

Student pioneers of modern education

Providing a reassuring contrast to recent revelations on drug abuse in the schools was The Herald's report on the adventure undertaken by 16 Acton High School students who wanted to recreate history while learning about life and having a ball, too.

Paul Tamblin's total immersion class at AHS gets our award for outstanding academic project of the year for tackling a two-week, 250-mile canoe trip retracing the route of the fur-trading voyageurs who opened up northern Ontario and points west during the 18th century.

Dressed in period costumes and "impersonating" actual characters from "Dressed in period costumes and "impersonating" actual characters from

pioneer history, the students are tonight recounting their adventure for friends and guests at Acton High, recalling how they stopped along the route to inform onlookers about their mission and the heritage they recreated.

Students projects like this one, combining education, practical skills, personal knowledge and pure adventure, remind us all that there is much good within the educational system for those industrious and patient enough to pursue it.

We hope it turns out that, in their own way, the 16 Acton students are themselves pioneering a new form of education, one that takes the kids out into the world, where they have to do their learning.

Good citizens

The term most popularly used is "good corporate citizens" and it was aptly chosen for last week's Herald story on the offer by two Georgetown firms to help out the community's "soccer crush" by letting the town set up pitches on their grounds.

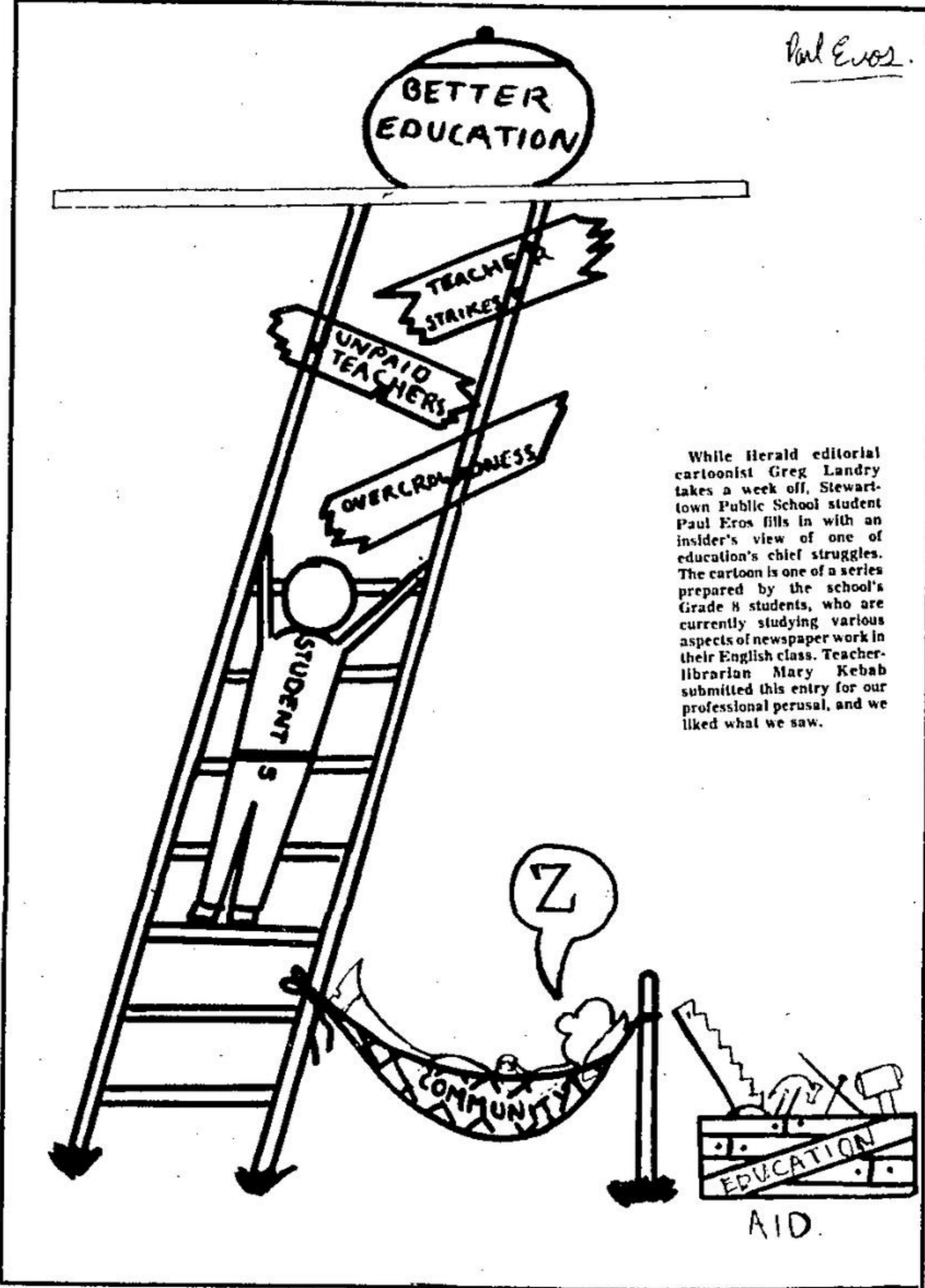
The William Neilson Company and Irwin-Dorsey Ltd. deserve a round of applause for signing a one-year agreement with the town for the use of seven acres of land off Guelph Street.

