



### HALTON'S HISTORY

Since 1975 the Esqueving Historical Society has been meeting with fellow members to co-ordinate efforts to preserve the heritage of Halton Hills. With a special room set aside for historical material in the Georgetown Library, the Historical Society is now able to allow the public to view this material. In their efforts to add to the Society's collection, the Halton Hills Herald recently donated their 1920-1930 bound volumes. Seen here (left to right) is Herald editor Dave Rowney with reference librarian Walter Lewis and Historical Society treasurer Rob Burnett. (Herald photo)

## Walter Biehn donates historic items

Esqueving Historical Society receives valuable collection from former Herald publisher

By ANI FEDERIAN  
Herald staff writer  
Starting his spring cleaning before the last snow has melted, former Ward 3 (Georgetown) councillor Walter Biehn managed to clean his house of three big boxes full of historical materials accumulated during his 33 years at The Herald.

These books, pictures and papers were brought last week to the Georgetown Library and donated to the Esqueving Historical Society. The Society has an archival room in the library for just such materials.

"I'm glad to get rid of them because I've been afraid that someday something would happen to me and they might get thrown out," Mr. Biehn said.

It was a real treasure hunt for Mr. Biehn to put the materials together. Some were in the basement, some upstairs in

his clothes closet, some in the dining room and some in the bookcase, he said.

"It's a shame when things that give us a glimpse into our past get destroyed," Mr. Biehn said. "If someone died, I used to ask (the family) for any old pictures they may have had and weren't interested in keeping."

**FORMER PUBLISHER**  
The publisher of The Herald from 1940 to 1973, Mr. Biehn kept copies of church histories and programs that were printed up by The Herald when it used to do job printing.

"I just collected anything I thought might be historical along the way," Mr. Biehn said. "Individually, there's nothing really impressive, but collectively it may mean something."

Among the materials are old photos and postcards of the town when it was much smaller. One

postcard shows a parade by commercial travellers through the town. The "drummers' snack", as it was called, was a big day



WALTER BIEHN

in town with stores decorated and people gathered for a good view from the verandah of the hotel at the corner of Mill and Main Streets, where the Old Bank building now stands. Main Street was a muddy road then.

Crests from a field day organized by the long-time defunct Georgetown Recreation Committee (GRC) were also given to the Historical Society by Mr. Biehn. He said the GRC was formed in 1946 and was the forerunner of the town's recreation department.

Old issues of The Herald dating back to 1905, 1910, 1912 were also donated. Over 30 such papers previous to the 1916 fire in The Herald office had been collected by Mr. Biehn.

Voters' lists from 1930-50 and even the 1965 New York Herald on the day of Abe Lincoln's assassination were in a box.

"Now that the library is establishing a room, I thought it was the best place for them," Mr. Biehn said. "As the years go by these things disappear and they become more valuable therefore."

Historical Society member and Georgetown Public Library reference

librarian Walter Lewis was excited about the materials.

"It's the first major donation to the collection and we're thankful to Mr. Biehn for coming forward with it," Mr. Lewis said. "It's important to us."

**LIST AVAILABLE**  
By the end of April, Mr. Lewis said a list should be available to library patrons of the materials available for their perusal. The material is for use in the library only and can be borrowed with a Halton Hills Library card.

The oldest archival piece donated by Mr. Biehn is an accounts book, Mr. Lewis said dating from 1836 to 1838. The book records the goods sold to Georgetown farmers by a local merchant whose name, unfortunately, isn't on the book.

There's also a 1799 French grammar book published in New York, and another account book dating from the 1850s for the sale of belts and harnesses at the Dayfoot Shoe factory, an early business in Georgetown.

"They fill in the gaps in the written record of the town's history, and it's very exciting stuff since memory can be faulty," Mr. Lewis said.

The account books give an idea of what people were buying in those days

and some residents' names.

"They tell you how much time people spent on their farms, the pattern of their shopping, how much money they had to spend, how they

were paying—whether cash or chickens, and gives a close idea of life of the period," he said.

Mr. Lewis is hoping there are other collections like that of Mr. Biehn's in town.

**PINEVIEW SOCCER CLUB**  
**1983 FINAL REGISTRATION**  
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## Confederation Generation at the library



The Confederation Canadians enjoyed lunching "al fresco" with white linen and wine. The Georgetown Public Library display can be seen downstairs until April 16. The exhibit centres on such topical issues as national culture, organized sport, urban alienation and the role of women in the work force. (Photo submitted)

In co-sponsorship with the Halton Hills Libraries and the Esqueving Historical Society, the Royal Ontario Museum is providing a lengthy and thought-provoking glimpse of what life was like in Canada over 100 years ago.

The Georgetown Public Library is exhibiting a multi-screen display of pictures and drawings

from the Confederation Generation. The poster size exhibits will be at the library until April 16.

The exhibit serves as an introduction to our social history. The quixotic and parochial nature of our character, the uniqueness and humor of our history and the legacy of a generation whose culture and thought have strongly influenced our society—all these are portrayed.

