

Government's message: DIY

We find it particularly encouraging when community-minded citizens take it upon themselves to answer specific public needs that would otherwise go unattended because of fiscal restraint at the various levels of government. Such is the case with Halton Hills' new task force on care for the dying.

A well-attended meeting in Glen Williams Thursday night firmly established that interest in setting up community services for the terminally ill and their families is keen. If organizers can recruit enough properly-trained volunteers among those from all walks of life who came out for the meeting, we're well on our way toward providing valuable and necessary services that previously existed on very tentative basis.

As was explained at the meeting, the volunteer task force has already investigated possible funding from the provincial government; there is simply no money available to set up some liaison between Ontario hospitals and the public agencies and individuals interested in helping the terminally ill. The word from Dennis Timbrell's health ministry is that "You're on your own...but anything you can do yourselves would be appreciated".

With that in mind, three Halton Hills women set out to do something by them-

selves, organizing the meeting that will probably end up eventually resolving the town's shortcomings in the area of palliative care.

Barb Stephens, whose work with Halton Helping Hands has shown her firsthand the need for psychological and emotional comfort among the dying and members of their families, registered nurse Karen Ferguson and community worker and former teacher Eva Sansom deserve our thanks and best wishes for the task they are undertaking.

Since the meeting, they've been sifting through the questionnaires completed at their meeting, tabulating the expertise and facilities available for such a program, and the level of public interest shown.

If attendance at the Glen meeting is indicative of the interest evident in those questionnaire forms, we can be optimistic that the final months, weeks and days of the terminally ill among us can serve as fruitful periods of appreciation for life's blessings and positive anticipation for life's "aftermath". The same holds true for members of the dying person's family, since their loss can truly be a traumatic experience unless all concerned are properly prepared for the inevitable.

Comfort during a usually stressful time: a goal worth pursuing.

Guest editorial

Unhappy harvest

By BOB OLLIVIER

Kenneth Greaves, President of the Ontario Forest Industries Association, has called on the Ontario Government to make large tracts of what he called "wilderness areas" available for timber harvesting. These areas of northwestern Ontario, claims Mr. Greaves should be harvested when they reach maturity, "allowing healthy growth to take place".

In his words, this gives time for all of us to enjoy the "aesthetic and recreational benefits of healthy, growing forests", since these trees take about 70 to 100 years to mature, then begin again. What he seems to forget is that a mature forest is what most of us want to see, not small trees doing their thing. He has criticized the narrow-interest groups who want these areas for such "single purpose activities as canoeing and backpack camping."

Mr. Greaves called the forest industry the "silent majority", if you can believe such a thing. As far as this writer is concerned, they are far from silent: the new road to be cut in the Nakina area for example, is a political lobby by the forest industry to get further cash flow from what we can call a true wilderness area with only fly-in trips and a few spent mice sites.

The OFIA president noted that the Canadian Council of Resource and Environmental Ministers has set a goal of 50 per cent increase in yield from the productive forests of Canada by the year 2000, yet he feels there will be a shortage of fibre if alienation for forest areas should continue.

According to Mr. Greaves, careful study should be made of the impact on employment as well as socio-economic effects.

