

## It's Water Safety Week

# Play it safe

Drowning is the second leading cause of death among children 14 years of age and under. On average, more than 200 children drown each year in Canada.

That's why the Canadian Red Cross Society, with 37 years experience in the field of water safety and swimming, continues to support National Water Safety Week June 6 to 12.

It's our opportunity, at the beginning of the summer season, to draw your attention to the importance of water safety. It's our opportunity to urge you and your family to "Play it Safe" and prevent drownings by learning and observing a few, simple safety precautions.

— Closely supervise children in and around water at all times.

— Remember that floating objects (tubes, air mattresses, etc.) are toys. They are no substitutes for learning how to swim.

— If you own a pool, make

sure the gate is locked when the pool is not in use. Ensure that your fencing meets municipal and safety standards, and that your pool is properly equipped with safety equipment.

— Never swim alone, or in darkness. If at all possible, swim at supervised areas.

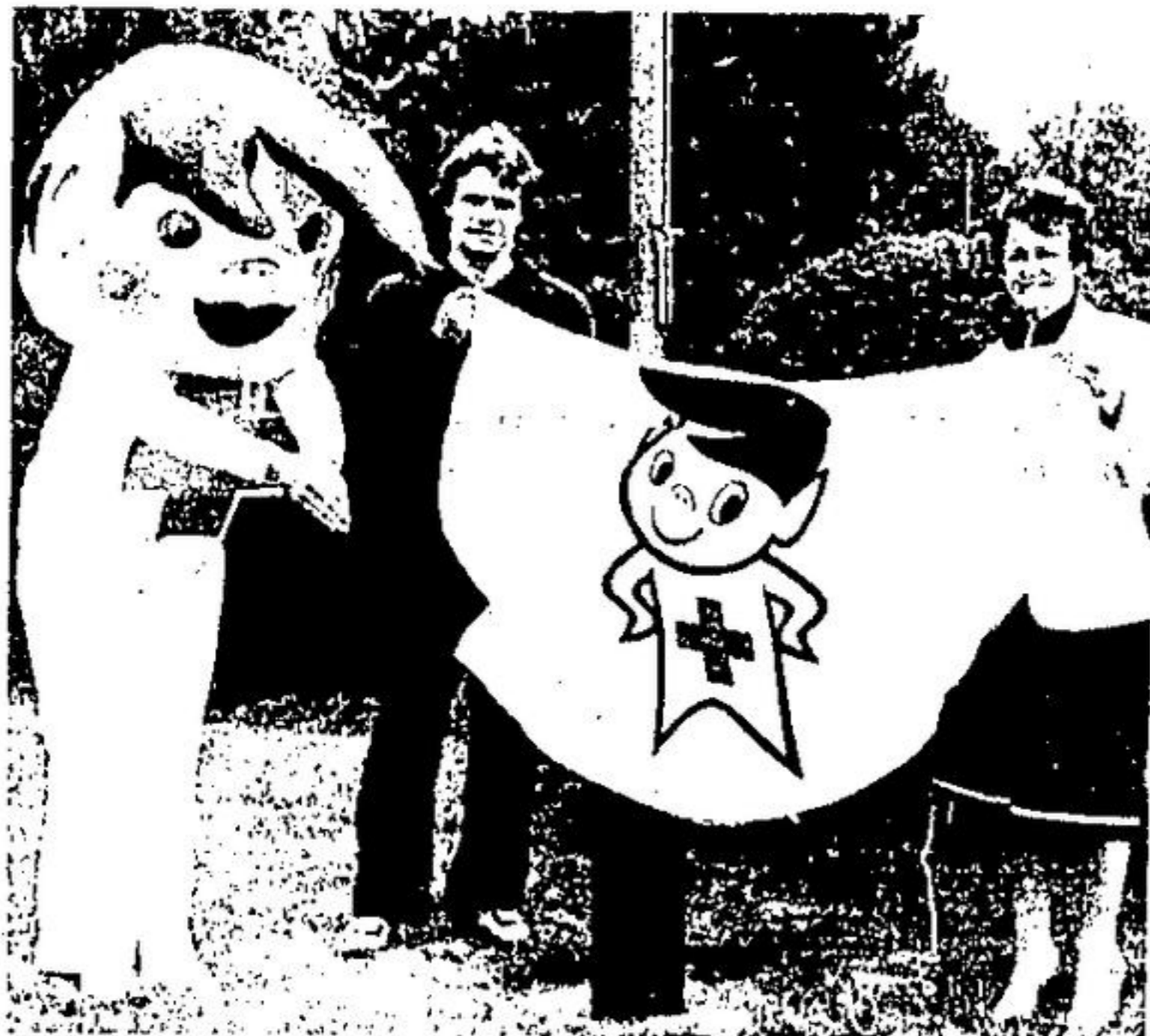
— Observe and obey warning notices.

