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Vials big help for emergency crews

People who need people - we're not singing a Strelasund tune; we're talking about citizens. In need of social services - have it rough these days.

Now that the economic crunch is on and international concerns are taking priority among our legislative bodies, money previously attributed to meeting social needs has been reduced. In Reagan's America, even good old social security is in trouble. Closer to home in Ontario, daycare services sponsored by the government will be drastically cut.

We've seen the crunch coming these last five years or more. Ottawa would pass some traditionally federal service onto the provinces; the provinces would turn responsibility for another service over to the municipalities. And the poor old town councillor gets stuck telling the voters they'll just have to take care of themselves.

That's the way it goes, and until there's a dramatic shift in government policy, we voters will have to do just that. Thanks in part to our civic service clubs, maybe we CAN look after ourselves.

This week, the Lions Club of Georgetown is making Vials of Life available to all local residents for their own medical protection. At no cost, you can pick up or have delivered one of the small vials in which all pertinent medical information about members of your family - their allergies, drug prescriptions, next of kin, family doctor, previous maladies - can be contained.

The vial then hooks onto the underside of the top shelf in your refrigerator, where it will be safe from fire and other harm. As indicated by an alerting sticker on the refrigerator door, the vial is there for any emergency workers who are called to your home in case of an accident. Should the occupants be unconscious or incoherent, the rescuers can quickly ascertain their medical profile.

We hope all homeowners and apartment renters take advantage of the Lions' community-mindedness, especially Georgetown's handicapped and senior citizens. Volunteers of the local ambulance brigade, and no doubt our firefighters and policemen, know the Vials of Life can help them do their jobs easier, and if they're doing their jobs easier, we'll be a lot safer.

Our grateful thanks to the Lions Club for inaugurating the Vial of Life program in Georgetown, one of the first communities in the area to try it. We hope Actonians will find some group to sponsor the program in their community.

Read about the Vial of Life campaign in today's Herald. It could save a life.

Some farewell

The change of command at the Halton board of education this past week - both in board chairmen and, by way of a farewell party, directors of education - predictably had plenty of opportunities for inspiring speeches and sincere thank-yous.

We hope it doesn't detract too much from the amiable mood of Sunday's reception for outgoing education director Emerson Lavender when we say the school board deserves anything but a thank-you for the scale of the going-away present purchased for him.

After six years of service to Halton taxpayers, Mr. Lavender deserves special recognition, the gratitude of thousands of students and parents and a farewell party and gift denoting the measure of respect he commanded among co-workers and acquaintances. These he has had, and we wish him well in his retirement.

But the school board administration Sunday continued what has become a tradition of sparing no expense to bid departing directors goodbye. Using taxpayers' money, it bought him an eleven-foot dinghy sailboat at a cost of about \$1,400.

The gift money came out of a \$3,500 budget allotment approved last year by the board in anticipation of their long-time education director's retirement.

Burlington trustee Rev. Garry Morton points out that in the past, the Halton region and Halton County boards of education have rewarded long-standing service by board chairmen or education directors with similarly expensive gifts, among them diamond cufflinks, trips to Europe and Hawaii and oil painting portraits.

This may have been going on since 1969, when the Halton board was formed, but we think it should stop now. At a time when the board annually demands far more than half our tax bills in the interest of preserving programs for a dwindling student population, such valuable gifts for public servants cannot be justified.

As we've said, we do not begrudge Mr. Lavender and his counterparts a worthwhile and meaningful token of the board's and the public's esteem (and quite frankly, the sight of such a friendly, helpful fellow enjoying his retirement float on Lake Ontario delights us), but a fiscal line must be drawn. We would suggest a \$100 allotment in cases of this nature; perhaps the gift could be augmented by an in-house collection among co-workers.

Such is the nature of public service.



Letter from the editor

Paul Dorsey

Bomb Scare

It was pure coincidence that CTV's "WS" program investigated Canadian civil defence measures Sunday night as Herald reporter Ani Federian was completing her own little study on those oddly incongruous air raid sirens still standing in Georgetown.

