

Town recognition awards night has come of age

With 150 Halton Hills residents called to the podium one by one last week to accept the acclaim of their fellow citizens, it would appear that the town's honor and recognition awards banquet has come of age after only a few short years.

The event's planning, timing and execution came in for some criticism during the past couple of years: priorities came into question and, in one or two instances, obviously deserving achievers were somehow omitted from the list of recipients.

The growth of the 1980 list to more than double the size of last year's indicates that no one's apparently been left off, and the diversity of backgrounds attributed to this year's recipients seems to demonstrate that certain fields which might have gone unnoticed in the past are now receiving the attention they warrant.

From the start, town council's plan to honor its successful sportsmen promised to fill a gap in the community's cohesion left by the conversion to a regionalized format. Apart from the Citizen of the Year awards handed out in both Acton and Georgetown each year, past efforts to formally congratulate all those who made significant contributions to the two former towns were forgotten in the shuffle.

Finally, after some prompting from the Halton Hills recreation department and well-timed cues from other nearby municipalities, most notably Oakville, the new town got around to rounding up its annual roster of success stories and patting them on the back.

Organizers did an astoundingly

thorough job this year collecting and evaluating nominations for the awards. As well as clear "shoo-ins" like tennis ace Stacey Hurley, motorcycle racer Jon Cornwell, runners Ian Clark and Bob Daniell, swimmer Heather Clarke and Legion curlers Chappell, Chamberlain, Williams and Campbell, there were achievers whose accomplishments have not generated headlines as much and whose contributions to the community are not quite as obvious.

Thus, long-time Georgetown resident Marjorie Nazer was singled out for her exceptional artwork, her presence on the local crafts scene and her role as an underlying current in the effort to build a new cultural centre.

Similarly, Normic Studio administrator Enid Williams received recognition for bringing what may be termed "high art" to the community through the Studio and for making the public more aware of the talent we have here through Her Arts Council column and features in The Herald.

Ralph Ursel, the high school teacher cum pianist-accompanist cum Arts Council past president, got a loud round of applause for being intensely involved in the performing arts community as well as the Rotary Club's fine undertakings.

Boy Scout Gord Douglas received the town's thanks for achieving the highest goal Lord Baden-Powell could come up with. Dave Osborne was congratulated for having spent years raising badly needed funds for local hockey and baseball teams.

The Herald applauds you all. You made Halton Hills an exciting, progressive place to be in 1979.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

Regionalism lives on. In the face of ongoing challenges from disgruntled citizens and sporadic debates in council chambers throughout the regional municipalities hugging Lake Ontario, those who administer these sprawling examples of provincial de-centralization cling steadfastly to their mandate like the glue that has held Georgetown, Acton and Esqueping together these six years.

A minor instance of this emerged in the most recent newsletter from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, which reportedly made a stab at identifying the community for passing motorists by asking Halton region to paint the name "Georgetown" on the water tower above Norval.

"Afraid not," said the region, declining to officially remind Georgetowners that they are heirs to George Kennedy's legacy. We are, of course, residents and citizens of Halton Hills, and the region will say so when the time comes to repaint the Guelph Street water tower.

Then, they say, the tower will announce "The Region of Halton...Town of Halton Hills". Next door in Hamilton-Wentworth region, meanwhile, council members took a page from Halton's daily journal to debate the current value and potential for improvement of regional government.

While Stoney Creek Mayor Gordon Dean maintained that regionalism is working fine and

should be left alone, several concerned residents and local MPP Colin Isaacs backed the cause of Hamilton Mayor Jack MacDonald and warned that there will be no improvement in the system.

Apart from these familiar sentiments, other spokesmen echoed the belief of many Halton politicians when they said that complaints about regionalism come from a handful of citizens. The majority, so the line goes, either think things are fine or at least aren't pushing for reform.

Actonians for Acton perhaps discovered they were in the minority when they questioned the need for and value of regional government several years ago and Mike Hajic, the Waterdown man who is still circulating anti-regionalism petitions, commented recently that he's received little support from Halton Hills.

Could it be that former regional chairman Rick Morrow, a Georgetown resident, was right when he reiterated all those times how worthwhile regionalism will turn out to be in the long run?

Immigration Canada is still very much involved in the plight of the Southeast Asian refugees who have been flowing into the country since last spring. The bureau's recent update on refugee arrivals indicates that some 40 former "boat people" moved to the Georgetown area between January and March this year. Eleven of them are between 21 and 44 years of age and six older. The rest are under 20.