— Look before you leap. Make sure the water is deep enough and hazard-free.

— When you're in a boat, wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD) at all times. Make sure there is one lifejacket for each person aboard.

— Learn swimming and safety skills, including rescue techniques and rescue breathing (mouth-to-mouth resuscitation).

This summer, help yourself and your family to play it safe. Call your Red Cross, 877-5233 for a free water safety guide or more information on the Red Cross water safety and swimming classes nearest you.



## FLAG RAISING REMINDER

The flag is up and waving this week from the Halton Hills headquarters. "Water Safety" (left) dove into Water Safety Week with Georgetown pool manager Peter Morris and Red Cross vice-president Janet Dean. The three want Halton Hills residents to exercise caution and common sense near water.

(Herald photo)



## Letter from the editor

Paul Dorsey

### Losses shared by everyone

Many readers may be wondering why The Herald has had little coverage or comment on the continuing decline of Georgetown's business community, or Acton's for that matter.

With few exceptions, we've seen store after store close down and industry after industry lay off employees right across town. Our commercial sector is obviously in big trouble, and the consensus suggests that as long as Canada's economy continues to stagnate, with the dollar's value sinking slowly into the horizon, the "going out of business" trend will continue locally.

It's been hard on all of us. Even people who didn't shop regularly at McNamara's Jewellers downtown or Laughton's Stationery in the Guelphview Plaza, as just two examples, can still appreciate the loss. With such businesses as Silver's clothing store also gone, Georgetown has lost not only current revenue and an invigorating economic factor, but a portion of its past as well.

The effects don't stop there. At a newspaper used to a busy, year-round schedule of events and activities, we've noticed big gaps where previously there was none. There's no evidence to prove it, but it does seem that the economic doldrums stifling our business community — and thus our own bank accounts — are mirroring community interest and involvement as well.

The Georgetown fall fair's lack of volunteer help has been well-documented, posing a problem severe enough to have jeopardized the event after 135 years of relative popularity. Back to Acton Days seems likely to vanish this year for similar reasons, and the Georgetown

Jaycees decided not to attempt Winterfest in 1982.

There are, however, plenty of signs of hope.

Downtown Georgetown merchants, perhaps the hardest hit among our financially-troubled businessmen, have mustered enough interest among themselves to mount another Pioneer Days celebration (June 19) that promises to equal if not surpass last year's bash, and Summerfest will be there alongside it, almost as if to cast a vote of confidence in the beleaguered downtown core.

Individually, there are many local businesses thriving on the fiscally depleted vine. At the suggestion of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, The Herald hopes to take in-depth looks at some of these stores and industries during the summer. We'll find out why they're doing so well and how it's helping the community.

And in the meantime, Herald senior reporter Chris Aagaard has prepared a short series of articles on this very problem. The series starts next Wednesday with an overview of the economic climate and its local effects, following up with visions of the future shared by such directly-involved people as Mayor Pether, regional business development officer Matthew Fischer and Georgetown chamber president Doug Penrice.

Be forewarned: the series is not a predictable rehashing of Canada's economic woes mixed with cloudy predictions for a grim future. The perspectives we've uncovered will surprise you, and next time you see a "For Sale" or "Going out of business" sign, you may have a different view of it.



## Will our benevolent society forgive Kaplan's bloopers?



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

In this business, timing is paramount. What I mean is, no columnist should ever write about a situation that could change significantly before the column appears in print. The popular phrase to cover such an eventuality is "being overtaken by events" and it's generally considered to be an embarrassment.

What I am getting at, in the normal roundabout way, is a column I wrote a few days ago about our accident-prone Solicitor-General, Robert Kaplan, in which I attempted to catalogue all his indiscretions. At the time, I assumed the list would stand up for a few days — there was a lull in the action, so to speak — and it seemed like a safe time to tackle the topic.