Our decision to check with authorities on the current status of the sirens - one at Howard Wrigglesworth School and another at George Kennedy - was sparked by Ani's weekly "Halton's History" reminiscences. It's part of her job to pour over tenth, twentieth and thirtieth anniversary issues of The Herald for a round-up of days gone by, and one week last month, her column recalled the erection of the two towers back in late 1961.

Quite a different world back then. The West's affluent ascent continued, the old Axis powers were again in their place, not all politicians were crooked, everybody finally had a television. There was only mighty Russia to fear, it seemed, and much of our Cold War concern had dissipated with the fall from power of U.S. Senator Joe McCarthy half a decade earlier. Hollywood's communists were banished or silenced and you could trust your next door neighbor again.

But that Krushchev fellow kept banging his shoe on the UN desks and the Russians were, after all, ahead of "us" in the Space Race. And, yes, Castro was within spitting distance of the Sunshine State.

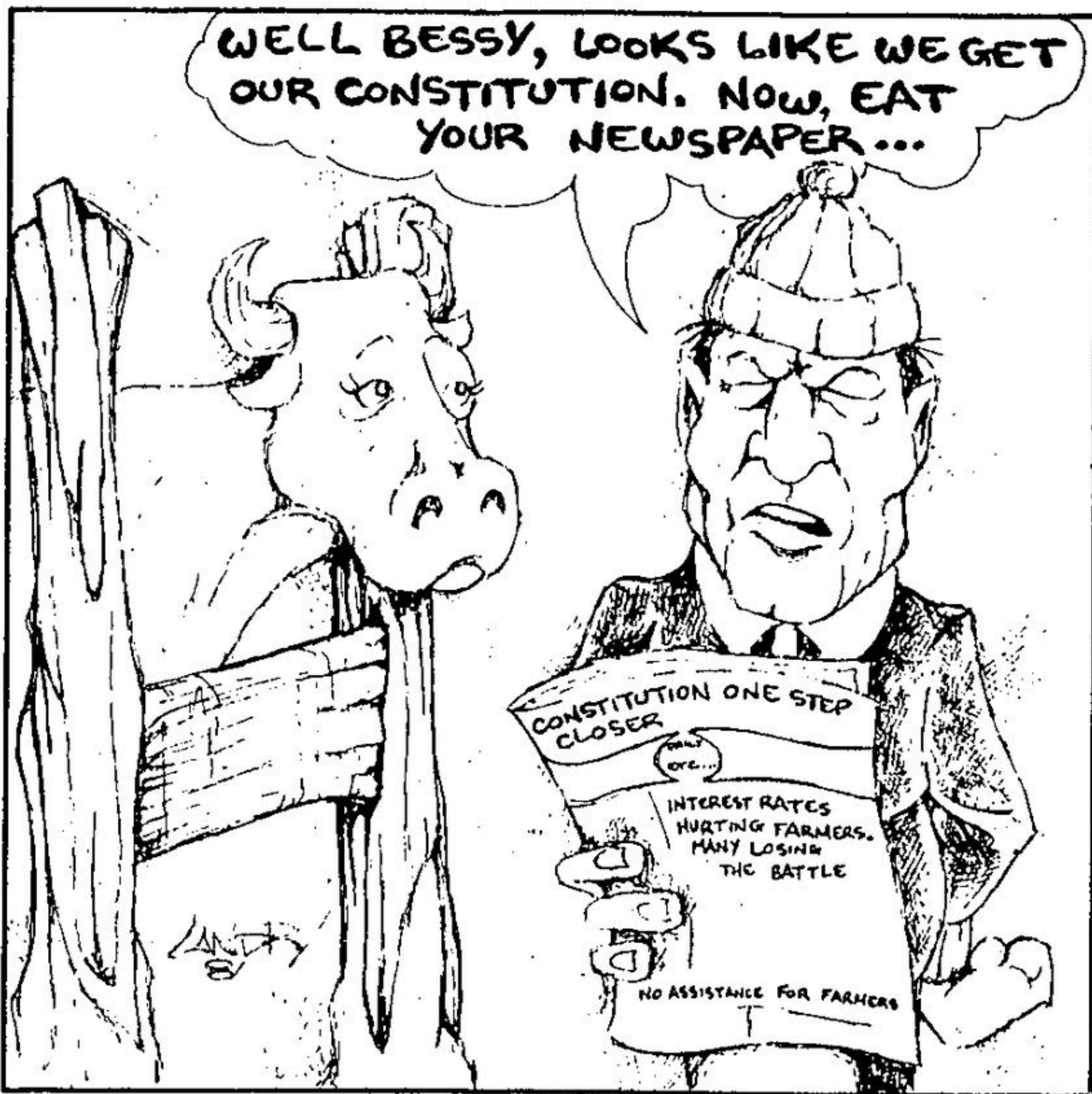
I was too young to be worried myself, of course, but I do remember my parents anxiously watching TV news reports of the Cuban missile crisis and in later years learned the truth about JFK and the Bay of Pigs. I knew enough in '61 to feel the continent-wide tension of the missile crisis and, to some extent, could understand the "urgent need" to build a backyard bomb shelter.

