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1981

Best of times, worst of times

Again this year, Herald staffers have put their memories together for a look back at 1981 and have chosen the "best" and the "worst" from 12 months of back issues.

NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR: Taking over the title held by Terry Fox in 1980 was a group of individuals who were already hard at work on their task when 1981 began.

LOCAL POLITICIAN OF THE YEAR: MPP Julian Reed edges out Mayor Pete Pomeroy for this honor the same way he edged Conservative candidate Fran Baines in the March provincial election.

NEWS EVENT OF THE YEAR: In 1980, once again, it was the Marathon of Hope. Last year, no one can deny that the aris complex held our attention and made good on its promise of a gala opening celebration and a "great leap forward" for the cultural scene in Halton Hills.

SERVICE CLUB OF THE YEAR: The Kinsmen Club of Georgetown is just too busy to go unnoticed in this category, which the Rotary Club dominated in 1980.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: With all due respect to the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce's nod to the Dominion Seed House in 1981, The Herald chooses the William McNally Construction Company, which started out the year by making a \$10,000 donation to the new arts complex fund and ended the year, fittingly enough, by winning William Neilson's contract to expand their local plant.

BEST NEWS OF THE YEAR: In the wake of Canada's economic nosedive, our businesses and industries seemed to have only bad news to report, with the singular exception of Neilson's plans to bring their full dairy operation here from Guelph.

WORST NEWS OF THE YEAR: The massive number of lay-offs, plus closure of Irwin-Dorsey Ltd. and continuing problems at Abitibi-Price, make 1981 one big, grim memory of hundreds of Halton Hills workers.

COMMUNITY PROJECT OF THE YEAR: By rights, we feel the arts complex also deserves this honor, since so many residents contributed generously, but we'd like to shine a little light, as it were, on the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce's and Ratepayers Association's "I Love Georgetown" campaign of last summer.

DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE YEAR: More trouble along the banks of the Credit River in Norval and Glen Williams, despite a major and expensive attempt to rectify the situation; we hope it won't happen again.

GRAND OPENING OF THE YEAR: We'll give you one guess and its initials are the HILLCC: If you missed its opening, visit the site of the old Georgetown library at Church and Market Streets.

ONGOING ISSUE OF THE YEAR: The question of Focal Properties and their claim over land south of Georgetown is still with us, and studies are underway to give a long-awaited answer, but in 1981, the Acton town hall seemed forever in the news.

