

Tragedy on Halton roads

Cyclist Jocelyn Lovell was critically injured in an accident last Thursday. This former Canadian athlete of the year collided with a dump truck while they both travelled westbound on Britannia Road, west of Trafalgar Road.

On Sunday, Bruce Paterson of Georgetown and Daniel Matwey of Bramalea were thrown from a motorcycle. A young man of 18 is now dead and his companion is in serious condition.

These two separate incidents in Halton, which happened within a three-day span of one another, are painful reminders that our training programs for motorists, cyclists and motorcyclists are not adequate for our heavily travelled highways.

Statistics support that people on bicycles and motorcycles are more prone to accidents. This leads us to the conclusion that training programs should be increased. A more extensive driver education program for motorists is one way to protect those who choose - and have the right - to travel our highways on two-wheeled vehicles.

Although non fatal accident

injuries have decreased in general by 6.4 per cent and car driver deaths are down 25.9 per cent from 1981 to 1982, the picture changes when we talk about two-wheeled vehicles.

Motorcycle driver deaths have increased by 10.6 per cent while motorcycle driver injuries have increased by 9.5 per cent in one year.

Cycling injuries have increased by a 10.9 per cent margin comparing 1981 to 1982 statistics.

While importing the European's love of cycling, Canadians have fallen behind in protecting those who are practising the sport of cycle touring. At the same time, cyclists could be more properly trained to avoid accidents on the highways.

Clearly the ideal solution would be to expand the driver licence training to include defensive driving and awareness driving for vehicles.

Motorcycles and bicycles are difficult to see under the best of conditions, but their vulnerability becomes compounded when motorists refuse to check their blind areas, or the physical contours of the road slow their reactions.

Heroes surface

A firefighter's call to duty finds him in the thick of things these days in Halton Hills.

Early in July there was the Acton blaze where six firefighters battled against the intense heat and heat exhaustion when they were finally overcome by smoke inhalation.

Then last Friday morning before many people had left for work, our volunteer force responded to a call from Halsey's on Guelph St. in Georgetown.

A third major blaze occurred on Sunday when the Ac-

ton volunteers fought a fire on Willow St. in which two civilian lives were lost.

Above and beyond their efforts in racing out to the station from home or work, and to the extensive training sessions all recruits receive weekly, our Halton Hills force deserves our praise for their quick action when the town needed their services.

When our volunteer firefighters have worked so intensely, it's just another example of their worth to the community.

Crying fowl



Editor's notebook

By DAVE ROWNEY

The Herald was probably no different than any other place of business Friday morning when squeals of laughter, dismay, astonishment and anger filled our hallowed building.

Dave Winfield's mysterious throw during the fifth inning in the Yankees game against the Blue Jays set a milestone in major league sports. Not the sort of record any self-respecting rookie outfielder might want to duplicate in the next couple of years.

My wife and I secretly smiled after hearing Thursday's 11 o'clock newscast. We had been crying fowl for years.

It wasn't that we weren't unsympathetic to the suffering of the downed bird, but the memories did begin to flow back to our days as student employees on Toronto's lakefront. As a maintenance man I saw the job as good training in tactics for survival of the fittest. But the birds usually won out.

One of the biggest issues among the low-level grunts at Ontario Place was how to dispose of near-dead seagulls, stricken by either disease or starvation (due to their excessive numbers).

Both as a maintenance supervisor and later as the assistant manager of security, I became an authority on seagulls. My superiors never admitted there was a problem.

My maintenance manager used to say, "Gall darn it, geezzz." Another bird! Call security. Tell 'em to secure the bird. Heh, heh, heh.

The security department chased the birds to take them to the Humane Society - so did the maintenance men. The geese helped in the seagulls' escape on more than one occasion as they slicked down the rolling hills with their droppings. The O.P.P. stationed at Ontario Place got their daily chuckle watching us chase an injured bird, only

to perform a Charlie Chaplin stumble down the hill minutes later. One knows now why we were issued two sets of pants for the job.

The geese provided even more entertainment for the regular water-fowl watchers. Geese also populate the lakefront property in large numbers. One year they snatched a few hundred geese one mysterious morning and set them free to fend for themselves in some Toronto suburb 1,600 miles away.

