theHERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

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WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF, Publisher PAUL DORSEY, Editor DAVID BEATTIE, Advertising Manager

PHONE 877-2201

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Infant's rescue a dramatic display of competence

Last week's dramatic story about the Halton Hills firefighter who rescued a three-month old baby from a smoke-filled Georgetown home provides us with a perfect opportunity to offer these volunteers one of those rare pats on the back they occasionally receive.

While Georgetown (Area 2) firefighter Bernie Egerton was at the centre of the story, he cannot be singled out among his colleagues when addressing the whole picture; as Bernie himself pointed out, all Halton Hills firefighters are trained to do the job quickly and effectively, and if their preparation meets similar opportunities (however unfortunate those opportunities may be), they too will emerge in the same heroic light that shone on Mr. Egerton last week.

For Bernie, it was all procedure. He'd reached the McKenzie Drive home before his fellow firefighters and immediately went to work, crawling through a window

into the basement where the fire burned. Smoke slowed the search for the baby he'd been told was still inside, but once an oxygen mask arrived, the child was found relatively unharmed.

Such quick action in the fact of possible tragedy goes a long way toward reassuring us of our firefighters' competence. Given the size of the town covered by two relatively small groups of volunteers - and the comparatively large number of fire calls, both serious and minor - these guys do one excellent job.

Their value cannot be underestimated, and it's difficult to believe that any full-time, professional force could top their admirable record. Our thanks to Fire Chief Mick Holmes and his deputies, to Bernie Egerton and his fellow firefighters and to fire prevention officer Larry Brassard, who keeps us alert to possible hazards and tries to keep the word "prevention" foremost in the minds of all homeowners.

No make-believe

The crowds and excitement were not of the same scale as those generated by. "Never Trust an Honest Thief" last summer, but the enthusiasm shown here last week for Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope must be unequalled in the area's history.

No Hollywood fiction this, Terry's 5,200-mile odyssey across Canada has commanded the kind of public, grass roots support that politicians dream of, and we dare say any sign of political ambition on Terry's part would no doubt sweep him into the highest office with the largest majority on record.

But apart from the endorsement of local dignitaries at Tuesday's honor banquet, politics is a long way from what Terry Fox has in mind. What started out as a personal objective to raise money for cancer research by jogging across Canada

on one leg and one artificial limb has snowballed into a far-reaching, deeply-rooted success story enveloping all Canadians, every one of whom has somehow been affected by cancer. As Mayor Pomeroy aptly put it at Tuesday's banquet, Terry - and presumably his Marathon - have become "a Canadian institution".

"Honest Thief's" spectacular car crash near the paper mill dam last September carried an impact few spectators will forget, but the vision of Terry's run through Halton Hills last week was "real" in a deeply inspirational, moving way.

Unfettered by the solicitous aura of fund-raising publicity stunts, the Marathon of Hope spoke loudly of the Cancer Society's message.

"Can cancer really be beaten?" so many homeowners ask Society canvassers. "Yes it can," Terry replied. "Here's how."



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

Visions of Terry

I never expected any real emotional reaction, but I almost cried when I first saw Terry Fox in Halton Hills.

The mood of the incident developed in intensity during my ten-minute drive out of Georgetown toward Acton. Here and there along Highway 7 there were small pockets of people at the sides of the road awalting Terry's Marathon of Hope; some had signs of welcome beside them.

It was early Wednesday morning and the sun was already high and hot. Terry's arrival caught me unaware: I'd gone to bed assured that he wasn't due until Thursday, but here he was.

I drove up the hill toward the Silver Creek service station, passing cars parked at roadside and feeling the anticipatory mood of the dedicated citizens lucky enough to know about the Marathon's arrival and concerned enough about the young man's supreme effort to make the appearance and witness a truly remarkable event of our times.

The more people I passed on the highway, the stronger my feelings of awe and admiration grew. Then I rounded the corner at Silver Creek.

Terry's straggling entourage could be seen some 400 yards down the highway, approaching the Cedar Springs motel but on the south side of the road. Then, amid the blur of cars, other joggers and spectators, the familiar image emerged: the odd "Fox trot" gait, the T-shirt and running shorts, the sun visor - it was Terry Fox, the nation's one true hero, running for all he was worth ahead of the white compact with the flashing parking lights - just the way he'd already appeared on so many newscasts.

