

1980: The best and the worst

Well, we've come to the end of another year, one in which "restraint", "conservation" and "wait and see" seemed to be the ever-present catchphrases. Like all years, 1980 had plenty of ups and downs, and by way of reviewing them, we've selected a few special recollections among the roses and thorns, the silk and the burlap, the gems and the junk.

Here, then, are the best and the worst of 1980.

NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR: There's just no way around it - we've got to go along with everyone else in the country and declare Terry Fox our Newsmaker of the Year, even though he isn't a Halton Hills resident, as should normally be the case.



But, like everywhere else he went in Canada, he brought inspiration and solidarity to the people of Halton Hills, who in 1980 contributed \$72,700 to cancer treatment (as of September). That's almost twice as much as the local cancer unit raised here during the first nine months of 1979; that's more than \$2 each from every man, woman and child; and that's impressive.

Runners-up to the King of the Marathon

Runners were Rex Heslop Jr. (for helping bring Industry '80, homeless refugees, a cultural centre and a non-commercial Santa Claus to town - much of this with Rud Whitling's generous help) and Jim Barrett (for single-handedly generating more letters to the Editor than this newspaper's ever seen, for sincerely trying to help the Georgetown Fall Fair, and for helping get the Elks Lodge firmly behind some worthwhile causes).

NEWS EVENT OF THE YEAR: In 1979, it was the filming of "Honest Thief"; in 1978, it was the landslide victory of Mayor Pete Pomeroy. In 1980, it was the intensely dramatic Marathon of Hope. Enough said.

BEST SERVICE CLUB CONTRIBUTION OF THE YEAR: The Georgetown Rotary Club, with some help from Acton and Milton, gave us Industry '80, an effective and interesting business promotion taking the form of a sprawling, 70-tooth trade fair. Like the mayor said, we didn't know half of these industries and businesses even existed; let's hope they do it again. Runners-up - the Kinsmen Club of Georgetown for its Bump-for-Life danceathon, which this year raised \$5,700 for cystic fibrosis research thanks to the fleet-footed students of Acton and Georgetown high schools.

BEST CORPORATE CONTRIBUTION OF THE YEAR: Smith and Stone was named Business of the Year by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce for boosting employment, but two other Georgetown firms, William Nelson Ltd. and Irwin-Dorsey Ltd. scored an important goal against a formidable opponent named Space Limitations when they offered use of their vacant land for soccer games. Town rec director Tom Shepard was delighted.

MOST UNIQUE UNDERTAKING - YOUTH AWARD: We said it before and we'll say it again - the Acton high school students who paddled their voyageur canoes into history as part of their total immersion course over two weeks and 250 miles last summer are "better men (and women) than we are, Gunga Din" (pardon the Indian cross-reference).

BEST LOCAL POLITICIAN: He has his tiny, perfect flaws, but Mayor Pete Pomeroy probably spends more time doing more things for more people than anyone else in this area at any level of government. Runners-up - Russ Miller, "postman to the farmers", and Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, still a spark at Queen's Park.

ONGOING ISSUE OF THE YEAR: Remember the big words of 1979? "Landown", "Hydro", "Croalitan centre", "River Run", "Focal"? Everything there's virtually taken care of except for Focal Properties and a little problem with these 1,740 houses waiting to be built. Well, you don't hear the word "Focal" so much anymore, but "urban study" is a biggie now, and no matter how you slice it, it still reads "Focal".

COMMUNITY PROJECT OF THE YEAR: We immediately thought about the town's new library and cultural centre, its tremendous ramifications and potential impact upon community spirit and pride. But 1981, we decided, will be the year of the arts complex. In 1980, Actario commanded a lion's share of public attention and through some impressive prizes, caught the imagination of lottery fans throughout Halton Hills. A balloon trip over Prospect Park for one lucky winner, an elegant dinner by the shore of Fairy Lake for another. Such stuff as dreams are made of. Hopefully, 1981 will also be Actario's year and the old town hall will be restored at last.

