

## Time to move on the offensive

When a rural property owner seeks a land severance, planning guidelines will put him through the wringer. But those same rules seem to have plenty of loopholes when it comes to recreational centres in the rural area.

With last week's announcement that yet another such centre, operated by the International Peace Camp, is planned for the Speyside area, council now finds itself doing battle on three fronts.

It barely has a tenuous grip on the activities of the Croatian social and cultural centre south of Norval and the Canadian-Yugoslavian centre south of Acton on Highway 25.

How much more of council's time is going to be spent arbitrating between rural residents upset that their lifestyle is suddenly filled with a lot of unwanted noise, and recreation centre representatives who feel they have a right to do as they please on their own property?

But at least with the Speyside situation, in which about 260-acres of land may be developed by the Peace Camp for recreational use, council has an opportunity to work with the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) to shut the barn door before the horse has bolted.

Surely, both administrations have enough hindsight from problems at the other two centres to realize this function is unwelcome in the rural area. It undermines the goals of any official plan as much as strip residential development and the ruthless pursuit of aggregates.

We realize that because the Speyside centre falls under the planning jurisdiction of the NEC, the town's ability to exercise control in the area is somewhat limited.

But commissioners have underlined their desire to preserve the Niagara Escarpment and carefully control development even along its borders. They have strong objections to the more liberal development views hearing officers have taken towards proposed Escarpment plan.

The town and the NEC can no longer be arbitrators in a situation which should never have been allowed to happen in the first place.

On behalf of the residents in the area who appreciate a peaceful rural lifestyle, both bodies should do everything in their power to prevent the kind of rural misuse—loud music, lots of traffic, trespassing, barbecue smoke—for which these recreational centres have become notorious.

## People power

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce has plans to implement a program called "Business Alert" starting as early as this summer. It's a co-operative program run on people power.

We support the new program and congratulate the Chamber for their efforts to promote a campaign which will benefit all merchants in helping to reduce crime.

From views expressed recently by police spokesmen, businesses can do more to prevent crimes from happening in their area. With the help of Halton regional police, the Chamber will work among themselves to keep one another informed of criminal activities in their area.

The program is still in its initial stage as announcements to businesses have just been mailed out. It is hoped that eventually a seminar will be arranged to tell merchants about the program.

Later, a series of seminars can be arranged to discuss dif-

ferent types of crimes such as break-ins, credit card fraud, shoplifting and other types of suspicious activities.

Each business is treated like a link on a chain. Without a full-time Chamber secretary to answer Business Alert calls, the program will only work if each proprietor involved agrees to phone two other businesses when a report comes in about a credit card fraud or a burglary.

This pooling of knowledge and resources has worked well in Oakville, a town seemingly more difficult to co-ordinate. Oakville has an added dimension to their Business Alert, where the banks play an integral part.

Banks phone retailers on a co-operative basis about incidents such as stolen credit cards or bad cheques, after the police notify the banks initially.

Not only will local merchants eventually save more money, but they will make Georgetown a tougher place to commit crime.

## Get the lead out

By RON REID

Federation of Ontario Naturalists

For centuries, man has known of the harmful effects of "lead poisoning". In recent years, however, the less dramatic effects of chronic exposure to low levels of lead are becoming better known. The evidence seems clear that even low levels of lead contamination can cause general ill health, miscarriages, and learning disabilities. The only prudent course of action would be to reduce human exposure to lead as much as possible.

Federal Environment Minister John Roberts is proposing to do just that, by limiting the amount of lead permitted in gasoline. This would not be an unprecedented step — the existing limits for leaded gasoline in the U.S. are one-third those of Canada, and some countries such as Japan have banned leaded gasoline altogether. Mr. Roberts hasn't yet said by how much he will reduce Canada's limits, but he has asked for public comments on the new guidelines.