Out of the car, I stood on the shoulder and watched him run by, genuinely moved to reverence by his steadfastly serious expression and his flerce

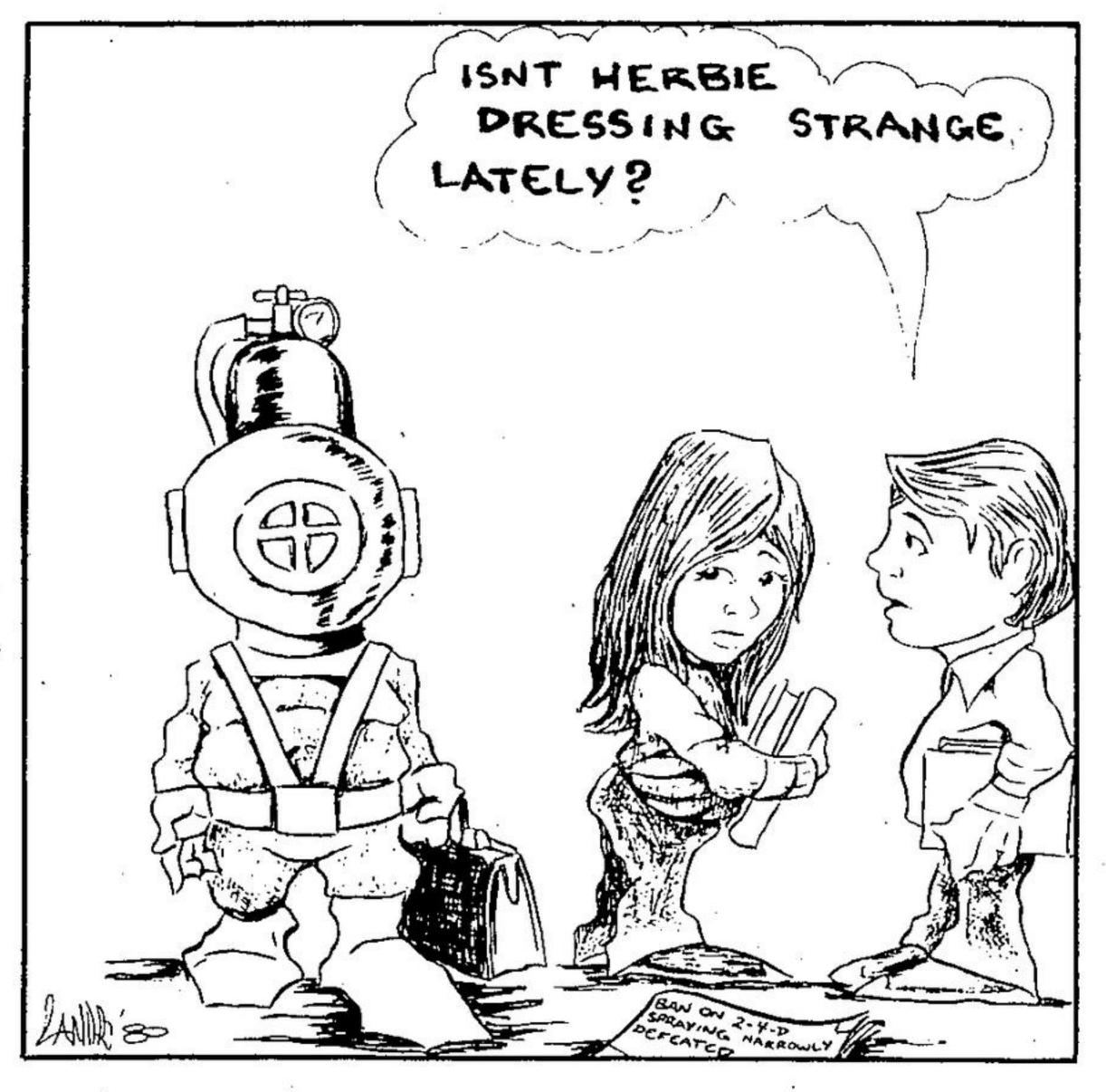
when I told him he looked great as he passed, it took a moment for Terry to answer. He broke concentration long enough for a sincere and modest "Thanks".