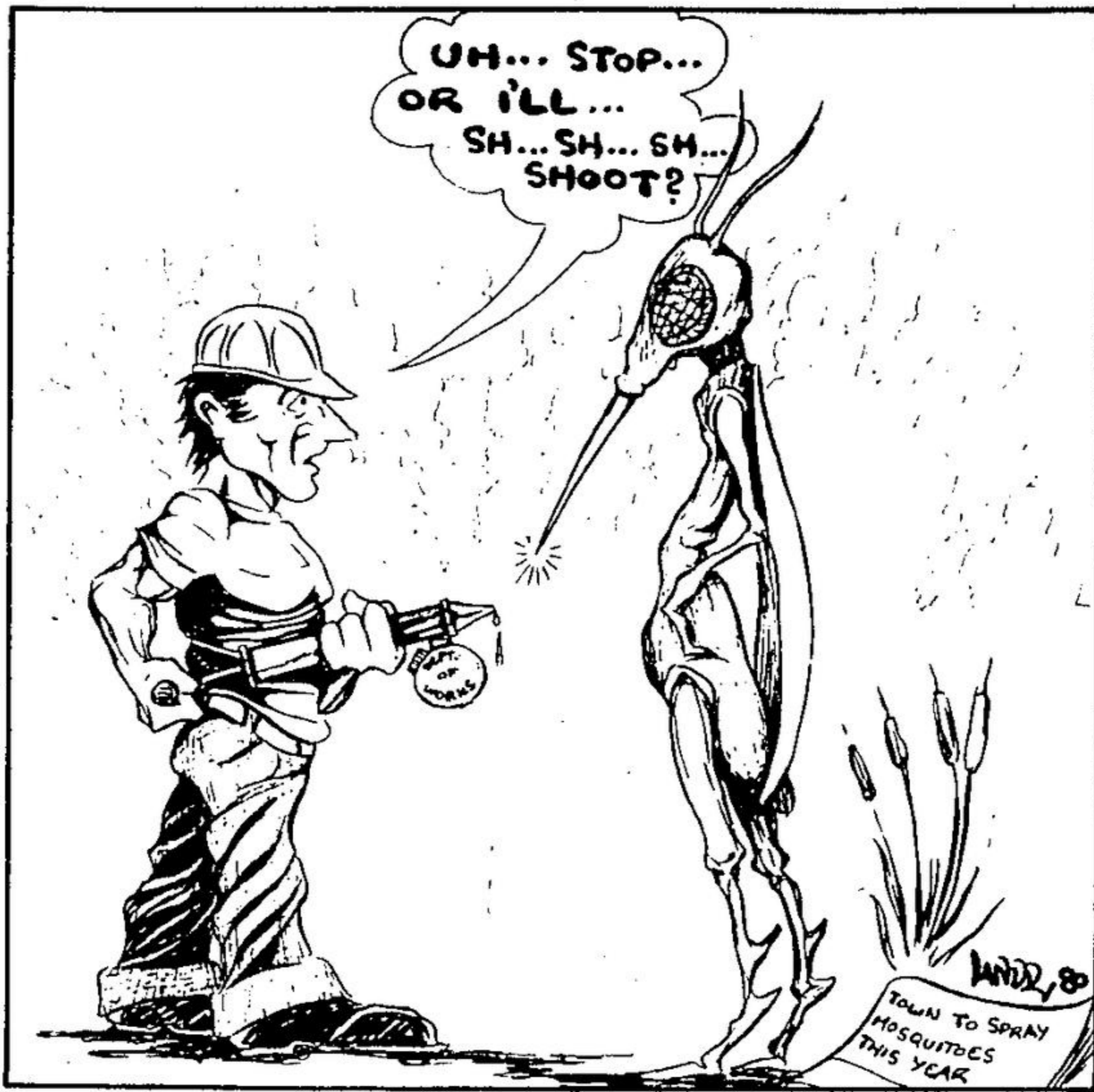
Among the interesting facts presented by the bureau as highlights of a recent refugee conference is the statement that because of their native tendency to reserve acts of kindness and generosity for family and close friends, the refugees have a hard time comprehending the massive sponsorship campaign that brought them to North America.