The town is simply required to maintain the sites and repair any damage that might occur to the plants operated by

the companies.

More than any other outdoor sport, soccer has really taken hold in Halton Hills during the last few years, with dozens of teams and hundreds of young people taking advantage of the town's happy willingness to provide proper and sufficient facilities. Some international sports observers, after all, have termed soccer the "sport of the Eighties", noting its ever-increasing popularity around the world.

Georgetown's ready for that future vision, thanks to two "good corporate citizens".



While Herald editorial cartoonist Greg Landry takes a week off, Stewart-Public School student Paul Eros fills in with an insider's view of one of education's chief struggles. The cartoon is one of a series prepared by the school's Grade 8 students, who are currently studying various aspects of newspaper work in their English class. Teacher-librarian Mary Kebab submitted this entry for our professional perusal, and we liked what we saw.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

Much ado about nothing

Some of us are said to be listening to a different drummer, but consumer and corporate affairs minister Frank Drea chooses to ignore the jungle tom-toms beating out an angry rhythm of disenchantment in his own backyard.

This clutter of metaphors, of course, pertains to "The Tin Drum", the controversial German movie which Drea and his Theatres Branch (censor board) have elected to ban outright from Ontario cinemas.

As I mentioned last week, the film's Toronto publicist arranged a private screening of the Academy Award-winner (Best Foreign Film of 1979) to which every newspaper and broadcast media editor in the province was supposed to be invited.

I didn't spot too many editor-types in the crowd of 40 which showed up at the International Cinema on Yonge Street a week ago Monday, but then I don't remember Perry White too much either. (Give me a couple of years.)

I suspect that the majority of those on hand were Toronto media and advertising folks drawn like moths toward the brilliant if off-based controversy surrounding this movie.

I fluttered close enough to the light to formulate an opinion (about Frank Drea, more than the film itself) and came away enjoying the solidarity of opinion shared by Herald staffers Steve Frost and Mark Clairmont, who also attended.

"The Tin Drum" is at once grotesque and beautiful, a marvellously filmed and directed comedy-drama depicting politically and morally decadent Germany between 1900 and 1945. A half-hour into this lengthy union of Fellini's surrealism and Fritz Lang's expressionism, viewers can understand why it's been so critically acclaimed, sharing Best Film of the Year honors at Cannes with Coppola's landmark "Apocalypse Now".

Concerning the contentious sex scenes which have so appalled those who set our moral cinematic standards, there is little I can say that has not already been articulated well by the Toronto entertainment community.

The sex-oriented scenes that are either observed or joined in by the film's young protagonist (played by a 12-year old wunderkind whom I hope we'll see more of) are presented in two separate contexts, both valid to the plot and mood of the film. One context depicts the revulsion young Oskar feels when he witnesses adultery and incest among his own family members, another facet of the decadence which has gripped Germany at that time in history; the other context involves Oskar's own sexual curiosity and his emergence into puberty.