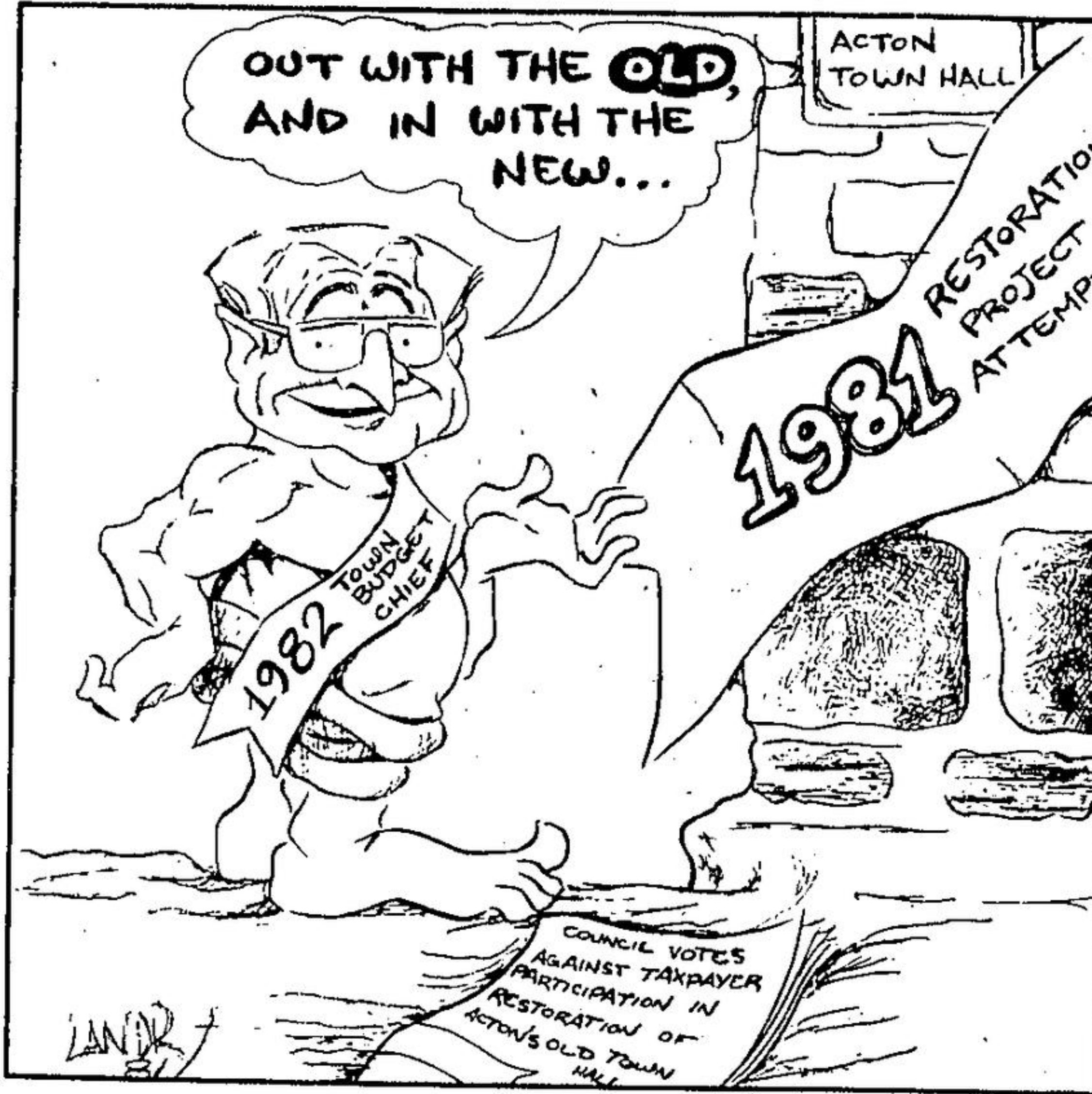
MISSING IN ACTION IN 1981: Halton director of education Em Lavender, now sailing off into retirement; Halton treasurer Don Farmer, whereabouts unknown; Halton clerk Garfield Brown, approaching retirement; Halton business development officer Bill Marshall, now doing the same for Ottawa-Carleton; former Georgetowners Jim and Rita Barrett (runner-up Newsmakers in 1980) now living in Grande Cache, Alberta; long-time realtor W.F. Hunter, now almost retired, a former reeve and council member; Halton Hills planning director Mario Venditti, now doing the same for Guelph; Halton Hills recreation coordinator Jennifer Linton; GDHS principal Michael Furlong, retired from the field after 13 years in Georgetown; Nordic Studio for the Performing Arts, closed due to financial problems while Nordic Productions continues presenting shows; the Junior Miss Halton Hills pageant, scheduled for repeat show at the Georgetown fall fair, cancelled due to shortage of volunteers to operate it.

HERALD FEATURE OF THE YEAR: Last summer, reporter Astra Pape started visiting the churches and congregations of Halton Hills for historical studies of the various faiths in town. Carried on since summer by reporter Ani Pederian, the series is now in its 19th episode and still going strong, constantly uncovering little-known facts about the different churches. Augmenting

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When the Hawk rolls into a "small town" like Halton Hills, you can bet there'll be excitement. Ronnie Hawkins' pre-concert publicity visit gave town recreation director Tom Shepard and coordinator Joy Gwilliam a chance to grab an autograph from the veteran rocker, who taught Bob Dylan's old back-up band (known as The Band) just about everything they know. Hawkins went on to dazzle two Elliott Theatre audiences with his good-natured country and rockabilly tunes late in October.



Caucus Tories make sure media stay on Joe's back



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

I would like, just for today, to return to that admonishment given to the media by Peter Blaikie, the highly-articulate president of the Progressive Conservative Party who said it was time for us to lay off the leadership question. Blaikie's suggestion came immediately after the party's executive committee had decided not to hold a general convention until January, 1983 - despite the fact that opponents of Party Leader Joe Clark wanted an earlier test of leadership.

