

Debate demands a referendum

What's needed to solve the ongoing controversy over the proposed municipal centre for Halton Hills is a referendum.

Clearly the majority of citizens in Halton Hills need to be polled on how they feel about the Stevens' property.

Councillors voted by a large majority to support the \$800,000 purchase of the site.

From the start of the Stevens' debate there have been indications that special interest groups will vote the way that best suits their needs.

Members of the hospital board and the head administrator favor the decision.

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce made a proposal for an alternative land site, but by doing so, they reluctantly admitted the need

existed for a new municipal centre. The same can be said for the downtown Georgetown BIA who fought for a location closer to their own territory.

In the Esqueving by-election recently each candidate found that residents of the area were more concerned about the condition of roads than a splashy town centre.

The Esqueving riding hopefuls spoke adamantly about the need to delay any development on the property.

Since the by-election a citizens' group has formed. They advocate selling the Stevens' property altogether.

We've seen a wide spectrum of opinion on the topic. Now it's time to take the issue to the people in a referendum.

Yellow Brick Road

To the editor of The Herald:

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the wonderful land of Halton Hills. It is only in this never-ever-land that Town Councillors and rich Hospital Administrators can hold on to their jobs without having mastered even basic reading skills.

Now of course, I refer to A.E. Morris' (Hospital Administrator) letter to the editor of Nov. 23, in which he heaps congratulations on Finn Poulstrup and members of council "for the fine job of bringing the first stage of the proposed Municipal Centre to fruition".

What Municipal Centre? Mr. Poulstrup's letter very clearly indicates, "this is not a decision to build a build-

ing". Now of course, we all know that's a little extra stuffing for the Scarecrow too!

Like so many of the citizens of our community, I suppose I am the cowardly Lion unable to fully comprehend, in camera meetings of council, irregularities in by-laws, lot levies and questionable reserve funds, but take heart, we are not Tin Men.

I'm with you Norm Elliott, Gloria Johnson, B.W. Jones and Dr. Alex Furness. We do not need a costly municipal complex. What we need are road repairs, sidewalks, street lights, and a host of other facilities that should take priority over a 4.4 million dollar "Monument" to our town council.

While "The Oz" is

ballooning himself to the Regional Chairmanship the rest of the "munchkins" would do well to remember that "somewhere over the rainbow" there is yet another election day and the cowardly Lions have learned to bite.

Oh, and Finn, I'd like to borrow your crystal ball, if we could make a profit "guaranteed" on the market, maybe I could afford to match "the humble" Mr. Morris' "well publicized" pledge.

But alas there's no time, I'm late for a very important date, Aunt Dorothy is bringing home a Dome Stadium for dinner.

Oh yes, there's no place like home, "our Monument" to our town council.

Ken Key,
Glen Williams

Support for Nicaragua

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter to Hon. Allan MacEachern was filed with The Herald for publication.

As representatives of a number of Georgetown and area churches, including several different Christian denominations, we have the goal of increasing church and community awareness of the problems and possibilities in Third World development. Our activities tend to focus publicly during 10 days in early February, but our concern as churches and individuals continues throughout the year.

Our paramount con-

cern at present is the increasing U.S. military and naval presence in and around Nicaragua, and the threat of an actual American-sponsored attack upon that sovereign nation.

The Nicaraguan government has won the support of its citizens, and international recognition as well, for its acclaimed literacy program, major improvements in health care and land reform, and its "life affirming" policies in general.

We wonder: If the U.S. had supplied teachers, medical clinics, and farm equipment instead of guns and trained

guerillas, mightn't the Nicaraguan people now see the Americans as welcome friends, instead of as very unwelcome intruders? May we urge, therefore, that you protest strongly against attempts to undermine Nicaragua through military and economic means, and that Canadian government aid for development of Nicaragua's people and resources be continued.

Yours truly,
Morley Mills,
Phil Gravelle,
Gloria Roberts,
(and six others)
Georgetown "Ten Days for World Development" committee

The Day After

To the editor of The Herald:

Many who watched "The Day After" may be wondering, "What can I do to prevent that?" Here are some suggestions, which, you will note, apply equally to people on both sides of the issue: those who think that more weapons will prevent war, and those who will feel safer when there are fewer nuclear devices around the world.

1. Write to Pierre Trudeau, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6 in support of his current peace-making mission.

2. Write to President Ronald Reagan, White House, Washington D.C. (37 cents stamp) and

Chairman Yuri Andropov, Kremlin, Moscow, U.S.S.R. (84 cents) or to their embassies in Ottawa (32 cents) urging that they resume sincere and earnest bargaining at the Geneva arms control talks. U.S. Ambassador Paul Robinson, 100 Wellington St., Ottawa K1P 5A1. Embassy of the U.S.S.R., Suite 1108, 400 Stewart St., Ottawa K1N 6L2.