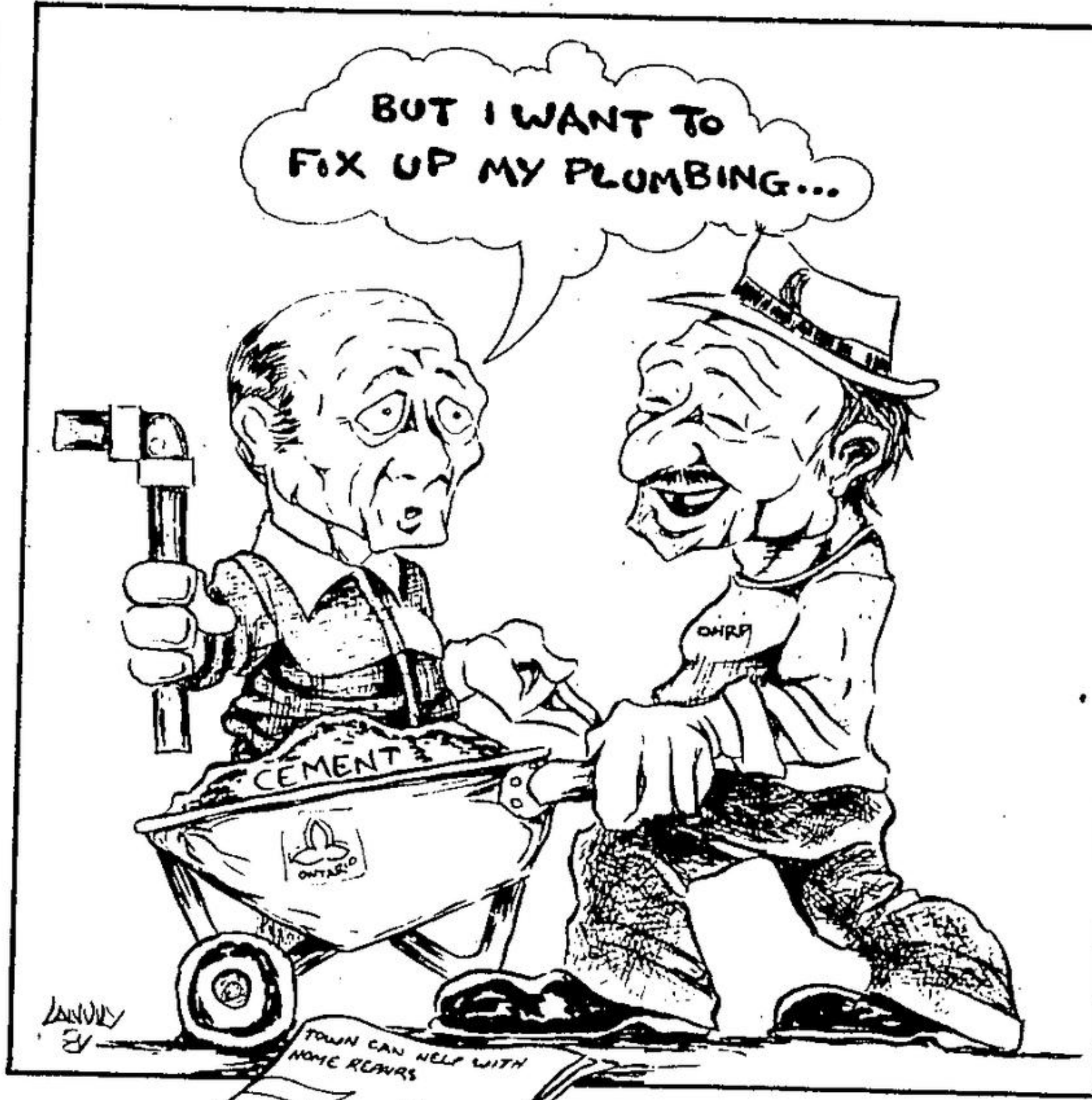
In the minds of many residents of Ontario, as well as the rest of Canada, our forests should be for the benefit of all people of our great land and not for the forest industry alone. We realize that we do not have, nor should we claim sole possession to the uses of these highly sensitive areas.

The industry feels that the smallest forest fire is detrimental to the overall health of the forest, yet the greatest benefit is a fire that is allowed to run its course. As long as there is no danger to life or buildings, the forest fire leaves only natural debris and not "slash" as the forest industry does. The compounds left after a fire are a natural source of mineral and other nutrients that the forest needs and cannot get when the forest matures.

After a fire, small animals and birds move into the growing areas and as the shrubs and small trees start to grow, the grouse and then larger animals that feed off these tree buds and twigs take over. Deer and moose population would likely increase, as would the bird life in Ontario, yet after a forest cutting, there is nothing until the new trees are planted over slash and the natural progression is ignored.