Having already disregarded his wishes on one occasion, I hesitate to

raise the topic again, but I do feel rather strongly that Blaikie misdirected his admonishment.

MISDIRECTED From my vantage point, it's not the media that's to blame, it is a sizeable portion of the Tory caucus. And perhaps the interests of party unity would have been better served had the president appeared before the party's 102-member caucus with a plea for silence on the leadership issue. Despite Blaikie's pronouncement that the leadership question is no longer a subject for discussion, and despite Joe Clark's repeated reminders that this issue now is behind him, I can't recall a period when so many Tory MPs have been talking about nothing else.

To suggest that the Conservative caucus, in the wake of that executive meeting, now is reunited behind its leader is simply not true. In fact, that executive decision seems to have angered a good many MPs who feel their views were not adequately represented. In any event, there has been an eruption of anger in the corridors of Parliament within the last week. And it's not an isolated opinion on my part. Many other journalists are reporting an inordinate number of late-night telephone calls from dissident Tories.

Just the other day, a Canadian Press story referred to the fact that some Tory MPs were "seething" over the executive's decision not to hold a national convention next year to tackle

the leadership question. And a headline over a Southern News Service story said that "Guerrilla War could lead to Joe's downfall."

MORE DISUNITY Ironically, since Blaikie administered his admonishment, there seems to have been more discussion about Tory disunity than before the executive reached its near-unanimous decision. Some articles have said that three-quarters of the Tory caucus now is demanding an early leadership vote; other stories say only half the caucus feels this way. I haven't done any counting, but the figure is unquestionably high.

And while the executive has decided that the next national convention won't be held until January, 1983, several MPs have made a point of saying the executive can meet anytime to change this decision. I've heard this discussed a number of times by the members, none of whom, naturally, are willing to identify themselves. If these MPs seriously thought that Prime Minister Trudeau would stay around to lead the Liberals into the next election, Blaikie might easily succeed in quieting the Clark critics. But few really think Trudeau will remain much longer, and there are widespread Tory fears of the Grits getting the jump with a new leader who would call an immediate election. Any fresh face at this time would have an enormous advantage.

I don't know what will happen with the Conservatives over the next year. The only thing I do know is that the leadership issue is far from settled.

NDP's defence against writer shows lack of key concept



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Maybe it was because the words carried the sting of truth that retiring NDP Leader Michael Cassidy became so agitated when he read them. Cassidy, in an extraordinary speech in the Assembly here, claimed the "privileges" of all MPPs were breached by a Claire Hoy article in the Toronto Sun.

This "most vicious attack", as Cassidy called it, accused the New Democrats of hypocrisy in their support for Solidarity's struggle to stay alive in Poland.

"After all, the totalitarian regime of the Soviet Union is simply a logical extension of their own lust for a state-dominated cure-all here," Hoy wrote.

Not true, Cassidy protested, suggesting social democratic governments such as those in Germany and Saskatchewan were not totalitarian.

But listening to Cassidy's claim of how fervently the NDP was opposing the Soviet-ordered crackdown on Solidarity, I was struck by the absence of one word.

While he spoke of "human rights" and "political and economic democracy", not once did Cassidy's tongue manage to mouth the word "freedom". And that is what is missing from the social democratic vocabulary. Security is their religion, protecting everybody from birth (although not

in the womb) to death, while always assuming that private economic success can only be accomplished at someone else's expense.

In social democratic regimes economic freedom only exists to the degree an underground economy flourishes (and it invariably does). There the state can't get its sticky fingers on people's wealth to redistribute it.

I have yet to meet a New Democrat willing to put curbs on the power of the state to seize wealth, which may explain why the very basis of a free society—the right to own property—was excluded from our shiny new constitution at the insistence of Saskatchewan.

One fundamental difference does exist, mind you, between social democratic and Communist governments. Social democrats do not subscribe to the gulag, a difference not to be sneezed at.

Interestingly, what social democrats likely do prefer was signalled by Cassidy himself when he called for Hoy's "fellow journalists" to "censure" him for his remarks. Group think is the name of their game, which is rather fitting for a collectivist mentality.

And true, too, social democrats do allow elections, although when they lose power their successors are not allowed to do more than tinker with the nanny state they've created.