Little did I know that just a scant 24 hours later, Kaplan would be at it again — on his feet in the Commons trying to defend yet another indiscreti-

on. Had I known that the Solicitor-General had written letters of reference for a couple of armed robbers I naturally would have waited to include these activities.

So now I guess there is nothing left for me to do but attempt to overtake the events that overtook me. There's probably a phrase for this, too, but I don't know what it is.

**MANY EXAMPLES**

In briefly summarizing earlier activities, I had referred to a letter Kaplan wrote to the Toronto Real Estate Board in which he said the Nov. 12 budget was a political "disaster". And for that, Prime Minister Trudeau called him "unforgivably naive". And, of course, there was that \$90,000 payoff to murderer Clifford Olson by the RCMP which the Solicitor-General knew nothing about until 16 days later. "I think I should have been informed," he said with classic understatement.

Also there was that tongue-in-cheek remark he made to Tory MP Pat Carney about prostitutes being hungry after work. Then his name turned up on a caucus committee report criticizing government economic policy.

It was at this point I decided there would, through the law of political averages, be a lull in the action. Surely nothing else could go wrong for the troubled Solicitor-General in the following few days.

Wrong again. A day later the letters of references came to light. And despite the stout defence offered by Prime Minister Trudeau it's my view

that in Kaplan's catalogue of questionable judgments these letters are the most notable.

### WRONG LETTERHEAD

It's difficult to quibble with the prime minister when he pays tribute to Kaplan's compassion as a human being — the point being that he was acting in this capacity when he wrote letters of reference on behalf of two former campaign workers who had been convicted of armed robbery. It's also difficult to quibble with the Solicitor-General's view that, as their MP, he was entitled to come forward and offer character witnesses. "I am the only MP they've got," he explains.

It's also true that Kaplan didn't violate the prime minister's behavioral guidelines in which he said that ministers were not to communicate with judges. What Kaplan did was communicate with defence lawyers and his submissions were for use in open court.

But the point is that Robert Kaplan is no ordinary MP. He is also the country's Solicitor-General, a very influential figure in our judicial system, whose responsibilities cover among other things, the National Parole Board. And the references were not on the letterhead of the MP from York Centre, they were on the letterhead of the Solicitor-General of Canada.

The presiding judge said it was "in poor taste". And since we're in a benevolent mood today, we will let it go at that.

## Halton's History from our files

**THIRTY YEARS AGO**—Sidewalk repairs being made by town staff will be welcomed by pedestrians. A dangerous stretch on Queen Street in front of the homes of Jack Kerr and Mrs. A.S. Wilson has been completely replaced and work will also be done on the Mill Street hill above the post office and on John Street by the bridge over the creek...The official period of mourning for King George VI has ended. The coronation of Queen Elizabeth will take place next year.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**—A new \$150,000 plant will be operating in Georgetown in three months. The Herald learned this week from the Longueuil Meat Co. of Riviere Des Prairies, Quebec, a suburb of Montreal. In a telephone conversation, vice-president David Granofsky told a Herald reporter that his company is calling tenders for a factory here which will employ 20 or more people. The firm has been in business for 40 years in the Montreal area, manufacturing a livestock meal from bones and tallow. The Georgetown plant will perform a radically new operation, producing a high protein animal feed from poultry feathers and it will be the first company of its kind in Canada.

**TEN YEARS AGO**—An extension to the sewage treatment plant, estimated at over one million dollars was approved by council Monday night, over the objections of Reeve Ric Morrow and Couns. Phil Siddall and Donna Denison. The Ontario Water Resources Commission (OWRC) was requested to proceed immediately with the extension which would up the capacity to three million gallons a day and add effluent polishing facilities. The extension has been approved by the OWRC. Couns. Denison said no one had mentioned the price tag which she said was over a million dollars. Couns. Siddall said he could not vote for such an expenditure which requires a population of 30,000 to pay off the project. He said recommendations by the planning board to better the situation hadn't been adopted.