Twenty years later my feelings couldn't be any different: despite WS's bewildered wondering about "why aren't we protecting ourselves better?" and "why aren't we concerned about surviving a nuclear attack?", I belong to the "Call Me When It's Over" contingent.

Call me a Communist infiltrator, but given the power, I'd right the Canadian economy by writing off the national defence budget. The Armed Forces administrators would have to find new jobs (shouldn't be too hard in a revived economy), we'd have to sell all those ridiculous tanks and ships and, yes, the air raid sirens would come down too, to be re-posted inside the arenas signalling the end of the game.

Then let the superpowers play with their nuclear toys; lob a few this way if you want. I'm not suicidal, just fervently convinced there is a better time and a better place than this greed-ridden world. And, if a copy of this column survives me, let it be swept by the gentle fall breeze to Carp, Ontario, where Trudeau, the Governor-General and the Cabinet will be nestled in the Diefenbunker.

My best wishes to you, gentlemen. Mr. MacGuigan, the hawk who did nothing to stop the holocaust; Mr. Schreyer, the socialist turned monarchist puppet; and Mr. Trudeau himself, the demigodlike beast slouching toward Bethlehem to be born.



Politics behind the budget: Big Mac needn't worry much



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

For a variety of reasons, one being the fear of getting in over my depth, I don't want to delve too deeply into the economics of the Nov. 12 budget brought down by Finance Minister Allan MacEachen. But looking into the politics of that controversial budget is quite another matter.

And in this respect, it seems fair to observe that this just may be the most roundly criticized federal budget in modern memory. In fact, it might even cover ancient memory.

I know there are some who will argue that the 1963 budget of Walter Gordon would rival the MacEachen effort in the detestation charts, but even that disastrous document had its defenders. While it contributed greatly to the political demise of Gordon himself, and some of the budgetary measures had to be cancelled without his policies were not subjected to wholesale condemnation.

If only the present finance minister could be treated with such kindness. And here we're not simply talking about the predictable bleatings that come from opposition parties. No finance minister worries much about this criticism. If MacEachen's budget offered every Canadian a free gold bar, opposition MPs would complain about the lack of storage space.

ALL COMPLAINING

No, what we're talking about is the cascade of criticism that is coming in to Ottawa from virtually every segment of Canadian society - including various factions of the Liberal Party which the finance minister represents, right now, not even many Liberal MPs are showing much imagination in hiding their distaste for MacEachen's budgetary proposals. They do a great deal of head-shaking.

And two weeks after the budget was presented, some unnamed officials of the finance department - presumably they helped formulate the document - were quoted as saying it was obsolete. So far as I know, that was another first.

Even the prestigious Conference Board of Canada which traditionally wraps its criticisms in velvet, is more pointed than usual in commenting on the budget which, in MacEachen's words was designed to encourage "sustained growth in the future." What the board said is that "the outlook for the Canadian economy is by no means favorable" and it went on to add this viewpoint: "This slowing is further reinforced by the reduced incentives to invest contained in the November budget."

All this occurred before we received the depressing news that the Canadian economy had just hit its worst slump in 30 years.