The scene changed dramatically once Terry stopped for a rest at the bottom of the Silver Creek hill; so casual was his demeaner and so relaxed his countenance while at rest that one had to be convinced of his personal determination, a driving force that winds him up every time he struts back onto the highway for the next run and propels him on to new heights of achievement.

At rest, Terry shows his youth and speaks like any Canadian student who has undertaken some noteworthy project for school. He talked readily about his immediate plans and ambitions, admitted the pace through southern Ontario has been a grind and positively glowed when I asked about his imminent passage through Port Coquitlam. It wasn't so much his hometown arrival that he looked forward to as it was the fact he would by then be so close to Victoria, his ultimate destination.

As he moved back toward the highway, Terry patiently and courteously accepted numerous handshakes, pats on the back, best wishes and, yes, many donations from the 50 or so citizens who'd gathered around the van. All the way down the highway toward Georgetown, the doors of roadside businesses burst open as the entourage passed and their employees flowed out to the highway.

Halfway through Halton Hills, the Marathon of Hope was roughly 2,374 miles from St. John's, Newfoundland, and 2,968 miles from Victoria. I sincerely doubt we shall see anything like it again, even in this world of many surprises.



'Trash wins out' for media at hearing of Energy Board



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald

The New Democratic Party will be criticized for forcing Parliament to continue sitting in this summer heat to talk about that natural gas pipeline to the United States. But, offhand, I can't think of a better reason for a parliamentary debate.

That entire pipeline issue is so complex I find it exhausting merely to think about it, leave alone write about it, but if the current debate does nothing more than clear up Marc Lalonde's apparent contradictions it will have been well worth while. Lalonde, now minister of energy obviously takes a different view now than he did last fall when he was opposition energy critic.

At that time, when the Clark government decided to sell more Canadian natural gas to the United States, Lalonde thought it was an enormous sell-out. Now, curiously, he thinks it's the greatest thing since the invention of flavored yogourt.

What set off the explosion of contradictions was the Liberal govern-

ment's decision to go ahead with the so-called "pre-build" section of the pipeline that will allow the export of Canadian natural gas from Alberta to the United States, It's supposed to be part of the \$23 billion project that would bring Alaska gas across Canada and into the States.

But until the Americans go ahead with their massive part of the project, the pre-build section will merely carry. Canadian gas into that vast market to the south of us. And this is what Lalonde objected to when he was in opposition.

Here is one of his views from the opposition benches: Exports of natural gas to the United States should be authorized only on the basis of an ironclad commitment regarding the building of the whole Alaska gas pipeline. Everything has to be signed, scaled and delivered, particularly the financing plan and the financing guarantees before we start exporting

That's not all he said last December, when the Tories announced the sale of additional natural gas to the States. "The worst thing we could do is export gas for a fast buck," was another observation.

one cubic foot of gas out of this country

And he offered this advice to the Tory salesmen. "There must be an arrangement for swaps with the United States so that . . . if Canada were to need natural gas, we would be in a position to obtain natural gas . . . from the Alaska gas pipeline which we might need in exchange for the gas we ar now providing to the Americans."

He said more than that. But this will do for the moment,

NO GUARANTEE
Lalonde now sits on the govern-

ment benches as minister of energy and, from this vantage point, he has decided to go ahead with the pre-build section and increase the flow of natural gas to the U.S. by 500 billion cubic feet - a figure that means nothing to me.

- a figure that means nothing to me.

And just seven months after deciding the Tory gas sale was the "biggest sell-out in Canadian history," the minister now declares that "there can be no doubt that our national interest lies in proceeding with it."

What about the iron-clad guarantee he insisted on from the Americans? Well, we didn't get it. Lalonde now thinks it's unnecessary to get this in writing because if the Americans don't go ahead with their part of the pipeline it would be the "greatest breach of faith" in 200 years of Canadian-U.S. relations.

That, apparently, is good enough for him.

And what about the swaps he insisted on? Economic Development Minister Bud Olson said he raised this with the Americans, but Canada has such a large surplus of gas "we really don't need swaps."

