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Report on BIAs optimistic, sound

The Toronto-based consulting firm of Walker, Wright, Young Associates Ltd. has done an admirable job on the initial phase of Halton Hills' first major downtown core study, both in gathering the information directly from merchants and shoppers and in analyzing what they've learned so far.

The only advice we'd debate in the \$60,000 study's preliminary report, released last week, is the suggestion that downtown Georgetown should have more municipal offices. The concept of, say, building the town's proposed, centralized headquarters on Georgetown's Main Street is no more appealing to us than is Rex Heslop's idea for a civic complex at the Guelphview plaza.

We maintain that any centralized town office should be built closer to the town's geographical centre, and given Georgetown's denser population, the current site of the council chamber and clerk's department on Trafalgar Road seems ideal for expansion.

Our feelings are supported somewhat by the consultants' belief that Acton's thriving downtown core has more potential than does Georgetown's. While we hope Halton Hills planners and Acton merchants will be successful in heading off the substantial threat of a new plaza on the community's boundaries, we look forward to a time when downtown Acton will be developed to the extent that citizens from across Halton Hills flock there for shopping or, more importantly, the kinds of social activity which consultants have witnessed there.

Preventing any outlying plazas from draining off downtown Acton's commercial potential should ensure the BIA's success. Already, Acton is setting the pace for downtown BIAs across the province, having launched a popular promotion campaign on the "Leathertown" theme and rebuilding storefronts and sidewalks to improve

the core's aesthetics. We're not too fond of the consultants' opportunistic attitude in recommending continuation of the Leathertown campaign, restoration of the old town hall and shortening of the commercial Mill Street strip almost exclusively for their respective retail value. We have nobler visions of such projects, but regardless, support for them is essential.

Downtown Georgetown, it has become apparent, is another kettle of fish. Already weakened to the point of near collapse several years ago by the construction of major plazas outside the downtown core, Georgetown's BIA will need unique businesses and more professional services to attract shoppers, the consultants say. And more civic offices.

Overall, the report's assessment of downtown Georgetown seems to hit the nail on the head. Its merchants, we agree, should limit their investment in landscaping and visual improvement and concentrate on revamping their stores and services so they'll ultimately represent one big "neighborhood" shopping centre. What that means, we believe, is not a string of convenience stores to serve the older section of Georgetown, but a unique blend of specialty shops and "basics" featuring a healthy range of prices. Added to the professional services, such stores could emerge as popular places among people from across town and around the area.

Ultimately, the consultants have provided a very positive working report which conveys the optimism they apparently gleaned from those they interviewed. From the horse's mouth, it seems we've learned more about stopping the downward, financial spiral that's been plaguing the downtown cores. Now, we trust, we can look for something refreshing and different where previously all had been too familiar.



Egg breakers, egg crackers: book lists 14,000 jobs



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

I wouldn't normally pay much attention to this particular book, partly because the government writes it for you, but since so many young people are having trouble deciding on careers it seemed to be worth a glance. It was a real eye-opener.

The book is called Standard Occupational Classifications and, for the benefit of Heaven knows who, the government has undertaken to list every job classification in the country. And, frankly, I had no idea there were so many jobs in Canada. In fact, I counted more than 14,000 different ones.

Whether there are any openings is quite another question, but at least it's nice to know that if one hankers to become an umbrella mender that,

officially, such a profession exists. And if you want to be a true specialist it's good to know there is a distinction between "egg breaker" and "egg cracker". But there is no egg splitter. Until now, I had no idea there was such an occupation as a "bone mechanic". But then, neither did I know there was any demand for a "Windmill repairer."

WIDE CHOICE

A "fountain-pen repairer" must be looking for new outlets in these days of ballpoint pens, but he might pick up some extra work as a "searchlight operator" or even a "donkey driver."

You can strive to be a "smoke chaser," or, if it's fresh air that you're after, I suppose being a "beet topper" would be more suitable. An "air-bag recoverer" could be interesting as well.

It struck me odd that there were only two classifications under "bibliophile," one being a reader and the other being a worker. Yet there are 33 different jobs relating to mere cloth. They include cloth shaver, cloth shrinker, cloth steamer, cloth sponger and cloth steamer.

