

Lions find us another 'complete citizen'

Something that never ceases to amaze us is the consistently high calibre of citizenry the Georgetown Lions Club provides us with each year as annual personified reminders of just what community spirit and involvement are really all about.

Karen Harrison is yet another fine example for us all, typical of the kind of next-door-neighbor types who have time for everything, it seems, but self-promotion.

Without the Lions, a growing number of Georgetown's best citizens would perhaps hustle and bustle through life enmeshed in countless projects and not once pause to commend themselves or otherwise consider their individual importance in the scheme of things.

This Friday night, the Lions and other townspeople are going to "force" Karen Harrison to pause and reflect on her own past, present and future; in giving her the opportunity to do so, the lives of all of us can become more enlightened.

Mrs. Harrison's interests are far-ranging as well as multiple, covering both recreational concern

as billeting chairman for the annual Bantam hockey tournament which commemorates Georgetown's heritage as home of the Little NHL - and community service - as a special education teacher to mentally retarded youngsters.

In a volunteer capacity, Mrs. Harrison canvasses for the retarded children's auxiliary, serves the town as a Kinette and currently heads the local minor hockey support group.

In short, the Lions' selection committee is to be commended for another excellent choice in the annual Citizen of the Year sweepstakes. Already, a composite - the complete Citizen, as it were - seems to be emerging: multi-talented, involved, vital and, as evidenced by Mrs. Harrison's own remarks in last week's Herald interview, continually concerned with and about their community.

Our congratulations to Karen Harrison and continuing thanks to previous Citizens of the Year, including the Nobles, Rev. Barrow, Peggy Treahy and others.

And let's hope those Lions keep their eyes open and keep up the good work.



Clark's role in embassy escape one break Grits didn't steal



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald
Yes, the outpouring of self-praise over the Tehran embassy affair may have reached embarrassing proportions, but we can't overlook its effects on the current election campaign.

Opinions differ on just how much this intriguing affair may help Prime Minister Joe Clark in his uphill battle for reelection, but one thing seems certain - it won't hurt him. The same can't be said for Liberal Leader Pierre Trudeau who, when the escape was first announced, seemed to question the authenticity of the story despite the fact he had been told last November that six Americans were being hidden in the embassy.

And it's difficult to say whether New Democratic Leader Ed Broadbent will feel any lingering after-effects from his initial blast at Clark for allegedly using the embassy closing for purely political purposes. It turned out that Mr. Broadbent had not been told that the closure involved the escape of U.S. diplomats. The prime minister later apologized for "overlooking" the NDP leader, and Mr. Broadbent immediately withdrew his criticism; so we can probably assume the after-effects will be minimal.

It's likely, however, that the so-called "Great Canadian Caper" will have a much greater impact on the Tory and Liberal campaigns. For the prime minister, the timing was perfect.

GOOD TIMING

As the Liberals continued to portray the 40-year-old Mr. Clark as a sort of bumbling juvenile in international affairs - the type of guy who walks into bayonets and makes stupid promises about moving something to suggest he had a surcharged grip on some foreign affairs. He really hadn't helped his own cause with his suggestions, which seemed naive, that Canada could make Russia think twice about its invasion of Afghanistan.

Until the revelations about the Tehran embassy affair, the prime minister continued to look like an awkward student on the international stage, while Mr. Trudeau was the patient professor waiting to resume his responsibilities. Now, with very fortuitous timing for Clark, the entire world, and many other parts of the world, seem to be excited over an event that casts the prime minister in the role of a master sleuth.

It's probably safe to assume that Clark had little to do with the success or the escape, apart from giving the external affairs department permission to pursue its unorthodox adventures - and he really had little choice but to go along with the project.

Nonetheless, it was successful. Canada and its government suddenly became the darlings of the world's media, and it's only natural that the prime

minister would benefit to some degree.

In talking about fortuitous timing, the incident seemed to coincide with a journalistic self-examination of campaign coverage - whether the prime minister was getting fair treatment in international matters and whether Mr. Trudeau might be getting off too lightly with his carefully-ratified campaign statements.

CLARK GRACIOUS

Added to this was the fact that Mr. Clark handled the whole affair with aplomb. He was gracious in giving the credit to the external affairs department and embassy staff and he even appeared reluctant to discuss the issue. I thought he handled it well, although other Tories milked it for everything it was worth.

And by revealing the fact that the prime minister had briefed Mr. Trudeau on the situation last November, the Tories managed to throw the Liberal leader in a somewhat shady light. The records show that he continued to pepper the prime minister with questions about Iran after this confidential briefing.

Actually, I can't find anything highly irresponsible in Mr. Trudeau's questioning, since he didn't drop any hint about Americans being in the Canadian embassy, and his absolute silence on the issue would have raised all sorts of questions and suspicions.

