

# Another sign of the times

The likelihood that Halton regional police will soon be using a point system to assign priorities to incoming complaints is yet another example of how our society's rank and file workers are forced to "make do" in the absence of adequate government assistance.

Our provincial and municipal governments must be fully aware, however, that for every dollar refused our health and social service agencies, another dollar should by rights be spent on policing. Sociologists agree that in hard economic times, a decline in government assistance to the public usually foretells a rise in crime.

Who can blame Halton police Chief James Harding for openly endorsing a priority point system when his force is understaffed? How else are they going to effectively combat crime? Using whatever is within our means to do the best we can at our jobs (and at home) is more and more becoming a way of life in North America.

Alas, all too many people, mostly the young, take this rationale one step too far. The government's failure - more correctly its continuing refusal - to adequately meet the needs of the public is inter-

preted by some as justification to steal, and in extreme cases to harm others.

But for our durable moral sense, we might be hard-pressed to argue with that logic.

As in most problems facing society today, we believe, the final answer lies not in fighting crime, but in preventing it.

Determining the cause of criminal tendencies at the source need not be a complicated, tedious task for psychoanalysts. A little sound grounding for young adults in the modern science of parenting - that is, raising a kid to cope with the new world's challenges and anxieties - should ultimately boil down to a concise and effective high school course.

Teaching youngsters the true nature of parenthood at a young critical age, even before they're really responsible enough for the job, might catch them at a time when they can still use the perspective of childhood. That delicate balance could be all that's necessary.

Instead, to the disservice of us all, the government not only fails in its mandate to maintain economic stability, it fails to provide the support programs we'll all need as we continue struggling in our personal lives.

# Questionable town decision

While we appreciate town council taking a big step forward this week toward its long-time goal of consolidating its disparate municipal offices, the timing of the latest move and the financial concern voiced by Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson leave us a little worried.

Here are some of the questions that come to mind regarding council's decision Monday to put a \$10,000 deposit on 30 acres of Maple Avenue land opposite the North Halton Golf and Country Club:

Why Georgetown? Why a new site less than a kilometre from the old site? What happens to the old site, since it appears the works yard on Trafalgar won't be moving? How much is the town prepared to spend on the site? On construction of the centre? Could that money better be used to assist citizens struggling to make ends meet? What are the real benefits of consolidating administrative, planning and finance offices? Why were council members stressing the close proximity of the hospital as a sort of added bonus? Why should an outgoing council make such a far-reaching decision?

Given the right answers to these and other questions, we wouldn't begrudge council and its employees a brand new complex. Clearly, though, the answers depend on future considerations still a long way off. We just hope the new council has some answers ready to justify the action of its predecessor.

## Ex-student's tribute to late principal

# 'Left positive mark on a generation'

To the editor of The Herald:  
I was saddened to see the recent notice in your paper of the death of John L. Lambert. John was the principal of Georgetown High School during my attendance there in the '50s.

There are many in the Georgetown area who were taught by J.L. and will remember him with some fondness and not a little trepidation.

J.L. (he was Mr. Lambert to his face), was an imposing figure to those of us finding our way through adolescence. A large man, heavy glasses, short mustache, somewhat ruffled suit; he commanded and got the respect of his students. During Latin and

English taught to the upper levels, we had an intimate contact with the man and his subjects.

Those were years of small classes in the old school. There was character to that school but I expect John appreciated getting a proper office when the new extension was built. I, and others, made our first acquaintance with him in his small office, not much bigger than a cupboard, near the back door of that old building.

John had a large interest in football. It was his great pleasure when our team, which he managed, won as we did in 1965, leading our local league. But we must have sorely tried his patience on those many occasions when our shortage of

ability showed through. In my last year (1956), we had great trouble moving the ball forward, a difficulty not imposed on our opposition. I haven't heard, but I hope John had better teams afterward.

John encouraged us to go on with our education after high school, although for reasons I never knew, he would have had us all go to Ryerson if he could. John was one of those very special people, a teacher, a man who left an indelible and positive mark on a generation of people in our community. We were privileged to have him.