Really!

It doesn't seem that long ago that certain politicians were saying the

same thing about oil.

All things being considered -- and the above represents only a small sample -- it's difficult to think of an issue that is in greater need of debate.

The NDP deserve full marks for

forcing It.

NDP deserves full marks for forcing pipeline debate



Queen's ' Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald

A lesson lurks in the treatment two separate events before the Ontario Energy Board received in the media this week.

Both involved Ontario Hydro, but the irony is that the negative item which should have been publicized was generally ignored, while a silly smear job received all the attention.

The lesson is this: trash wins out.

Ontario Hydro is seeking a rate increase averaging 9.4 per cent for its bulk power customers, which include the local Public Utility Corporations (PUCs) or equivalents that serve most people in the province.

These PUCs will be passing that cost on to the Joe Citizen.

The Ontario Municipal Electrical Association (OMEA), which represents most PUCs, argued before that OEB (which must recommend on the increase), that in fact the amount Hydro is seeking is too little.

Now that's not a normal position for a customer to adopt, and one might have thought having a buyer say he was being charged too little would have been newsworthy in itself. But apparently not.

NOT ENOUGH
The OMEA explains its stand this

 Hydro is supposed to charge enough in rates to cover its expenses, but this year it is preventing increases from exceeding the consumer price index level.

"Costs have been adjusted to a meet a rate target, rather than allowing the rate to reflect the real costs necessary for efficient operation", the OMEA said.

"This is not the first time that Ontario Hydro has tried to manipulate its rate increases. In 1974 it attempted to moderate its rates by smoothing the necessary increases over three years "with the result we faced "disproportionate increases, up to 30 per cent in a single year." in the late 1970's, the OMEA argued.

Better charge the real rate now than have to sock it to people a few years down the road, the OMEA believes.

NO NOTICE

But somehow the media didn't care that people might face 30 per cent jumps in their Hydro bills in the future because of a currently misguided Hydro policy.

Not to mention whether Hydro's new restraint has any connection with an upcoming provincial election.

Instead press attention focused on a charge by an anti-Hydro, anti-nuclear Energy Probe spokesman the same day that Hydro was distributing "misleading" information on nuclear matters.

That the information in question was not misleading was ignored, a Hydro spokesman's words being twisted to fit Energy Probe's paranoia.

The foremost "misleading" item cited, for example, was Hydro's reprinting of the pro - and not the anti-side in a U.S. debate on nuclear energy.

TOO BAD

It's as though Energy Probe and its media kowtowers think Hydro has some kind of mandate to trumpet the (usually) inaccurate meanderings of the world's doom-sayers and Chicken Littles.

Unfortunately, a Hydro official apologized for not printing the antiremarks, when what he should have said is that the utility is proud of its nuclear plants and yes, with so much anti-nuclear drivel around; Hydro felt duty-bound to make available an interesting defence of nuclear power it had chanced across.

But maybe the media emphasis on the Energy Probe nonsense actually works to Hydro's advantage. That way there is no necessity for answering the tough questions about future rate increases.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-An attractive new restaurant has been opened in Georgetown. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Caldwell, after a brief residence in Acton, have returned to town and have taken over management of Fairview Inn, the restaurant which will be run in conjunction with Fred Harrison's new service station on the highway near Normandy Boulevard.

A memorable event in Oddfellows circles was a presentation recently in Milton of jewels to two long-term lodge members, William Edge of Waterdown, a member of Orion Lodge, Georgetown, for 65 years and George Allen, member of Milton lodge for 63 years.

There is no housing shortage in Georgetown. A recent survey shows eighteen unoccupied homes.. The catch is of course that the owners all want to sell, while most of the people looking for accommodation want to rent.

A new candy bar at the Roxy makes a most attractive addition to the building. Two or three rows of seats were taken out to make room for the bar, which faces the street.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-Plans for another new Georgetown church were outlined Monday, when Rev. Bruce Woods, newly appointed minister of Grace Baptist Church, told council about a proposed building on Maple Avenue. Showing councillors a sketch of the new church, Mr. Woods estimated its value at at least \$35,000.

Halton County racked up 11 reported accidents of Ontario's 7,835 and counted for six of the 283 fatal accidents, according to figures released this week and gathered in the recent Ontario farm accident survey. The figures covered a twelve-month period.

