

Halton's History

From our files

FLASH FIRE

THIRTY YEARS AGO—A flash fire which broke out in the home of Roy Wiggins on Victoria Street on Saturday afternoon did extensive damage to the interior of the house and endangered the life of a sleeping baby in a crib beside the kitchen stove.

The local contracting firm of J.B. Mackenzie and Son has started building operations in Glen Williams for the new three-room school which will replace the old school which collapsed last summer during excavations for a planned addition.

FIRST SNOW

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Halton's population as of September 30th, 1959, stands at a record 106,017, county assessor Fred Rogers reported last week.

A skiff of snow on Tuesday heralded the fact that winter is fast approaching and the 'put 'em on' season is with us again.

"The new gymnasium should not be looked upon in the community as a plate for public, semi-public or private dances," was the opinion of high school principal J.L. Lambert as the high school board sought a stand on a request for use of the hall by the local Hospital Auxiliary.

A hope was realized in the village of Norval this past week with the holding of a "Preaching Mission". Plans first got underway in 1957 for holding such a "venture in faith", but were put off until serious consideration began in the spring of this present year.

ASSAULT VICTIM CRITICAL

TEN YEARS AGO—Prince Charles Drive will be the scene of a disaster Wednesday night, October 29. It will happen at 6:30 and the injuries will be so many and so serious that hospital facilities will be taxed to the limit.

A Georgetown man was found apparently beaten in his Water Street apartment Monday, but the circumstances are still a mystery. James H. Blair, of 21 Water Street, is in a Toronto hospital in critical condition, his wounds reportedly inflicted by a blunt instrument.

A steam locomotive pulling an excursion train loaded with railway buffs puffed and snorted its way through town Sunday. The special train, chartered by the Upper Canada Railway Society, didn't stop in passing through the local yard at about 12:30. Its shrill whistle blasts were recognizable to all who recall the pre-diesel days.

The new Georgetown branch of the United Co-operatives of Ontario will be officially opened at 10:30 a.m. on October 23. Present at the unique, chain-saw cutting ceremony will be Georgetown mayor Weldon Emmerson, the Provincial MPP for Halton County, James Snow, and a UCO director, Fred Hamilton of Guelph.

A 20-year-old youth charged with theft was saved from a criminal record when Judge Kenneth M. Langdon of Georgetown pulled \$1 from his pocket and paid for the stolen gasoline. A gas station attendant testified \$1 worth of gas was asked for but the accused drove off without paying. Judge Langdon paid the dollar, and the charge was dismissed.

JAIL FOR SALE

ONE YEAR AGO—Halton Hills' Library Board began wrestling with the 'problem of defining the library's purpose, goals and objectives at a meeting last Wednesday night in an attempt to determine the library's needs and clarify its role in the community.

Halton Hills council is right in turning down Focal Properties' proposal to build 1,840 homes south of Silver Creek and letting the town grow by infilling instead, according to a report on the Focal proposal presented to the Georgetown Area Ratepayers' Association (GARA) Thursday evening in Centennial Middle School.

Halton region has offered to sell a 29,000-square foot portion of the old Milton jail complex to the town of Milton for \$50,000. The offer represents the bottom line of a comprehensive proposal by regional staff for the disposition of a cluster of old buildings in downtown Milton that includes facilities for family and juvenile courts, the Children's Aid Society and the Halton Regional Health Unit.

Despite the opinions of its Halton Hills members, Halton regional council has rejected a public works staff recommendation by which no further consideration would be given to using abandoned quarries as dump sites for Halton's garbage. Council voted 11-10 to reject the suggestion, instead endorsing a request for additional information on the feasibility of using quarry sites for dry, inert or liquid wastes.

It's now time for action on Focal

Ge. we thought you'd never ask.

We're referring to town councillor Marilyn Serjeantson's questions at last week's planning board concerning the status of the Focal Properties negotiations.

Board chairman Mike Armstrong told her the ball is now in Focal's court and maintained it is up to the developer to get back to the town with another proposal for the subdivision.