Laurie Reed  
Gaborone, Botswana,  
(Normally of RR3  
Milton, Ont.)



# Party leaders on the tube: will they speak to us again?



Ottawa Report  
By Stewart MacLeod

From the Ottawa Bureau of The Herald  
Now that we have had time to digest Prime Minister Trudeau's three-part televised sermon on the economy, and have had an opportunity to listen to the rebuttals by Tory Leader Joe Clark and New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent, perhaps we should all join hands and give thanks that this sorry spectacle is nearly over.

The word nearly is used because it's not entirely over. Clark, as a result of curious calculations by the CBC, still has time in the "bank" to use against Trudeau's original statement. Broadbent used his remaining seven minutes on Wednesday evening. But the Tory Leader at last reports, was still pondering what Trudeau told the Liberal convention in Ottawa before making up his mind.

You see, the whole messy business is nothing more than a massive display of free-time political broadcasting - and after listening to more than 75 per cent of it I think it's safe to assume that we could have survived nicely without any of the leaders disrupting our normal viewing patterns.

It's to be sincerely hoped that we don't get any repeat performances. It was botched from the beginning, when Prime Minister Trudeau decided he needed three telecasts, on successive days, to get the message across to Canadians that they must work together, and trust each other, if the country is to get back on the path to prosperity. Why this message required three days of concentration remains somewhat of a mystery - but the mere request turned an otherwise routine telecast into a political monster.

The opposition parties screamed murder, the CBC has plunged into the midst of the fray, and soon we had the corporation's president, Pierre Juncau, holding a news conference to defend himself while the Tories and New Democrats were demanding his resignation. The end result was that the opposition parties were given 45 minutes between them to reply to the prime minister's three, 15-minute telecasts, and furthermore, they could "bank" their time for a couple of weeks. In other words, they didn't have to reply to Trudeau's actual telecasts - they could wait until something better came along before taking advantage of

prime-time television.

FEW WINNERS  
With the qualified exception of Broadbent, who responded to Trudeau rather promptly and positively, it's difficult to find any personalities to praise in this rather tragic comedy.

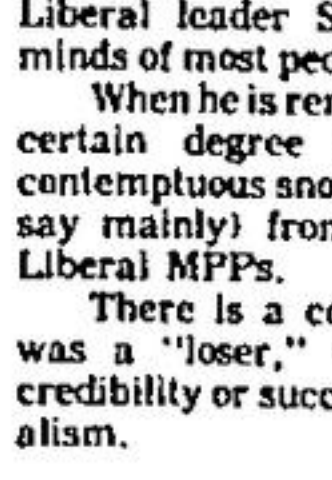
Trudeau should not have asked for three separate telecasts - his material simply wasn't worth it. One half-hour program, perhaps even 15 minutes, would have been just fine. But having requested this time, the prime minister should still have been allowed to speak to the country without the CBC offering equal time to the opposition leaders.

The prime minister of Canada deserves some rights beyond those accorded to leaders of political parties - regardless of what party is in power. After all, we are not in a campaign debate. And we don't need any help from opposition leaders in deciding whether the prime minister is abusing these rights with his serialized sermons.

Furthermore, if we did need such help, it should have come immediately - not several weeks down the road in the form of partisan speeches that had virtually no relationship to the original telecast.

What's so worrisome about this continuing electronic circus is that it may, by example, discourage future prime ministers from talking to the people of Canada. And this would be a pity.

# Don't call Stu Smith a loser - he made Grits the alternative



Queen's Park  
By Derek Nelson

From the Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald  
Old politicians don't fade away. They disappear instantly. At least that appears to have been the fate of former Liberal leader Stuart Smith in the minds of most people at Queen's Park.

When he is remembered it is with a certain degree of hostility, or a contemptuous snort, sometimes (some say mainly) from his former fellow Liberal MPPs.

