



### HANDBELL A RELIC OF GDHS' PAST

Dorothy Stone presented the Halton board of education with the original handbell from Georgetown District High School Thursday. She estimated that the bell is at least 162 years old, because the original school building was built in 1877, and the bell

would have been purchased when the school opened. Halton Hills trustees Barry Shepherd and Betty Fisher received the bell on behalf of the board.

(Herald photo)

## Resident's handbell a relic of GDHS' past

Halton Hills resident Dorothy Stone presented the Halton board of education with the original handbell from Georgetown District High School at the board meeting Thursday.

Miss Stone said she has had the bell in her possession since 1959, when the last of the original high school building was torn down. Gordon Brown, chairman of the board at the time, gave her the bell for safe-keeping, she said.

Georgetown District High School opened in 1877, Miss Stone said, and the bell would be at least that old. The original building was designed by Edward Lennox, the architect who designed the old city hall in Toronto and Berwick Hall, home of the Barber family in Georgetown.

Miss Stone asked the board's indulgence to relate some of her memories of teaching at the high school. The handbell

was kept in Room 2, and the teacher in the room was responsible for ringing the bell to signal the end of classes and the end of the day, "and guess who was in Room 2," she said. She said that since she taught art for a half-day, she often forgot to ring the bell, and the principal, Mr. Lambert would walk into the classroom, "give me a dirty look" and ring the bell.

She said that the students

were often restless after spending a half day on one class, and she would bribe them into good behaviour by promising that if they behaved, she would ring the bell a little earlier than she was supposed to.

"The principal said I was a disruptive influence," she said.

Halton Hills trustees Betty Fisher and Barry Shepherd accepted the bell on behalf of the board.

## Tree protection bylaw ready, region seeking comments

After years of revisions and months of debate, Halton region finally appears ready to adopt a new bylaw to protect its trees and control their cutting.

The "Halton Tree Conservation Bylaw" will be forwarded to the region's four area municipalities, the province's ministry of natural resources and Halton's Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC) for comments, if a planning committee re-

commendation is accepted this week by council.

Highlighting the new bylaw are regulations aimed at conserving trees in hazard lands and Environmentally-Sensitive Areas (ESAs), as well as those to be cut for forestry purposes.

The bylaw also protects trees growing in woodlots less than two acres in size and covers all species of trees, whereas the region's existing tree bylaw considers only

some species.

"The (current) bylaw has a number of major problems, chief of which is the lack of protection for large trees considered necessary to the region's ESAs," a report to the planning committee admitted.

"In addition, the current bylaw... does not protect rare or regionally significant species such as sweet chestnut, walnut, etc."

"The (new bylaw) has taken advantage of new amend-

ments to the Trees Act and has corrected those deficiencies of the old bylaw which undermined regional official plan goals, objectives and policies."

The report indicated that regional solicitor Dennis Perlin has discussed the enforcement of the new bylaw with the area municipalities and the local conservation authorities. Once enacted, the bylaw will require regional council to appoint enforcement officers.

### VIEWPOINT

# Hitler's legacy lingers

By Gerry Landsborough  
Herald columnist

Two stories from the news this week

The decision of the Canadian Human Rights Commission ordering the Western Guard Party (neo-Nazi) to stop its malignant telephone messages of hate is a "giant step for humanity."

We are not so far removed, from the sickness that was Hitler's prime motivator.

Hate begins in a cesspool recess of the human mind, and grows as it is nurtured with bias, prejudice, and a false sense of superiority. The minute we accept "we are better because..." we have taken the first step towards the blight on humanity that was Hitler's legacy.

"Perfection" is for the gods; humans by virtue of their humanity alone have a redeeming factor that can be found in the most illiterate or physically handicapped of our race. It is a "hope" that springs eternal - a "faith" that cannot be suppressed.

This hope or faith is what it means to be "human."

Remove it, and no matter how physically perfect or mentally superior, the end result is definitely not one thing - not "human."

**BLENDED CATTLE**

Over the years, I have met with many people who still live with the horror that was Nazi Germany. There are many here in Halton Hills who know

from personal experience what such a regime means. People are still stamped like branded cattle.

People who still whisper the word "police" and have transferred that fear to their children.

You cannot put into words how debased the human mind becomes when humanity, compassion and hope are replaced with an ideology that looks on compassion as the severest of handicaps.

John Ross Taylor, the national leader of the Western Guard Party, said that "if the decision is final, it would mean the end of free speech." Hate against a race - propaganda for the Nazi Party is an "abuse" of free speech. We cannot allow the cancer that is Fascism to spread under the guise of "free speech."

The economic factors that gave rise to Hitler's regime can come again. What started out for the betterment of Germany ended up a blight on the whole of humanity.

We cannot afford to sit in a vacuum. The decision of the human rights tribunal should be applauded; it is a blessing on humanity, a blessing on the preservation of what is truly "freedom."

Child abuse is a growing sickness in our nation today. The reasons are primarily ec-

onomical, with the supporting factors of ignorance and the continuing desire to escape responsibility on the part of far too many.

Sunny Pearl King, 16 weeks old, was so viciously beaten by her father that most of the bones in her nine-pound body were broken.

**LICENCE FOR ALL**

I believe in the "licensing" of potential parents. In today's society we require a "license" for just about anything. Do you want to own a dog? Get a license. Drive a car; build a doghouse; ride a bike; practise medicine; dentistry; law; motor mechanics - you name it, and it requires some form of indication on your part that you have training or ability - some indication that you are ready for the task you are setting out to do.

