will be eternally serving of their community's respect and honor organized a local chapter of Operation Lifeline, the Toronto-based group formed to save the Boat People.

Last week's well-attended chapter meeting demonstrated the value of the group's efforts as sponsors signed up to bring at least four more Vietnamese families to Halton Hills. Even in its simplest terms, the feat is enormously impressive; four Asian families whose members' ages vary greatly are to be given comfortable homes in a progressively modern society half a world away from the over-crowded fishing boats of the China Sea and the sweltering concentration-camp compounds of Malaysia they left behind.

Likewise, in towns across Canada, citizens from all kinds of backgrounds and interests found themselves profoundly moved by news reports that the far East recounting the plight of the refugees. The reaction in North America seemed spontaneous, if not unanimous.

Each day since those horrendous reports first started seeping in, public reaction has been largely divided, judging from letters written to and published by the Toronto daily newspapers. There are those who quickly point out that many of the refugees chose to leave their homeland because the wealth and status they enjoyed under the old regime is not being tolerated by Hanoi.

Why should Canadians offer jobs, homes and a share of the economy to foreigners in times of domestic crisis, they ask. Why should the Canadian government, which has never taken an active role in the development (or deterioration) of Vietnam, extend its services to some 50,000 refugees, some of them former millionaires by our standards?

That such questions are being asked is probably as much a tragedy as those that befall the refugees at sea and on shore in Malaysia. In Indo-China and anywhere else where genocide and its related manifestations are found, the social and political implications of a given act of kindness - in this case rescue - must be temporarily ignored so that lives can be saved quickly and effectively.

None of the potential problems which might be posed by the immigration of 50,000 Vietnamese can be great enough that even one cry for assistance should be ignored.

Fortunately for all mankind, the cries are not being ignored and the voices of dissent will diminish.

Stories about the Vietnamese immigrants - about their individual pasts, their lifestyles, their adventures and specially about their adaptation to Canadian life - will be written for years to come, in the press and elsewhere. What will too soon be forgotten, however unfortunately, will be the work of the volunteers at home whose efforts gave the refugees a new life far removed from political domination of Hanoi and the racist attacks of the Malaysians, Filipinos and Indonesians.

We hope, instead, that history will record the image of the lifeline being cast out to sea by illustrating those grasping ends of the line and thus recalling the global cry of compassion together with the refugees' cries of gratitude.

Watching new leader should be interesting

By DON O'HEARN
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

TORONTO — If you like political side-line watching, you should have a feast for some time ahead now that Joe Clark is king in Ottawa. A promising point of interest to keep an eye on is the continuing relations between the governments at Ottawa and here.

It was with tongue in cheek, sometimes perhaps near to the point of gagging, that one watched the Conservative leader during the election preaching his dominant theme of buddy-buddy.

Let him show the way to a new day, he said. Put him in office and watch how people would work together. How harmony would replace discord.

To anyone who could look back a while this was country kitchen politics. Saying how to run the nation, without ever having been off the farm.

For both history and the realities are against buddy-buddy, and particularly of the federal and provincial governments working in sweet harmony.

ODDS AGAINST
Historically, of course, Ottawa and the provinces have always been pretty well at arms length. This attitude has tended to intensify when the respective governments were from the same party.

In Ontario the classic example was the bitter feuding between Mackenzie King and Mitch Hepburn in the thirties and into the Second World War.

But then there also was the relationship between the Diefenbaker government

and the Frost and Roberts regimes here in the fifties and sixties. This didn't break into the open discord of King-Hepburn running battle but there was a lot of tension behind the scenes.

And pragmatically, of course, there essentially has to be conflict between the two levels of government. They are both dipping into the same money pool, the public pocket, which never can be big enough to satisfy the demands of each of them. And each has what it feels are its rights that are paramount. The inevitable result has to be constant haggling.

When it comes to dealing with colleagues of the same political family differences, it seems, easily becomes intensified.

QUICK CHANGE

Now Prime Minister-elect Joe Clark may be right.

He may be able to introduce a completely new tone to federal-provincial relationship and to governmental relationship generally.

