

Snow severances should be blocked

Fears of setting dangerous precedents and ignoring existing ones run rampant through a municipal government founded upon meticulously detailed legislation; when stated in council, those fears all too often threaten to block valuable action in deference to public opinion, particularly in an election year such as this.

But adherence to precedent must remain the objective of municipal officials at two levels of government concerned with land separations granted recently to Hornby resident James Snow.

To be sure, Mr. Snow's success in obtaining two severances off his Steeles Avenue-Trafalgar Road property has gleaned all the more media attention in recent weeks because he is Ontario's minister of transportation and communications. Whether Mr. Snow's position in the provincial Cabinet affected the decision of the Halton Land Division Committee (LDC) cannot be determined. Regardless, Mr. Snow's ministry makes his case all the more appropriate for appeal, given the indirect tie between the Cabinet and Halton Region.

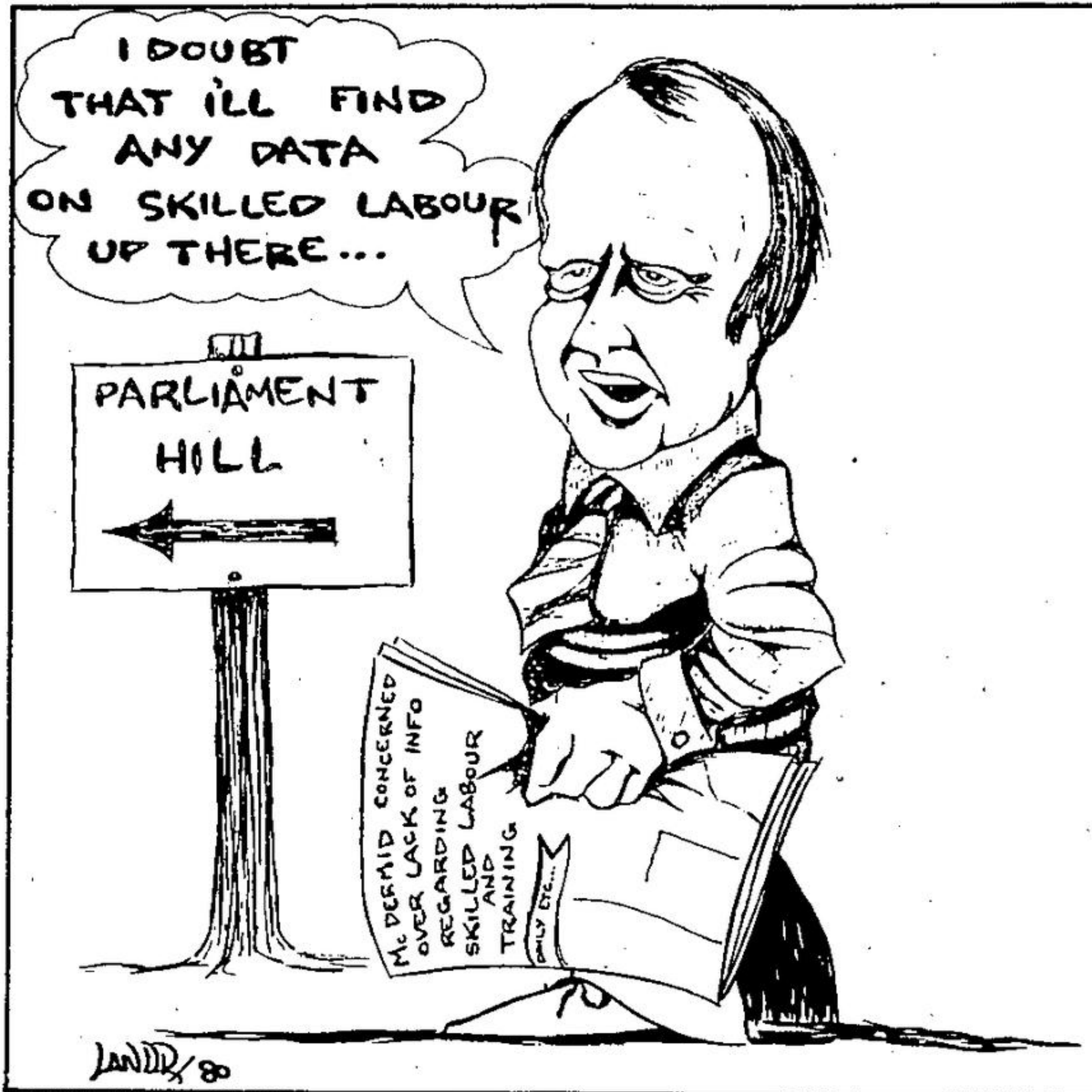
While Mr. Snow's colleague, housing minister Claude Bennett, searches for a way to approve the region's new official plan, the transport minister would make a mockery of the plan by contravening its land use guidelines in his capacity as a