Write to your member of parliament in the provincial government if you feel that you would like to express an opinion. It is your right and privilege; take advantage of it.

Bob Ollivier is The Herald's Ontario Outdoors columnist and a Georgetown resident.



Hero's welcome for hostages belittles other prisoners



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

became directly involved with the "Great Canadian Caper" it still seems that, relatively speaking, we were overpowered by the drama.

Even around Parliament, which has its own preoccupations, all the concentration seemed to centre on the hostages.

HIGH DRAMA
I am certainly taking nothing away from the hostages, or the efforts that went into their release -- it really was a very gripping drama from beginning to end -- but I think it's fair to say that, somewhere along the way, a steady kidnapping got turned into a great international crusade. It became an incredible emotional binge.

It's interesting to consider what our reaction might have been had the hostages been British, German, Italian or Japanese. We would probably have carefully followed the negotiations, but I doubt whether we could have maintained this emotional high for 444 days.

But then the British, Germans, Italians and Japanese would probably not have been holding daily flag-raising ceremonies, tying ribbons around trees, lighting Christmas trees and holding all-night candle services.

Nor would television stations in those countries be likely to put a microphone in the face of a two-year-old -- yes, it actually happened -- with this probing question: "Do you think

you're daddy will be home soon?"

Another common inquiry was: "What will you say to your husband when he finally comes home?"

Or: "How did you feel when you heard the hostages had been released?"

ALL HEROES
"Do you consider your son a hero?" was a question put to parents by a Canadian broadcaster. An American commentator had already answered this: "They are all heroes," he declared.

By the time television cameras had found their way in the living room of hostage relatives, so we could watch parents watching their sons on their own TV screen, there really weren't many emotions left, with the possible exception of embarrassment.

There is no question that it has been a horrible ordeal for the 32 hostages, and we'll all be interested in hearing how they managed to cope with their captivity. But it will probably go far beyond that. The outpouring of emotion will continue for weeks. The momentum cannot be stopped now.

And I wouldn't want to distract from it, but when you consider how many thousands of political prisoners are being tortured around the world right now, with scarcely a thought from us, it's really quite remarkable how this particular incident has managed to hypnotize us.

Fisher's recreation report uses common knowledge



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

As if any government agency doesn't, in theory, do that now.

The difficulty comes in developing the proper bureaucratic techniques to balance off a keen ear against availability of time and cash and skills, and to distinguish between the necessary and the unnecessary.

While Fisher does make some recommendations for streamlining the system so that decisions can be better made, the changes are the kind that any competent in-ministry review would also have arrived at.

In any case, Fisher himself carefully points out why his report doesn't, in fact, cannot, say very much about sport, fitness and recreation in Ontario.

MY CHOICE
Participation in those areas is almost entirely a consequence of thousands, and likely millions, of people doing simply that which amuses, intrigues, or pleases them.

Unlike so much else in life today, leisure-time activities are still decided by people themselves.

Perhaps more important, except for Wintario grants, most of the money

spent by governments on leisure is spent where it counts, at the local level where Fisher wants ministry emphasis to focus.

"Communities get in recreational and cultural fields what they are willing to pay for--pay through their taxes, pay through their hands directly," he noted.

RUN OR SKATE?
A community, through its local council, can and does decide whether and how much property shall be allocated to hockey arenas or gymnasiums or libraries (reading is recreation to some).

In an admiring tone, Fisher adds that "an almost staggering number of residents" across Ontario "are prepared to spend liberally from their own discretionary income" for recreation, sports, and fitness.

The key here is "discretionary income." People choose to spend or not to spend. (And that's why Wintario tickets, which one doesn't have to buy, are the perfect source for provincial recreational funds.)

Let's not involve provincial government further when we don't have to.

February is Heart Month

Understanding need behind heart research

With February designated as Heart Month, your Heart Foundation presents a four-part series on heart disease and stroke to inform the public of the progress being made to combat this twentieth century health hazard.