At present, Canadian automobiles spew out 17 million pounds of lead annually accounting for 62 per cent of the lead in our environment. European studies have shown that from 27-50 per cent of the lead in people's blood can be traced to automobile exhausts. Since airborne lead also contaminates food crops, the contribution of automobiles is very significant indeed.

Lead is added to gasoline to improve its octane rating so that the

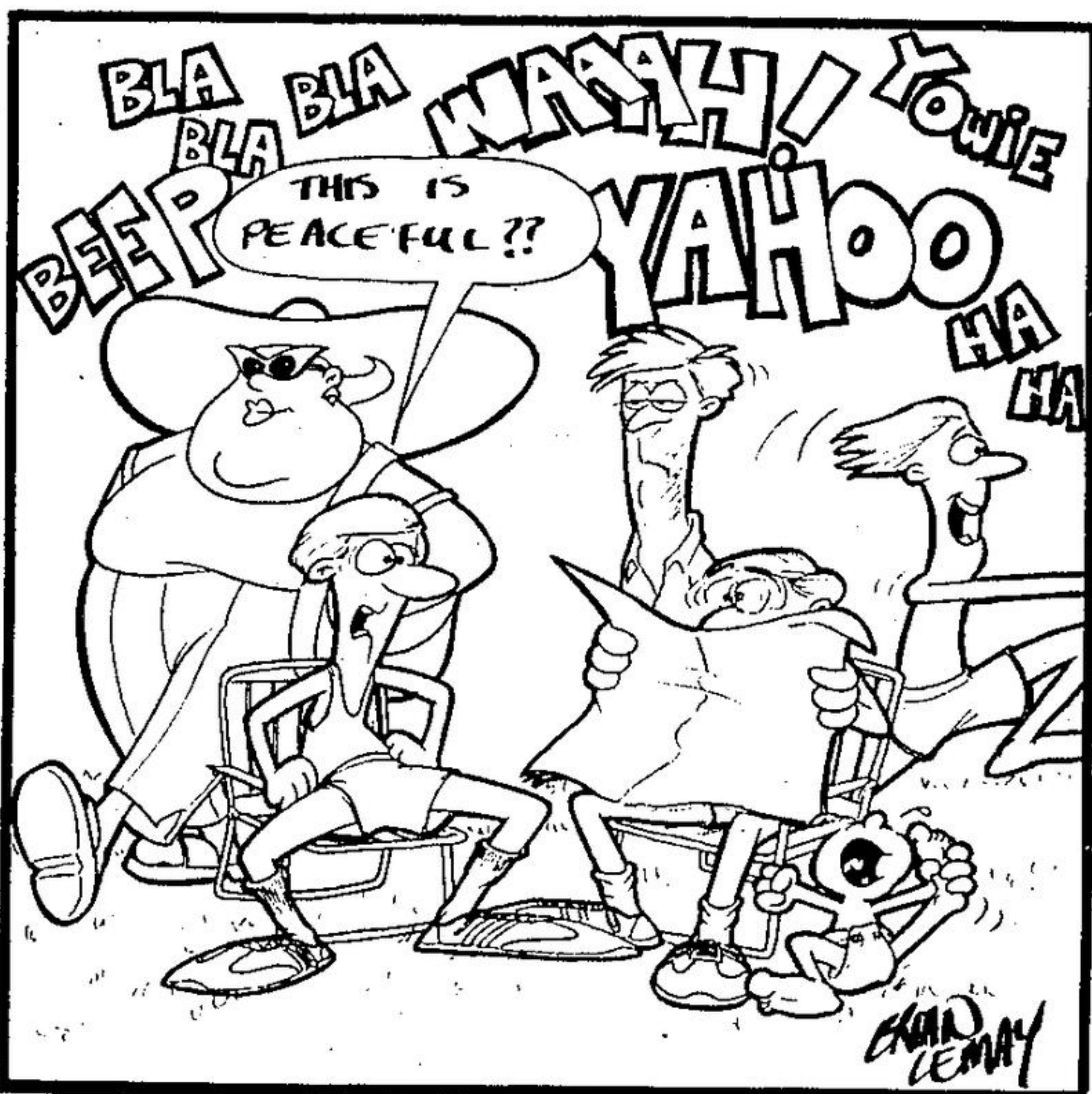
car engine won't "knock". There are environmentally-safe substitutes available, although there will be some costs associated with the conversion. There are also savings, since unleaded gasoline generally gives better mileage and better engine wear.