But put those points aside. The fundamental hypocrisy of the New Democratic Party when it comes to Soviet Communism is its refusal to fund and favor the weapons required to keep the barbarians beyond the Elbe.

Resolutions are nice, but tyrants respect only force. Against Hitler 35 years ago the NDP's predecessor, the old CCF, urged first, stop that man; and second, that Canada remain disarmed. The party has changed nothing but its name since.

Its foreign policy is one of leaving NATO and NORAD, of "neutrality" between societies with relative political freedom and those with none at all.

I accept the honesty of their support for Solidarity, and perhaps it is not hypocrisy, but just plain stupidity, that makes social democrats here (unlike some in Europe) think Russia is a pussy cat.

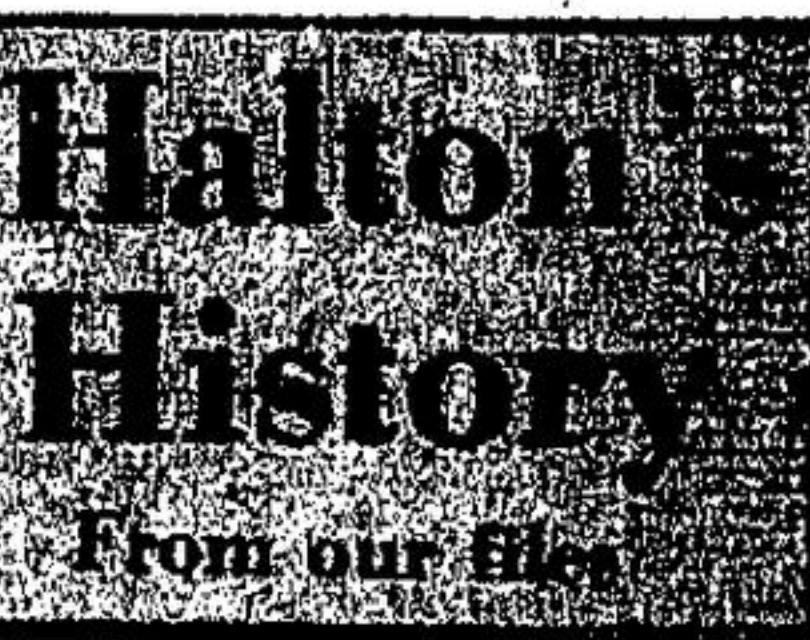
Tiger would be a more accurate description, and a world with tigers needs tiger guns.

POET'S CORNER

Government Leaders

Give to leaders the gift of brain. Let him feel the responsible strain. So that he within must care. He needs the gift of knowledge to bear. Not to mislead with bluff. Be a man and do your stuff. Thousands of people count on you. Live clean, show your true. Do not plan for your own,

You have power, let it be known. Many people won't wate too long. Please the public if you want to be strong. Today your powers they are weak. Business is a troublesome streak. They who hold the power of law, Stir up tempers for a civil war. Too many businesses government



THIRTY YEARS AGO—Wilfred Bird, a member of Esqueping council for five years was elected deputy reeve in Monday's election. Mr. Bird received 664 votes. His opponent H. Craig Reid, also a member of council for five years, received 428 votes. With four men seeking the three council seats electors chose George Currie who retired as reeve this year, William Schenk, a newcomer, and Walter Lisham, a council member. R.N. Brown, a former councillor was the unsuccessful candidate. The election, the first in five years for the township, drew slightly over 50 per cent of the voters.

The Smith and Stone "staff house" on Maple Avenue has been sold to Mr. C. Henderson, owner of a Toronto transport business, who expects to move out to Georgetown this spring. One of Georgetown's finest homes, it will be kept by the new owner as a year-round residence. It became vacant last fall when Brigadier and Mrs. F.C. Wallace moved to the city. Beautifully landscaped, it is one of Georgetown's best located homes commanding a view of the valley. The house was owned by Mrs. D.L. Herbert before it was sold to the Smith and Stone firm some eight years ago.

The CBC arranged the special broadcast on New Year's Eve from the Acton town hall which was carried across Canada by the radio network. The broadcast tried to show what New Year's is like in a typical Canadian small town and provided commentator Don Fairbairn, tenor George Murray, singer Bonnie Carlisle and Russ Gerow's Orchestra, while Ernie Packer, well-known district man called off for the "squares".

