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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1983

thruway
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SOLEMN SALUTE

After laying a wreath at the Glen Williams Remembrance Day ceremony Sunday, Fred Tut Harrison smartly salutes in honour of those who fought for Canada. In the foreground is a solemn Air Cadet standing high above the steps of the cenotaph. (Herald photo)



Two local councillors will vie for post

Regional chairman resigns

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Halton regional chairman Jack Raftis has resigned, initiating campaigns by several of his peers on regional council, including two from Halton Hills, to succeed him.

The 53-year-old veteran of councils in Sudbury, Burlington and the regional administration said in a letter last Thursday that family and business commitments prompted the decision to step down from the office he has held longer than any of his two predecessors.

He has been Halton's chairman for two successive two-year terms and one year of the current three-year term.

Halton Hills regional Councillors Dave Whiting and Mike Armstrong confirmed this week that they will be among the candidates for Halton's top post which pays about \$36,000 per year.

LOCAL RESPONSIBILITIES
Although he said he's been invited to seek the chairman's post, Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy said that, before the November, 1983 election, he made his primary commitment to the administration of

Halton Hills. "I'm enjoying the job I'm doing now," Mayor Pomeroy said, adding that while he may consider other future political opportunities, the regional chairman's job isn't one of them.

Under the Region of Halton Act, councillors may elect a new chairman from among themselves or choose from public nominees.

Coun. Armstrong, a charter member of regional council having served since Halton was formed in 1973, praised Mr. Raftis for his non-partisan outlook and his ability to fairly weigh the concerns of north and south Halton on issues.

He declined to say

what changes he'd make if elected, stressing that they would evolve from working with the 24 other members of council.

FULL TIME
Having been Acton's representative on the region for three years and, more recently, Halton's voice on the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), Coun. Whiting said there's no way the chairman's job can be anything but full time.

He said he has a good overall view of the region and his experience on the NEC makes him responsible for presenting the feelings of regional council on Escarpment-related issues.

He said he wants to see the region get on a "more solid footing" with the province to improve the progress of Halton's regional administration.

If a regional councillor is chosen to

replace Mr. Raftis by fellow councillors Nov. 23, it will set off a chain of events which could lead to a local by-election.

The vacated regional council seat would have to be filled by the local

municipality with an appointment. If the appointment is made from local council, the municipality would have to decide whether to fill the local seat through a by-election or another appointment.

Progressive era 'Raftis fair to region'

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Halton Hills councillors weren't surprised by Mr. Raftis' resignation, although they had hoped he wouldn't leave until the end of the year.

His business pressures were growing, one member commented, and he wanted more time with his family.

Coun. John McDonald, completing his inaugural year as a regional councillor, said Mr. Raftis was always approachable and informal when Coun. McDonald was making his decision to run regionally.

He showed an appreciation for the agricultural concerns in Halton, Coun. Russ Miller added.

"I found (Mr. Raftis) to be very fair in listening to our concerns," he said. "He showed good judgement when it came to voting."

PROGRESSIVE ERA
Councillors pointed out that Mr. Raftis guided council through a number of important and often bitter debates leading to wide-ranging decisions for ratepayers.

In 1980, Halton adopted uniform sewer and water rates, despite grumblings from Oakville and Burlington that their residents would be hard-pressed with extra charges.

A year later, council sponsored a major

study of Halton's administration, and adopted many of its upper management recommendations, in order to prevent administrative floundering like the 1980 budget deficit.

The role of Halton's business development department has also been enlarged to draw new industries into the region, and to encourage existing ones to build jobs and profits by exploring export markets.

Most recently, Halton's planning department, backed by most members of regional council, made a pitch for a domed stadium in the region, to serve sports teams in Hamilton and Toronto.

Prior to his election as regional chairman in 1978, he had been a regional councillor representing Burlington for five years. From 1964 to 1972, Mr. Raftis was a Sudbury city councillor.

He is an engineer by profession and works for Canadian General Electric in Oakville.

Among other councillors reportedly seeking his job, are Milton's Brad Clements, Burlington's Pat McLaughlin and Walter Mulkevic and Oakville's Carol Gooding and Ann Mulvale.



GREASE LIGHTNING
A GDHS member of the musical troupe from "Grease" leaps over her partner's head in a scene from the play. The high school students were practising in a dress rehearsal Sunday. See page A8 for a preview. (Herald photo by Aul Pederian)

The Red Cross Society is appealing for donors to come forward Monday Nov. 14 to the Georgetown blood donor clinic at the Holy Cross Church auditorium from 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

There is a shortage and help is urgently required, especially type O negative. Members of your immediate family may also have type O negative. Please urge your family and friends who are between 17 and 66 years of age and in good general health to be regular blood donors every three months.

Donor clinic Monday

World War I veteran wounded in trenches at 17

One day Fred Weaver hid his music books in a gravel pit after taking lessons from the St. Alban's Church organist in Glen Williams. Then he went off to fight in the First World War.

Standing proud and erect at the Glen Williams Remembrance Day ceremony Sunday, the 87 year old (his birthday is today) was accompanied by his sister Fanny Weaver, 79, who served as a nurse in World War Two.

Fred Weaver's wartime experiences weren't pretty. He was gassed in the trenches fighting against the Germans and was caught in an enemy "mantrap" which tears the hips. At 17 he was sent home from his Princess Patricia Light Infantry unit to recover from his wounds.

Miss Weaver remembers how angry her mother was when Fred went to the recruitment centre in Georgetown. She never forgave the doctor who certified him fit for duty, but the doctor said the boy was determined to go and he couldn't be stopped.

Although it turned his mother's hair gray almost overnight, the day Fred returned home in his uniform, all was forgotten.

"My mother took it all back after she saw Fred in uniform. She worshipped the ground he stood on," said Fred's sister.