My first date with my wife Shelagh was started over a goose. Receiving a frantic call from an obviously distraught boutique girl, I asked what the problem was. "There's a goose that can't fly, er I mean can't w-w-alk," she said. As maintenance supervisor, it was my job to respond to such calls.

When I arrived with a suitable box, the goose had disappeared, so I fumed off, telling my future wife to go and catch her own geese.

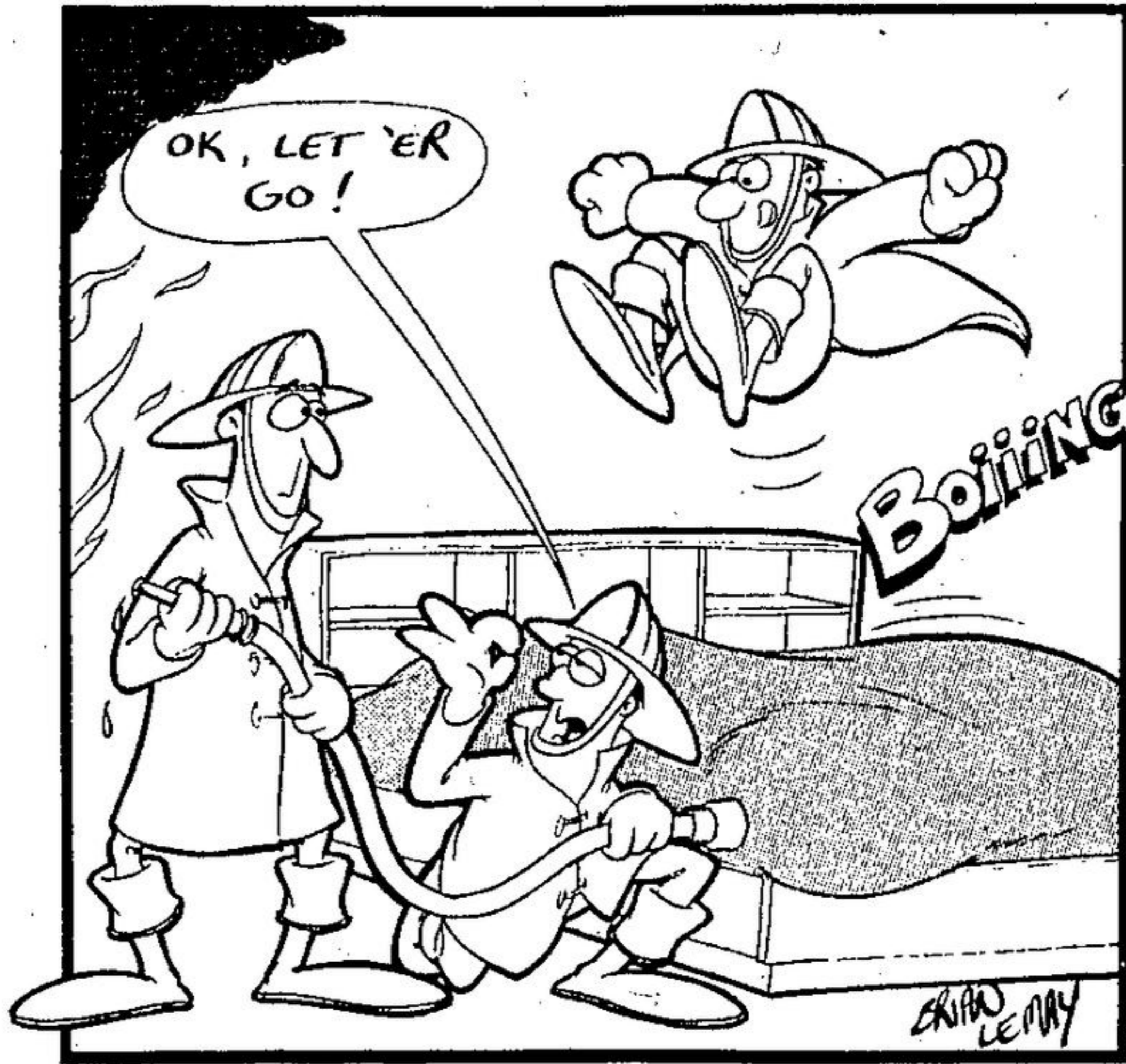
Shelagh loves to tell the story about a famed ladies man (later my boss) who as a boat patrol driver was putting his soft lines to work sitting beside two female staff on a picnic table.