BEST NEWS OF THE YEAR: Last March when Esqueuing's Russ Miller was named chairman of the region's solid waste management committee, we regarded it as a major coup for north Halton, whose councillors never seemed to be grudging the right strings. That good news was multiplied tenfold last month when Mayor Pete Pomeroy stepped into the chair to lead the region's waste and administration committee. Georgetown's Roy Booth retains the planning committee chairmanship. Look out, Burlington! The north's gonna rise again.

WORST NEWS OF THE YEAR: Double deficit at Halton region - in March, a \$700,000 sewer rates shortfall was "discovered". In August, a \$100,000 (later \$600,000) deficit in the operating budget. Councillors are generally calm, but the spectre of additional tax hikes has appeared.

MOST WELCOME OPENING OF THE YEAR: Acton's 52-unit senior citizens' residence finally opens on Elizabeth Drive after plenty of anxiety and lots of bureaucracy. Runners-up in this category: the Georgetown Motor Inn (and the Sir George); The John T. Armstrong Memorial apartments (also known as the Durham Street seniors' apartments). Very close runner-up - those "damn" gravel pits (by now, hopefully resolved).

MOST COMPLICATED ISSUE OF THE YEAR: Does anyone really understand the finer details about the water and sewer rates issue? Just how equal are they? Why is the surcharge so different from the charge-back? Who are these people in Burlington and why are they trying to do these nasty things to us? Very close runner-up - Section 86 and revised property assessment, another mindbender.

QUOTE OF THE YEAR: Former Ward 2 Coun. Pat Patterson might already claim a spot in the NHL referees' hall of fame, but he found himself a place in Halton region municipal history when he convinced us all that regional councillors "spend money like drunken sailors". The following week, the mayor (himself a teetotaler at budget time) took his colleague to task for calling the regional reps "sailors".

NON-EVENT OF THE YEAR: On a brisk morning last January, members of the Interested Citizens Group summoned the press to a Sixth Line location to witness possible trespass by Ontario Hydro workers trying to build a half-million volt transmission line over someone's cow pasture. The Great Corridor Confrontation amounted to a few words exchanged between landowners and Hydro public relations people. Construction began the next day.

BEST CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE YEAR: Patrons tended to favor the gaudy, pop designs over Picasso's tiny etching, but the gala art auction staged last April by the Georgetown and District YM-YWCA and Beaux Arts International had an air of cultured sophistication nothing else in Halton Hills could match. Let's hope they do it again. Runners-up - the Halton Hills Arts Council's "Musical Trillight" concert series, which began this past fall with Maple Sugar's folksy entertainment (and promising to take this "award" next year is the forthcoming Maureen Forrester concert); Normie Studio's breathtakingly dramatic, semi-professional production of "Murder in the Cathedral" - an unusual presentation by (and in) Knox Church.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE YEAR: Toronto's James Sokoluk was hauled out of his car at least 15 seconds before it came to rest a quarter mile further down Highway 7 above Norval last August; he was uninjured. Runners-up Mrs. Wray Youmans, whose knitting was interrupted one November afternoon by the appearance of a truck in her Norval living room; she too was uninjured. Georgetown's Betty Milton and a travelling chum luckily decided to skip the northbound Florida bus which later hurtled off a damaged bridge, killing many passengers. On the lighter side, there was also former regional chief administrative officer Ernie Reid, whose sudden retirement was cushioned by a \$68,000 annual pension.

SOME SPECIAL AWARDS...
THE RED SEA DIPLOMACY AWARD: To Pete Pomeroy, for simultaneously making personal donations last April to two fund-raising committees behind the Acton town hall restoration and the library-cultural centre construction. That's \$1,450 for you; and \$1,450 for you.

THE CITIZENSHIP AWARD: To the SOS (Save Our Streams) volunteer group which started dragging garbage out of Black Creek last spring and intends to do so again this year. The project came out of the blue, caught on with hikers and other fans of the outdoors and emerged as a well-planned, well-executed, long-range, clean-up scheme. Runner-up - ever deserving of our acclaim, Roma Timpon and the Good Neighbor Service.

THE ROSIE RUIZ HEADSTART AWARD: To John Roe and the Georgetown Little Theatre. They haven't been cheating like that fine Boston Marathon runner, of course, but they were already catching second wind by the time everyone else in town realized money had better start flowing in for the new arts complex. They've already raised most of the \$30,000 they pledged to the project almost a year before the complex is set to open.