If you would like to help rid our environment of this toxic substance, you could write to Mr. John Roberts, Minister of Environment, Ottawa, KIA 0A6 to urge him to follow through with his ideas. You can also take more immediate steps. All cars can burn unleaded gasoline, which is now available at every service station. By paying a few cents more for unleaded gasoline, you are helping to protect the health of us all.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. It is of utmost importance that all parts of the letter are clearly legible. Letters must be signed and include the telephone number and address of the sender. Excessively long letters may have to be edited due to space constraints. Letters may be dropped off at The Herald or mailed to: 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, L7G 3Z6.

## Peace Camp proposal draws resident's ire



## Throne Speech draws comments from MPP



### MPP report

by Julian Reed

The following are excerpts from comments made by Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed on the Throne Speech April 28:

**ON THE HANDICAPPED**  
"A year ago, a handicapped citizen of Acton by the name of Lorne Doberthien, who is the owner of a business, undertook to bring to the attention of government the need for legislation governing parking for handicapped citizens.

Mr. Doberthien is a recently handicapped individual and has therefore had the experience of both situations. With visits and a campaign with various members of government and in the Legislature here, namely the minister of transportation and communications (Mr. Snow) we were promised two things. One, that when the new plating system came into operation, licence plates would be available on request to identify the handicapped owners of automobiles; and two, that uniform legislation would come into play to provide common legislation for all municipalities across the province.

In my hand today, I have quite a large number of letters from handicapped people in my riding expressing their very deep concern that while the licence plate move has been made by the government, no move has been made to impose uniform legislation.

...to the chagrin of many handicapped people we have discovered that to this point legislation has not been

forthcoming from the government to provide uniformity for handicapped parking in every municipality in Ontario.

**ON NURSING HOMES**  
The solution to the problems we experience on a day-to-day basis really lies in the provision of adequate inspection for nursing home operations. We know there is a public perception that people who are residents of rest homes require a certain amount of care if they are elderly, disabled and so on. But to this date, there is no legislation in place in Ontario governing the operation of rest homes other than that provided at the same level for boarding houses.

**ON THE AGGREGATE ISSUE**  
In Halton, outside the Niagara Escarpment, the ministry has identified and originally wanted to impose controls or designation on 18,000 acres of land. On top of that, a recommendation was made by the hearing officers on the Niagara Escarpment that a further overlay take place on the escarpment.

I have to tell Members that the designation of land in the manner in which the ministry is proposing is unacceptable to the citizens of Halton-Burlington and will be found, as time goes on, unacceptable to the citizens of those other ridings that contain aggregate potential.

So when we are talking about attempting to designate 16,000 acres of land in Halton for the exclusive use of aggregates in the future, we are handicapping a whole municipality. Indeed, we are asking that municipality to do far more than its fair share in supplying aggregates to the Metropolitan Toronto area.

Now I recognize that the aggregate industry is important to the construction business in Ontario and the supply of aggregate is necessary, and an economic supply at that.

But I say to the minister and to

those officials in his ministry who wish to designate this land, that if he were to proceed on the basis upon which he started, he would be handicapping a whole ring of ridings around the Metropolitan Toronto area for years and years to come.

He would be preventing them from carrying on natural industrial development, and housing development as the need arises. He would be putting priority on aggregates to the detriment of all other uses.

### ON FLOOD PLAIN MAPPING

A parallel situation could be referred to in terms of the flood plain mapping, an issue that has been discussed and raised in the past couple of days. That brings up an area of serious concern, because flood plain mapping is done by conservation authorities.