private citizen. We endorse the region's decision, backed by the Halton agricultural advisory committee to appeal the LDC ruling before the Ontario Municipal Board. And we chastise Halton Hills council for failing to support the appeal, despite Coun. Russ Miller's intimation that the decisions of appointed municipal officials - in this case the LDC - must be respected.

To place Coun. Miller's "ultimatum" in the proper perspective, he repeatedly indicates frustration over council appeals against LDC rulings. Is the policy wrong, he asks, or is the LDC erroneous in its conclusion? In this case, we believe it's the fault of the LDC.

Granted, Mr. Snow's two housing lots at the front of his nine-acre property would not add greatly to the touches of ribbon development currently marring Hornby's appearance. But similar applications by other landowners have been quickly rejected: the loss of agricultural land, the "doubling-up" of severances and the creation of strip development are among the reasons cited.

Let's let Queen's Park know that we want to back our official plan to the hilt and abide by our previous decisions. There will be no better opportunity to demonstrate our conviction than the one now afforded by our very own minister-in-residence.



Fox's freedom of info bill wins acclaim from Tory MP



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald

This, I think, is the first time I've ever seen a federal government produce long-awaited legislation that was actually better than anyone expected. Previously, you could safely assume that when a cabinet minister ranted and raved about the marvellous bill he was drafting, the final result would be a diluted disappointment.

And when Secretary of State Francis Fox kept assuring us that he was indeed committed to freedom-of-information legislation, and that his department was working assiduously on the project, we just assumed it would be a relatively meaningless puffpiece.

After all, we all remember the Liberal track record when it comes to disclosing government information to the public. That first bill, introduced by the then secretary of state, John Roberts, back in March 1979, was a good example of how a government could appear to be opening its massive libraries for public scrutiny, while

actually keeping a tight control over what should remain secret. The Roberts bill would have given cabinet minister the final say over what could, and could not, be made public.

There was no further appeal beyond this ministerial discretion.

NO APPEAL

Even when the Tories introduced its freedom-of-information legislation last October, the Liberal opposition objected to those provisions which would have permitted a judicial review of ministerial decisions. Pierre Trudeau, then opposition leader, then argued that ministers could have the final say on what documents could be made public.

The Liberals wanted to go no further than appointing an information commissioner who could hear public appeals and recommend to, but not compel, the minister to release certain documents.

But now, suddenly, Fox has presented Parliament with freedom-of-information legislation that exceeds all predictions. It goes far further than anyone expected in making government information available to the public, and, under the bill, if a minister tries to conceal anything, the appeal can be taken right to the Federal Court. The government would be placed in the position of having to prove reasonable grounds for maintaining secrecy.

As Fox rightly pointed out, this will be quite an incentive for ministers to make documents available to the public. "It will be very embarrassing for a minister when the information

commissioner says something ought to be made public," said the minister. "But the real embarrassment would be for a minister to go all the way up to the Federal Court and have the court decide he didn't have reasonable grounds to refuse access."

OPEN FILES

Incidentally, if this bill becomes law - and it almost certainly will - it will mean that every citizen of Canada will have a legal right to look at most government documents. And this will include his or her personal files, along with many internal cabinet documents, discussion papers, evaluation papers and the results of various product testing.

And for those of us who don't know what documents exist, or where they can be found, the government plans to publish an index which will include a detailed explanation of how the government is organized, what particular programs and responsibilities fall under what departments, what documents exist, and where they can be found. There might be a small service fee for users, but Fox said it would be high enough to discourage research.