HEART RESEARCH IN CANADA

The leading cause of death and disability in Canada and the western world is cardiovascular disease. To combat the problem in Canada, a large amount of research is being carried on in Canadian medical schools and hospitals and is funded by the Canadian Heart Foundations -- national and provincial.

Last year, cardiovascular research support from the Canadian Heart Foundations totalled more than \$13 million -- more than twice the total available from the Medical Research Council and all other sources in Canada. All told, more than \$30 million are presently receiving funding through grant-in-aid awards or the personnel support programme for the support and training of clinical investigators and biomedical scientists. Approximately 75 per cent of the funds are awarded to grants-in-aid and 25 per cent to the personnel support programme.

In a research programme of this magnitude, it is apparent that a wide variety of projects is being supported. Studies are being financed in the area of heart attack, stroke, cardiac surgery, hardening of the arteries and blood clots.

Research is being performed to improve nutrition to heart muscle, study the action mechanisms of drugs and study methods of preventing and treating arrhythmias -- irregular heart rhythms. All of these investigations have been facilitated by the development of safe methods of evaluating heart muscle function and cardiac damage.

In the stroke field, a considerable amount of

basic work on the production of clots and their consequences has been carried out in Canada. This fundamental work, supported to a large extent by the Foundation, led to the development of drugs which prevent the formation of platelet thrombi and the effects of two of these so-called antiplatelet drugs (aspirin and sulphopyrazone) were evaluated in a highly successful trial carried out in Canada.

In cardiac surgery, investigations are underway to maintain heart muscle in optimal condition while the heart is stopped so that maximal recovery can occur as quickly as possible once the heart is restarted. Also, there are studies involving the antiplatelet drugs in trying to prevent subsequent obstruction in the blood vessel which is used to bypass the blocked coronary vessel. A number of centres are also experimenting to improve the capability of mammalian (including human) tissue in the composition of replacement valves to withstand the stress and strain of constant heart action.

In the field of atherosclerosis, research is being conducted into the mechanisms which contribute to blood vessel damage and atherosclerosis in humans. In addition, detailed studies are being carried out in a number of centres to investigate the importance of various classes of lipoproteins in the development of atherosclerosis.

Finally, in the area of thrombosis, arterial clots are composed mainly of platelets and there is good experimental evidence and some clinical evidence that they can be prevented by drugs which inhibit the stickiness of these platelets. Biochemical studies, studies in experimental animals and various clinical studies are underway evaluating a variety of antiplatelet drugs to determine their potential in the prevention of platelet thrombi which occur in coronary arteries, in arteries which supply the brain and on the surface of artificial valves.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Three youths who escaped from Brampton Training School Monday were apprehended yesterday at Bluevale, near Wingham. After making their escape, the three hitchhiked to Norval, where they stole a car belonging to township road superintendent William Townsend, abandoning it at Bluevale.

There was an interruption in hydro power in the John Street district for several hours Saturday evening when a large transformer which is located on the hydro pole in front of Harry Goldham's residence burned out. The local hydro crew worked until the early hours of Sunday morning repairing the damaged transformer. The arena was plunged into darkness, but the Saturday night dance continued when the Modern Aires secured lamps to light the way for the dancers.

Georgetown Anglers and Hunters Association is planning to purchase land and erect a clubhouse. The directors were empowered to secure the property at the annual meeting of the association Thursday at the Oddfellows Hall and it is expected that the deal will be closed shortly.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Viewers in the district were pleasantly surprised Sunday night when a well-known local face appeared on TV. Pat Patterson of Norval, the referee-in-chief of the OHA, appeared as guest on the CFTO sports show. He was interviewed by Johnny Essau on his Sunday night sports show.

A device used to test the speeds of supersonic aircraft is the latest contrivance to be employed by Georgetown Police in their perpetual campaign to reduce speeding locally. The unit, a compact radar scanner, can be operated from the cruiser or separately and can be readied for operation or dismantled in less than three minutes. Unlike the old speed traps, it can't be seen.