THE JOHN CROSSIE HOTSPOT AWARD: To Don Farmer, former Halton regional treasurer.

THE MING DYNASTY EMPIRE-BUILDER AWARD: To Kathy and Lisa McGrath, two lovely young sisters from Acton who, quite deservedly, happen to respectively hold the titles of Miss Acton Fall Fair 1979 and Miss Acton Fall Fair 1980.

THE ET TU BRUTE AWARD: To former Georgetown school board trustee Barry Shepard, who, in announcing his retirement from the board this past October, warned voters that trustee-candidate Betty Fisher would "do more harm than good" if elected to succeed him.

THE WILLIAM DAVIS HERE WE GO AGAIN AWARD: To MPP Julian Reed, for informing us this week that Ontario Hydro could very well build another transmission corridor through Halton Hills by 1983.

THE "GAM DOWN WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE" AWARD: To George Kennedy, Public School in Georgetown and the Halton Board of Education, for continuing use of its time-out booth, in which quasi-violent students are locked up for brief periods so they can cool down without hurting themselves, others or property.

THE HANDS ACROSS THE WATER AWARD: To former Georgetown mayor Wheldon "Steamer" Emmerson, who represented Halton Hills' war effort during the 1944 Dutch liberation by attending special ceremonies overseas and presenting grateful citizens there with a landscape painted by fellow veteran Roy Booth.

AND IN OUR MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT:

THE LORD GIVETH AND THE LORD TAKETH AWAY: While Holy Cross Church in Georgetown lost two popular priests this year (Fathers Pierre Wood and Olger Devent) and thus

(Continued on page A7)

ITEM: ACTON GETS ITS OWN GROUP OF HALTON POLICE...



Advice for McDermid, Otto on spreading riding cheer



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

In the event that you live in one of the 102 constituencies served by conservative MPs, this will help you prepare for conversations you might be having with your federal representative over the holiday season.

I have here a publication - it's really some mimeographed sheets-called "Caucus Newswire" and it's put out by Conservative party headquarters for the education and guidance of the aforementioned 102 MPs. And this is not your ordinary, everyday issue of Caucus Newswire. "This special edition of Caucus Newswire," we read, "is for use by MPs in their ridings over the holidays."

In other words, it tells the MPs how to spread a bit of Christmas cheer to the constituents. "During the Christmas recesses," we read, "the message of Progressive Conservative MPs to their constituents will be the disastrous record of the 10-month-old current Trudeau government."

NEED DRINK

In fact, if your MP repeats all the

I bet most constituents can't wait to mix a bit of those tidings with their Christmas Carols. With this impending joyosity, Tory MPs should be overwhelmed by invitations to Yuletide parties.

But as a special service to shut-ins and other afflicted individuals, including Liberals, who can't look forward to hearing a Tory MP recite a Christmas disaster poem, I hereby offer the highlights.

FOUR STANZAS

There are four convenient sub-heads, beginning with "Disaster Area No. 1: The Constitution."

Here, the local MP is advised to mention that a majority of Canadians have clearly expressed their disapproval of Trudeau's actions. To prove this point, they can recite figures released in the latest Gallup Poll.

And "going against all the odds, out party leader Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, led the fight on the Trudeau proposals which would have the British House of Commons entrench a Trudeau charter of rights in the constitution."

And of course the holidaying MP could point out that "The Gallup Poll was a dramatic indication of how right Mr. Clark was in judging the Canadian people's feelings on the question."

Nice touch.

That brings our little party to "Disaster Area No. 2: The Budget."

And this one, I should warn you, is not the least bit Christmasy.

NEED DRINK

In fact, if your MP repeats all the

advice offered in this section, perhaps you should make an early trip to the punch bowl. Everything economic, it seems, is going to hell in a handbasket and, besides, the Trudeau government is power-grabbing what's left from the provinces. This section concludes by noting that the Trudeau government "is now locked in deadly combat with the producing provinces and the Progressive Conservative Opposition."

"Disaster Area No. 3: Energy."