3. Write your MP (same address as Trudeau), or call his office. Ask what he is doing to promote global nuclear disarmament. John McDermid 457-7834, Otto Jelinek - ask Operator for Zenith 58340. No stamp needed

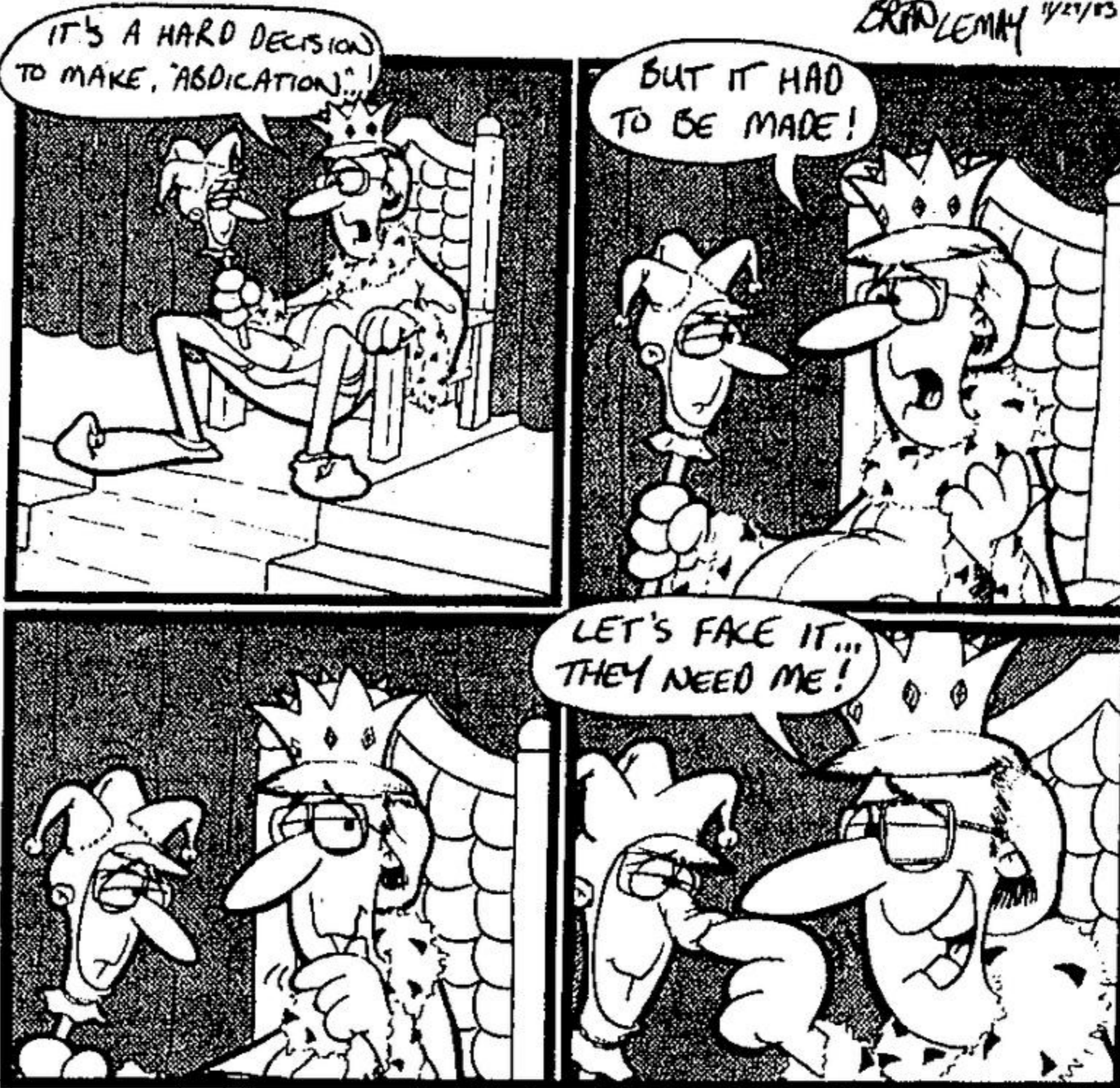
on letters to Parliament.

4. Ask for informed discussion of this issue in your school, church, or club. Borrow books and films from the library.

5. As Christmas approaches, treasure each moment with family and friends. Practice peace at a personal level.

We can only win World War III by preventing it. Saying "I can't do anything" won't accomplish that. Massive pressure on world leaders may.