**ONE YEAR AGO**—Guelph mayor Norm Jary confirmed last Wednesday that strenuous efforts were made to try and persuade William Neilson Ltd. not to close its dairy operations in that city and move to Georgetown. Last Tuesday announced a new \$13 million plant in Georgetown at the site of their existing warehouse and distribution centre on Highway 7. The new plant will be equipped with high capacity manufacturing equipment designed to produce more than 150 million litres of milk a week. News of the move came as a surprise to the city of Guelph, he said.

### Letter to the Editor

## Students seek help with exchange program

To the editor of The Herald:

The Halton Board of Education and Sevee are sponsoring a Bilingual exchange between students of Halton County and Sherbrooke, Quebec, during the month of July.

Although funding is assisted by the provincial and federal governments and private companies, additional funds are necessary to meet expenses.

To help cover expenses, students participating in the exchange are selling garbage bags and red roses.

Red roses will be sold by participants this Saturday (June 12) at various centres and door-to-door.

Please encourage readers to buy a rose when students knock on their door or pass them on the street.

Yours truly,  
Jan Morrow,  
Joycelyn Crescent,  
Georgetown



### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

The wheels of justice often turn so slowly as to seem bogged down in molasses, at no time more than in the high-profile matter of suspected murders at the Hospital for Sick Children.

That is why it is so frustrating to have to agree with Attorney-General Roy McMurtry when he rejects for the time being a public inquiry into the events surrounding 43 baby deaths at the hospital.

One would like to yell "get a move on" and agree with opposition Liberal and NDP demands for an immediate public inquiry into all the circumstances connected with the deaths.

But as McMurtry said, that would be irresponsible.

The first priority has to be, and must be, allowing the police investigation to proceed in the hope enough evidence can be produced to build a better case than was developed against Nurse Susan Nelles.

As almost everyone must know, the evidence against Nelles in four of the infant deaths was so flimsy that the case was thrown out at the preliminary hearing and never made it to trial.

**BLANK CHEQUE**

It is vital to know how many of the 43 deaths really were murders, and whether enough evidence exists to actually prosecute a person or persons for the killings, all of which apparently took place in the cardiac ward at Sick Kids between July, 1980 and March, 1981.

But with that understood, neither McMurtry nor the police should be given a blank cheque in the matter. The police already appear to have bungled in regard to Nelles.

While homicide investigations should not be rushed (and were?), adequate resources must be applied—with outside help if necessary—to achieve some definite results pro or con at an early date.

It is too important a matter to let dawdle.

For the same reason the investigation announced by Health Minister Larry Grossman into "all practices and procedures within the hospital" related to patient care must proceed with urgency.

It is necessary that people be convinced systems exist to prevent any recurrence of such a tragedy—and it is a pertinent question to ask why such a ministry investigation was not under way earlier.

**OTHER DEATHS**

Moreover, other recent incidents at the hospital indicates considerable sloppiness in the general operation of the world-famous institution.

Grossman spoke of reassuring the public about the Sick Kids with the

health ministry investigation, but that will only happen if the report explains some of the puzzling information about the infant deaths.

The reaction of the pathology department to the discovery of digoxin in one baby's body and the department's relationship with the coroner's office are but two obvious examples.

While it is wise for now to give McMurtry and Grossman the benefit of any doubt in the expectation the police and ministry investigations will answer all questions about the deaths—it must be relatively soon.

It can't be another Kim Anne Popen inquiry—still dragging on after three years.

**PUBLIC ROUTE**

Should the police prove unable to locate a suspect or suspects who can be brought to trial for the killings, or should the ministry investigation leave questions unanswered, the only recourse then is to hold a public inquiry of some sort.

The limits of human ability must be tapped to unmask the mystery of these deaths. A failure to do so would leave a stain on the Sick Kids which could never be erased—and that would be the greatest tragedy of all.

### POET'S CORNER

## Special Day

It hurts,  
to roll your name around,  
in my mind.  
Memories sometime seem more  
real than the chasm  
separating us.  
More the pity:  
you never really knew,  
how furtive glances  
warned my being

like sunlight,  
in a winter porch.  
We'll never say goodbye;  
we never made it to hello.  
I'll just put you away  
like a photo in an album,  
and take you out on  
special days.  
—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,  
R1L2 Beeton

## IN FRIDAY'S WEEKEND EXTRA:

- **MP John McDermid examines problems with Operation Dismantle**
- **Schools and Scouts**
- **Teacher lay-offs**
- **Community news**