There is a consensus that Smith was a "loser," that he brought no credibility or success to Ontario Liberalism.

It is a consensus I disagree with. True, in politics the name of the game is forming the government, and Smith never succeeded in his self-proclaimed goal of displacing Bill Davis as premier of Ontario. In the classic sense Smith was no winner.

But there is a secondary goal in politics, one the NDP (for example) have pursued over the years with some success in Ontario - and much success in western Canada.

GOOD GOAL  
It is to become in the public mind THE alternative to the government. It is to become the pick of those at the ballot box who want change, or eventually therefore you must win.

In that sense I suspect Smith was a first-class winner. He has laid the groundwork for the Liberals under new Leader David Peterson to possibly vault to top spot.

Obviously, such a victory is less than assured. Peterson could throw it away, and Davis or a new Conservative leader like Dennis Timbrell might pull the rug out from under the Grits one way or another.

Moreover, the NDP might come alive under their new leader Bob Rae and perform the usual split on the anti-Tory vote, although I doubt it. Rae is too much the aloof intellectual to appeal widely in this province.

In any case the Grits will have their chance three years from now, if, as seems accurate to me today, people deep down inside are tired of the Tories. Not hostile - just tired.

OWESMITH  
And if the Liberals do scratch out a minority they will owe a debt to Stuart Smith.

Critics of the man refer to his arrogance, his inability to understand Ontario or the common man, and his failure with the party in terms of organizational and financial success. Widely considered the cold intellectual without humanity, he sounded shrill and strident when on public view. Shortly after becoming party leader he was thrown unprepared into the maelstrom of the 1977 election, at a time when his most distinguished attribute had been to acquire the dubious title of Dr. Flip-flop.

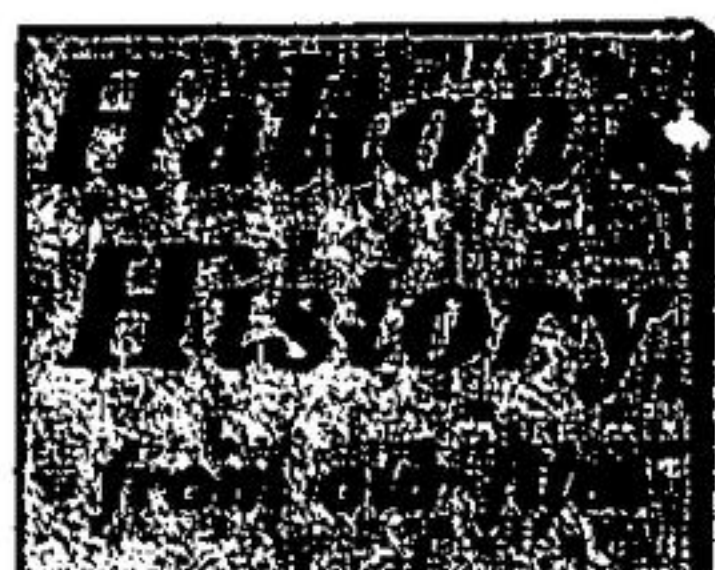
In 1981 his campaign went wrong from the beginning, and scored a two compared to the Bo Derek "10" effort the Tories orchestrated under the masterful leadership of a popular Bill Davis.

GOOD SUPPORT  
So with all those strikes against him how did Smith hold his own through two elections? In terms of popular vote and seat count he did almost as well as Bob Nixon did in 1975 - and Nixon had a virulent anti-Davis tide running for him that year.

But it is the contrast with the NDP showing that is most glaring. Under the charismatic Stephen Lewis in 1977 the NDP lost five seats. Under the dour Michael Cassidy in 1981 the party lost 12 more.

Smith lost seven - but none to the NDP - while picking up two from the Conservatives and four from the NDP. And that is the point. For those who sought an alternative the Liberals became increasingly it.

That, against all the odds, was the Smith legacy.



