

## Red Cross drive just as important

With Terry Fox still very much on everyone's mind and well-organized local units of the Canadian Cancer Society already gearing up their April fund-raising campaigns, Halton Hills residents may tend to forget about another equally important and equally deserving service group in town, the Red Cross.

Red Cross Month is already nearly half over, but without a central, uniquely heroic figure like Terry, funds have not flown as readily into Red Cross coffers as they have into those of the Cancer Society.

And although local citizens have traditionally supported the blood donor clinics, most recently through the "Bucket of Blood" service club challenges launched by the Kinsmen, fund-raising is simply not as well supported as it should be.

As mentioned here last week, the mock air crash recently staged by the town's Red Cross volunteers tested our readiness in emergencies and set the groundwork for any real crisis that might occur. But for this dramatic re-enactment and the donor clinics held several times a year in Georgetown and Acton, would-be contributors perhaps don't fully realize the extent of the organization's work.

### A few examples:

- First Aid courses perennially train more and more residents the simple but critical techniques of life-saving, an absolute necessity when common emergencies jeopardize the lives and health of someone nearby;

- Water Safety Instruction both in and out of the water let residents, particularly youngsters, know how to stay safe while swimming and keep others safe;

- the Red Cross Corps of uniformed

volunteers and their non-uniformed auxiliary members are trained in first aid and wheelchair management and regularly transport those in need of medical attention to appointments out of town;

- Sickroom Supplies, from hospital beds to crutches, are provided free of charge for limited periods to those in need;

- Individual Emergency Aid can provide crisis victims with food, shelter, clothing and moral support and could even help them relocate relatives in foreign countries;

- Guest Speakers are available to tell any interested groups about Red Cross programs; also available are films and slides, through the public library;

- Homemaker Service is provided on request for not less than four hours a day in homes whose residents need help with household chores; the service is paid for by the client, sometimes under government subsidy.

Add to this the willingness of area Red Cross chapters in assisting each other in times of crisis (who will forget the Mississauga rail accident and the subsequent evacuation?) their necessarily low-key participation in any number of community crises (and, of course, standbys at regular events) and you begin to realize the scope of the Red Cross undertaking.

And that's just the community-oriented work; the organization has projects afoot around the world.

We urge you to set aside some money for an infinitely worthy cause. If Red Cross canvassers have not yet visited your home, give the local unit a call at 877-5233 Tuesdays and Thursdays, or at the Contact Centre (877-1211) at other times. It's important to us all.



## Alberta-Ottawa oil stand-off: both parties should grow up



Ottawa Report  
By Stewart MacLeod

### Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

With the Alberta government cutting back oil production by 100,000 barrels a day, and federal and provincial ministers glaring at each other like two teenage gangs itching for a fight, it isn't easy to grin and bear it.

There is nothing funny about a cutback costing us \$70 million a month as we replace Alberta oil with more expensive offshore supplies. And this is only a start. Unless the two governments reach an agreement on oil pricing, Alberta plans to cut production by 180,000 barrels by Sept. 1.

If this happens, it means the additional cost will work out at about \$5 per Canadian per month. And it's ludicrous that we should be hit with this exorbitant bill while Canadian oil sits in the ground and the two gangs stare at each other, refusing to take the first step.

It's true that there is a very fundamental disagreement, that the two sides are far apart, and that there

have been unnecessary aggravations from both sides. But there can be absolutely no excuse for the fact that two allegedly grown-up governments are not talking to each other. Even teenage gangs would exchange some views.

### STRONG TALK

In a unfortunate choice of words, Premier Peter Lougheed told Albertans they must be prepared to make sacrifices and "bled" a little in the continuing stand-off with Ottawa. What the "Ottawa government" is trying to do, he said, "is essentially to move and take over, for all intents and purposes, the control of the oil and gas reserves of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan."

And to force the issue he served notice last fall that the cutbacks in production would begin March 1.

The Trudeau government, which views energy as a national resource, has this abiding belief and it seems willing to let the dispute drag on. Federal Energy Minister Marc Lalonde appears, on the surface, to be more flexible than his Alberta counterparts - particularly since he wrote that 11th-hour letter calling for talks - but there is no evidence that Ottawa has taken too many interesting initiatives in the last six months.

In his letter, which was rejected, Lalonde pleaded for a postponement of the production cutbacks. He said that federal-provincial officials are expected to complete their work soon and "I would expect that we would both be ready to resume ministerial-level

discussions at that point.

"Against this kind of negotiating timetable, would it not seem reasonable to delay the production cutbacks?"