We know that conservation authorities have no guidelines of process. They are kingdoms unto themselves. Their decisions on how to operate and what they consider to be their mandate are of their own choosing and their own creation.

Therefore, when flood plain mapping is being done in a particular area, one conservation authority will hold public meetings to discuss the future flood plain lines and another conservation authority will not.

...But I suggest to the minister that the conservation authorities that are applying these flood plain lines must remain flexible; there must be a process of contact between the citizens who live in the flood plains and the government.

I am often concerned that instead of explanation, the business of turning down an application for a building permit, for instance, very often is done in an atmosphere of intimidation rather than in an atmosphere of conciliation or of explanation or sometimes in an atmosphere of give and take."

## Child-rearing drop-out opens up the floodgates



### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

From the Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Buried away in the provincial budget is one item that has received little publicity but that is going to be very important financially in the years ahead.

Treasurer Frank Miller promised to withdraw Ontario's objections to the "child-rearing drop-out" amendment to the Canada Pension Plan.

What the amendment does is allow a woman (or man) to withdraw from the labor force for up to seven years to raise a child without having to include those years in the calculation of her (his) average lifetime earnings upon which her (his) pension is based.

In short, the person can quit work and not contribute to the CPP but get the benefits anyway.

Miller dropped his objection because the amendment has "wide-spread approval" and he hoped that ending his veto would "promote a spirit of goodwill in the pension reform process."

The Ontario veto over CPP changes exists because of this province's volume of contributions.

**PENSION SCHEME**  
It has been exercised in past years on the principle that Ontario did not

want to see piecemeal, ad hoc changes to the CPP but an over-all reform package.

Moreover, Ontario was skeptical about the continual attempts to divorce the paying out of CPP benefits, from the premiums collected to finance the plan.

Miller agreed both positions have now been discarded.

It is unfortunate. The "child-rearing drop-out" provision is another example of how politicians of all parties believe in the free lunch, or, alternatively, that the next generation can handle the problems this one is creating.

The Canada Pension Plan is different from the Old Age Pension or any of the current supplementary pension income schemes initiated by government.

### MUST BALANCE

The others come as a matter of right out of general revenues. But the CPP benefits paid out were originally supposed to bear some relation to the amount of premiums a person paid over his or her lifetime.

This principle had already been eroded to some degree by such means as the way disability pensions are figured as part of the CPP.

But the child-rearing drop-out provision opens the floodgates.

Liberal Leader David Peterson

said it recognizes that raising children is "work performed for society as a whole." NDP critic Marion Bryden said "work in the home raising young children is equally important to work outside the home and should not result in reduced pensions."

### NOT PAY

Yet — except someone has to pay for the decision of that woman or man to stay home and raise children. Neither Peterson nor Bryden puts a price tag on how much this subsidy is going to cost those who do choose to keep working.

In addition, Miller's removal of the veto means that those who harbor further schemes to expand benefits without any thought to the costs involved will be encouraged to play new games.

The scariest option down the road, one foreshadowed by Peterson and Bryden's comments, is pensions for housewives or househusbands who, after all, are doing what some people believe is work of equal value.

And if housewives — why not other non-earners in society?

In short, goodbye the CPP as it was meant to be and hello — just another system for redistributing money from those who earn wages to those who don't. If that's the goal the politicians should be honest about it.