Georgetown's newest infant is a bouncing, energetic baby. Its day of birth was Jan. 27, and well-wishers from all over the province packed the Legion Hall to witness the event. Object of all the attention and recipient of congratulatory messages and personal good wishes was the new Georgetown Junior Chamber of Commerce, which officially became a member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce at the Friday ceremony.

Indicative of the business recession is the fact that 28 Georgetown families are receiving relief from the town—a much different picture than any of the past twenty years when only rarely was the town treasury tapped to help families where the breadwinner was unemployed.

C. Alexander Best, MP for Halton, announced today that he has been informed by the Hon. David J. Walker, Minister of Public Works, that it is expected a contract for the construction of a federal building in Acton will be awarded during the 1981-82 fiscal year. The structure will cost about \$90,000. The new building will accommodate the local offices of the Post Office and the National Revenue Department, which need more space to meet growing requirements.

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital now has an administrator. Mr. H. Graham Gilhooly of Cornwall was hired last week, by joint decision of the Board of Directors, assisted by the Medical Associates.

TEN YEARS AGO—A proposed complex on Princess Anne Drive which would include a rest home, senior citizens' apartments, accommodations for children with learning disabilities and possibly a medical office centre was outlined at a council committee meeting Monday. A Mississauga man, Alan Howarth, is interested in acquiring an eight-acre parcel of town-owned land, on which he submitted a purchase offer in November. Mr. Howarth said his plan would blend architecture to neighboring residences.

Reeve Tom Hill of Esquewaug proved he could act quickly and independently when he okayed the use of a mobile home in the township Monday despite the fact that such a home contravenes the bylaw. He explained to council he gave Mr. and Mrs. Bob Devolin, whose 15 Sideroad home was burnt out recently, permission to put the mobile home on the lot for three months or until the house is rebuilt.

Following a request by a delegation of Georgetown ratepayers the Halton RC board decided last week it will again ask the Ontario Department of Education to provide funds for an addition to Holy Cross School. Last year, the board submitted plans for a gymnasium and library addition to Holy Cross at the same time as it submitted plans for the new St. Francis of Assisi school in Georgetown.

Concerned that the natural beauty of "Hungry Hollow" will disappear, a Lewis Street man is doing something about it. Warren Wright, in a letter to town council, says he has prepared a 20-minute film "The Many Faces of Hungry Hollow", which he will be happy to show to anyone. Mr. Wright says garbage is being dumped, trees mutilated and anything that moves or flies is being shot.

ONE YEAR AGO—With at least two industries currently seeking appropriate plant locations in the Halton Hills area, there "appears to be a possibility" that the Georgetown sewage treatment plant can again be expanded to accommodate new growth, according to Mayor Pete Pomeroy. That possibility, which tends to support claims that expansion limitations imposed on the Mountview Road South treatment plant by the province are unnecessary, was acknowledged by the mayor last Wednesday, in a speech to the Georgetown Area Ratepayers' Association.

Halton regional workers can strike as early as Feb. 19 unless agreement can be reached between Halton Region and 120 members of Local 636 of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. A conciliation report received Saturday from the ministry of labor states that a settlement cannot be reached at this time, said regional works director Dennis Camm.

The town's newest group of southeast Asian refugees, this time a family of nine Laotians, is expected to arrive in Georgetown Monday, according to Mike Harris, spokesman for Project Ark, a Glen Williams-based sponsor group.

Poet's Corner

WAY BACK IN THE 30's

The clap of horses feet
An old main street 50 years ago,
Belts on bob sleigh ring
While driving through the snow.
Horses were all well-groomed
In colors grey, black and tan
Some would prance, some would dance
All for the love of man,
High top collars, rings of white
Brass buckles shining bright

Most horses had a glossy hide
It sure was a thrilling ride
Horse men those days they took pains
For today we made no gains
Why didn't they let them go
Faithful pets we did know,
If the old wells run dry
Is there a horse I can buy
The price of gas and horses soar
The day may come there is no more
If there is no way to ride
We may walk a dreary stride.

-Albert Brooks