### NOTHELPFUL

He went on to point out that the cuts will damage the petroleum industry, the economy of Alberta and impose a great burden on consumers. "Put simply, your government's curtailment measures would put new pressures on a national economy already affected by the world recession, and make more difficult the challenge of energy security."

Naturally, everything he says is true. But these 11th-hour letters, which are basically press releases for public consumption, are rarely constructive. They tend to aggravate the other side. If the Alberta government were to postpone its cutbacks, it certainly wouldn't be because Ottawa requested it.

It's said that the situation reached the point where Lougheed felt it necessary to effectively hold the country to ransom. And he hasn't helped matters with his inflammatory language.

It's equally unfortunate that the federal government hasn't been more sensitive and responsive toward the feelings of westerners. Marc Lalonde hasn't been spending all his waking hours making things easier for the government of Alberta.

And what's inexcusable is that we are not only forced to watch this strident stand-off, we are actually

## Can election polls be trusted? Ask your neighborhood dog



Queen's Park  
By Derek Nelson

### Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Polls are for dogs, John Diefenbaker once growled when asked about them, and that quote should be remembered by anyone using polls to predict election outcomes.

That said, one cannot ignore them either, since they receive massive publicity in the media and are used by almost everyone to indicate how well a party is doing in an election.

A Toronto Star (adjusted) poll recently gave the Conservatives 45 per cent of the vote, the Liberals 31 per cent and the NDP 24 per cent. That should mean a comfortable Conservative majority of 70 to 80 seats.

In the 1977 election, which produced a minority government, the actual vote was Conservatives 40 per cent, Liberals 32 per cent, NDP 28 per cent.

But can the poll be trusted?

The answer has to be both yes and no.

It was taken by telephone during the period Feb. 12-18 by interviewing all eligible voters across Ontario, a

sample size is supposedly accurate within three percentage points either way 19 times out of 20.

### ONE SHOT

It might be noted that 58 brave souls - who have my total support - refused to answer when the pollster called. If more people did that we could abolish the things.

Surprisingly, the best criticism of the poll actually came from a high level backroom Conservative, Norm Atkins, who was quoted in one news story as being against publication of polls.

Really good polling is an expensive proposition that requires continual, extensive sampling instead of the one-shot picture given by such as the Star, he said.

Moreover, because of the regional nature of Ontario politics, it is almost impossible to translate a province-wide poll into the number of actual seats a party will win or lose.

In both northern Ontario and Metro Toronto the Conservatives traditionally face mainly the NDP, while the Liberals are their competition in much of the rest of the province.

### INWINDSOR

In an odd pocket or two like Windsor and west end Toronto it appears to have become Liberal versus NDP over the years.

All of which adds up to keeping a skeptical eye on poll results.

However, they can't just be dismissed either.

The Toronto Star poll does show some things clearly, even if one might quarrel with the exact figures attributed to each of the parties.

In particular it confirms that Ontario remains a three-party province, and as such guarantees the re-election of the Conservatives if the results hold true through the remainder of the campaign.

### CAN DO

The only hope either of the opposition parties has is just enough of each others voters will shift their allegiance to just one of them to overcome the massive 40 per cent core vote the Conservatives control.

That doesn't appear to have happened.

In fact, if the poll is accurate, and my personal sense is that it is in the ballpark, then basically all that has happened is a slippage of votes to the Conservatives from the NDP.

The Liberals have made little impact either positive or negative.

The advertising blitz now under way, or some campaign incident, may cause a shift in those figures, but for now the question is not who'll win, but by how much.

## POET'S CORNER

### Mother

Afternoons, when the shadows stretch down the walls of home, my mother makes her way (slowly, because the wheelchair is slow) to her piano; that great magic equalizer of pain.

And as they touch the keys and the sounds begin; hesitant, at first, but then building to confidence, her smile returns. It is a little half smile, as if she knows a secret about music. About not letting the shadows give themselves to darkness.

—By Elaine Bryant

## Halton's History

From our files

**THIRTY YEARS AGO**—A search is being made for the E.A. Harris hockey cup which is believed to be in Georgetown. The cup was first presented in 1922 by Mr. Harris, who is publisher of the Burlington Gazette for competition within the county. It has been several years since it has been competed for and Mr. Harris believes Georgetown was the last winner. The contest is being revived and it is planned to have Burlington and Oakville play off with the loser of the current Georgetown-Milton series meeting the southern winner.