These scenes are clear in their depictions: there can certainly be no mistaking what's going on, but they are definitely not "graphic". Nor are they in any way erotic; there is enough (adult) sleaziness or else youthful nervousness in each scene to guard against that.

What upsets the censors most, of course, is the producer's use of a young child in such a movie; chief censor Don Simms points out with pride that the day after he ordered the ban, a) there was already a film in the works casting a child in much

more sordid circumstances, and b) England, New York and several other jurisdictions voted to legalize the use of children in films of "this nature".

Simms can claim all the support he wants (and I frankly wouldn't be surprised if a majority of Ontario residents endorse the "Tin Drum" ban), but the issue as I see it still boils down to evaluating each film on its own merits. Fears of setting precedents for youthful sex scenes should be thrown out the window, as far as I'm concerned, whenever a movie of this calibre comes along.

If you're enough of a film connoisseur to simultaneously be able to peruse the subtitles carrying their often poetic, sometimes convoluted dialogue and study the well-composed, well-acted scenes as they unfold, you'll have little if any trouble recognizing "The Tin Drum" as a true art film which, like so many European entries these days, is steadily expanding the definition of cinema.

I suppose as far as Frank Drea's concerned, though, there hasn't been a decent movie released since Doris Day retired from the screen.

And so it goes.

Constitution reform deadline: September resolution essential

Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

I haven't the faintest idea whether there will be federal-provincial agreement on constitutional changes by the mid-September deadline — but if there isn't, perhaps we can forget the whole business.

The pressure is certainly on the participants, who have locked themselves into a frantic timetable. And Prime Minister Trudeau kept applying the pressure as he talked with the press following that preliminary bout with the premiers at his Ottawa home. He was obviously talking to the provincial leaders when he said that failure to achieve some measure of agreement would be catastrophic.

"I would consider it extremely grave and a serious failure for Canada..."

This is the first time since modern constitutional talks began in 1967 that the leaders agreed to a tight timetable leading up to their next meeting in September. And if a committee of ministers can't reach some consensus during three weeks of daily meetings this summer — which

will precede the five-day first ministers meeting in September — I suspect that all momentum will be lost. The negotiators will be exhausted by then.

DO OR DIE

Trudeau has obviously decided that this will be a make-it-or-break-it summer. In the wake of that Quebec referendum, during which he and most provincial premiers committed themselves to fast constitutional changes, he realizes that there might never be another period during which our politicians are so committed to change. And he also realizes that the people of Quebec are waiting for results while Premier Rene Levesque is probably heading into a fall election.

The task won't be easy, as demonstrated when the first ministers found themselves snarling over the statement of principles on what constitutes Canada. So far as Levesque was concerned, the statement was unacceptable from its opening words, "we the people of Canada..." He says the question of dualism is crucial to any new constitution.

"We must affirm the fundamental equality of the two founding people who have given, and still provide, this country its unique place in the family of nations." He thought the statement of principles "reveals a centralized vision."

The Quebec premier was not the only participant to disagree on issues — not by a long shot. There are several premiers strongly opposed to entrenching

fundamental rights in a new constitution, and there is no indication of movement in this respect. "Our position hasn't changed," announced Premier Sterling Lyon of Manitoba, who is particularly concerned about the rights as they affect minority-language education. As for Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed, he doesn't want to get too involved in the constitutional debate until he completes energy negotiations with Ottawa.

With some Maritime premiers, the over-riding issues are offshore jurisdictions, over fishing and resources.

OTHERS DISAGREE

None of these priorities changed during the one day meeting at Trudeau's residence, but the participants did report a new atmosphere of flexibility that might auger well for the long summer of talks. Even Levesque, who remains personally committed to sovereignty-association, displayed a positive approach to the forthcoming talks. But then he is caught in a delicate dilemma of wanting to prove that federalism doesn't work, while doing nothing that could be interpreted as undermining the negotiations.