This, too, has precious little to do with The Night Before Christmas. It recites all the gasoline price increases since the disastrous Trudeau government was disastrously elected 10 months ago. "Thus far the Liberals have presided over price increases at the gasoline pump totalling 17.8 cents per gallon in central and western Canada and 18.5 cents per gallon in eastern Canada."

"Disaster Area No. 4: The West."

Here, not unexpectedly, we get a bit caustic. "Belatedly, Trudeau's office has announced that it has caught sight of Western Canada and is prepared to send an exploratory probe of cabinet ministers to discover more."

And finally there is advice on "leave 'em laughing."

"What does PETRO-Canada stand for," is the question.

"Pierre Elliott Trudeau Ruling Our Canada," is the answer.

"Have a Happy Holiday," concludes Caucus Newswire.

You bet.

Of average Joes and Ottawa - and empire-building



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Thoughts on a couple of unrelated topics, namely the federal government and daycare.

First, because the line is being promulgated by federal spokesmen across the country, the theory that Ottawa is not a foreign government. The following words are from Energy Minister Marc Lalonde:

"I am tired of hearing that the national interest is some abstract idea concocted by a clutch of Ottawa mandarins to further their own nebulous ends."

"I am tired of being told that Ottawa is a place apart, far removed from the concerns of the average Canadian," he said.

The truth must hurt, Marc. We "average Canadians" lack your and your mandarins' inured salaries, indexed pensions, chauffeur-driven limousines, private restaurants, personally available airplanes, tax-paid overseas travel, and when we retire-consultant contracts with the departments we just left.

NO CONTROL

The reports of Canada's auditors-general sum it up very well, noting that Ottawa has no cost-benefit control over its spending, a good chunk of which goes solely to support mandarin empire-building.

The "average Canadian" has as his or her contact point with the federal government, its agencies like the post office or Air Canada, that are usually being disrupted one way or another.

The "ends" that the Ottawa mand-

arins seek aren't "nebulous". They want power and wealth, both of which they can acquire from the "average Canadian" through the tax system.

(None of this is to imply that the provincial government here is composed of angels, but probably because Toronto is not a one-company town job-wise or so inclined to navel-gaze as Ottawa, there exists a firmer grasp of the "average Canadians" feelings.)

DAYCARE

Daycare is a topic producing ambivalent thoughts in this corner. Community and Social Services Minister Keith Norton has just announced a pre-election \$14 million expenditure to subsidize an additional 1,500 daycare spots province-wide in 1981.

The Conservatives have been battered by a wide variety of interest groups all year here to expand daycare services, including one demonstration where so-called union pickets little children like union pickets.

The cry for universal, state-run, subsidized daycare receives no support from me. Aside from the fact the province hasn't got the money (\$500 million annually), parents have some responsibility for their children.

It's a myth that somehow "working mothers" have materialized out of thin air in just the past few years. Mothers who wanted to advance the family's economic circumstances have always worked.

REAL PROBLEM

On the other hand there's fair evidence too that mothers should be with very tiny children on a full-time basis, that so-called professional day care is not only no substitute, but could be harmful psychologically.

However, it's a fact of life nowadays that many women want daycare to handle their children while they go to work for reasons of economics or self-fulfillment.

So it's needed, although those who can afford it should not be subsidized. The real problem is our social system's continual splintering of the

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-Mrs. Al Zeravley won a turkey and set a new club record at the Lucky Strike when she bowled an almost perfect game. Mrs. Zeravley scored a total of 401 in one game breaking the previous record of 404 bowled by Hugh Dickie last year. She had spares in her first two frames, scoring 21 on the first spare, then nine strikes and a nine point score on her last ball.

There will be no election in Esqueuing Township this year. All seats have been filled by acclamation and the entire 1950 council will hold their seats for the coming year.

Jack Wilson, Maple Avenue, holding ticket no. 25, won a mantel radio in a lucky draw sponsored by the Alliance Paper Mills hockey club. The draw was made at the Christmas party at the mill on Friday afternoon.