E.V. MacCormack, local druggist, was flabbergasted to receive an air mail letter from Mexico recently. It was typewritten by a person who signed himself mysteriously as "V". The writer himself is supposedly in prison in Mexico as a bankrupt but has \$385,000 cashed somewhere in the States. For help in getting "V" out of prison, which of course involves some small expenditures, Mr. MacCormack is offered a third share of the money.

Novral Feed Mill has changed ownership. It is now being operated by Bill Wright, who has moved to Novral from Streetsville. The mill has a long history, dated back generations when the Noble family operated it. Last owner was Ken Ferguson, who owned it at the time of the disastrous flood last year when the dam, which supplies water power for its operation, was washed out.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**—Harold Bairdrow acted as spokesman for Delrex Developments at a meeting with council Tuesday. The firm proposes a new plan to release residential building land over a three-year period. The firm is at a standstill, and there is no hope of achieving the 60-40 ratio called for in a 1954 agreement with the town, he explained.

A Halton County Museum may yet become a reality. With the setting aside of \$5,000 for this project, the first step was taken at County Council this month. Although discussion has centered around a century-old barn in the Kelso Dam Conservation Area, nothing has been decided yet.

Georgetown's Avian 2-180 was back at Avian Industries plant last week. The gyroplane which has been undergoing tests at the Kitchener-Waterloo field, was returned to its birthplace for inspection after a series of successful ground trials and the check-up showed all parts functioning perfectly. The experimental craft was returned to the K-W field Tuesday.

Recognition that regional planning is a vital necessity in this area, where "urban sprawl" of Toronto and Hamilton has already engulfed some of Halton County was apparent when a capacity audience attended a dinner and panel discussion in Knox Church Hall Thursday. Besides an excellent attendance of local men and women, there were representatives from all over the county, many of them members of councils and planning boards which are faced with the problem of what to do.

A group of citizens, whose purpose is to serve Georgetown's young people and encourage healthy recreation and cultural activities, is examining the possibility of bringing the YM-YWCA organization to town. The group has been meeting and discussing for several months.

A top hit parade singing group, Danny and the Juniors, has been booked by Club Midtown for an appearance at their March 17 dance in the Rose Room. Famous for their recordings of "At the Hop" and "Twisting USA", they will be featuring their latest recording, "Pony Express".

**TEN YEARS AGO**—Glenn Magnuson, past president of 1st Georgetown Scouts Group Committee, presented retired leader Dave Hastings with a weather recorder as a gift from the Group Committee recognizing his long service as a leader of 1st Georgetown Cubs and Scouts. Mr. Hastings has provided active leadership at both the Cub and Scout levels for 14 years and has also been a valuable worker with the District Scouter Council organizing camporees and apple day campaigns among other duties.

The long-awaited Zeller move into town is not officially confirmed. Mayor Bill Smith told council Monday night. Construction on the 60,000 square-foot store in the Georgetown Market will begin in May and the hoped-for completion will be the end of October.

Timing of a plebiscite to seek public opinion on allowing cocktail lounges in Georgetown may wait until the next provincial election. The vote was originally planned in December, but was dropped when it was found the municipal voters list can't be used.

Georgetowners visiting the new provincial showplace, Ontario Place, at the Toronto CNE waterfront, will be able to push a button and see the results of a film-making production project by Centennial Public School. Five Centennial pupils under the guidance of teacher Jack Anderson produced a three-minute color film on Georgetown and have submitted it to the Ontario government to be included in a library of films on small towns throughout the province.

**ONE YEAR AGO**—Representatives of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) District 9 Halton, rejected the Halton board of education's offer to go to arbitration Monday. Neil Munro, a provincial representative for OSSTF and spokesman for the Halton group, said the teachers want a negotiated settlement, and "so far, the board hasn't given them enough meaningful negotiation to go to arbitration."

The 1980 Halton regional police budget is 13.7 per cent higher than last year. Halton region's administration and finance committee last week approved the 1980 police budget, which features a \$666,000 increase over the 1979 budget. Many of the increases in the budget have been attributed to recommendations made in last year's Ontario Police Commission report.

While many Halton region social agencies saw their 1980 grant requests slashed by an austerity-conscious health and social services committee last week, a few managed to get through unscathed. Halton Helping Hands, the Acton Community Services Centre and Halton Women's Place all had their 1980 requests approved as submitted by the committee, despite an overall \$140,000 cut in other requests.

Halton taxpayers may find themselves paying proportionally higher share of the region's education costs this year due to a reduction in provincial grants to the Halton board of education.

## Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

## Living with Catch-22



"The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming!"

Would that all future meetings between Soviets and Americans involve the same humorous circumstances as did the submarine episode off Cape Cod in Carl Reiner's film comedy a few years ago. Alan Arkin portrayed the insecure Russian skipper in that movie and ironically popped up again, this time as an American bombardier seeking asylum from the remainder of World War Two, in Catch-22, based on the anti-war novel by Joseph Heller.

So what happens to a country that is invaded by foreign armies? That's where Toronto lawyer Robert Kartell left us last week, suggesting avenues of thought regarding allied and not-so-allied forces on our doorstep.

Catch-22 examined the nature of foreign occupation. A "patriotic" American soldier argues global politics with an elderly Italian civilian who is confident in his country's ultimate lack of aggression (the Italian army having been routed) and somehow comfortable in the bombed-out decadence of late-war Rome:

"America," he said, "will lose the war. And Italy will win it."

"America is the strongest and most prosperous nation on earth," Nately informed him with lofty fervor and dignity. "And the American fighting man is second to none."

"Exactly," agreed the old man pleasantly, with a hint of taunting amusement. "Italy, on the other hand, is one of the least prosperous nations on earth. And the Italian fighting man is probably second to all. And that's exactly why my country is doing so well in this war while your country is doing so poorly."

"But Italy was occupied by the Germans and is now occupied by us. You don't call that doing very well, do you?"

"But of course I do," exclaimed the old man cheerfully. "The Germans are being driven out, and we are still here. In a few years you will be gone, too, and we will still be here. You see, Italy is really a very weak and poor country, and that's what

makes us so strong. Italian soldiers are not dying anymore. But American and German soldiers are. I call that doing extremely well. Yes, I am quite certain that Italy will survive this war and still be in existence long after your own country has been destroyed.

"Rome was destroyed, Greece was destroyed, Persia was destroyed, Spain was destroyed. All great countries are destroyed. Why not yours?"

Only in fictional encounters like this, I believe, should comparisons readily be drawn between the state of world affairs today and those of 1945 or 1939. Any Soviet invasion of Poland today might certainly prompt the same worldwide concern as Hitler's pre-war invasion eventually did, but the similarities end on the eastern bloc's border.

Elsewhere in the modern world, lifestyles have evolved since the war years tremendously, encompassing a wide range of civil rights, especially free thought and expression concerning a Utopian socialism far removed from anything Russia has seen. Thus, I believe, any Soviet aggression against North America could go unchallenged - the Russians could set up shop at Queen's Park - and our much-loved freedoms would not so easily be curtailed.

We must fear for Poland's safety and freedom because its people have never seen the distance that individual freedom can reach. They would be almost as easily oppressed as they were in Hitler's day.

But the question of Poland aside, we should not be concerned for our own future when it comes to Soviet hostility. To take up arms against a foreign army would be to place your love of material possessions above all else, yet there is no religion in existence that condones such action. Singer Bob Dylan recently paraphrased the Christian wedding vow in song: "What God has given to us, no man can take away."

Next week, I'll try and tie all this together - the theory of non-resistance; life under Soviet authority; the preservation of our basic freedoms regardless of government; and faith to move mountains.

## May the Force be with you, Lori

I know many readers will share The Herald's dismay at reporter Lori Taylor's retirement from journalism this week. Always keenly acquainted with the workings of the Halton regional police, she started a new job in the force's Oakville-based records division Monday.

After nearly four years as a Herald reporter-photographer (she arrived here from her hometown of Brampton via the Erin Advocate), Lori had made many friends, contacts and acquaintances through her newspaper work, most of whom just won't be lost with this change of occupation.

She won The Herald plenty of friends as well with generous, amiable coverage of community groups and events; she won the paper a great deal of respect with consistent, often insightful coverage of police, fire department and school board news. As

an example of how the community took a liking to her personality and work, Lori will be honored by the Lions Club of Georgetown at a forthcoming meeting with a special citation planned before she'd decided to leave the paper.

The Herald extends its best wishes to Lori in her new job and, on behalf of its readers, a warm thank-you.

Working hard to close the coverage gap left by Lori's departure is Georgetown's own Paul Sargent, spending another two weeks with the newspaper as part of his journalism studies at Sheridan College. Paul's student status isn't protecting him from the tougher stories that must be investigated: he's tackling the same kind of work we all do each week, and I think he's doing a fine job. He'll graduate this spring.

## LEGION PROVINCIAL SENIOR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

North Halton Golf and Country Club

MARCH 19, 20