## Cold Creek hunter course

Cold Creek Conservation Area is hosting another four-part hunter education course for early birds, on April 11, 13, 16 and 17.

Under the direction of Lou Romhanyi, hunters will learn about proper gun handling, maintenance, new developments in firearms, gun regulations, sportmanship and ballistics through lectures and practical demonstrations.

Pre-registration is essential for the program, which runs from 7 to 10 p.m. weekday evenings and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. To reserve your space, phone 661-6600, extension 286. The course fee of \$30 must be paid in advance to the Metro Region Conservation Authority.

Cold Creek Conservation Area is located midway between Bolton and Nobleton, 3 km north of the King Sideroad, on Concession Road 11.

### Union Gas

## Better service for Halton gas customers

Union Gas Ltd. will complete the consolidation of operations in Halton Region with the opening of the Halton Service Centre, 4450 - Paletta Court, Burlington, May 2, 1983. Paletta Court is an extension of South Service Road, just west of Appleby Lane.

Previously, Union operated satellite service centres on 3rd Line in Oakville and Cumberland Road in Burlington, along with an appliance centre-cashiering operation on Brant Street in Burlington. Combining these three operations into one facility will enable Union to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

Opening of the new facility will allow Union to provide a more responsive level of service to Halton region customers. Previously, work force planning and dispatch

was handled from the company's Eastern Region service centre on Strathearn Avenue in Hamilton. Due to the rapid customer growth in Halton, it was felt necessary to establish a separate operating division in Halton to maintain the level of service.

Approximately 50 employees are based at the New Halton Centre, providing appliance service, plant maintenance and meter reading.

A newly installed radio dispatch centre will be operated from 8 to 4:30, five days a week (Monday to Friday). The after hours dispatching function will continue to be handled from Strathearn.

Union Gas' Eastern Region serves 130,000 customers in Hamilton, Wentworth and Halton, 47,000 of which are in

Halton. Eastern Region's administration office is located at 23 Main Street East, Hamilton. Regional administration and sales departments, together with customer accounting and customer inquiry operations are at that location.

### Barry D. Timleck

Chartered Accountant

CARRETAL BUILDING

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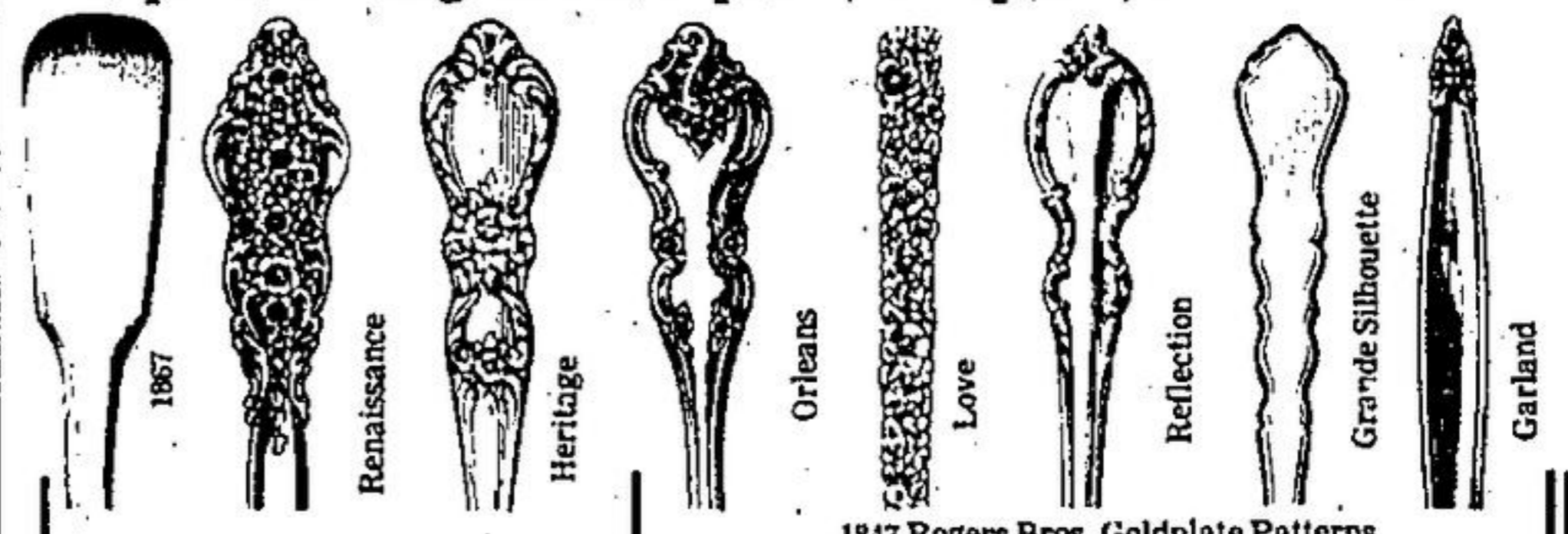
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Meeting and registration to be held at the Arena at **7:30 p.m.** on **April 7, 1983**