It's a surprisingly good piece of legislation. And there is no better authority than Ged Baldwin, the former Tory MP from Peace River, who made freedom-of-information legislation a one-man crusade over the last 10 years. "I'd give a straight A to Mr. Fox," said the 73-year-old Baldwin. By comparison, he said, his own party's legislation last fall, rated an A-minus.

And you can't get higher praise than that.

Be a life-saver

The best thing in life is free. In our hospitals, people are examined, treated, given blood when necessary, and hopefully, cured. But in our blood donor clinics, how many of you are in the line-up of potential donors?

EVERYONE between the ages of 18 and 65, citizen or otherwise, who is in normally good health, can and should give blood, for blood is the common denominator uniting all people. Each adult has 12 to 13 pints of good red blood in his system. Remove slightly less than one pint (the amount donated to a Red Cross Blood Clinic) and the body replaces it automatically: the liquid portion of the blood within 24 hours and the red cells within three or four weeks. The most common blood type in North America is "O" and 46 per cent of the

population have it. 42 per cent have "A" blood, nine per cent have "B" blood and three per cent have "AB" blood type. Of these types, 85 per cent or most people have an RH positive blood grouping whereas 15 per cent have an RH negative grouping. This information is all measured and printed on a card for you when you donate blood and it's a handy thing to know.

Your own blood type might be the same as your sister's and father's but different from your mother's and brother's. In case hospital supplies run low, which they do periodically, it is good to know who in the family can give to, or receive blood from another, especially if it's a rare type.

Please stop in at your blood donor clinic next Monday, August 11, at Holy Cross Church Auditorium.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

The nomination form featured on page 2 of last week's Herald, furthering the plan to give Terry Fox the Order of Canada honor, was filled in by a few people, but not enough.

As Dorothy Stone, the local woman who is spearheading a campaign to make Terry a member, companion or officer of the Order has explained, the more signatures received in Ottawa endorsing Terry's nomination, the better his chance of receiving this prestigious award.

Please fill it in with your name, signature and address and drop it off here at The Herald (45 Guelph Street, Georgetown) or mail it to the Director-Secretariat of Honor at Government House, Ottawa. No one deserves it more.

I tried to contact Acton's Lorne Doberthein in time for a story on his involvement in the Marathon of Hope to appear in last week's paper, but unfortunately our conversation came too late. Perhaps more than any other Halton Hills citizen, though, Mr. Doberthein can empathize with Terry Fox's struggle to the point where the Acton resident's involvement in the Marathon provides a clear focal point for local supporters.

The proprietor of Acton's L and L Ford dealership, Mr. Doberthein also lost a leg to cancer, a couple of years before Terry suffered the same setback. But like Terry, Lorne has fought back and is today virtually unimpeded by his handicap. He climbed aboard his bicycle the Wednesday morning Terry was coming through Acton, and, with the foot of his artificial limb secured to the bike pedal, rode down the highway in front of the Marathon.

Mr. Doberthein was originally to have played a major role in the official reception planned for Terry by Actonians, but of course the reception plan was abandoned when Terry's schedule took a few twists and turns that week.

Still on the subject of the Marathon Man, a news release from G.H. Wood and Company Ltd. of Toronto arrived last week to report that the firm is urging all its employees at home and abroad to contribute to the Canadian Cancer Society's research fund "in appreciation of Terry Fox".

"Invariably," the open letter to Wood employees reads, "there comes a time in most of our lives when something unusual happens that captivates our thinking..."

"All of us at Head Office are so impressed with Terry's message - which to us means 'Do something and do it now to show young Terry that we do care.'"

Mr. Wood himself caps off the request with a pledge to match every dollar donated by the thousand or so employees with one dollar from the firm itself and another dollar personally. One dollar donated means \$3 for the Cancer Society, he promises.

Such corporate generosity, no matter how it is finally registered on tax accounts, is reassuring and deserving of public acclaim.

"Wouldn't it be great if numerous other companies did something similar in appreciation of the wonderful courage of Terry Fox?" the firm asks.

Yes it would.

NOMINATION FORM

We the undersigned citizens of Canada do hereby nominate Terry Fox for the Order of Canada:

Forms can be dropped off or mailed to The Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, L7G 3Z6, or mailed directly to the Director-Secretariat of Honors, Government House, Ottawa, K1A 0A1.