FRIENDS TOO

Of all the criticisms heaped on the beleaguered finance minister since Nov. 12, perhaps the most telling came from that conference of 1,200 Ontario Federal Liberals who met in Toronto a few days ago. These are the minister's people, the ones who keep the Liberal Party in power. Their role is to defend Liberal policies not attack them. Yet, in their wisdom, they passed this resolution:

"Be it resolved that the government reconsider very strongly the present budget which, in place of encouraging risk-taking, and job creation, will in effect increase taxes, not help inflation and discourage job creation."

Even with Walter Gordon's budget, the Ontario Liberals didn't pass this type of resolution.

Politically it seems as though MacEachen will be facing a long and bleak winter. With all economic indicators edging toward the dreary, and budget-bashing fast becoming a national sport, the finance minister may as well brace himself for the inevitable onslaught.

If he weren't such a masterful parliamentarian I would worry about his future...

Would-be leaders face Grits but none deserves an Oscar



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

They came; they were heard, but it would be an exaggeration to say they conquered.

The four declared candidates for the Ontario Liberal Party leadership, plus one undeclared candidate lurking in the wings, faced delegates at a federal Liberal party convention here. It wasn't the most rousing bearpit session I've ever been to.

On the stage were three MPPs - David Peterson (London Centre), John Sweeney (Kitchener-Wilmot), and Jim Breithaupt (Kitchener) - as well as Richard Thomas, a candidate in Parry Sound last March 19 who failed to reach the legislature by just six votes.

On the sidelines somewhere was MPP Sheila Copps (Hamilton Centre), who has been pressed to run by several of the more liberal or left elements in the Liberal Party. She is expected to declare in December.

Leadership races are a peculiar institution in Ontario politics. The job involves long hours of heavy travel, half of it in the back of beyond, and usually in winter.

Because of the pace, performance by a candidate at one meeting is not necessarily representative of how he (or she) does at other meetings, or especially in the face-to-face encounters that are so important in the business of delegate-winning.

In short, one bearpit session does not a winner make.

That said, however, it is also relevant to see how they perform at "big functions", the annual party

meetings of one kind or another, climaxing with the leadership convention itself next February.

In that context the biggest disappointment here had to be Peterson, the acknowledged frontrunner this time, who came within 45 votes of beating Stuart Smith in the last Grit search for a new Hiltch Heppburn, the last man to lead the Liberals to victory (1937).

Peterson is considered a whizz kid organizer and fund-raiser, and that was evident at this convention.

NO GOOD

But he made a terrible speech to the delegates, without a trace of passion, tossing off in the most perfunctory way the lines that indicated his dedication to all the Liberal motherhood issues.

He was better in the question-and-answer period following, but even there appeared somehow off-stride.

Peterson's talents as an organizer came under indirect attack from Sweeney and Thomas, both of whom emphasized the party had to find its "soul" and know where it was going as its first priority.

(Peterson replied that "philosophy's great", but you also have to have money. The Ontario Liberals are still in debt from the election.)

BREITHAUPT TOPS

Sweeney, by waxing lyrical about progressive Liberalism, seemed to be trying to live down his image as the most right-wing member of the legislature on social issues, gained partly from his anti-abortion and anti-cult stands.

Thomas, whom I'd never heard before, sounded impressive as an actor should, but after the 800th cliché one realized there didn't seem to be much depth to this self-proclaimed "politician of survival", or environmentalist, candidate.

The man who gained most in stature with me was Jim Breithaupt.

Other than one unfortunate vulgarity that upset some of his audience, Breithaupt had the sound and look of an organized, professional politician who knew how and where to lead the party.

He stressed his experience of 14 years in the legislature.

Still, neither he nor any of the others won an Oscar here for the sparkle they displayed for their audience.