TWENTY YEARS AGO—The Burlington Gazette says Wilfred Bird, reeve of Esqueping Township, will likely be warden of Halton County in 1982. Although the choice of warden will not be made until mid-January by the special striking committee of county council, Mr. Bird is regarded as the favorite by sources close to county council.

R.J. Cunningham of RR2 Georgetown is the 1982 chairman of the Esqueping Township School Board. He was named to the post Tuesday night when the board held its inaugural meeting in Stewarttown Hall, succeeding Clarence Coles. Mrs. Robert Armstrong is vice-chairman and H.E. Baskin is the board secretary. The new member William Lawson was welcomed by the returned members.

Two-hundred and sixty-two homes in the \$13,000 to \$20,000 price range will be constructed on the Moore Park subdivision. It was disclosed yesterday. The first 87 will be started in the early spring. A news release said some neighborhood shopping planned for the property facing Highway 7 and an industrial area southeast of the CNR tracks and adjacent to the corporation line has been approved by council.

Christmas and New Year's greetings came to Georgetown from all parts of the globe, station master John Elliott revealed to the Herald. Over the holidays 4000 telegrams were received and 340 sent out. The majority went to Great Britain and Ireland.

TEN YEARS AGO—Halton board of education officials anticipate a slight decrease in total enrolment in the county's elementary schools in the next few years. With this year's enrolment officially set at 32,685, board officials are predicting a continuous decrease up to 1974.

Georgetown Market Centre has changed ownership. Tenants were notified this week that, as of Dec. 31, ownership is vested in four companies—237055 Investments Ltd., Net Jac Corporation Ltd., I.C.I. Realty Ltd. and 251222 Properties Ltd. The plaza, the first phase of which was built by Rex Heslop when he developed a large residential, industrial commercial complex in Georgetown's east end, was owned by S.B. McLaughlin Associates, which purchased the property a few years ago. This year a major addition was made which includes the new Zeller's store, Gordon's Shoes, Image Fashions, Licia Colifure, Bank of Montreal and the relocated Eric's Hardware.

Future residents of Chelton Street in Glen Williams, where houses are now being built are guaranteed a finished road in front of their homes. A \$2,050 bond was posted by the law firm of Helson Baines and Langdon for their client who was unnamed, guaranteeing the completion of the road. Council made the posting of a bond for the road a condition for the issuing of building permits.

Young Georgetown athletes who put the town on the map with outstanding achievements provincially and nationally were the guests of the town at an awards dinner at Georgetown Golf and Country Club Wednesday. The dinner and awards night will be perpetuated as long as Georgetown individuals and teams continue to gain sports honors. Four individual presentations were made. Wendy Bousskill was an Ontario finalist for Bantam bowling honors; George Watt was a Georgetown representative on the Ontario bantam soccer team which played in Montreal; Bob Morrow was selected to coach that team, and young David Paterson was runner-up in a provincial soccer skill contest.

ONE YEAR AGO—Despite a police warning that Georgetown's loitering problem may worsen as a result, council has approved extended operating hours for the "Games People Play" poolhall in the Halton Hills Shopping Plaza. A Halton regional police report warning that Milton streets have more loiterers since was not taken seriously with council agreeing to let Howard and Lucia Oram keep their Guelp Street games room open until midnight through the week and until 10 p.m. on Sundays. It was the Oram's third attempt to get council approval.

McNally Construction Ltd. of Georgetown may have lost the contract to build the town's library-cultural centre last June but that hasn't stopped it from making a generous \$10,000 donation to the project now underway on Market Street. Builders of the Silver Creek Towers apartments on Park Avenue, the firm said it was grateful to Mayor Pete Pomeroy and his administration for "bringing our apartment complex to completion after nine years of frustration. We've made money in the town and we wanted to put something back into it."

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce president Bill Crawford is optimistic that the urban boundary study in Georgetown will mean some controlled industrial and residential growth for the town in the coming years. The citizens of Georgetown are aware of the community's needs and they will support the plan, he said. Mr. Crawford emphasized that the town must have control over industrial and residential development to prevent an imbalance from causing problems.

—By Albert Brooks, RR2 Acton