Quite suddenly he stopped talking as a warm, sticky liquid substance fell from the air. Shelagh knew better. She always wore a white hat snugly tucked over her hair which seemed to confuse the birds.

Not only did Ontario Place attract the latest birds in the country in this bird-sanctuary-fast-food-haven, but the site was a refuge for killer fowl from the land and dive bombing critters from the sky.

Red-winged blackbirds who nest at Ontario Place are very territorially minded - especially during mating season (when the site opens, coincidentally). They had cased out every strategic point on the 93-acre islands, physically attacking every maintenance man's head as we harmlessly tried to do our job.

While in the security department we were attacked by the sea. Sid the killer swan poked and pecked and bit our unprotected limbs as we patrolled the canals and waterways. I can remember getting the best of Sid only once - when one revenge-minded boat driver fed him a gum candy called Pop-rocks. Sid swam away in fright as his long neck tangled in palm.



Evidence supports banning the sport of kickboxing



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Kickboxing, "full contact" karate and standard boxing are the only three sports based on a deliberate attempt to injure; that is, to "cause sufficient central nervous system damage as to render the opponent harmless."

The easiest and quickest method of accomplishing this goal is to go for the head.

Yet the evidence indicates that "it is impossible to disrupt one's opponent's brain function without disrupting one's opponent's brain structure, and such injuries are both cumulative and permanent."

Hence the archetypal punch-drunk fighter with his slurred speech and slow wit.

The quotes in the paragraphs above are from the Ontario government committee report that looked into what to do about the fast-growing sports of kickboxing and "full contact" karate. Another committee is examin-

ing boxing. The kickboxing report reached two contradictory conclusions.

The first, obvious from the above, is that sports where the intent is to create brain damage (boxing, kickboxing and "full contact" karate), "should be banned."

But the second is to allow kickboxing and "full contact" karate in Ontario under strict regulation.

The committee, which was composed of two neurosurgeons (chairman Alan Hudson and Michael Schwartz) and a martial arts expert (Ken Hayashi), had two reasons for actually falling short of calling for an out-right ban.

First, it would be "illogical" to stop kickboxing and "full contact" karate and still allow regular boxing to continue. The other committee has yet to report.

The second is that while the evidence "strongly points" to brain injury with every punch or kick, "incontrovertible statistical data" does not yet exist.

PAY UP
Acquiring that data should be a first priority, to be financed "by those who make money promoting such events" rather than the taxpayer. The committee obviously believes any study would and should lead to a ban.

We should know by the autumn whether the government agrees. Amendments to the Athletics Con-

trol Act would be required to make kickboxing, which is likely illegal today under the Criminal Code definition of prize fighting, into a legal enterprise.

And by then the boxing report should be available as well.

If the committee is right, and their report is very persuasive, the smart move would be to ban boxing, kickboxing and "full contact" karate. (The committee also noted there is no such thing as "light contact" karate. You either hit him - "full contact" - or you don't - "no contact.")

ONE POINT

But society does not always make the wise choice (why do we allow parking lots at taverns?). Perhaps boxing has been part of our culture for too long to be summarily junked. Or perhaps we'd just force martial arts fighting underground where there are no regulations at all.

In any case, the committee makes the observation that many in these sports were unaware that no head blow is trivial and any can be lethal. It suggested participants should be making an informed choice whether to fight.

"Parents...should be requested to sign a waiver to the effect they understand their children may both cause and receive brain damage." Adult contestants too should understand the "probability" of brain injury. Good idea.

Citizen's Forum: Senate reform

'Second sober thought'

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a submission by Georgetown District High School teacher Tom Ramastarsingh on Senate Reform, excerpted for length by The Herald.

Mr. Ramastarsingh wrote a nine page, unsolicited report to the Special Joint Committee on Senate Reform where he hopes his suggestions will be considered.