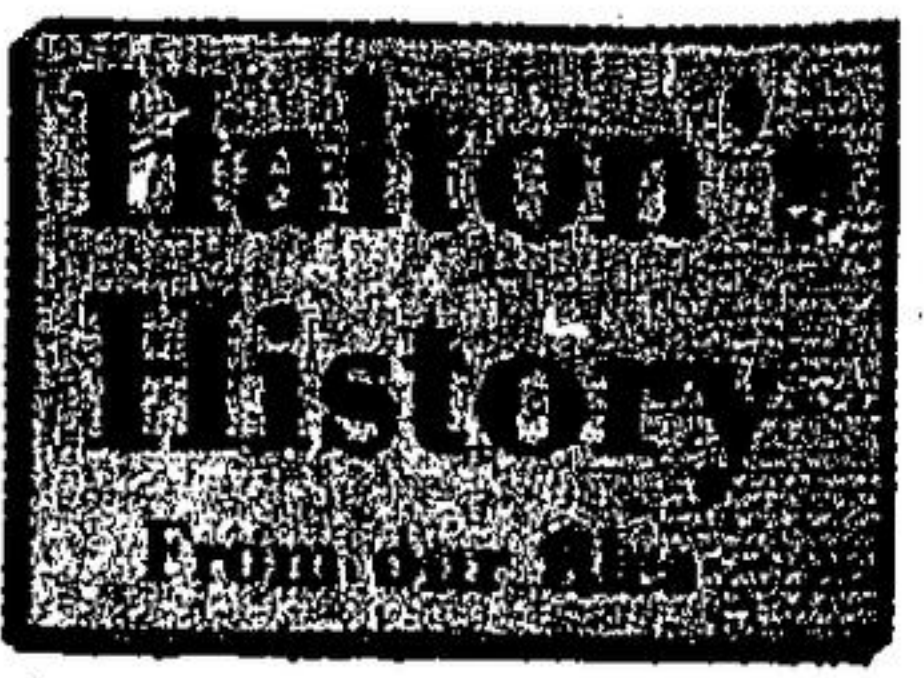
POET'S CORNER

Arrival of John A. McDonald in Georgetown

I'll tell a story, from an old man, as a boy it was told to me
I was on my way to July 1 celebration,
that's how it came to be
John A. got off the train at Georgetown,
as plain as he could see
And rode in the stage to Erin, which does make history.
He heard applause, the clap of horses feet
And the rattle of wheels roll down the street
The conference was in Erin, a special place to meet

Roads those days, were just like sand,
the bridges made of timber,
Those roads were hard to travel, only horse and ox could lumber
Houses and barns those days, were made of stone and wood
Most men were clearing land, it was the trend, they should.
Erin was a popular place, its pride today does sleep
Though this town it didn't grow, great pioneers won't weep.

—By Albert Brooks
RRS Acton



Halton's History

THIRTY YEARS AGO—The Daughters of St. George's Anglican Church had to cancel plans to put on their plays at Limehouse and Stewarttown when one of the members of the cast, Mrs. Fred Armstrong was quarantined at her home when one of her children developed scarlet fever. This is one of several cases in town and everyone is hoping it won't become an epidemic.

Well over 70 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots on Monday in a vote second only to the record established in 1949. In that year, 1,503 ratepayers turned out to exercise their political rights. This year, a total of 1,372 ballots were cast. Jack Armstrong won the mayor's seat over opponent Harold Cleave. Out of municipal politics for two years, the Mutual Life Insurance agent has served as a councillor, deputy reeve, and reeve. Mr. Armstrong will take over the new office Jan. 1. K.R. MacDonald won the position of deputy reeve. New faces on council will be Douglas Sargent, Stan Allen and James Goodlet.

Georgetown Raiders have engaged Jack Kentner as coach in the Intermediate B circuit with Bridgeport, Walkerton, Hespeler and Elmira. The Raiders have so far lost their first four games, and hope their luck will change with a new coach. It's not the first time Mr. Kentner has coached a Georgetown Intermediate team.

The Herald writes of the surprise among winners and losers alike when the Progressive Conservatives swept the recent provincial election with 79 members in the house out of a total of 90 in the new legislature. The CCF is no longer opposition party, with the Liberals taking over that title with seven seats, making the title rather a meaningless one.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Doug Sargent, a council member for ten years, is Georgetown's new mayor. Mr. Sargent defeated incumbent mayor Erv Hyde by 146 votes Monday in a two-man contest. He is contesting his fourth term as town reeve, was deputy reeve for two terms before and in 1969 was Halton warden. Deputy reeve John Elliott had an outstanding day at the polls when he topped Coun. Ian Cass by 636 votes to succeed Mr. Sargent as reeve. Coun. William F. Hunter won by 234 votes over Coun. Bob Burke for deputy reeve. Council voting was by wards for the first time in many years.