Yours truly,
Halton Hills Action for Nuclear Disarmament



A closet sports fanatic portrays Grey Cup fever



Staff Comment

By GERRY TIMBERS

Don't you just love Grey Cup weekend?

I mean, football has nothing to do with it. Party is the name of the game come the last Sunday in November in these here parts.

Jack and Roma Timpson are prime examples of what I'm getting at. For 364 days each year they play comfortable roles as the friendly, middle-class couple next door. He's an accountant, and she's a home-maker who devotes much of her time to goodwill projects about the communi-

ty. But one Sunday each year, for the past 13 football seasons, Jack and Roma let their hair down. They just go wild.

Sunday was 'Crazy Day, 1984'. A Grey Cup party on McIntyre Crescent. More than 30 guests arrived dressed in Argo sweaters, began pouring back the

cold Miller and spent the afternoon screaming and cheering around two color television sets.

The B.C. Lions fans would watch the game on the portable black and white set in the back room. Roma had promised.

The Timpsons had their house decorated with posters of Cedric Minter and Terry Greer, pennants proclaiming certain victory for the East, and hate literature about those unholly Hamilton Ti-Cats.

Roma admits she is really a closet sports fanatic. The Argos and the Leafs are her two top priorities in life, she says, right after Jack and the kids.

"And those Blue Jays sure did us proud this summer," she adds.

The Timpsons threw their first Grey Cup bash 13 autumns ago, when Leon McQuay-fumbled his way to ignominy, and the Double Blue fell 14-11 to the Calgary Stampeders. Six people attended that inaugural fiesta at the Timpsons'.

This year, Roma was sure, would be different. The best ever. The Argos are going to win this year, she said. No doubt about it.

"The only thing is being in the dome, with all that noise," she worried. "I'm sure our fellows can

handle it, though. They know what they're up against."

Recapping, Roma admitted her climax came a Sunday earlier, when her Boatman snapped victory from the jaws of defeat from hated Harold Ballard's Hamilton Tigers.

"I just about died a thousand deaths watching that game," Roma gasped. "It was the biggest thrill of all to beat Hamilton and Ballard."

"I was thinking, it would have been a great time for the party last week."

But while it was great to beat the Tabbies, it wasn't the Grey Cup. The Argos haven't won the mug since 1952, the year before Jack and Roma married. That was four years before they moved to Georgetown.

And besides, Roma knows "there are people who come here who couldn't care less about football. They just like the party."

Now that's Grey Cup fever.

Anyway, Roma hoped to wrap up the celebrating within an hour or so after the great victory. Everyone would dance, stagger and sis-boombah their way out the door and down the drive, except for the two couples that stay over each year.

Then the planning for next year's party begins. Perhaps I'll get Roma to cater my Super Bowl party.

Reality gags and horrifies



Staff Comment

By ANI PEDERIAN

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

It's 10 days later. Ten days after "The Day After", the ABC film depicting the aftermath of a nuclear war. We're hanging in there, still surviving.

There's been no nuclear war, and the fear of one, inspired by the graphic images of the film, is slowly fading. The daily routine is comforting, helping me forget that unpleasant look into the future.

I slept lousy Sunday night after watching that \$7 million movie. Tossing and turning a lot, I suddenly awoke at 5 a.m. all tangled up in my flannel

nightie, feeling bound and unable to move—exactly the way the movie made me feel.

I felt hopeless and stunned by its overpowering message. Nuclear war is inevitable, and that reality gags and horrifies me. It is too shocking.

How much easier to deny it, to bury the pessimistic prophecy. It is too ugly to dwell upon.

Devastation and destruction and hurt and pain, not just against one life, or a thousand lives, but against all life, every single one. Sheer suicide.

How else to understand the motive for unleashing the all powerful nuclear blasts? The forbidden fruit is hanging on the tree. We know it's there. We know what it can do and we're telling each other not to reach for it, that it's merely there as a threat, a deterrent.

Won't someone get a wee bit curious and stretch out an arm to test the invisible power hanging on that tree? Might it not get too plump, continually being nourished, and fall in

our laps, the mother stem no longer able to support and control it? Frightening thoughts.

With one blow, all the creative endeavors of man, all his civilized achievements can be reduced to ashes. That isn't the worst of it, though.

With one blow, invisible evil is done to man's seed, destroying mankind's continuation. Therein lies the horror, my reason for calling it a suicidal move. It can only be done by someone who hates life irrationally.

Not pessimistic by nature, I can only look at history and shudder, realizing the worst portrayed in "The Day After" is still too gentle. In the 35 years the United Nations has been in existence, over 10 million people have died in wars.