Council must find a way to press the negotiations to a conclusion. To let the issue remain unresolved makes any kind of planning in this community virtually impossible.

when she advocates re-opening discussion of local sewage allocation and the Focal issue in general. While Coun. Armstrong says the town's position has not changed during this term of office, it is this very position that has led to the issue remaining unresolved.

Considering that Bruce McLaughlin recently went on record saying the Focal issue was on the verge of being resolved we wonder why there has been so little said about the project recently.

And if "behind the scenes" negotiations are taking place, certainly, councillors like Ms. Serjeantson should be aware of them.

The time has definitely come to clear the air, once and for all, around the Focal issue. A planning board meeting might just be the best place to start.

Hockey ban is a mistake

We're sorry to see the Georgetown Minor Hockey Support Group (GMHSG) restate their ban against two little girls, Alison Irvine and Carolyn Grashy from playing hockey on boys' teams.

GMHSG members argued that if they allowed the girls to play, the local hockey association would lose its affiliation with the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) and thus be banned from tournaments and other inter-province play.

This was given as the main reason for not allowing the young girls to play at a level of hockey and coaching most suited to their abilities on a boys team.

While we can understand the parents' concern by simply using the OMHA as a reason to not allow the young girls to play, in effect, shows support for the association's position. Otherwise the GMHSG should have at least said they would only ban the girls under protest.

They could take steps available to them as members of the OMHA to try and see the policy rescinded. They should also file a protest with the provincial government stating opposition to a

recent court ruling upholding the legality of the ban.

As the Toronto Star said in an editorial on this issue, if it's the law, then change it.

Others have argued against girls playing on boys minor hockey teams saying the girls would likely be injured playing against the boys.

Yet, if the girls are forced to play in the girls league, they'll be playing girls up to 14 years of age. We think they're less likely to get injured playing against boys their own age. And we're told the two girls certainly held their own against male players last year on boys' teams.

Both Alison and Carolyn are talented enough to play in the boys league. We think that talent should be the only criteria in question.

Boys hockey in this country is better organized, with greater access to ice time. These young girls deserve the opportunity to play at a level which contributes most to the development of their hockey skills as well as be the most satisfying for the youngsters.

If the GMHSG will not let the girls play, they should at least try and get the rules changed for the future.

A warm welcome to Boat People

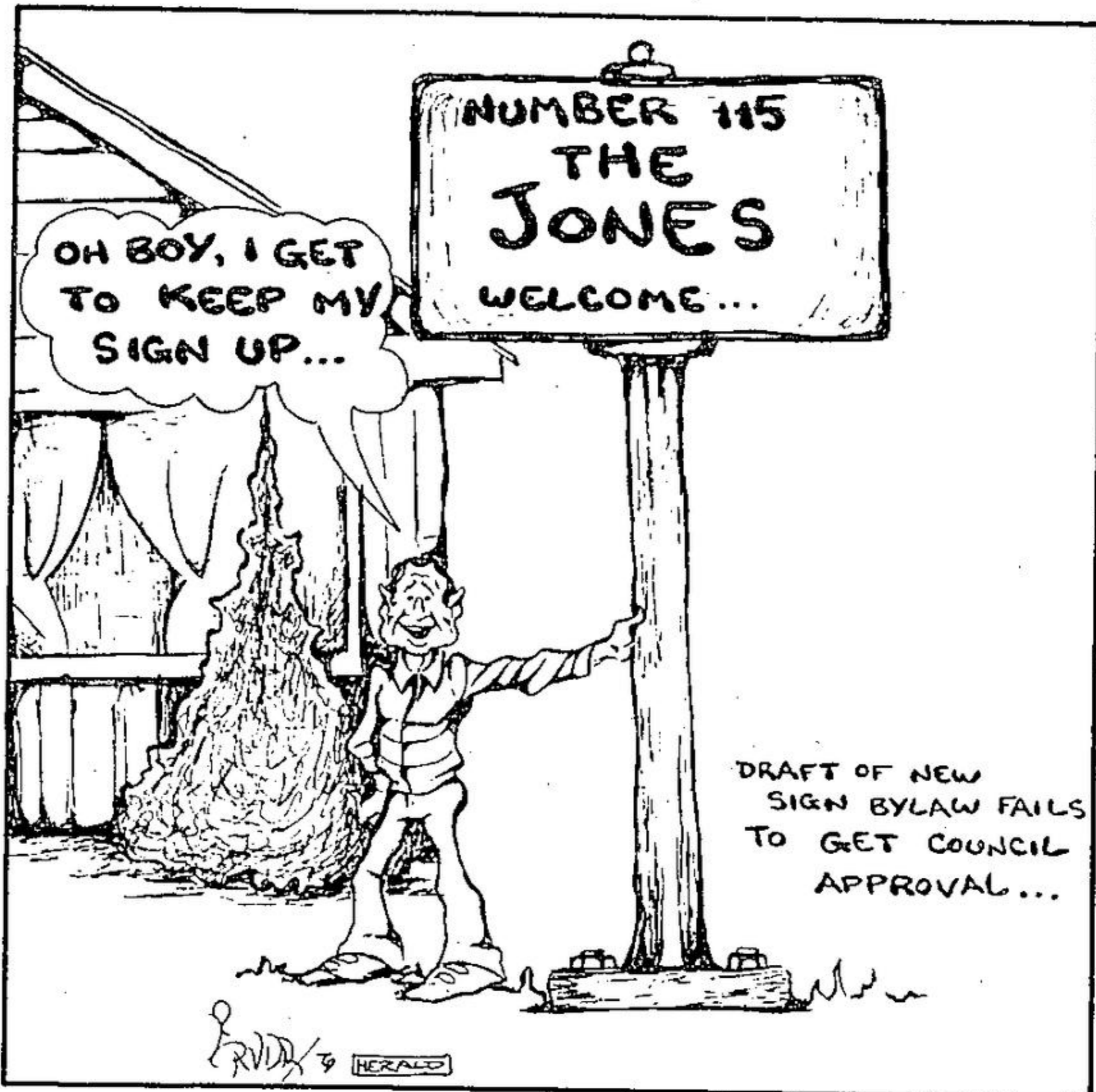
Halton Hills chào mừng các bạn.