The stakes have never been so high. Regardless of the difficulties, Trudeau and the premiers must end the impasse by September, or else we face the almost certain prospect of unilateral action by the federal government, probably accompanied by a national referendum. It's simply inconceivable that we end 1980 still bogged down in this bickering. The country can't stand it.

True sentiment in Legislature

Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of the Herald

Truly sentimental moments in the legislature, while not unknown, are rare enough to be worthy of note. One of the best took place just recently.

The Assembly paid tribute to two members, MPP Donald MacDonald (NDP-York South) and MPP Harry Worton (L-Wellington South), each of whom has survived 25 years continuous legislative service.

That's not a record by any means, but it shows impressive longevity in an age when likely no seat can be considered totally safe.

Two other MPPs actually arrived here earlier, one being Natural Resources Minister Jim Auld, who won the Leeds byelection in that safe Tory seat in 1954 and entered cabinet as far back as 1963.

The Dean of the Assembly, though, is MPP Osie Villeneuve (PC-Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry), who arrived at Queen's Park in the 1948 Tory sweep, and has been here ever since excepting the years 1957-62 when he served in the federal House of Commons.

HARRY NIXON

All these Johnny-Come-Latelys, however, pale in comparison to the single longest-serving member, now deceased MPP Harry Nixon, who was here from 1919 to 1962 representing much of Brant County.

(Nixon served in the 1919 United Farmer and 1920's Liberal cabinets, and was even premier for two months in 1943 before the Tories took power. His son Bob was Liberal leader from 1967 to 1976.)

But it is to Worton and MacDonald, graduates of the 1955 election that the legislature paid tribute this week.

Worton is Liberal Whip, the man who keeps tabs on the troops in Assembly votes, a job that demands competence but is low-profile as far as the press is concerned.

Most observers here, in fact, look on Worton as the archetypal riding man, who takes very good care of his Guelph constituency and gives caucus canny advice on public attitudes, but otherwise is mainly invisible.

OLD SOCIALIST

MacDonald is the opposite, a former CCF and then NDP leader, he has stood in the spotlight through the years. He led the party out of the wilderness,

a bit at a time, until it grabbed its one-quarter or so of the popular vote in 1967, the last MacDonald ran as leader.

And for many years the press considered MacDonald and the CCF-NDP the real opposition at Queen's Park, even though the Liberals then had more seats (but less organization).

Even today, apparently mellowed, he is still NDP agriculture critic, and chairs the most useful special committee around here, the one looking into Ontario Hydro affairs.

SOME THOUGHTS

Looking back on the 25 years the pair have served, it was (naturally) MacDonald who had a few philosophic comments to make about the changes he's witnessed.

"For reasons that mystify me, perplex me and concern me, this chamber is in a state of eclipse compared with 25 years ago."

"It was impossible (then) for a leading spokesman for an opposition party to get up on a Throne Speech or budget without having most of the cabinet there, lined up like Big Berthas on the front, shooting."

"Back in those days private members had no privileges at all in terms of resolutions and bills...today we have those privileges, but nobody is interested. Nobody attends. There's nobody at debates..."

An observer might think MacDonald is being nostalgic, sounding (horrors!) almost conservative.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown property owners voted three and a half to one on Monday for the building of an auxiliary public school. Final returns showed a vote of 303 in favor of the new school and 82 opposed. The vote of 385 was about 40 per cent of those eligible to vote. The special voters list contained about 950 names.

Wow, what a drop in temperature! A drop of 28 degrees overnight is what you might call a rapid change. Cheer up, the first day of summer is due on June 21.

From The Herald's Classified columns: Immediate possession. Six-room frame dwelling with sun porch, situated on double lot. This dwelling is in first-class repair, good furnace, sewer-connected, garage. Taxes \$87. Price \$7,500.

You don't know how a visit from Royalty makes you feel unless you had lived in Europe in the old days of the Czarist feudal system, said Morris Scze of the recent visit made him by the former Princess Olga of Russia and her husband. A sister of the late Czar Nicholas II, she and her husband came to Canada two years ago from Denmark and bought a farm in the Speyside district.