Driving home after watching the film, what was on the news, but reports of fighting in Lebanon. Man does not learn, cannot control his destructive urge, and that is why I am afraid, afraid for my future and for life's future.

Concerns over land deal

To the editor of The Herald:

If I borrowed, with some poetic licence, from Lewis Carroll, it might go something like this:

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "to talk of many things: Of lot levies - and reserve funds Of 'in camera' meetings, Of buying land - and most of all How Council handled things."

The time has indeed come for a public examination of these matters. Saturday, Nov. 19, the group of citizens from across Halton Hills who are concerned about the Town's purchase of the Stevens property for a future municipal building met again, this time in Georgetown.

Ratepayers from Esqueving, Acton and Georgetown were present, and the undersigned was elected chairman of the group. It is in this capacity that I write to you today.

Following the Council meeting of Oct. 31 when Council authorized the finalization of the Stevens estate purchase, the citizens group established an ad hoc research committee.

Purpose of the committee was to study all information and documents released to the group by Council as well as to investigate all other relevant data, statutes etc. and information that might be made available.

The research committee has since asked for additional information from the Town and hopes to have an opportunity to examine this before the group next appears before Council. In the interim, the group wants to keep the public informed as to its concerns, activities and future direction.

First of all, the primary concern of

this group is whether or not Council has acted properly in the acquisition of the Stevens estate, and, indeed, in the actual funding of the land purchase.

The majority opinion of members of the group is that monies earmarked for the land purchase should more properly have been spent on any necessary additions and improvements to the Trafalgar Road building. The wisdom of using lot levies for land acquisition instead of for their normal purpose is in question.

Most of the public pronouncements made by Mayor Pomeroy and Councillor Poulstrup have attempted to justify the Stevens land purchase by alluding to profits that will come from selling the unneeded portion of the property. This is land speculation, pure and simple, and many citizens are questioning the judgement of Council in entering into such speculation.

Preliminary investigation by the research committee has produced a great many questions as to the accuracy of the economic evaluations considered by the Town when choosing the Stevens land site. In the space needs study requested by Council, a projected building cost, in 1983 dollars, for a suitable complex was 4.4 million dollars!

This did not include furnishings nor allow for inflation. Accordingly, in one report considered by Council, a projected surplus after selling off the unneeded land for development would be less than \$500,000; a long way off \$4.4 million for a building alone. Had Council not purchased the land, a reserve fund of over \$600,000 would still have been available for renovations to

the existing Trafalgar Road site!

Surely Council doesn't expect taxpayers to accept the burden of anywhere from \$4.5 to \$6 million or more in taxes in the future?

The Toronto Star of Nov. 15, 1983 reads, "Pomeroy says Halton Hills is at a disadvantage because it has gone through a period of slow growth and that means financing would be a major hurdle." If the above is true, in terms of slow growth, why the need for a major new municipal complex?

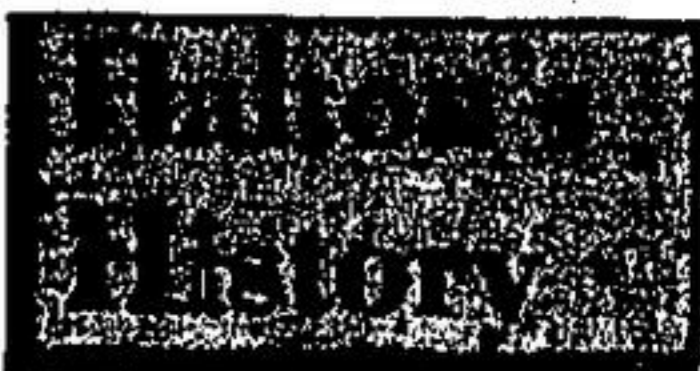
Also, in regard to recent provincial warnings about water supplies and restrictions anticipated on residential growth in Halton Hills (Georgetown) is it possible that the Town could wind up holding a piece of land that could not be developed for years?

After all, Council already had a proposed draft plan to subdivision on the Stevens estate to consider as early as August 1982! Could the same be said for any of the alternate site investigations?

As for Council claiming there was negligible public interest or input earlier, perhaps Council should learn to distinguish between a public meeting, called at the request of Council, and a Council meeting, to which the public is invited to attend. There is a difference!

Through our petitions and our discussions with ratepayers in Halton Hills we intend to continue to solicit that support.