In Vietnamese that means welcome and we send out a warm welcome to the first Vietnamese family to arrive in Georgetown. Nghiep Cun Tazan, his wife and his prents ended their exodus from their beleaguered homeland this month arriving safely at the home of Reverend and Mrs. John De Jong of Georgetown.

The De Jong's are just one of many local families and groups involved in sponsoring the Vietnamese refugees and we also

congratulate them on their hard work. We suspect few things could have been more satisfying to the local family than to see the faces of the refugee family when they were reunited after their treacherous odyssey safe at last, in the De Jong home.

The Halton Hills Boat People sponsors still need help. They require funding, furniture, translation services among other things. For those unable to sponsor a family but still interested in helping in some way, call Don Long at 877-7010 for details.



PM Clark should consider backing down on Petro-Can



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Considering the difficulties encountered by Prime Minister Joe Clark in the implementation of his campaign promises - the Israel embassy move and the proposed \$2 billion tax cut being the most notable - perhaps it isn't surprising that he's determined to pursue the so-called privatization of Petro-Canada.

He probably feels he can't enter another election campaign without some of his major promises being implemented, and it's a sure bet that such commitments as the embassy move and the tax cut won't be in place by then. But the privatization, or at least the partial privatization of Petro-Canada is a practical possibility and the Clark government will probably pounce on it.

And if this decision is made, there is no doubt that the government can succeed. Both the Liberals and the New Democrats boast that they will fight to the finish to prevent such a move, but we all know where that finish line is. It is on the safe side of an election, that's where.

NO ELECTION

As popular as their Petro-Canada cause may be, neither the Liberals nor the New Democrats want an early election -

an election which would almost certainly see the return of the Tory government, perhaps with a majority. Before another election is called, the New Democrats desperately need an infusion of cash, and there are a good many Liberals who feel that their party, before going back to the people, needs a new infusion of leadership.

No, there is no doubt that Clark, despite all the brave challenges from the opposition, has a free hand to do pretty well what he wants with Petro-Canada. And now that he has a task force report recommending partial privatization he probably will follow this course.