Canada has been, from its initial beginnings (inception), a land of compromise. Because of the "rep. by pop." principle for the House of Commons, there was a deep feeling that some provision be made to have some basis of regional equality of representation in the governing of Canada.

Debates in 1865 by the Fathers of Confederation took almost six days out of a total of fourteen days on the aspect of the Upper House. The Upper Chamber was of paramount importance since Quebec and the Maritimes were disinclined to join in union unless the Upper Chamber were created.

The colonies or the future provinces had surrendered a great deal of their independence in order to form the Dominion of Canada. They felt that they should maintain the principle of equality in the Upper House and that no areas or regions in collaboration could pass legislation willy-nilly without the "sober second thought" which can come from another body of members, namely, the Upper Chamber or Senate.

One must remember that the Senate is a very important part of our constitutional monarchy. The Senate is there to protect and uphold sectional, provincial, regional and minority rights, and local interests.

In short, it demonstrates the "sober second thought" at legislation passed by the House of Commons. It reviews, amends, improves or rejects legislation passed by the House of Commons. It sees that the majority exercises the duties justly and does not encroach on the privileges and rights of minorities.

Senators are not politically motivated. They do not have to adhere to party strictures and hence can arrive at more objective decisions, but some people believe that appointed senators owe their allegiance to the political party which appointed them and thus they feel obligated to show their partisanship in their speeches and actions.

This undoubtedly weakens the independent working of the Senate. Because Senators are appointed and not elected any bill for the levying or spending of taxes is beyond its jurisdiction. In essence, they are not dependent for their office on support of the people (election), hence they cannot claim to represent the will of the taxpayers and any bills dealing with money are solely in the domain of the House of Commons.

REFORMING THE SENATE

1. Name - We should retain the name of the Senate for the Upper House.

2. Appointments - It has been the practice that senatorial appointments are done as rewards to the party faithful who have raised money or served the party.

The Senate should not be a pasture for political patronage. A more fruitful Senate can be the result if this problem is addressed.

3. Method of Appointment - The practice is that the Prime Minister selects the person(s) and then he recommends to the Governor General who appoints.

I believe appointments to the Senate should be done by the party in power (50 per cent), the Official Opposition Party (25 per cent) and the premiers of the provinces (25 per cent). A better representation of Canadians and Senators will be able to act more independently and be taken more seriously by the populace. This will enable proper representation in Quebec for the Conservatives, and in the West for the Liberals. If a political party holds office for a long period of time, the Senate will undoubtedly be filled with members of that political party's persuasion.

Another alternative can be a 50 per cent appointment by the Federal government and a 50 per cent appointment by the provinces. Appointments shall be made when there are vacancies.

I do not favour the election of the members to the Senate. If both Houses are elected there would be conflicts as to who is responsible for the running of Canada. This should be left in the hands of the elected House of Commons.

4. Age and Retirement - We should continue to appoint people at age 30 and over. The retirement age of 75 should be retained. I remember discussing this matter with former

Senator Dr. Eugene Forsey at the 1980 First National Youth Parliament of Canada in Ottawa. Dr. Forsey wisely said that we have to draw the line somewhere and this enables more Canadians to participate in governing Canada.

5. Reflection of Society - Just as the Fathers of Confederation saw the need for regional representation, the protection of rights and local interests, so today, Canada being a multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-cultural country, should reflect the nature of this reality (the Canadian mosaic) in the Senate.

6. Representation in the Cabinet - The practice was that one senator will join the cabinet but will not be responsible for a portfolio because he/she cannot be questioned by the elected representatives in the House of Commons.

Recently this practice has fallen by the wayside because of the lack of elected representatives in certain provinces, so to compensate, the Prime Ministers of the day got people appointed to the Senate and in turn were made cabinet ministers with portfolios. This meant that such ministers were not answerable to the elected representatives because they could not sit in the House of Commons. This latest practice should be continued with a constitutional change, namely, that if a senator is given a cabinet portfolio he/she should be permitted to be present for "question period" in the House of Commons.

7. Distribution of Seats - The Senate should be increased from the present 104 to 140 seats. The idea of equal and regional (provincial) representation should be re-emphasized in the following manner - Newfoundland 10, P.E.I. 10, Nova Scotia 10, New Brunswick 10, Quebec 25, Ontario 25, Manitoba 10, Saskatchewan 10, Alberta 10, B.C. 10.