While training in Canada before going overseas, he first had to fight off an attack of pneumonia, then battle the mumps.

Fanny Weaver had her own proud story to tell

about her work as a nurse during the Second World War.

Joining the Air Force, she travelled to Moncton in 1941 to work in a hospital before



returning to Toronto to look after the wounded at the Christie St. military hospital.

At the hospital, there were men from both world wars recovering from wounds. Scenes like two young boys maimed for life convinced Fanny that she has "seen enough" of war.

Fanny and Fred lived in Glen Williams for 73 years before moving to the apartments on Raylawn in Georgetown where they share accommodation with another sister.

Those illustrious memories of 'Stewarttown swamp'

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

It used to be called "Stewarttown swamp" by the students who suffered the various septic problems at Stewarttown Public School.

Today, it's called Stewarttown Senior Public School. Over 150 former staff and students turned up Thursday night to celebrate the school's 25-year history in the community.

"When I was here, they didn't have any water," first principal Robertson Gibbons told the crowd in the school gym. "They dug three wells, and finally, one was sufficient to operate the toilet."

Back in 1958, Stewarttown school had just barely been built. A five-room school, eight grades were taught with a staff of three beginning teachers, one experienced teacher and the principal.

Mr. Gibbons, now a principal at South Ridge School in Waterloo County, told the story of how one afternoon, the seams of a teacher's dress gave out, compelling her to hide in the closet while another teacher sewed it.

"It was hard to explain to the children coming in from recess why their teacher was hiding in the closet without a dress," Mr. Gibbons laughed.

With the only centralized schools being Stewarttown and Glen Williams, there were students from Norval, Speyside and almost down to Hornby attending Stewarttown then.

TIMES CHANGE
As Ron Chatten, the principal in 1964 when Mr. Gibbons left, noted, times change.

"Many students came from Georgetown, on the opposite side of town to take advantage of the marvellous gym that had been built in the school," he said. "In 20 years, those facilities are becoming inadequate again."

Former student Jack Walinga recalled overcrowding at the school back in 1963 when he and the other Grade 6 students spend a year in the old school house across Trafalgar Road where an upholstery business now operates.

The one-room schoolhouse had a furnace in the middle that needed to be stoked in the

winter. Every day, teacher Mr. Basinette had to bring water over from the other school.

"When we were here, we had a cow pasture, two picnic tables and two baseball diamonds. That was it," Mr. Walinga, now a lawyer in Georgetown, said.

He recalled being put

out in the hall for punishment and dreading principal Mr. Gibbons' long inspectorial gaze down the hallway.

"There used to be a piano half-way down the hall. If you were lucky, you could hide behind it and he wouldn't catch

you," Mr. Walinga confessed.

Current principal Bob McCaw noted the school has a tradition of excellence and fine-standing in the community.

A book of history has been prepared about the area by Gord Bassett and can be ordered through the school.



It was a warm welcome that brought out nearly 200 former pupils, teachers and principals to Stewarttown Public School's 25th anniversary celebration Thursday evening. In 1958, Stewarttown Public School was five rooms, the first being where principal Robertson Gibbons (left) held out for eight years. In 1964, Ron Chatten (right) became principal and the school changed its name to Stewarttown Senior Public School. The current principal at the school is Bob McCaw and he's been at the school five years.

New industry?

Three new industries are considering a move to Halton Hills, Mayor Pete Pomeroy told town council Monday as he stressed the importance of Halton's business development department. Talks with the firms can't be revealed in detail, he said, nor could he give the names of the industries or exactly where in Georgetown or Acton they may locate. Two, he said, are interested in the Georgetown area and one in Acton.

Mayor Pomeroy argued that industrial promotion is more feasibly handled by the region than by the local municipality which would have to hire extra staff to do the same job.

Christmas bazaar

The Georgetown Unit of the Cancer Society is holding their annual Christmas Bazaar Tuesday Nov. 15 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church on Mountainview Rd. South.

Liberals meet

Tonight the Brampton-Georgetown Liberal riding association will hold their annual general meeting where Marc Lalonde is featured as their keynote speaker.

At Carl's Catering, 65 Queen St. W., 7:30 p.m., the riding association members will elect officers, consider constitutional amendments and conduct other business.

For more information call Lyn Callahan at 459-4035.

Survey on Medicare

A survey conducted by the Brampton-Georgetown Federal Liberal Riding Association shows clearly that Medicare is seen by Canadians as a top-ranked issue, association officials said today.

Rick Weller, vice-president of the association, said that the response to the riding-wide door-to-door campaign conducted by Liberal members earlier this fall "confirms our belief that Canadian voters consider the national Medicare issue to be just as important as inflation and unemployment."

Mr. Weller reported that local canvass teams visited close to 700 homes during the latter part of September, and that more than 200 of these voters had requested more detailed information on the Medicare issue in general and the Liberal Party's fight against medical care fees in particular.

Elderly study meetings

An assessment of the future needs of Halton's elderly is now into its second phase and the region's health and social services department is holding public meetings to gather information.

Recommendations derived from the first part of the study are being presented to Halton residents for comments. A meeting will be held at Acton's Baptist Church Nov. 22 and in Georgetown Nov. 24 at the library-cultural centre. Both meetings begin at 2 p.m. Other forums are planned this month in Burlington, Oakville and Milton.

Features
A special series on our war veterans and Remembrance Day. See pages A4 and B7.

Town
Acton High School students pick up their 1983 diplomas. The Recreation Department offers ski and swim lessons. Page A8.

Opinion
Citizen's group promotes a petition to reverse municipal centre land purchase. Page A5.

Sports
The Georgetown Rebels grabbed a pair of provincial cross-country titles at the OFSAA meeting in London on the weekend. For all the details, see Sports Page B1.