"Because of this lack of a cultural model, refugees often tend to question sponsors' motives," Immigration Canada says. "Refugees believe that in accepting such generosity from sponsors, they are incurring financial and moral debts. One example of this is seen in church sponsorships where some refugees have actually converted to 'repay their debts'."

As well as having to reassure their beneficiaries that their sponsorships are genuinely humanitarian, sponsors are also allegedly having trouble getting the refugees to discuss their personal finances and budgets, since such matters are rarely discussed openly in Southeast Asia.

All this adds to difficulties in adapting to the North American culture for the beleaguered refugees, many of whom abandoned comfortable homes and occupations following the fall of Saigon and the escalation of war into Cambodia and Laos.

The Herald is keeping lines of communication open with local sponsors in the hope of delving further into the nature of Halton Hills' newest citizens, their interests and backgrounds. I think many of the former refugees will have fascinating stories to tell once they've grown accustomed to Canada, as well as offering some insightful perspective on what they've observed here since their arrivals. If they will so allow, we will bring their stories to you sometime between now and the end of the year.



PQ referendum 'non' vote creates new unity in Ottawa



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald
That historic referendum may have been divisive in Quebec, but it has brought an almost unreal air of co-operative optimism to Ottawa. Suddenly, you can sense that something is about to be done about revising our rickety constitution.

Sure, there have been optimistic moments in the past over constitutional reform - there were, for example, a few days of euphoria following the 1971 conference in Victoria - but there has never been anything like this. The impressive victory for the no forces in last Tuesday's referendum not only delighted all parliamentarians, it also united them - in celebration and in a determination to finally settle our constitutional squabbling.

However the referendum results have been interpreted by Quebecers, the universal Ottawa interpretation is that the constitution must be renewed and that there is precious little time to waste. And no longer are opposition parties accusing Prime Minister Trudeau of being a rigid advocate of the status quo, whose confrontational approach merely alienates provincial premiers. Now, the opposition parties want to co-operate with the prime

minister in a great unified assault on the constitutional problems that have been nagging at the heart of Canada for decades.

EAGER RESPONSE
Furthermore, Trudeau seems to welcome his new allies. The Quebec referendum seems to have elevated constitutional reform above partisan politics, where he has been bogged down for years. Federal elections have been fought over the question of which leader could best meet these challenges. The idea of these leaders getting together on the problem has never before arisen.

But the day following the referendum, Trudeau was given a rousing ovation from all sides of the House as he arose in a rare display of magnanimity. Even Tory Leader Joe Clark seemed embarrassed by the prime minister's praise.

"With all his eloquence, the right honorable member for Yellowknife reminded the people of Quebec in their own language that Canada which our opponents were attacking had ceased to exist, that the so-called status quo was a figment of the separatists' imagination." He said Clark's contribution to the no campaign was "the living symbol of the unity and solidarity which bind all Canadians."

And the prime minister then went on to assure his new-found allies that he would not be a rigid centralist in the crucial negotiations ahead. He would insist only that the country remain a "true federation" with Ottawa maintaining real powers over the whole country while the provinces also have real powers over their own territory and that such basic rights as language be enshrined in the constitution. "With us," he said, "everything else is negotiable."

New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent thought the prime minister made a "fine statement." Most basic concepts of a new constitution had nothing to do with party differences, Broadbent said, "and if we don't recognize that now we will fall not only the best traditions of our respective parties... more important we will fail the nation."

It was actually Broadbent who suggested a common federal front in an effort to achieve an acceptable constitutional reform. He seemed to strike a responsive chord within the prime minister when he compared this with the Fathers of Confederation, who also disregarded party lines when they sat down to create this country. The prime minister was given another hearty round of applause when he responded to the NDP leader's suggestion by saying "it would strengthen the position of Parliament if indeed the delegation was composed of the leaders of all parties in this chamber."

CAN'T FAIL
And within hours after this unusual parliamentary love-in, Justice Minister Jean Chretien, who was given all-party standing ovation for his role in the referendum, was off on a whirlwind tour of provincial capitals to ignite constitutional preparatory talks while his iron is still red hot.

I know, there have been other such enthusiastic efforts in the past. But there has never been anything quite like this. For the first time, everyone in Ottawa realizes we're down to the final series and, also for the first time, it has become a federal team effort.

Despite a difficult round-robin series involving 10 provinces, you can sense that something is finally going to happen.