Sincerely,
Norman R. Elliott,
Chairman, Citizens Committee



THIRTY YEARS AGO—Keen interest is being shown in Georgetown nominations for the 1984 council. Nomination meeting is Thursday night at the public library and if all those rumoured to be interested in seeking office are nominated, there should be more than a full slate for the Dec. 14th election. Mayor Jack Armstrong is standing for office and there has been no mention of a mayoralty race. Prominently mentioned for the offices of reeve and deputy reeve thrown open by the retirement of Frank Petch and K.R. MacDonald are councillors Stan Allen and Allan Norton, as well as such former council members as Harold Cleave, W.G. Marshall, Thomas Lyons and Alex MacLaren. Members of this year's council who are almost certain to seek office are Garfield McGilvray, Harry Hale and Doug Sargent. James Goodlet announced some time ago that he is retiring.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO—The department of municipal affairs will be asked to clear up an ambiguous point in regulations about elected officials having business dealings with a municipality. Council decided to ask for a ruling when Coun. Eric Hyde brought up the subject. Mr. Hyde said he was not criticizing the town clerk, who is returning officer for the election, but he felt there was a misunderstanding in advising a potential candidate that he could not do business with the town if elected. Mr. Hyde said he interprets election regulations as saying that an employee or shareholder of a limited company is not bound by the "no business" rule. Town clerk C.G. Benham said he had hesitated to give an opinion on the sections of the municipal act which appear on the back of election qualification forms and the town solicitor had been consulted and the candidate had been advised it would be better not to seek election.

TEN YEARS AGO—The axe fell on Norval School last Thursday evening as the Halton County Board of Education voted to accept a recommendation from the assistant director of education Ev Lamender, that the school be closed effective June, 1974. The trustees voted in favor of the recommendation by a 12-3 vote.

Present at the meeting held in the board administration building in Burlington was Norval resident Julian Reed who pleaded the case for keeping the school open. "You are voting on the future, or ending the possibility of a future for Norval School," Mr. Reed told trustees. "I urge you to look at all the options." Mr. Reed asked the board not to make a decision Thursday evening but to allow him time to organize so he could present alternatives to closure. In his ten minute address, Mr. Reed accused the board of "gerrymandering" with the Norval School. He noted the school was paid for, that students were able to walk to school and that the decreased enrolment figures were due to the board's own decision to remove several grades from the school. "The board has removed kindergarten and Grade 1 from the school. Isn't it logical that if a child starts at one school, his parents are reluctant to bring him back to Norval School?" demanded Mr. Reed.

ONE YEAR AGO—Education minister Betty Stephenson's announcement Monday of a major reorganization of the current high school program means a five or six per cent increase in education costs for Halton taxpayers.

Halton board of education finance chairman Bill Priestner told The Herald Tuesday he anticipates the changes will cost the board that much.

The minister increased the course load for Ontario students from 27 to 36 credits for a high school diploma. "Who will teach those extra three courses?" Mr. Priestner asked. He said teachers' workloads won't be increased any to make up the difference. More teachers will have to be hired to handle the extra teaching load, Mr. Priestner said.



The Ontario Crippled Children's Centre in Toronto recognizes that disabled teenagers have particular problems in addition to those normally encountered in growing up.

To help prepare for this adjustment they have been offering a Teen-Independence Program every summer, since 1973. Fifteen teenagers between 15 and 19 years old are selected from across the province on a first come basis for the three week live in course held each July at the Centre.

Candidates must have a normal range of intelligence, potential for integration into the community and attend regular schools in their home town.

This course grew out of a YMCA life skills program and teaches problem solving and life skills as they relate to independent living. If you are interested or wish more information, contact OCC at 425-6220 and ask for the Teen Unit.

Decisions are made in the spring and they already have applicants. If you are interested, apply now.

A recent ruling by the Federal Tax Review Board states that disabled people do not have to be confined to a conventional wheelchair to qualify for a disability tax deduction. We are told that this decision will not be appealed.

It appears the people who are dependent on external devices such as braces, prosthetic limbs, a walker and some cases a cane may now be eligible. If you feel that you may qualify, you can refile your taxes for the past four years and claim the exemption.

Remember they won't give it to you if you don't ask. Move on this in the new year prior to tax time.

Write us a letter

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 LG 3Z6.

If you would like to write your Federal Member of Parliament or Member of the Provincial Parliament on some matter of interest - below are their mailing addresses. Also if you send us a copy of

your letter, it might be suitable for our letters to the editor column.

John McDermid,
Member of Parliament,
Brampton-Georgetown,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ont.

Julian Reed,
Member of Provincial Parliament,
Halton-Burlington,
Ontario Legislature,
Queen's Park, Ont.

Otto Jelinek,
Member of Parliament,
Halton,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ont.