

A brief history of The Herald

Newspaper grew up with the community

The re-location and expansion of The Herald last spring in new quarters on Guelph Street is the latest chapter in the 113-year-old paper's history of growth and change along with the community.



DAVID EDGAR BASTEDO

agents selling advertising as far away as Oakville and Wellington Square, as Burlington was known in those days. Information on the early days of The Herald is hard to come by, since a fire at the paper's office around the time of the First World War destroyed most of the back issues to that date.

The next owner of The Herald was Joseph Craig, who ran the newspaper side of the business, while his brother, Richard, ran the printing side. Job printing was an important part of the newspaper business in those days, and often helped cover the losses on the newspaper side until the paper was financially stable.

The Herald office at this point was located on Main Street, in an upstairs office where Gougeon's Furniture is now.

MINISTER BOUGHT
The Craigs sold The Herald to Nelson Burns, a Methodist Minister who had been principal of the grammar school in Milton. Mr. Burns ran a private school while he was in Georgetown, to help make ends meet.

Mr. Burns sold the paper to Thomas J. Starret, who stayed in Georgetown for about four years before moving to Milton and taking over publishing a

paper there. By 1885, the paper was being edited by David Edgar Bastedo, who began his newspaper career at the age of 12 with the Northern Advocate in Bracebridge.

Mr. Bastedo sold The Herald after two years and returned to Bracebridge, where he purchased the paper he had worked on before.

Robert Douglas Warren became the editor of The Herald and proprietor of the "Herald Steam Printing House" in 1888. Mr. Warren appears to have been the first local person to own The Herald. He was born in Acton and remained in town for many years. He ran for the Liberal seat in Halton in 1908 and lost, but unlike many publishers of that era he didn't allow his political leanings to influence the contents of the paper.

LOCAL REEVE

Mr. Warren was active in local politics and served as Reeve of Georgetown and Warden of Halton County. Soon after taking over The Herald, he built a new building for the Herald on Main Street where Henry's Clothing and Stedman's are now located.

Mr. Warren moved to Toronto early in the first decade of this century, and he employed Joseph Matheson Moore to run the paper for him until Mr. Moore was able to buy the paper. Mr. Moore was a native of Acton and later served as

reeve of Georgetown. Mr. Moore left school at the age of 12 and became a printer's devil at the Acton Free Press, moving on later to papers in Bolton, Hanover and Guelph before coming to The Herald as a foreman in the print shop in 1891.

The Herald office was upstairs in the Herald building, with a big press at the back. When fire gutted the building around the time of the First World War, the press plunged right through to the basement. When the building was repaired the heavy machinery was left downstairs, and a barber shop on the main floor was converted into The Herald office.

DAYS OVER

Mr. Moore owned and operated The Herald until his death in 1939. He advised his family in his will to sell the business because, he felt the day of the independently owned small-town newspaper was over.

Garfield "Mac" McGilvray ran the newspaper in the interval between Mr. Moore's death and the purchase of the paper by Walter Blehn. Mac started out as a printer in 1926 for a salary of \$5 a week. The printing trade was always changing, as in 1928 when The Herald bought a linotype machine, which eliminated the need to set type by hand.

It took three hours in those days to print the 600 to 800 copies of the Herald on the hand-fed Campbell flat-bed press. The population of the town in those days was about 2,500.

Mr. Blehn had originally intended to become an accountant, but his father recommended he purchase The Herald because he thought his son would make a good editor. Walter ran the paper as an independent for almost 20 years. While he was in the army during the Second World



R.D. WARREN

War, his wife, Mary, ran the business.

MAIN OFFICE
The Herald purchased its own office on Main Street in 1952 where it remained until the spring of this year. In the late 1950's the paper was purchased by the Thomson newspaper chain. The Herald and the Orangeville Banner were among the first weeklies in Ontario to be purchased by the chain.

Walter remained with the Herald until 1973, when he retired. Since then, there has been a series of editors and publishers at The Herald. The paper is now being published by William Evdokimoff, and again has a local editor, Paul Dorsey.

Condensed from A History of The Herald ("The Way We Were") 1979, by RICHARD E. RUGGLE.