Legislature's rite of spring: song of the underpaid MPP



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald
An event occurs here regularly that has almost reached the level of ritual.

A bill will be introduced providing for a salary increase or some other benefit for MPPs, and at least one of the assembled legislators will rise to say it isn't enough.

His tone will be a curious combination of defiance and apology, as though while he knows he will be speaking truthfully, no one outside the House will believe him anyway.

Or worse, give him the benefit of the doubt in that he is speaking from the principle rather than motivated solely by self-interest.

MPP Pat Reid (L-Rainy River) was first into the breach this year on a bill that would have bumped MPPs' basic salary to \$24,500 from \$22,000. (In addition MPPs receive \$8,000

tax-free allowance - equivalent to \$14,000 taxable income - and all their travel, accommodation, office, telephone and other expenses paid by the government.)

MUCH WORK
Reid pleaded the basic case that MPPs are "grossly underpaid" both for the time required, as much as 70 hours a week, and the aggravations of the job.

For they are not just legislators, nor even primarily so, but ombudsmen for their constituents, and kind of political tokens required at every ribbon-cutting ceremony and dance however minor.

Some people also use MPPs as the telephone call of first resort, as in the classic case recounted by Reid of an NDP legislator who was buzzed at 2 a.m. by a person wanting him to dispose of a dead dog.

In short the job is not all sweet electoral victory, potential alcohol poisoning from too many receptions or basking in the adulation of the cheering crowds.

And many would like a fair financial return for the down side of the occupation.

REALLY STATUS
Yet at the same time one has the distinct impression that Reid and other critics of salary levels are really talking about something else.

And that's status.

It irks the Rainy River MPP that civil servants who appear before him

at committees all earn thousands more than he does.

It bothers him that a survey a few years ago showed the public believed MPPs earned too much and wanted them paid less than a "truck driver or second year law student."

MPP Albert Roy was even more explicit.

"There must be some mechanism whereby the remuneration of MPPs will fit the occupation, will fit the responsibility, and will give the place and members themselves the status they deserve," he said.

BAD POLLS
But would pay hikes raise MPP status, or reduce the already low esteem with which politicians are viewed by the public?

MPP Mel Swart (NDP-Welland-Thorold), one of the House's hardest-working members, suggested in the same debate that MPPs must be careful not to overpay themselves and maybe should even underpay themselves.

If people think MPPs are receiving too much, they will both resent it and feel the politicians are out of touch with the realities of what ordinary people earn.

A valid point. Politicians have, as MPP Bruce McCaffrey (PC-Toronto Armourdale) noted, a job security problem that needs some thought. But compared to the people they represent their salaries nowadays are not out-of-line.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-Marking their second expansion in the last three years, Silver's Department Store will open a large new shoe department this Friday. The new department occupies 1,800 square feet of floor space in the basement of the new section of the store.

A number of incorporated companies will have a vote in the June 19th vote on the building of a new public school in Georgetown. Ordinarily companies owning land within the municipality do not have a vote in a municipal election, but they have this privilege in the case of a money bylaw. The company must signify its intention in writing, naming a member of the firm who will cast the ballot, and have this in the hands of the returning officer ten days before the vote.

Council deferred a decision on a request from the town men for a ten per cent increase in wages. The men are at present paid 88 cents an hour for a 48-hour week, plus overtime. It was pointed out that the lowest wage in the paper mills is 97 cents an hour, though Mayor Cleave reminded council that town employees are guaranteed work for 52 weeks. **TWENTY YEARS AGO**-A suggestion of Mayor Hyde that council investigate the possibility of renting town vehicles rather than owning them will be the subject of further discussion at next week's council meeting. On Monday, Mayor Hyde said Burlington is now renting its police fleet and said he would like to compare operating costs for police and works department vehicles with rental costs.

A garbage collection problem for Sykes Tool Corporation has been settled to the company's satisfaction, it was reported May 24 when F.L. Shaw, the firm's accountant attended the council meeting. A letter from Mr. Shaw was read complaining that he had been told that the garbage collector is only responsible for domestic garbage, but after writing the letter, investigation had revealed otherwise. Mayor Hyde explained that industrial firms, like householders, are entitled to garbage pickups on regular days.