Monopoly union authority challenges public interest



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald

The longest strike in Ontario teaching history ended in Sudbury May 4, 56 instructional days after the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) called it, leaving behind an unknown toll of dropped-out and failed students.

That's why the Matthews Commission report to the Education Ministry here last week on teacher-school board contract relations was so inadequate.

The commission recommended what in essence are only minor changes in the collective bargaining process as it affects teachers and school boards, although teacher unions appear to gain more than they'll lose if the government implements the suggestions.

More important to most people than the details, however, is that the commission rejected tampering with

the teacher unions' existing right to strike.

Meanwhile a number of Sudbury youth have had their lives distorted, perhaps changed for the worst as a result of teacher withdrawal of services.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Even worse is that students motivated enough to make up lost time by going to summer school are being denied that chance too.

Although in theory the strike is over, the OSSTF has "pinklisted" summer school in Sudbury, meaning no teacher can take a job there on pain of being thrown out of the union.

It is that kind of backdoor strike, or more precisely its affects, that the Matthews Commission report does not really deal with.

In a way the commission even recognizes this.

"If they (teacher unions) and boards do not find a way to reduce the impact of strikes on students, the public may soon demand drastic, and perhaps unwise, government action."

Specifically the commission acknowledges that "if there are any more Sudbury-type stoppages in the province, public opinion may become very hostile."

NOWAY

As if it isn't already. There is a fundamental contradiction between teacher desire to be perceived as professionals by the public, and teach-

er actions as union militants.

Their first duty is either to their students or their bank accounts. It cannot be to both simultaneously.

When the United Steelworkers and Inco Metals sawed-off in Sudbury for a bitter eight-month confrontation a while back it hurt both sides, and it hurt the city.

But no-one would suggest that anyone other than the participants negotiate an end to the strike.

NOT THE SAME

People do not have the same reaction to teacher strikes. The majority of submissions to the commission, other than those from teacher unions and school boards, favored an end to the teachers' right to strike.

It is clear people still believe teaching is an essential public service, with the emphasis on service, and not just another union-management power struggle over benefits.

(According to the commission, students appear even more adamant against work-to-rule measures by teachers than against strikes, claiming they produce incredibly negative psychological effects).

What the Matthews Commission does is linker with the system. What it fails to do is break new ground in thinking about the most troublesome issue facing politicians nowadays.

How does one handle monopoly union power that conflicts with the public interest?

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Surely after such a beautiful weekend, the poor old weatherman can hold his head up again above water. Speaking of water—this week's rainfall is one quarter of an inch above the normal rate for the whole month of August.

Don Barrager brought an oddity to the Herald office this morning which he found on the beach at Providence, Rhode Island. It is the skeleton of a horseshoe crab. The shell measures eight inches across and ten inches long, and there is an eight-inch tail which has sharp spikes all along the top.

Mr. and Mrs. James McDougall will leave on August 27 for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with their children, David, 2 and Keith, 5 months. Mr. McDougall, a graduate this year from the Ontario College of Education, will teach mathematics and English in a secondary school there where twelve other Canadian teachers are employed.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Lare Hallitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hallitt of Georgetown, was one of the entrants in the Miss Burlington contest recently. While she did not win the coveted award, Lare feels that the experience she gained through entering the contest will be invaluable to her in furthering her chosen career of photography.

An expenditure of \$800 for sodding, rockery and flagstone and an overthrow weir at the new memorial park was passed by council Tuesday night, but only after lengthy discussion and objections by Mayor Hyde and property chairman W.F. Hunter. Mayor Hyde said the park is a beauty spot and should have money spent on it each year, but the town's 1960 budget shouldn't be confined to improving this one park.

Although Federal Health and Welfare figures indicate an epidemic of polio in Canada this year, Dr. Archie F. Bull, Halton's Medical Officer of Health says the epidemic will not be strong in Ontario or Halton County.

Now that Prime Minister Diefenbaker has announced the setting up of a Royal Commission to enquire into the health of the auto industry, one cannot help but wonder what the commission can do and how long it will take to do it. The industry workers, management, retail outlets and stockholders say the Canadian car industry is depressed, that foreign imports now cater for 25 per cent of the home market, and that the industry stands to lose 25,000 jobs by 1983.