There are 13 different jobs relating to artificial insemination, which is clearly a growth industry, as is the use of construction cranes. Among other things, you can be a crane driver, a

crane chaser, a crane runner and a crane engineer.

How about a "crossword puzzle maker?" It's there... I have no idea of the responsibilities involved in operating a "fagoter" machine, but someone must do it. Neither do I know what a "cow tester" does, or, for that matter, what a "sheep knocker" does.

But if one wants to go in for mixed farming this way, its probably possible to include "pregnant-mare urine farmer."

Ever thought of being a "shaving inspector?" One might have a great deal of fun being a "torpedo shooter," but it seems to me you would be underutilized in times of peace. Perhaps it could be combined with the responsibilities of a "lollipop maker."

As for the job of "scavenger," I suspect that could be combined with just about anything else. One could perhaps become an "artificial eye-maker" on the side.

It's a pity the book is so expensive because it's just chock full of original employment ideas for confused high-school graduates who probably don't even know they can choose among such specialties as a butter-milk maker, archer, cigar brander, raft driver and Christian Science nurse.



Letter from the editor

Paul Dorsey

Grass roots go-getter

I'd like to add a couple of extra words to last week's Herald story on the departing Barrett family (which, by the way, must have been a little confusing for readers since some paragraphs were switched around — sorry about that).

Jim Barrett and his family set off for Grande Cache, Alberta, Monday after one last blow was struck for what Jim repeatedly refers to as our "service community" — all the clubs, fraternal orders, service organizations and other volunteers out to make Halton Hills a better place to live.

Jim saw the article in The Herald's weekend Extra Friday about three local young people whose

plans to stage a dance-athon at Georgetown Memorial Arena was held up by an apparent misunderstanding about the facility's rental. Jim immediately phoned up several acquaintances in the service community as well as MPP Julian Reed and hopes those he contacted may be able to help the boys out.

Such is the nature of Jim Barrett's contributions to community life here over the past year. He and his wife Rita have served as catalysts, persistently prodding along other people and groups to get things done, invariably with the direct help of the Barretts themselves.

We at The Herald, of course, got to know the Barretts late last summer when they proposed the Little Miss Halton Hills pageant for the fall fair. The fair board subsequently took a lot of heat over the idea (including a Herald editorial) concerning the event as potentially damaging to the youngsters involved and a Toronto Star column criticizing its exploitativeness).

The board has stuck to its guns, bewildered by the controversy but no doubt happy to be the subject of headlines clear across this part of Ontario.

Then came the local Elks Lodge and the Optimist Club, neither of which had previously been the kind of publicity garnered for them, over the past year by Jim Barrett. Both groups are carrying on Jim's ambitious publicity schemes in fine style, staying in regular touch with the paper and often contributing their own write-ups.

There is a point where a newspaper's contacts become too demanding of publicity and push their relations with the papers' staff to the limit, and Jim Barrett, I feel safe in saying, came close to that point a number of times. We wondered on occasion if he wasn't just pushing things too far, but in retrospect, we're glad he pushed them as far as he did.

I'd like to thank Jim and Rita both personally, because they're honest, down-to-earth people I can relate to with ease, and professionally, because they churned up lots of news. I only regret that one item among their news stories was the tragic irony of their own house fire, which dealt them quite a financial blow. Fortunately, they're rebounding from that financially almost as easily as they've rebounded socially.

Best of luck to the Barretts in their new home. Jim's promised to keep in touch and I'll relate any news of interest from Grande Cache.



Yes, Oslan, but is it art? Of course, Oslan Morgan, 5, would likely respond. The proof is in the pudding. Kids at the Georgetown library were up to their knees in instant chocolate pudding, trying to decide whether it looked better on paper or tasted better in their mouths. Most of them — managed to find a compromise.

(Herald photo)

Ontario looks to hydrogen as its preferred alternative



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Has the provincial government made a tentative commitment to hydrogen as the preferred form of energy in Ontario's future?

And in consequence are we to have even greater dependence on nuclear energy for electrical power in the years ahead?

Those suspicions surfaced in several minds as a result of changes in wording of statements made this year and last by Energy Minister Bob Welch before a legislative committee here.

The committee appearances are made annually, and among other things give the government the chance to lay out its policies before opposition MPPs.

But one has to pay attention to the nuances among the general verbiage.