Marking 60 years in the business in Georgetown and Acton the local J.B. Mackenzie and Son, Ltd. firm held open house Friday and Saturday. In Georgetown, a large number of people visited the showroom which was added to the building two years ago. Roses were presented to the first 25 ladies entering the store.

"School work should come ahead of everything else," Toronto Maple Leaf defenseman Bobby Baun advised local stars at the first annual Georgetown All-Star Hockey Support Group banquet Saturday. Introduced by chairman Harold Seckington, the Toronto bruiser told the youngsters present to get to bed early, take care of their bodies eating properly and work hard at the game.

Attempts by major oil companies to settle the gasoline dispute in Acton, which saw prices level off at 34.9 cents a gallon, tottered on the brink. The first part of last week, prices were raised to correspond with other centres.

With the approval of the Esqueping Planning Board this week, the Beer subdivision on the 7th Line, just above Stewarttown, came one step closer to reality. The area consists of 32 acres, divided into 65 half-acre lots. Only single-family dwellings will be built.

Miss Laraine Hallitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hallitt of Georgetown, was recently registered with the Walter Thornton Model Agency, upon successful completion of the modelling course. Lari was a Toronto finalist in the Miss Photography 1960 contest.

TEN YEARS AGO-Quick action by a passing motorist saved a number of valuable German Shepherd dogs from death early Sunday morning. A fire at Tanhardt Kennels at RRI, Georgetown destroyed the kennels, office and garage. Henning Rasmussen of 54 Hewson Crescent, noticing the flames as he drove by, opened the kennel gates and released eight dogs. Finding no one home, Mr. Rasmussen ran to a nearby home to summon firemen.

The twelve-and-a-half week-old strike by Local 1421 United Autoworkers against Smith and Stone Limited is over. A ratification meeting in the Legion auditorium Monday night resulted in acceptance of a revised contract offer from management. However the vote was far from unanimous, since 38 per cent favoured continuing the dispute.

North Halton OPP and Halton County Health Unit are investigating the type and danger of a quantity of chemicals found dumped along the Bruce Trail near Speyside. Will Fortwosky, Hwy. 25, reported the incident to the OPP and the health unit and also to pollution fighter Joyce Burton of "Operation Survival". An acquaintance of Mr. Fortwosky was out walking on the weekend when he found a quantity of chemical compounds strewn along the Bruce Trail.

Mastodons roamed Halton County after the last glaciers receded, several thousand years before Europeans arrived here. Little evidence of the prehistoric beasts is left, although bones were found in the south of the county, but a group of amateur archaeologists has recovered tools and skeletons of the stone-age men who hunted the mastodon with crude stone-tipped spears. Some of the finds were seen by 2,500 visitors to a recent exhibition by the Credit Valley Archaeological Society at Erlindale.

President of Halton district of Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation has given his support to the "legal right to strike". Paul Martindale of Acton said Thursday that he was opposed to turning the OSSTF into a union, but said teachers should have the right to strike.

ONE YEAR AGO-Despite assurances that the concerns of neighbors would be resolved and warnings that Halton Hills may find itself with a reputation for opposing progress, town council has reaffirmed its month-old decision preventing the development of the Croatian Franciscan Custody near Norval as a major social and recreational centre.

Georgetown's Bob Daniell did not match his time of last year, but he was still an easy winner in the Masters Men division of the Star Trek run at the Toronto Metropolitan Zoo Sunday. Daniell covered the 20-kilometre course in a time of one hour, ten minutes and three seconds, which was just one second more than he ran the race last year.

Although it was jokingly referred to as the "Jolly Green Giant" and the "Incredible Hulk", Halton region's new \$3.6 million headquarters in Oakville was hailed by provincial officials at its official opening last week as a symbol that regional government is here to stay. Premier Bill Davis headed an impressive list of federal, provincial and municipal officials who, along with some 300 invited guests, gathered for the opening festivities Friday afternoon.

Halton Hills MPP Julian Reed added his voice to the thousands raised in protest across the province this weekend against the planned Darlington nuclear power plant near Bowmanville, Ontario. Mr. Reed spoke to close to 400 protesters gathered in front of Queen's Park demonstrating against the proposed plant.

A second meeting is to be arranged between representatives of town council and various local sports groups over council's recent decision to increase ice rental rates at the town's three arenas. A three-hour meeting behind closed doors at the Stewarttown community centre Thursday night failed to resolve the dispute over the proposed rate hike scheduled for implementation in September.

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