Tentative plans for a second new school in Esqueping Township school area were reviewed Nov. 22 when school board members met at the home of trustee R.J. Cunningham. Members had previously agreed to the erection of a new school at Limehouse. The second school may be built in the Hornby area after a suitable site is located. During the meeting several sites were discussed but no decision reached.

Final council okay for the Moore Park subdivision was given Tuesday with a third reading of a bylaw agreement between the town and Georgetown Developments Ltd. The agreement had been held up a week for minor changes in the wording of a clause. The path is now clear for construction on the Moore farm on the west highway limits of town.

There was a surprisingly small turnout of electors in Georgetown Monday. Usually when top offices are at stake, voters have an extra impetus to exercise their franchise. But this year, only 50.2 per cent of the 5,717 registered voters indicated their preference by marking ballots. There was a 54.5 per cent turnout last year which saw all offices contested. Both years are a far cry from the historic 1949 elections in which almost 80 per cent of voters, 1,500 people voted.

The first Open Ladies One Day bonspiel was held at the North Halton curling club Nov. 29. Fourteen teams competed in the 9 a.m. draw. Mrs. Mills of the Toronto Granite Club was the three-game winner with 30 points.

TEN YEARS AGO—The possibility of a children's day care centre in Georgetown is being investigated by town council. An ad in this issue of the Herald asks interested parents to list their needs in writing to the clerk-administrator. Council's action follows a decision by the Ontario government to assist in financing construction of centres where children of working parents would be looked after while their parents are at work. Mayor Smith explained that if a centre is built before May 1, there's a 100 per cent subsidy on labor costs. Completion after that provides an 80 per cent subsidy. Coun. Donna Denison suggested that an advertisement would ascertain whether there is sufficient need here for council to embark on the scheme.

Blue-green carpeting, picking up the predominant colors in the stained glass windows, has replaced the old worn linoleum in the library. The library board felt the cracks in the linoleum were a danger to the public. The work was done last Monday and Tuesday when the library was closed, with library staff removing all the books from the shelves and replacing them in the right order and section after the carpet was laid.

Georgetown Barbershoppers, their numbers depleted, are reforming to include Brampton and Brantford. At present they're conducting a membership drive to get up to their peak membership of 35. Started in 1963, the club has entertained locally and out-of-town over the years. Dave Morgan is continuing as director. Lately, through shift work and transfers, the numbers have dropped and decision to take in a larger area was made.

ONE YEAR AGO—The Olds Hide House in Acton officially opened its doors last Wednesday with a gala leather fashion show. Located in a turn-of-the-century hide warehouse, the store features a wide range of leather garments and accessories.

Halton Family Court Judge James Fuller surprised trustees and administrators alike prior to swearing in the Halton board of education Thursday by criticizing the direction of education in the last two decades. Judge Fuller, invited to make remarks prior to administering the oath of office was critical of the educational system's drift towards less structured school environments during the 1960s and 1970s, as well as of problems caused by a failure to devise an adequate early detection system for learning disabilities. All four systems and his wife have gone through the Halton system and his wife has been a teacher for 20 years. He pointed out that he sees the children who have had problems with the educational system in court. "Ask yourself why I see practically no kids from separate and private schools," he asked.

A former police sergeant has been hired as the town's municipal bylaw enforcement officer. John (Jack) Lusty was appointed to the position Dec. 1. A former Preston, Ontario, police sergeant, Mr. Lusty joins town staff from the city of Cambridge where he was bylaw enforcement officer for seven years.

Halton regional police association says the force is drastically understaffed in spite of an Ontario Police Commission report to the contrary last year. Association president Bruce Richards said Halton has one of the lowest per capita costs for policing in the province and one of the highest ratios of members of the public per police officer. The strength of the force now stands at 275. In 1978, the ratio was 666 people to one police officer.