Originally, Clark had pledged to dismantle Petro-Canada, a crown-agency he once described as a "turkey". But after this the organization began gaining in popularity, as Canadians, with some good reasons, worried about overseas fuel supplies being left in the hands of multi-national corporations. And, besides this, Petro-Canada was becoming involved in some worthwhile oil discoveries. Public opinion polls indicated that an overwhelming majority of Canadians wanted the agency left alone.

The Clark government established a task force on the subject, just as it appointed a one-man commission to find an escape route from that dumb proposal to move the Canadian embassy in Israel.

ESCAPE ROUTE

The task force, to the surprise of no

one, came up with a complicated scheme that would permit the government to implement its privatization pledge while maintaining a Crown agency to negotiate state-to-state contracts for oil, and to promote exploration in high-risk areas of the country.

Petro-Canada would, in effect, be split into two, with Canadians being given shares in the profitable side while the government pumps the necessary funds into the other side to encourage exploration, research and other immediately-unprofitable ventures. We wouldn't even have to buy shares in the profitable side of Petro-Canada; the task force suggested that they be distributed to Canadians free of charge.

Actually, the task force provides the government with a remarkably easy method of implementing its campaign promise. And with little fear from the opposition warnings, Prime Minister Clark will probably go along with the recommendations.

It could be a massive blunder. Petro-Canada, as it stands, seems to be a highly efficient and popular entity, operating effectively and profitably on behalf of its present shareholders, which happen to be the taxpayers of Canada. Apart from fulfilling a questionable campaign promise, it's difficult to see how the dismemberment of Petro-Canada could fill any useful purpose.

Since there is some reason to believe that Joe Clark's campaign promises had little to do with his electoral success - they might even have been a liability - and since Petro-Canada seems to be doing just fine the way it is, the prime minister might well be advised to swallow his pride and move on to more important things.

Energy conservation gets lost during current fuel crunch



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

TORONTO - Energy debates in Ontario have a kind of ethereal quality about them, as though the politicians were shadow-boxing rather than coming to grips with the real problems.

Often they debate policies and issues over which Ontario has no control, and limited influence, such as Petro-Can. Other times they attempt to defend positions, like opposing world price for oil (meaning 90 per cent or so of Chicago price), long ago abandoned by almost everyone else.

All three provincial parties do it, and on world price in particular they sound like Tweedledum, Tweedledee, and Tweedledidum.

Yet the same day this week they subjected the legislature to six hours of such debate on energy policy, the real decisions were being made overseas.

Two more OPEC countries announced production cutbacks, and since Canada imports 20 per cent of its oil we are bound to be affected eventually.

DAVIS VIEW

Premier William Davis can make a moving (and valid) plea for a national distribution of oil and natural gas profits rather than the parochial selfishness so obvious in Alberta.

calls for holding the line on provincial per capita oil consumption by 1985.

In an oil-short world that is not only a worthy goal it is an absolute necessity.

Worse, with OPEC nations not just jacking up the price of oil, but restricting its flow, we likely don't have until 1985 to stop increasing use.

This time next year the Western world could be facing severe oil shortages, and Saudi Arabia is unlikely to rescue us two winters running.

ALL IGNORED

Neither Davis, nor Liberal Leader Stuart Smith, nor NDP Leader Michael Cassidy even touched on that threat.

We must restrict oil consumption in Ontario and, while it might be nice to do it gradually over the next half-decade, in fact we might have to do it fast and quick next autumn.

Only two methods of rationing come to mind, the obvious being the wartime kind of coupon system even though that always produces corruption (and this summer government allocation of oil supplies in the U.S. actually failed).

The other means is to raise prices.

NOTSURE

While some people (like Davis and Cassidy) aren't convinced higher prices will restrain consumption it seems unlikely that a basic law of economics can be repealed so easily.

Smith made the point that if one opposes a price increase then one must support mandatory conservation measures and government investment in alternatives to oil.

But restraining oil consumption in that manner requires a long lead time to

transform the economy, time we probably don't have.

It is this that gives a touch of unreality to much of the energy debate here.

Even the good ideas - Davis on national oil profits, Smith on conservation, Cassidy on renewables - tend to become lost when we face such an overwhelming need to curb our oil consumption.

Advertisement for the HERALD newspaper, including contact information and a list of awards won.