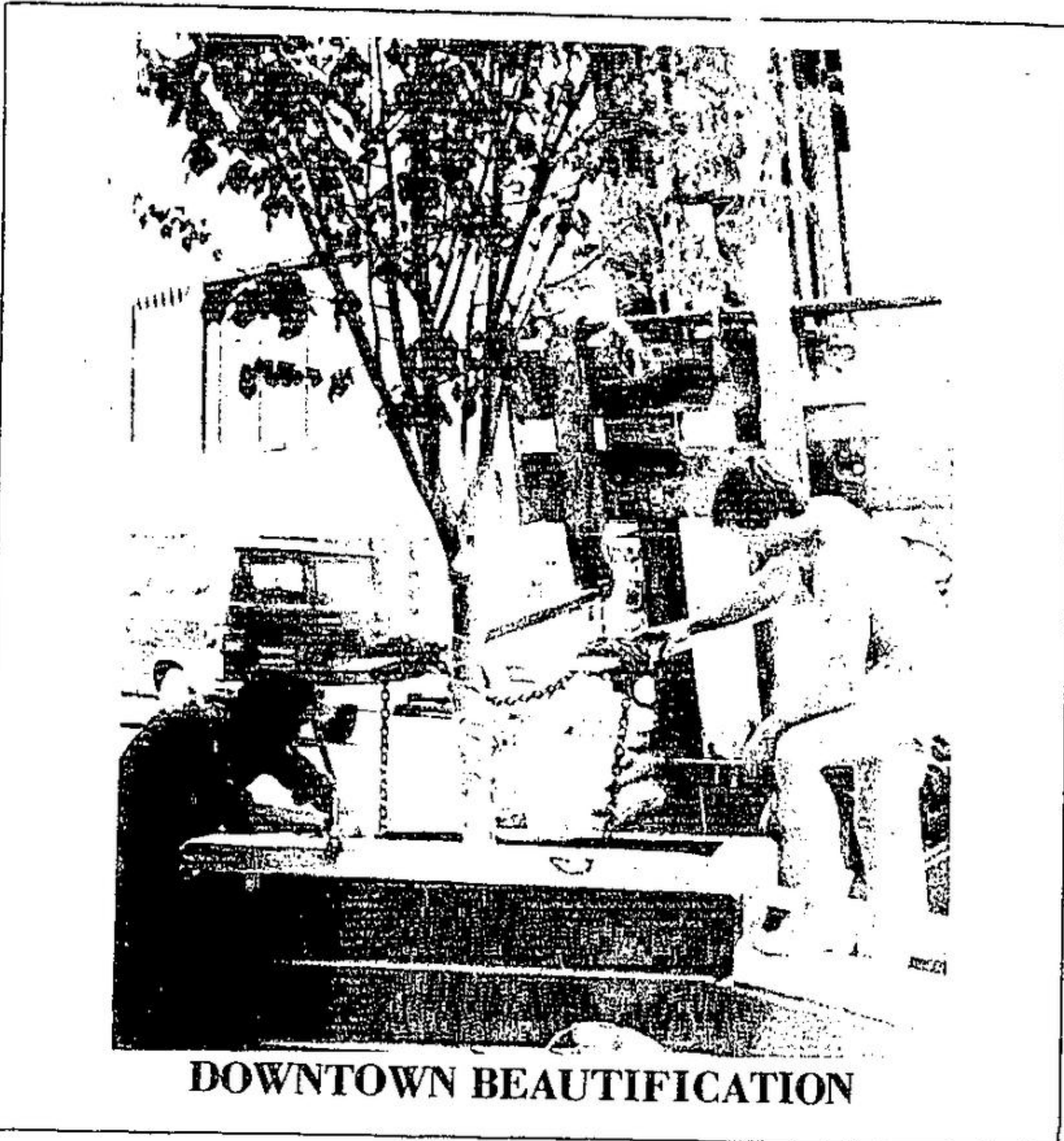
He's a new boy and may be able to pull off what would amount to a miracle.

But the odds are mammoth against him.

When John Diefenbaker entered office in 1957 it was only about six weeks before relationships between Ottawa and here had begun to cool.

By then some of our ministers had been to Ottawa. And they had been met by opposites in the capital who beamed at them from under their hornburgs — patronizingly.

Mr. Clark, there might be some sadness ahead.



DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION

MacLeod's mail bag offers plenty of variety



Ottawa
Report

By Stewart
MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

When readers take the trouble to write to this column I am not sure whether I should publish their names, frame the letters, cry softly to myself, sue for slander or write grateful replies.

So far I have done nothing.

Actually, I had fully intended to reply to this letter from Thunder Bay which had accused me of being in bed with the Liberals. It was written before the May 22 election, and the writer wanted to know "how is it that you can always find something nice to say about Trudeau and his gang while you play up every internal fight within the Progressive Conservative party?"

I got no further than the first paragraph when this letter arrived from Charlotteville. "Why don't you leave Trudeau alone? If he proved he could walk on water you would find cause to criticize his wet feet."

I hadn't thought of that, really. But,

come to think of it, it would be a much better stunt if his feet were dry.