That aside, his badgering of the prime minister on the Iran issue now, in retrospect, is all fodder for the campaign mill. And the Tories will use every bit of it, I bet.

It may not win the election for Joe Clark, but at least he can't accuse Pierre Trudeau of getting all the breaks.

Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

Taking the

election seriously?

Then don't read this

Best local election joke thus far, courtesy of Progressive Conservative party workers quoted recently by Brampton Daily Times reporter Rosemary Cinn.

"Did you hear Alberta Premier Pete Lougheed is having a statue of Trudeau erected on the lawn of his Legislature in Edmonton? He says in the summer it will give us shade, in the winter it will give us shelter and, year-round, it will give birds a chance to speak for all Albertans."

There may be inadvertent humor in this somewhere, but it seems the Tories came up with the second best joke as well.

"A canvassing Liberal encountered the following response to his door-to-door appeal - 'My father votes Conservative, my mother votes Conservative, my son and daughter vote Conservative, and my

dog barked at Ross Milne."
"Why should you worry when Joe Clark throws a pin at you?" the Brampton-Georgetown Liberals demanded in response. "Because he still has the grenade in his mouth."

The punsters were out in force at David Moulton's New Democratic headquarters:

"When you have to choose between a turkey and a lame duck, are you too chicken to vote NDP?"

Bringing up the rear, comedy-wise, were tired old lines about Mickey Mouse ordering a Joe Clark watch and Ed Broadbent being struck by a motorboat while out for a stroll.

Needless to say, all three parties are saving the biggest joke for Monday night, and it's going to be on all of us.

In the series' conclusion next week, I hope to look at some of the more recent developments in the newspaper's style and appearance and put the present into perspective with the past. Another question for consideration, once that's done, is of course the future.
So next week, an update on history and an introduction to the future.

Coming next week, the final chapter of The Way We Were, A History of The Herald, which I have the privilege of bringing up to date. Local historian Richard Ruggle completed his commendably comprehensive five-part series on this newspaper's past 100-plus years two weeks ago, fittingly close to the projected opening date of The Herald's new Guelph Street headquarters next month.

It's a particular pleasure for me to introduce a long-time friend, Steve Frost of Georgetown, as The Herald's newest reporter-photographer, replacing Maggie Hannah, who has assumed similar duties with an affiliate, the Guelph Daily Mercury.
Making his journalism debut, Steve is, like myself, a Georgetown-bred former student of Holy Cross and Georgetown High schools who recently completed a fascinating, 13-month tour of the world, stories about which The Herald hopes to share with its readers soon.

Steve, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Frost of RR4, Georgetown, obtained a B.A. in English at the University of Guelph in early 1978.



STEVE FROST

Also helping out The Herald's editorial staff currently is Paul Sargent, son of former Georgetown mayor and Mrs. Doug Sargent, who is spending two weeks at this newspaper as part of his practical training in journalism through

Sheridan College. Since both Steve and Paul are newcomers to the profession, I hope they'll receive the same courtesies, patience and co-operation from the community as the rest of us "veterans" have in the past.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson



Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Treasurer Frank Miller said he dreamed up his sales tax rebate program for purchase of new 1979 vehicles while jogging around Queen's Park.

One can believe him. Nothing so hasty, ill-conceived and unneeded has ushered from Queen's Park in quite a while.

Anyone who buys a 1979 car or light truck between Jan. 31 and March 2 is eligible for a refund of up to \$700 sales tax.

Miller estimates the program should make purchasing a new 1979 car cheaper by 20 to 25 per cent than a new 1980 model.

But will it?
No one can be certain dealers will pass on the bargain.

Dealers who might otherwise have dropped their prices to get rid of excess inventory may now keep them level. A consumer then might benefit no more from the rebate than he would anyway from a sale.

BOTH AGAINST

Miller said the rationale for the rebate is the "high number of 1979 vehicles still in the hands of some dealers," with the added benefit that it would "stimulate

economic activity within the auto industry."

But both Opposition Leader Stuart Smith and NDP Leader Michael Cassidy ridiculed the idea that it might help the 15,000 unemployed auto workers in Ontario.

Smith noted nine-tenths of the cars aren't made here, and Ontario is only one-twenty-fifth of the integrated North American market.

In short the whole program is lunacy. True, it will likely move new 1979 cars, but only at the expense of 1980 sales.

As Smith said, Miller's plan reveals a fundamental lack of understanding of how free enterprise works.

"When you're stuck with inventory you have a sale," he said.

WHO NEXT?

He wondered too which group of businessmen would be next in line for a rebate as they complained of being over-stocked.

Miller suggests his program is similar to one initiated by then-treasurer Darcy McKeough in 1975, but that kind of comparison does a disservice to McKeough.

What happened in 1975 was that auto sales slumped dramatically, and McKeough's rebate program was to encourage people to buy.