THIRTY YEARS AGO—The inter-county livestock judging competition held last Thursday, prior to the opening of the Royal Winter Fair, brought together 32 teams of three young men, each from as many countries. Their task consisted of judging ten different rings of as many different breeds of livestock, and giving oral reasons for their respective placings on each of the ten classes. The Jeffrey Bull Memorial Trophy, emblematic of the championship, went to the Durham County team coached by veteran agricultural representative Ed Summers. The Halton team, composed of Alex Buchanan of Moffat, John W. Pickett of Hornby and Earl Wilson of Norval placed fifth. They were coached by Art Bennett.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown council will consider buying a John Street property on which a landowner is hamstrung by provisions of the zoning bylaw which precludes any building permit being issued. Owner George Turnbull appeared at Monday's council meeting seeking a solution. Mr. Turnbull, whose property is at the John and McNabb Streets corner, explained that he originally purchased the land in 1955 not for speculation, but for the building of a business premise for his son. Later, another building was acquired. Meanwhile, the town zoning bylaw was passed and zoned the land for conservation. Mr. Turnbull, who is not a town resident, said he had received no notification of the change. Only recently when there was a potential buyer, did he discover the restrictive clauses, he said.

TEN YEARS AGO—Georgetown sidewalks will be kept free of snow this winter. Council voted Monday to purchase three snow clearing machines. The \$13,300 price from Farmers Supply, Brampton, was the lowest tender received. Coun. Ernest Sykes credited town engineer Eric Willis for the project which Mayor Smith termed a "tremendous step, the first area community to inaugurate this". The mayor added that the machines would be useful in the park in summertime. They can be used to haul gang grass cutters, or to distribute material to required places. Deputy reeve Speight said he hopes the town will also consider clearing snow, accumulated by road ploughing, from senior citizens driveways when required.

ONE YEAR AGO—A seasonal drop in the market for fine papers is being blamed for lay-offs at Abitibi Paper Company's Georgetown mill this week. About 25 of its 135 hourly paid employees were informed that their jobs were being indefinitely suspended a week and a half ago. Another 85 employees were laid off Friday. Plant manager George Lockwood told The Herald that the mill's management was unsure how long the lay-offs will last and denied they have anything to do with the company's future in Georgetown.

## POET'S CORNER

### On Going Home

Tomorrow I am going home  
Mixed feelings come at that  
To leave this Place of Laib and Joy  
Will make me feel so flat.

But sleep and food, and home routine  
Sounds good to me at heart...  
I'm tired, I've lived and loved enough,  
I'm ready to depart...

God go with you all,  
-by Kevin McLauchlan,  
Georgetown

### Violent Youth

There was love once  
But now it's gone  
Pleasant memories linger on

Like dreams of water cool and sweet  
Stranded in the desert heat

Love's run by  
The river's dry

"All you need is love" was said  
Words raining down on shattered heads

Songs of peace flood the past  
But hate ruled on, the die was cast

Love's run by  
The river's dry  
Now icy hearts and sweaty beds  
The new ideals of youth melted  
Cast adrift in endless seas  
Confused teens like mindless bees  
Gather to violence, the thrill of blood  
Dripping in the dirt, running like mud  
The tide of anger, pulling us under  
Save us  
Save me.  
-By RICHARD WRUCK,  
AHS student

# Club seeks Yule toy drive help

The Kinetite Club of Georgetown's annual Christmas toy drive is well underway with several local groups already busy collecting new and used toys for needy area children.

Employees of Varian Canada in Georgetown are among those who've realized that this Christmas should see many more names added to the list of needy residents. The workers have started their own collection for the toy drive and, needless to say, the Kinetites would greatly appreciate other firms' employees following suit.

If your group is collecting toys this year, please contact the Kinetites so they can be certain there is as good a response this year as there has been in the past.

Toys can be dropped off anytime at the home of Kinetite Marny Malcolmson, 179 Raylawn Cres., Georgetown (877-2972) or at the office of Arthur S. Johnson and Associates on Guelph Street.

Please help the Kinetites make every Halton Hills child happy this Christmas.