"You might be a very able man," said this letter-writer in Kamloops, who is obviously a great judge of his fellow human beings. "But you are plain dumb if you think this country can stay united under Joe Clark and his Tory government."

Happily, the country contains other dump people.

ANOTHER VIEW
"If Canadians re-elect the Liberals for another term, we can kiss Canada goodbye," says another letter with a Kamloops postmark.

"What you seem to forget is that when Trudeau came to power there was no threat of separatism and no one heard the term 'western alienation'."

That leaves the New Democrats. "Why is it that you never make fun of the NDP?" was one slicky question. "They go around promising everybody the whole world and they seem to get away with it. But you make fun of the Social Credit party."

Sorry about that, Ma'am. But the federal Social Credit party does seem to have its funny moments.

Here's a nice little note from Sarnia, Ont., which refers to those periodic columns about the massive sums of money being spent on strange research projects, such as climate-controlled rat trials.

"Now that the Tories are in power I hope you will continue to list these so we

will know it's just not the Grits that waste money."

I give you my solemn word on that. "You have never written much about Maureen McTeer," was one observation from Thunder Bay. "Is it true she bosses Joe around?"

I am going to need more time on that one.

BEAUTY CONTEST
Some time ago, I wrote a column in which I quoted Max Saltzman, the former NDP member of Parliament for Waterloo-Cambridge, as saying that election results are largely determined by the appearance of political leaders. "All things being equal," he said, "the candidate who looks best will win."

And from St. John's came this rejoinder: "So that's why we have a Parliament full of good-looking dinks."

I detected a certain touch of annoyance in this letter from Sudbury.

"What you don't seem to realize, when you make fun of the Senate, is that senators are there to provide a sober second thought to hastily-conceived government legislation. They protect our interests and also the interests of the provinces. It is apparent that you don't spend much time watching the Senate in action."

To that observation, sir, I can only concede that you hit the nail right on the head.

Finally, "how come you didn't predict a Tory victory in the election?"

The answer, in short, is that I didn't know there was going to be a Tory victory.

Public's confidence a surprise in nuclear reactor's hometown



Queen's
Park

By Derek
Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

TORONTO — For an outsider it was fascinating.

Although the issue was really the controversial Rolphoton nuclear station, that some want to close as unsafe, media-bashing seemed to be just as much the order of the day.

The most thunderous applause at the meeting, held in the heart of nuclear country at Deep River, northwest of Ottawa, was reserved for one local resident who attacked the media.

It was obvious the 400-strong pro-nuclear crowd was right behind the sharp things shopkeeper Catherine Dalrymple had to say about general media coverage of the nuclear business.

Conversations with audience members chosen at random just heightened the attitude.

UPSET
What upset them was not so much individual stories but the general tone of reporting about the nuclear industry in general and the nearby Rolphoton reactor in particular.

They believed that anti-nuclear voices, none closer than 30 miles from the plant, had created the impression local residents and workers feared for their

lives.

For the prevalence of that false idea they blamed media coverage.

As Dalrymple put it: "If I depended on the radio (for nuclear power) information, I would be absolutely terrified."

"They have opted to take the easy sensationalist approach rather than the more difficult objective and responsible one."

"If the public is to answer the question of (nuclear risks versus benefits) they must be given both negative and positive facts and these facts must be put into a perspective to which they can relate."

"Instead the media give us a one-sided negative view. Information that may be of a positive nature often gets little coverage."

GAVE EXAMPLES
Dalrymple, who lives near Rolphoton, went on to give some specific examples of her generally quite valid criticisms.

In fact, the only place she went wrong was in describing the motives behind anti-nuclear stories as being a desire to shock so as to tell more newspapers or improve ratings.

Yet the real difficulty the nuclear industry faces is not the individual news story, however biased or inaccurate it may be, but the cumulative effect of day-after-day hammering.

Unfortunately for those who favor the nuclear industry, the biggest on-going story in town nowadays thanks to the near-disaster at Three Mile Island is nuclear power.

And naturally enough, the Canadian media are going to be looking for their own Three Mile Islands. At the moment Rolphoton, as an older station with some problems, is the favorite target.

That makes it tough for the Dalrym-

les and townsfolk of Deep River, who are proud of the job they or their neighbors have done with nuclear power and of their incredibly good safety record.

The objection the audience had is not that the messenger carried bad news but that it carried nothing else.

In that regard Dalrymple certainly has a point.

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Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO — Georgetown's program of road improvements will soon be underway. The contract for an estimated \$30,000 worth of work has been awarded to consolidated Sand and Gravel Co. of Toronto. The plan calls for new pavements on Maple Avenue from Charles to Main Street, Main from Church to Maple, 9th Lane from King to Huron's Inn. Resurfacing is planned for a number of roads, with repair work planned for Market, Edith, Victoria, Albert, McNabb, Maple, Charles, Church and John Streets.