But Miller himself admits that this time "Canadian sales have held up." The layoffs in the auto industry are caused by lack of buying in the U.S., not here.

STRANGE APPROACH

If dealers have too much inventory one would think that would be their problem, not the government's. Why Miller would rush to rescue retailers who don't need the fire brigade treatment is

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO--Georgetown walloped Dixie 11-1 in the first game of the group playoffs on Monday, when they marched to victory paced by Ferri, Martin and Chappel, each of whom scored two goals.

The Georgetown Retailers' Association must admit that no small part of their business hinges on the children's patronage. This is proven by the fact that more than 6,000 Valentines were exchanged at Georgetown Public School Tuesday afternoon. The teachers were the happy recipients of several boxes of candy.

Halton Presbytery of the United Church will urge through Halton's member of the provincial parliament that nothing be done to legalize commercial sports. A resolution to this effect was passed at the presbytery meeting last week at Appleby. Members maintained that the whole province should not drop its standards because of the pressure of commercial interests in one city.

TWENTY YEARS AGO--A wave of pay phone thefts apparently sweeping the country hit Georgetown last week. Telephone booths at the IGA Foodliner and Davidson's Drug store were the local targets for the thieves who ripped the entire units from their mountings some time Sunday night or Monday morning and then, their growing coin collection considerably fattened, they moved on to another town to repeat the procedure.

A meeting between council and Delrex Developments to resume negotiations on the release of more building land in the subdivision is being planned later this month.

"Not now" was the answer to a request received by council Monday from a district radio station for a panel discussion program involving councillors. The station planned to have a panel appear before a live audience, including two council members, a guest "expert" and two land developers, taping the show for a later broadcast. Council members expressed reluctance to become involved in the show and airing differences of opinion in public.

Who's the fastest shot in the family? That's the question that may soon be bandied about in the households of the Georgetown Revolver Club members following a motion passed last week to allow members' wives into the club. The ladies were arived for the first time officially Sunday in a practice session at the club's Limehouse range, and aeriated the targets with surprising - or frightening - accuracy.

Georgetown moved a step closer to securing a third source of water when council authorized the Proctor and Redfern engineering firm to get prices for drilling a test hole from firms to submit to the water committee.

The tender for the purchase and installation of fire warning systems at Chapel Street and Wrigglesworth Public Schools was awarded to G.R. Muckart Monday night at the regular school board monthly meeting. The need for the warning systems in the schools was amplified when during a recent fire drill, some classes mistook the alarm bell for a dismissal bell, while it went unheeded in at least one class.

TEN YEARS AGO--Georgetown separate school supporters have won a temporary reprieve from an 85-mill tax increase this year. The Georgetown Separate School Board had a \$111,173 bank loan outstanding at the end of 1968 when Halton County Separate School system was created. Provincial legislation required Georgetown to repay the entire loan in 1970. James Hogan, superintendent of the Halton board, said Monday the provincial government had postponed for one year the requirements of the legislation.

The open concept school in Moore Park, named after the late Mayor Joseph Gibbons, is slated to open September of this year for students from kindergarten to Grade 6. The school, upon completion, will have 12 open area classrooms, a general purpose room, used also as a gym, a music room, a double kindergarten, two small health rooms, change rooms and office area.

Halton's member of parliament Rud Whiting has urged the government to limit the power of automobile engines. Whiting drew applause from other MPs during a debate this week on a government bill to establish motor vehicle standards when he said, "Canada can show leadership in the field of automotive safety in establishing international standards."

ONE YEAR AGO--There may be opponents to the use of the old Dumtar building as a flea market each weekend, but they weren't present at a meeting Monday night to discuss the matter. Dan Wagstaffe and Ian Gardner, partners in Circus Flea Market Inc., had been informed that residents in the neighborhood were opposed to the presence of the flea market and although they had not received any complaints personally, they decided to hold a meeting. Only two couples appeared at the meeting although 25 neighboring homeowners had been notified. Neither couple was opposed to the proposal.

The threat of legal action being taken against Halton regional council over its decision to withhold payment on the construction of the new regional headquarters until deficiencies are corrected appears to have been lifted. Chief administrative officer Ernie Reid told the Herald following last Wednesday's council meeting that the contractor who supervised the construction of the \$2.7 million headquarters in Oakville, Newtown Construction Ltd., seems to be agreeable toward council's intention to withhold \$70,000 of its bill.

A proposal to have Bell Canada establish a three-digit telephone number by which Halton region residents could contact emergency services has been temporarily shelved until implementation costs can be determined.

The Water Management Advisory Board of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority has deferred action on a report, dealing with proposed solutions to the flooding in Glen Williams until they can get clarification of some aspects of the report from its author. The report, written by Crysler and Latham Limited, recommends making channel alterations upstream of the headpond, dredging the head pond and incorporating a stop log control structure in the Paper Mill Dam.

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