Complaints of burning rubbish, flies and scattered glass were itemized by Coun. John Elliott when he urged improvements in the town's garbage system at Monday's council meeting. The sanitary landfill location has been plagued with a series of fires in the past few weeks.

Whether there's a fire or not, local people will be hearing the fire stren at least twice a month starting in August. This year the fire department had a fortunate bit of luck with two months fire-free. But the reverse was true for the sirens which sound the alarms. Three bird nests were found in the siren at the CNR station. The Cloverdale siren became the residence for a colony of ants and neither siren worked properly when tests were made. Now it has been decided to sound the sirens regularly to keep

them in working order.

Georgetown council went on record Monday as not favoring the current trend to "under 40" employment. The situation arose when Coun. Fred Harrison questioned an advertisement in last week's Herald inserted by the town for an assistant works foreman. The ad said "preferably under 40", Coun. Harrison said. He pointed out that no age limit was mentioned when the administration talked

A phone call from a Norval resident early last Wednesday night led to the re-capture of two prisoners who escaped from the Ontario Reformatory at Guelph. The prisoners were arrested after a two-hour chase which started when the Norval woman recognized them and called police.

TEN YEARS AGO.—Three men carrying revolvers and wearing long-haired wigs and coveralls Monday robbed the Royal Bank of Canada branch in Hillsburgh, making a clean escape minutes after a police cruiser left the area. Bank officials have refused to disclose the amount of cash taken in the hold-up, but some authoritative sources place the loss at \$18,000 to \$28,000.

Camp Norval, the property of the Toronto YM-YWCA, will likely be sold within the next two years because residential development right up to its boundary has destroyed the retreat atmosphere there. Camp director Bob McKnight told The Herald Tuesday he expects Camp Norval will be sold either as parkland or for subdividing, in favor of acquiring

"more northerly property".

A special committee of Halton Separate School
Board suggested last week a drug education course
be started in Halton schools this fall. It would be the
first complete drug course in the county. Halton
public schools cover the drug problem in physical
education courses.

After a separation of 57 years, 83-year-old Hugh McClements of Northern Ireland was reunited with his sister, Mrs. Bill Norton of Georgetown and his brother, Tom McClements of Creemore.

The top canine cop in Canada hung up his tracking harness for the last time this month, ending a brilliant five-year career with the Ontario Provincial Police. Kanaka was the first dog purchased by the OPP for a canine corps in 1965 and Corporal Al Bolev was selected as his handler. He came from Laura Treble's Tanhardt Kennels at Georgetown. Since Kanaka went into action January 1, 1966, he has rescued or helped in the arrest of new fewer than 150 people.

A Halton County-wide group that would have the power to save trees during road-widening work may be formed. It has already been favored by Jack Corbett, engineer and roads superintendent for Halton County.

ONE YEAR AGO-Inits continuing efforts to attract new industry Halton region is about to take inventory of its labor force and available skills through "one of the most ambitious undertakings to be undertaken by any municipality", the region's director of business development announced last week. Bill Marshall outlined plans for the \$10,000 survey at a press conference in Oakville last week where officials unveiled a survey questionnaire

which will reach some 25,000 Halton homes.

Halton Hills will have top priority rating when Ontario's ministry of health is considering future locations for new nursing home beds, the Halton District Health Council has learned. Health Council chairman Terry Baines of Georgetown received written assurance from health minister Dennis Timbrell last week that the province will specify Halton Hills as the site for additional nursing home facilities when more beds are to be provided in Halton region.

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has been accused of allowing its "bias" against possible alternative sites affect its June 15 decision approving Halton region's proposal to establish a major landfill site in rural Milton. David Estrin, lawyer for the Tremaine-Britannia Cltizens Group which opposed the dump plan alongside the town of Milton at a three-month long OMB hearing earlier this year, made the accusation last week at a press conference called to publicize the continuing battle against the landfilling proposal.

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WILLIAM EVDOXIMOFF

WILLIAM EVOCKIMOFF
Publisher & General Manager
PAUL DORSEY
Managing Editor
DAVID REATTIE
Advertiging Manager

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