THIRTY YEARS AGO—An opinion vote on returning to a ward system of electing councillors will be a feature of this December's municipal elections. Only Mayor Hyde and Coun. Harrison opposed putting the question to the ratepayers, but there is not necessarily majority opinion among present councillors who discussed the vote at Monday's council meeting.

Bathers at Fairy Lake in Acton this summer will be able to sunbathe in comfort as they sink in fine white sand at the swimming area. On Saturday, 40 tons of limestone and 80 tons of white sand were dumped at the site. Caretaker Herb Fryer spent a busy day raking and shovelling to level the sand.

Figures for the area reflect a far better employment picture than at this time last year. Registered for work in the entire area are 1,283 men and women, compared to 1,834 on June 4, 1959.

A beautiful Irish setter owned and bred by Sid and Bev Rivett of R.R.2, Georgetown took top honors at the Progressive Kennel Club Dog Show at the Scarborough Arena last week. "Confifers Guarda Siochana", known as "Guard", collected Winners, Best of Winners and Best of Breed to win five points on his Canadian Championship.

An estimated 4,000 people jammed the park on Saturday and produced a profit estimated at over \$1,000 for the Lions Club rodeo. It was the first event planned to help raise the \$25,000 pledge for the Georgetown Hospital.

A staff of 27 will set a new high mark for the number of teachers in Georgetown high school when school reconvenes in September. Five new teachers will be in local classrooms for the first time. Two of the present teachers are leaving for other positions and a former teacher is returning to the staff.

TEN YEARS AGO—Halton County elementary teachers have accepted a new salary package that will give them a 9.4 per cent salary increase in 1970-71. Liberty Pease, chairman of the board of education's salary negotiations committee, told the board that the 9.4 per cent increase included the annual increments and would mean an average increase of \$700 to \$800 for teachers. The highest individual increase in any salary was \$1,200, he added.

Esqueuing council added a clause to the bylaw governing car racing Monday night which will prohibit any camping whatsoever at any racing meet. They also set licence fees to be paid yearly for various types of racing. A \$5,000 per year fee would be applicable to unlimited type of racing, \$1,000 yearly fee for a drag strip of straightaway racing, and \$2,500 per year for motorcycle racing.

Five Georgetown high school wrestlers will be in the thick of it when the Canadian wrestling championships get underway in Calgary, Monday. Joe Foberly, Clive Llewellyn, Brian Leslie, Norm Ferguson and Vince Graham of the GDHS team will be seeking the honors in five different weight classes. If any local grapplers are successful, they will stay in the west for the world championships in Edmonton the following week.

A member of county council said last week that Halton County is ready to sell its administration building on the Base Line and build a new headquarters. William Gillett said the present county headquarters building, located on a 15-acre site, is used mainly to house agencies of the provincial government.

ONE YEAR AGO—The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has authorized Halton regional council to proceed with its plans to establish a 246-acre landfill site in rural Milton. In a written decision circulated among affected parties Monday, OMB chairman Walter Shrivens recounted testimony and arguments submitted during a hearing which ended March 28 after nearly three months.

For the third time in less than three years, Georgetown has been chosen as the site of location filming for a major American-Canadian feature movie. Westfront Film Productions Incorporated of Scarborough is seeking the approval and co-operation of local civic officials and businessmen for a four-week production schedule which will transform selected areas of Georgetown into small-town USA for scenes from the film "Never Trust an Honest Thief."

Workers at Acton's Superior Glove Works Ltd. expect to file papers this week with the Ontario Labor Relations Board (OLRB) seeking certification under the Canadian Union of United Brewers, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drink and Distillery Workers.

Submitted for publication

ODE TO GEORGETOWN

by Blake Davidson

We search patiently for a jewel
To grasp, possess, hold tight,
The effort executed to encircle
A microscopic sparkle of light
Will motivate us to excel,
To flood the town full bright;
To meet the challenge of our search,
Establish an edifice of worth, of insight.
A community of treasures
Must lay claim to varied style,
To nurture, support and fan
The fires of athletic trials,
While the arts culture struggles
To push forward the last mile.
Here on view through many decades,
The jewel of self discipline undefiled
Will be a monument of zeal and labour
To stand in Georgetown a long while

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