NDP Energy critic Donald MacDonald (Toronto York South), who gets

credit for first spotting the variation, wanted to know if it meant the government was going to move into reprocessing of used uranium fuel.

NUCLEAR BRIDGE

His reasoning went like this:

Energy Minister theory is that non-renewable energy sources are an interim "bridge" between the renewable energy sources of the past such as wind and water, and future (renewable) energy forms.

In 1980 Welch listed examples of non-renewable energy as "crude oil, natural gas, coal, and uranium."

In 1981 Welch reduced the examples to "crude oil, natural gas, and coal."

Uranium was called a "recoverable" resource, which unlike coal and oil it is, but only through one method.

Used uranium fuel taken from CANDU reactors can be upgraded and used a second time by being run through what is known as reprocessing and fuel fabrication plant, if and when Canada ever builds one.

However, like most things nuclear, reprocessing plants have emotional side-effects and cause political problems among those romantics who think the 20th century can be repealed.

NOT YET

MacDonald wanted to know whether Ontario was endorsing the concept, even though it would be years down the road, "of moving into the so-called second generation of nuclear power,"

the reprocessing plants?

Welch, giving a patented display of what MacDonald accurately calls the minister's "dazzling verbal footwork," responded with answers that in essence left all options open.

But by not precluding reprocessing, the government has in fact made a suggestive decision.

Nothing firmer need be done yet, since the current "bridge" fuels of oil and first-generation uranium are expected to carry us, as a society, well into the next century.

FAR AHEAD

Energy policy is long-term, and the implication of Welch's comments appears to be at least a signpost to the most logical future.

This is especially true, since the energy "form of the future" Welch listed as an example in his 1981 statement — but not in 1980 — was hydrogen, which requires large quantities of electricity to produce.

So in the year 2050 the sequence might be like this:

CANDU nuclear stations using reprocessed uranium generate electric power, which in turn produces hydrogen through electrolysis of water.

The hydrogen then fuels our automobiles and heats our homes, and amazingly its only residue is water vapor.

Is that the future Welch and the Energy Minister foresee?

POETS' CORNER

The sunshine on the beaches,
Makes the sand dunes very warm,
The seagulls always cry out,
When they sense an approaching storm.
The breakers compel a mist,
As they gush against the rocks,
While the Pelicans swallow seafood,
Thrown by fishermen on the docks.

"The Florida Sea"

By the twilight the sea is caressed,
By the enchanting sunset so grand,
As two lovers stroll together,
Along the coastline hand in hand.
It is very peaceful at night,
Along the abundant beach,
When the sky has the very complexion
Of a ripened fluorescent peach.
I can see it in my mind,

Like it was yesterday,
How I loved the Florida beaches,
Before I went away,
With its endless sounds of waves,
Rushing to the shore,
I know that the Florida sea,
Will be part of me forevermore.
— BY CHRISTINE GORIN,
Georgetown

THIRTY YEARS AGO — Two of Halton's prominent Junior Farmers have accompanied the Lincoln County bus tour that left St. Catharines early Wednesday morning. Fortunate travellers are Mac Sprowl of Acton, who is the vice-president of the Halton Junior Farmers, and John Wilmott of Milton. The two will be touring various points of interest in the states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New York.

Not many sports fans missed the spectacle provided by the donkey baseball teams in the park Monday night. Sponsored by the Georgetown Lions Club, the game started off in orderly fashion until the donkeys decided to take over. The end result was the Georgetown Lions over Glen Williams 5-3. Proceeds from the game go to the Lions welfare work projects.

The St. George's Women's Auxiliary gave a surprise party Thursday night to bid farewell to their treasurer, Mrs. Brant Howell, who has left the parish and moved to Toronto. After a potluck supper, the members wished Mrs. Howell well and presented her with a necktie.

John Clark has been appointed secretary to the Ontario Horticultural Association. Mr. Clark is well known to the association since he has been working with horticulturalists for the past 21 years. During that period he lectured for the association and served as superintendent of the Horticultural Building at the Canadian National Exhibition and as a member of the Royal Winter Fair Association.