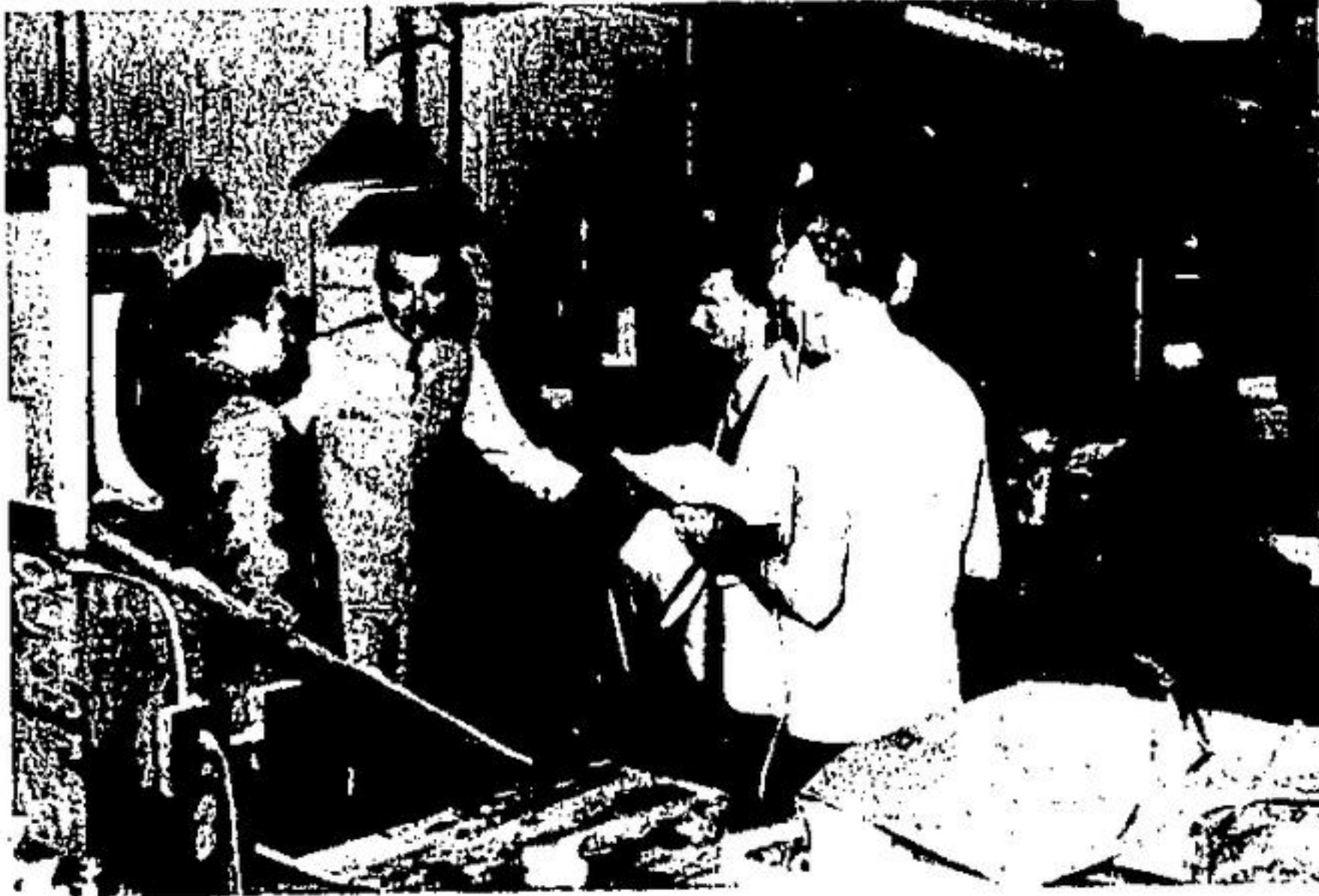


The staff of the former Georgetown Herald gathered for a Novval celebration in 1973 on the eve of publisher Walter Blehn's retirement, a departure that marked the end of a lengthy, much-respected and still fondly-remembered "reign" over what was then the community's only newspaper. Shortly after, the Acton-based Dills newspaper firm expanded into Georgetown with The Independent, while The Herald in turn expanded into Acton to become The Halton Hills Herald. Mr. Blehn, now a municipal councillor for Ward 3, is seen here seated in the centre, while next to him (third from right) is reporter Anne Currie, who

later joined The Independent staff and serves as news editor. Also seen here are (standing, left to right) Norm Eyre (circulation), Bill Arnott (reporter), John McClements (composing), Myles Gilson (still The Herald's second in command of production), Terry Harley (long-time editor), Frank Mullen (advertising), Garfield "Mac" McGilvray (composing) and Dave Hastings (still production chief). Seated, left to right, are Joyce Van Delinder (composing), Alleen Bradley (accountant), Valerie Caruso (classified), Mr. Blehn, Mrs. Currie, Joan Davis (composing) and Audrey Eyre (circulation).



A memorable day at The Herald's former Main Street, Georgetown, offices was highlighted by a visit from British actor Richard Burton, in Georgetown for the filming of Equus in late 1976. With several scenes from the movie shot actually inside the paper's composing room, staff members got a chance to show the renowned star around. Back-shop staffers Myles Gilson and Dave Hastings conducted the grand tour, while business office workers Shirley Jessop and Marie Shadbolt took the opportunity to collect autographs (inset).



Another view of the former Herald building's backshop on Main Street during the filming of "Equus". Here, production crewman and actors discuss the next scene among the paste-up boards and Heidelberg presses that characterized the old job printing shop.



Mayor Pete Pomeroy (left) was on hand last May 6 to witness the first press run at The Herald's new Guelph Street, Georgetown, headquarters. Prior to the move from Main Street, The Herald had been printed by affiliated newspapers in the area, but a full-scale, four-unit press facility in the basement of the new building allows the whole operation to be carried on right here in Georgetown. Showing the mayor around the new plant were publisher Bill Evdokimoff (centre) and editor Paul Dorsey.

Compliments of Bob Marchand

THE CLEANING MAN

Congratulations to the Herald on its fine new premises.

I was pleased to be a part of their relocation.

- Mobile Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Service.
- Steam Cleaning Method.

Best wishes to the new Herald

★★★

THE CLEANING MAN

877-8504

6 King St. W. Georgetown, Ont.

There's a Smooth Road Ahead for The Halton Hills Herald, thanks to our friends at Northwest Paving Company. They can help you with:

- GENERAL PAVING
- SNOW PLOUGHING
- PAVEMENT MARKINGS
- ASPHALT SEALING & REPAIRS

25 CHARTWELL RD. TORONTO M8Z 4E9

For a Free Estimate Call: 251-0593 or 252-7333

RIDSDALE

STEEL FABRICATORS INC.

PROUD TO BE PART OF THE NEW LOOK FOR GEORGETOWN

20 HOBSON STREET • CAMBRIDGE • TELEPHONE 623-0640