Oakville's old lighthouse was pulled down on Tuesday, but hardly anyone knew about it. The crew of the Department of Transport service boat, Grenville, pulled the 70-year-old structure from its foundations at the end of the east pier by means of a winch and cable. The foundations and timbers of the buildings had been found to be decayed beyond repair.

If plans are carried out by Brampton Council Cecil Robertson of Glen Williams will expand his dog control duties to that town. Brampton Council has expressed concern recently with the running at large of dogs within the municipality. Mr. Robertson's duties presently cover Georgetown and Acton.

Paul Armstrong, who is associated with his father in the John T. Armstrong Insurance firm, has recently become licensed agent for general insurance. The licence entitles him to handle insurance of all types other than life insurance.

TEN YEARS AGO—A daylight robbery netted an estimated \$1,000 for a two-man team who worked the distraction game at Double Discount store Friday, Ken Milne, a partner in the business, told the Herald the pair, both manfully and well-dressed, entered the store about 10 a.m. While one distracted manager Mrs. Aileen Warburton, the other lifted a cash box from a room at the back of the store and made an exit through the back door with the loot.

A million dollar extension to Georgetown's sewage treatment plant is in the drawing board stage. Discussions are taking place between officials of the Ontario Water Resources Commission and a local advisory board.

Esquing Council gave the okay to the use of a large house on lot 18, Con. 11 for a nursing home Tuesday night. Mrs. Byron Benjamin told council she had a purchaser for her house, provided it could be used as a small nursing home.

A merger of two real estate firms is announced this week. Phillip J. Carney and Arthur J. Johnson, who have their headquarters in Georgetown and Brampton, respectively, have pooled their talents to form Johnson Carney Ltd.

Georgetown Golf and Country Club golfer Dwayne Hay lopped three full strokes off the course record Thursday when he carded a scizzing eight under par 63 while playing a threesome with his dad, Gib, and brother Terry. The previous course record, a 66, was registered by Ken Duggan in the Carling Miller played at the Georgetown layout two seasons back. Dwayne's fantastic round included eight birdies, and was made up of a 31 on the front nine and a 32 on the back.

When Georgetown pilot Harry Clarke ferried Air Canada flights to Milan, Italy this month, he had no worries about an unscheduled side trip to Cuba—his passengers were all cows. The cows, all Holsteins, were part of a shipment by Rockwood International Livestock Limited of Georgetown to Italian cattle buyer Bruno Rosetti of Milan.

ONE YEAR AGO—After years of planning and numerous revisions, the final version of the Niagara Escarpment Commission's (NEC) boundary map should be completed by August 16, according to Coun. Roy Booth, Halton Hills' representative on the commission. Coun. Booth informed the town planning board last week that the NEC has honored council's recommendations and submissions "for the most part".

It took a while to get there, but Ian Reid of Norval is finally doing what he's wanted to do for over a year—picking rocks on a New Brunswick potato farm. While rock picking might not have been his specific original goal, participating in a travelling exchange very definitely was, and as a result, it's part of his job this summer. Ian is spending a month on the Pickard farm in Bath, New Brunswick working on 170 acres of potatoes.

The planned expansion of Cerco Incorporated on Mountainview Road North in Georgetown has prompted the sale of the Hunter's Inn Country Restaurant next door, and could ultimately see the restaurant relocated to another site in town. The town planning department is recently considering an application by Cerco's Al Rice and Barry Hadley to have the restaurant re-zoned for industrial use.

Halton Regional Police officers signed their new contract following a ratification vote last Wednesday but civilian employees of the force rejected their contract offer. Halton Regional Police Association representative Wayne Jessop said the association would continue to negotiate on the civilian contract, provided the commission was willing to continue to negotiate.

The failure of two local firms to come to an agreement over the development of land on River Drive in Georgetown has prompted the town planning board to postpone its decision on a proposed 102-unit subdivision. Varian Associates had indicated its opposition to a proposal by H and C Investments Ltd. to develop homes on a 20-acre site behind Varian's plant on Mountainview Road North.