Parenting is a 24-hour a day job - 24 hours seven days a week.

It is a role that lasts a lifetime.

Anyone who has raised a family looks back on the "mistakes" they made. No one has ever brought up the "perfect child". To do so would result in the "perfect human being" and, as I mentioned earlier, "perfection" is for the gods. However, there are basics in parenthood and they can be taught.

Pre-natal classes should be mandatory - under licensing they would be. New parents

can be taught what to expect and could use supportive systems in the time of crisis.

Licensing is not a question of financial readiness, but one of emotional readiness. Some poor souls have no idea what a baby is all about when they arrive home from the hospital. A baby is a demanding machine that eats, sleeps and cries for the first few weeks - it is a purely selfish creature interested in nothing but how it feels. It demands that its needs be met, and if not, all hell breaks loose. It is not a toy to put back in the closet when you get tired of playing house.

**ENSURE TRAINING**

A driver's licence does not ensure that you won't have an accident - a medical licence does not guarantee you won't forget a sponge. All it can do is ensure that some kind of training was received. The licensing of potential parents would not have to be based on intelligence quota or financial worth; all it would do is help enforce some form of parental education that is so much in need in society today. If society won't tolerate its children being maimed then society has to accept the responsibility for trying to eliminate it. Phoning in on potential child abusers is better than nothing, but this only treats the symptoms, not the disease.

Let us educate our young people on what parenting is all about. The time for a "license" is now.

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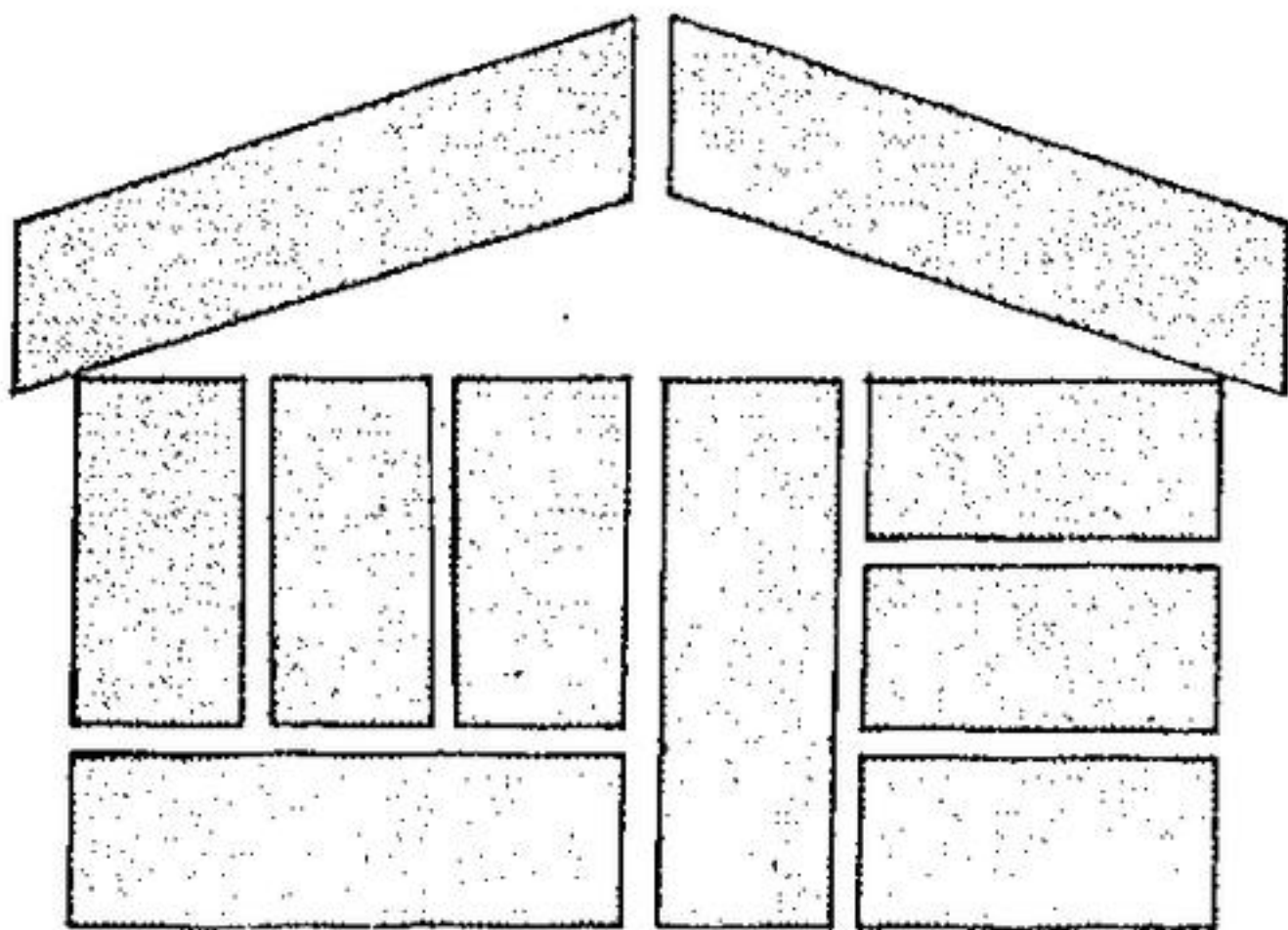
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