Ken Richardson, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Robin Richardson of Norval, can class himself as a real fisherman and he has the fish to prove it. On a trip to Manitoulin Island, he hooked a 37-inch pike which weighed 13½ pounds, and his only bait was a worm.

NEWS SUBDIVISION

TWENTY YEARS AGO — Possibility of taking a cash-per-lot payment from Bob Lane for an 83-acre house subdivision in the old Cedarvale Farm orchard was discussed Monday by council. The new subdivision is one of the first to come under jurisdiction of Georgetown's subdivision law, which calls for maintenance of a ratio of 40 per cent industrial and commercial assessment to 60 per cent residential. A subdivider must build no more than 25 per cent of his total residential lots, then must produce evidence that his responsible for the 60-40 ratio before he can proceed further.

The long talked-about Delrex Market Centre, eventually to be one of the largest shopping plazas in Canada, hosted a large percentage of the Georgetown shopping population Thursday when seven of the completed stores opened their doors.

Renewal of a lease which will ensure continuance of public parking for Main Street shoppers was authorized at last week's council meeting. Mayor Armstrong reported that J.J. Gibbens, owner of a large parcel of property behind a block of stores, had agreed to renew a lease which costs the town \$50 a year plus the taxes on the property.

KOREAN ORPHAN

Rak Soon Suk, a little Korean orphan, now has some twenty foster mothers to take an interest in his welfare, and to help make a little less dreary his life in an orphanage. Through Foster Parents Plan, the Rotary Annex of Georgetown have "adopted" seven-year-old Rak Soon Suk, a quiet first-grader who hopes to be a teacher some day.

An unidentified Shakespearean actress played the damsel in distress Friday when the car she was driving from Toronto to a rehearsal at Stratford caught fire just outside the "Hamlet" of Silvercreek. The incident, however, proved to be "Much Ado About Nothing," since only the spark plug wires and battery cable were damaged. The affair was almost a "Comedy of Errors" since the actress' husband called the wrong fire department. A nearby resident, Mrs. J. Curriere, corrected the mistake, however, and summoned the local fire department. But by the time they arrived the fire was out and it was "Love's Labor Lost."

TEN YEARS AGO — "My, my, how times have changed," was the comment of 85-year-old Joe Martin, Georgetown's oldest resident, as he watched the historic moon walk Sunday night. His son-in-law, George Glassford, said Mr. Martin was quite aware of the events, and repeatedly asked: "Where are they now?" and "When will they get back down?" Born in 1866, one year before Confederation, Joe Martin has seen almost every modern-day technological advance, except the invention of the steam engine and the telegraph.

Three teenagers are credited with helping avert a near drowning on a recent Sunday afternoon at Ross Lake. When a Seadoo flipped throwing the driver and some children into the water, the three reached them on a raft and saved a possible tragedy. Gay Daly, 14, John Brown, 17, and Sandra Walsh, 14, were credited with the rescue.

Miss Kathryn Sinclair was driving to one of her neighbors' on Friday evening about 7:30 and was just entering the driveway, when she was startled by a terrific bang. A bullet from somewhere had struck the back window of the car and lodged in the chrome fittings. People with these high-powered rifles should be a little more careful in which direction they aim them.

EXPANSION

ONE YEAR AGO — Farmers beware — in spite of the continuing expansion of cities in Halton, there are still places for coyotes to hide out, and there are enough of the animals around to be a threat to domestic animals at this time of year. Henry Stanley, agricultural representative with the Milton office of the Ontario ministry of agriculture and food, has issued a warning to remind area livestock owners that they can collect compensation for losses in livestock due to coyotes and wolves.

Halton Regional Police Association has signed a new one-year contract which will make the force the highest paid in Ontario, and among the highest paid in Canada. Among the non-monetary benefits in the contract are the right to voluntarily exchange shifts or days with another officer, the right to examine their personnel files, and the right of members of the association bargaining team to take time off, with salary, for anything related to salary negotiations.

CN Rail is interested in getting together with the town of Halton Hills and community organizations to discuss an alternative use for the CN station in Georgetown, which they are proposing to close, but a CN spokesman told the town finance administration committee Monday that a proper alternative can't be chosen until after the station has been closed.

The president of the Halton Regional Police Association said Thursday that he would like to see the Ontario Police Commission conduct an investigation into the Halton police force, and prepare an "adequacy report", on the operation of the force. Constable Al Reulens, association president said he was not pinpointing the chief, the administration or the commission as being responsible for the morale problem on the force.