### Bible digest

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Rom-

ans 8:16  
"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever... I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." John 14:16, 18

## Halton's History

From our files

**THIRTY YEARS AGO**—Georgetown's Coronation Day celebration will start Tuesday morning and last well into the evening, when a big display of fireworks will end the tribute to Queen Elizabeth in the park. Most important part of the day will be a community church service which local clergymen will conduct in Knox Church in the morning at 11. The order of service includes much of the original wording of the ceremony as it will take place in Westminster Abbey, with a narration describing the actual coronation. Participants in the parade will assemble at the high school grounds at 1 p.m. and the parade will move off at 1:30 p.m. Split-second timing will be necessary for the Lorne Scots Band, who will play a morning engagement in Orangeville then bus to town to lead the local parade. It will be one of the biggest parades Georgetown has seen. School children from the two town schools, Cedarvale, Beaufort, Stone School, Stewartown, Norval and Glen Williams will all march in groups, each carrying small flags. Marching in uniform will be the scouts and cubs from town and Norval, the Norval guides, CGIT and Explorers.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO**—Proponents of a full-time engineer for Georgetown, councillors Fred Harrison and Alfred Sykes got no support at Monday's council meeting, when, for the second time in recent months, they moved to engage a man. Previously their motion suggested a salary of \$10,000, and on Monday, \$8,000 salary was indicated in the motion. The second motion was defeated 7 to 2. Both councillors explained they had no dissatisfaction with the work of Wm. H. Carr who has served Georgetown in a part-time capacity for a year. Coun. Harrison and Mr. Carr himself had told council recently that he did not feel he has the necessary time to operate his own business and serve the town also. Mayor Armstrong said that since then, Mr. Carr has himself engaged an assistant engineer and that he has changed his opinion and is in a position to continue in the town's employ. Reeve Doug Sargent indicated he might favor a full-time man, but did not agree with the salary suggested. Others agreed with Coun. Hyde who said the town has the services of an engineering staff at a reasonable fee and should continue as long as this situation exists.

**TEN YEARS AGO**—A nine-acre piece of land on Armstrong Avenue deemed unusable for industry by the Industrial Commission, may become the site of a private non-profit athletic club, if Planning Board approves a site plan agreement and rezoning. Immediate plans call for two single squash courts, according to Dr. Boyd Hoddinott who made the \$4,600 offer to purchase. He explained to Georgetown council in committee last week there are 35 men interested in having the squash courts, sauna and locker room. Dr. Hoddinott emphasized the shares would be available to anyone but only one share and one vote would be allowed each member. He said tennis courts may be added in the future. A membership drive is planned for June. Coun. Harry Levy said the slope of the land made it impossible for industry and felt this was the best use. We're getting \$4,600 for a piece of land which no-one can use," he added. Deputy reeve Ernie Sykes asked if the land would be of interest to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. Coun. Levy pointed out the Authority would be advised before any definite decision was made. He said the land was well above the flood plain level. The remaining acre in the same parcel of land, the only part termed usable for industry by the Industrial Commission was approved for sale to Ross Linton who plans to build an aluminum extrusion plant.

**ONE YEAR AGO**—Cloudy skies and spots of rain Monday developed into thick and heavy fog, spoiling the special \$4,500 fireworks display that is the highlight of the annual Bang-orama. "The fog came rolling in, or the ceiling dropped on us," Optimist club president Bruce Totten said. About seven ground shots went off well, but the aerial fireworks were lost in the thick blanket of fog, managing only to give the sky a colorful glow as they exploded. Mr. Totten blamed the dampness for keeping a lot of the smoke from the fireworks in the air. Sponsored by the Georgetown Optimist Club, Bang-orama offered Halton Hills residents a variety of entertainment at the Georgetown Fairgrounds. An estimated 10,000 people turned up to take part in the events, a drop from the estimated 12,000. Mr. Totten said the gloomy weather kept some people.

## POET'S CORNER

### Spring

Green grass lying in the sun  
a poplite exchanged  
for a nickel and a dime  
sweet flowers full of nectar  
animal days of raccoons and bunnies  
bicycle riding, lots of fun  
running ahead of the wind  
pushing kites into the sky  
I hope spring lasts forever.

### MISS YOU

I really miss you  
Not just because you're not here  
or that I'm alone,  
though that may help.  
It seems as if  
I left part of me  
there  
so far away,  
I can't even tell you  
for sure  
what's missing  
Maybe my heart.

—By Mariow C. Dickson,  
Beeton, Ont.