The girls of Cedarvale School had an event finer Christmas than usual this year, when they learned a lesson on how enjoyable it can be to give to others. On Thursday, the whole school went to the Peel-Halton Home in Brampton where they presented a concert for the elderly residents there, topped with Christmas presents and a personal card for each which the girls had made themselves.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-A new precedent in friendly relations among competitors was set last Thursday when the staffs of three local banks joined for a Christmas party at the Delrex Restaurant banquet hall. The downtown branches of the Bank of Commerce and Royal Bank and the Mountain view branch of the Commerce were participants in the party which featured a turkey dinner followed by an evening of dancing.

First Baptist Church Choir formed the nucleus of a carolling group which sang Christmas carols to local shut-ins Sunday night. The group met at the church at 7 p.m. and returned at 8:30 p.m. Members of the congregation and young people added their voices to the outdoor service.

Halton Junior Farmer debating team has won the first round of debates against the Peel Junior Farmers on Thursday, Dec. 8 in Brampton. The members of Halton's debating team are Jean Moffat, RR 2, Rockwood, Jack Robertson RR 5, Milton, Marie Marshall, RR 1, Milton and Ed Segsworth, RR 2, Burlington.

The Abitibi Power and Paper Company Ltd. annual report for 1959 was judged "Best of all Canada" for the second consecutive year by the judges reviewing the Financial World's 20th survey of annual reports.

Children of the members of the Lions Club were entertained by their fathers at a Christmas party in the arena Rose Room Dec. 18. The party was arranged by Lion Henry Helfant and featured entertainment by Chico the Clown, a sing-song led by Sandra Sproule with Mrs. Harold McClure at the piano and the traditional visit of Santa. **TEN YEARS AGO**-A former rector of St. George's Anglican Church, Canon John H. McMullin will become Dean of Saskatchewan in February. Canon McMullin, who has been rector of St. John the Evangelist Church, Hamilton, since leaving Georgetown four years ago, will assume new duties as rector of St. Alban's Cathedral in Prince Albert in early February.

Laurentian University at Sudbury has a Georgetown student bolstering its senior hockey club's defence corps against this season in Mike Cummins. Cummins, who played his minor hockey here, including Junior C, is in his third year with the Laurentian Voyageurs.

Georgetown Raiders put it all together Friday night to bury Dunville 13-2 in an Intermediate A tilt in Georgetown Memorial Arena in which Al Stitt shone. Stitt pumped in five goals and added an assist in his best night in a Raider uniform to single-handedly humble the Dunville Club.

Two months of investigation by at least four Ontario Provincial Police officers is starting to pay off. This week, two men were arrested in Toronto and charged with possession of stolen property. Further charges are pending. The stolen property charge arose from a Dec. 17 break-in at Speyside Public School, in which nearly \$1,000 in office and electronic equipment was stolen. Milton OPP officers say \$600 worth of stolen property was recovered.

From The Herald's classified columns: "Majestic centre hall two-storey home with breezeway and attached two-car garage magnificently situated on a 12-acre rustic, wooded site. Raised hearth and split boulder fireplace in living room, big formal dining room with bay window, den or fifth bedroom, four huge bedrooms, plus doors to front and rear balconies. A grand buy at \$47,900."

ONE YEAR AGO-Halton Hills has the lowest labour productivity and some of the lowest wages in Halton region labor force survey. The results of the survey, conducted last last summer, and released last week, show that the wages paid in Halton Hills and Milton are somewhat lower than those in Burlington and Oakville.

Halton Women's Place, a planned hostel for abuse wives and their children, is coming closer to completion but the fund-raising continues in an earnest attempt to reduce the organizations' operating deficit.



Sixteen students from Paul Tamlyn's total immersion history class at Acton High School share The Herald's specially-combined award for the Most Unique Undertaking of 1980 and for best-representing local youth. In June, the students donned period costumes they'd prepared themselves and set out on a 250-mile, two-week trip retracing the travels of Canada's 19th century voyageurs.



The Georgetown and District YM-YWCA brought the cultured sophistication of Sotheby's to Holy Cross auditorium last March with a gala Beaux Arts auction that netted \$2,800. More than 200 art-lovers, following veteran auctioneer Sharon Theobald's lead, bid on 150 paintings, drawings and prints, purchasing all but 50 of the works on hand.