TWENTY YEARS AGO — Public parking areas in downtown Georgetown moved one step closer Tuesday when council gave two readings to a bylaw which would allow the town to acquire parking land. Four specific areas could be acquired under the legislation, with costs assessed to commercial properties in the area. The town would be empowered to issue debentures to cover the costs with tax assessments for 15 years to repay them.

The cross-Canada chain of Zellers' is considering locating in Georgetown. According to a company spokesman, the firm would come only if it has the assurance it can operate six days and two nights a week. The industrial committee was asked to study the bylaw governing closing hours.

Halton and Peel regions may triple their populations by 1976, according to the First Economic Survey of Ontario which has been released by the Ontario Department of Economics. The study suggests that the population of Halton in 1976 will be 216,000, compared with a 1956 population of 87,000.

Georgetown Little Theatre is once again on the look-out for a suitable building where they can rehearse and store the flats and scenery since the barn they are operating in is scheduled to be demolished. They are currently rehearsing in a barn belonging to Harold Fobert.

The five-man coroner's jury deliberated for three quarters of an hour before delivering a verdict of accidental drowning in the death of 12-year-old Kenneth Ridler at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area. The jury absolved Terra Cotta lifeguards of all responsibility in the first drowning death in four years since the conservation authority took over the area.

TEN YEARS AGO — An application by George Thomas to build apartments on Mountainview Road at John Street was discussed at council Thursday night when the planning board asked the town whether or not it's satisfied with the proposal. The board contends the density would be too high with 74 units per acre. The new plan had been submitted reducing the density from a previous 83 units per acre.

After six months of negotiations, of which three months were spent on salary talks, a salary agreement was reached between the executive of the Halton secondary school teachers, and OSSTF negotiator and the Halton Board of Education. The offer was rejected by the secondary school teachers though by a narrow margin of 53 per cent.

An announcement by the Canadian Radio Television Commission confirmed the renewal of the CATV Broadcasting Undertaking license for Georgetown Cable TV Ltd. The license renewal has been granted for four years which is the maximum length of time granted by the CRTC. It indicates their satisfaction with the performance and service provided by the local cable television company.

The ever-growing demand for organic foods has brought a health store to town. The Sunshine Shop on Main Street opened its doors last Thursday. It offers a wide variety of food, all free from chemical additives and grown in soil with no chemical fertilizers or sprays. Some items include: hot and cold cereals, peanuts, honey and vitamin pills made from herbs.

Moving vans were busy as the Halton Board of Education moved its headquarters eight miles further on the Queen Elizabeth Way to Burlington. The centre of operation has been on the South Service Road since the Halton boards were amalgamated in 1980. Their new offices are located in the former Burlington Board of Education office on the Guelph Line. The board carried out \$237,000 in renovations and expansions to the Guelph Line offices before taking them over as headquarters.

ONE YEAR AGO — The local chapter of Save Our Streams began its attempt to restore Black Creek to its natural state with a major clean-up Saturday. The group which included volunteers from the Eighth Georgetown Scout Group and the Hungry Hollow Hobos carried out what was called an initial clean-up on the section of the stream running between the Eighth and Ninth Lines.

Hundreds of Halton citizens were in the right places at the right times to witness Terry Fox's awe-inspiring visit to town last week. During brief stop en route, Terry, his brother Darrell and friend Doug Alward in turn paid tribute to the people of Halton Hills who not only donated \$16,000 to the Canadian Cancer Society but also displayed more signs of greeting in front of their homes and businesses than the trio has seen anywhere else in Canada.

A revised health education program featuring sections on drug abuse will be tested in selected Halton elementary schools this fall. The program will be introduced to students in grades seven and eight. A survey conducted last year showed that of the Grades 9 to 13 students polled, 88 per cent had drunk alcohol and 46 per cent had smoked marijuana.

A biologist's concern over the current mosquito problem in Halton Hills and in particular Acton has convinced town council to further consider a control program. Dr. G.A. Surgeoner advised a year-round control program which would include the mapping of breeding areas, actual spraying and the monitoring of the effects in late summer.

A group of parents may boycott Acton's only separate school if the ministry of education fails to provide funds for a new building, a spokesman for the parents said. The idea of a boycott received unanimous support at a meeting attended by parents from 25 of the 123 families in the St. Joseph's Parents Association. Parents said they may pull their children out of the 100-year old school if no funding has been allocated to a new building by Sept. 2.