The Senate, which measures 25 metres by 13 metres, could be easily expanded to seat 140 senators. Canada is made up of provinces and territories and representation in the Senate should reflect this reality.

8. The quorum should be increased from 4 to 10. An important body as the Senate should transact the business of the country when there are at least 10 members present.

9. Absence - If a Senator misses 60 per cent of Senate meetings in a year then his/her term of office as senator shall be forfeited and the vacancy be filled within two months.

THIRTY YEARS AGO-A cavalcade of honking motor cars followed Halton's new member of parliament, Sybil Bennett, P.C., in a victory parade around town Monday night when word was received at P.C. headquarters that Murray MacPhail had conceded defeat. Miss Bennett's election was of more than usual interest in Georgetown for it is the first time in history that a Georgetown resident has sat in the federal house. She will succeed Hugh Cleave of Burlington who has represented Halton as a Liberal. Flustered and beaming, tired after a hard campaign, and, as she said, "speechless for one of the few times of my life", a happy candidate clutched a huge bouquet of roses and spoke briefly to a large crowd which collected in front of the PC committee rooms on Main Street. She was introduced by Leslie Clark, president of the Georgetown Association.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO-Hitchhikes in a planned 683-house subdivision in the vicinity of the Sykes Tool plant have been ironed out and Delrex has been given the green light by the Ontario Water Resources Commission and the Georgetown Building Inspector to proceed. A total of 21 building permits were issued as of Monday, according to building inspector Joseph Gibbons, eight of these to Rex Heslop homes; 11 to Fobert Construction and two to Zuber Construction. A rumpus started three weeks ago when the Ontario Municipal Board ruled that Georgetown could proceed with a planned \$830,000 sewage disposal plant, provided no debentures other than for hydro and water were issued for the next three years. This virtually precluded any extensive house building, as a school is an absolute necessity to the plan.

TEN YEARS AGO-In the face of soaring food prices, especially the high cost of meat, Bill Karolidis of the Delrex Restaurant has come up with a novel solution. He says meatless days will be started at the restaurant if meat prices continue to climb. Mr. Karolidis told The Herald he found restaurants in the United States started meatless days as the only way to make a profit without chasing the customers away with high prices. He said he was paying 50 to 60 cents a pound more for meat than he did two months ago. "We haven't raised our prices yet," Mr. Karolidis said as he admitted that a newly acquired liquor licence helped to defray other costs. In comparison to the cost of preparing a meal at home, it may be cheaper to take the kids out for their favorite hamburger and fries, a telephone survey revealed. The drive-in restaurants in town still feature special children's hamburgers from about 30 cents and fries at 20 cents.

ONE YEAR AGO-With legal doubts apparently no longer a problem, town council Monday night agreed to ask residents voting in the November municipal elections whether or not they support the concept of global nuclear disarmament. The question will be included on ballot slips as Halton Hills becomes one of over 90 municipalities across Canada which have agreed to hold a referendum on the disarmament issue. Bylaws are being drafted to add the question. Only one town rep, Georgetown Ward 3 Coun. Walter Biehn disapproved of the proposal. Recalling the disarmament movement which followed World War II might have been avoided or shortened if the Allies had maintained their military strength during the 1920s and 30s.

POET'S CORNER

HAPPINESS

Where the hell did happiness go
has love taken a holiday
leaving ambivalence in charge
what happened to sunny days
anticipation seems
replaced
by grim resolve
how about
the caring
the sharing
the wearing old together
Don't tell me
about the new morality
Indifference is the same
dressed in jeans, dresses
or scruffy jeans
I want the buzz back
the excitement of just being
I want to feel
C'mon back happiness.

-By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,
RR2, Beeton

BAD MANNERS

What happened to social graces
did they disappear
with men's hats

Where did thank you go
has it been replaced
by gimme

Have women become so equal
that the opening of a door
is an affront

What misadventure
took the respect children
had for parents

Is this brave new world
an improvement
or have we always had bad manners.
-By MARLOWE C. DICKSON