

Mayor to serve region well

Mayor Pete Pomeroy will serve the region well as their chairman, just as he did here in Halton Hills.

Though he was never popular on all issues he stood for, he gained respect for his leadership and commitment to the community. It's hard to doubt his sincerity in working to make Halton Hills a better place to live for everyone.

Perhaps journalists were the only ones to see fully the time commitment required of Mayor Pomeroy for special request appearances. Often he could be seen attending three or four official "openings" or dinners or award nights representing the Town of Halton Hills in just one week.

He might have sent a member of council to fill his shoes for a night, but the mayor rarely did. Clubs and groups came to expect the mayor to attend

their function, and he rarely let them down.

The mayor in his many appearances was seen to be approachable, allowing the way for citizens to feel comfortable in tabling requests or complaints with the mayor's office.

He was seen as a conciliator on many issues, working to find solutions in situations where a stalemate had been reached.

It's hard in politics to please everyone - The Herald never agreed with all of the town's policies. But a politician faces a juggling act often requiring strong convictions, a no-nonsense approach, coupled with an amiable and fair disposition.

Mayor Pomeroy did his part in moving the Town of Halton Hills progressively forward.

Go to the polls

With two years left in the mayor's term of office, there is little reason to suspect an appointed replacement would earn the respect or understanding of Halton Hills residents.

With Mayor Pomeroy leaving for his new position at Halton region, there is little choice but to call an election.

Good reasons can be used for supporting an appointed mayor for the remainder of the term, but the strength of the arguments just don't wash in our political climate.

An appointed mayor would maintain the continuity of the present council and would save voters some money, plus prevent a low turnout at

the polls, supporters say.

However, a mayor must have the support of the people and an appointee would be hindered by critics who claimed they never had a chance to hear his philosophy on town development and matters affecting the lifestyles of community members.

The new mayor should have a clear mandate to act on town matters and an election would be a perfect opportunity for candidates to express themselves directly to the people.

Regardless of the time of year, constituents should feel happier voting for a new mayor, than having hesitant feelings about an appointed mayor.

Therein lies one of their greatest promotional challenges.

Much easier is to provide programs for the changing lifestyles and demographics in Georgetown. Y director John Wood is meeting those challenges by working on programs that fulfill a need in the community.

As he says in his report, "...our community will have to respond to the effects of an increasing elderly population, an increase in dual parent working families, a decreasing birth rate, an increasing divorce rate and a continuing recession."

Two areas he stressed where the Y is working to improve and develop programs is in the area of the elderly and school age day care.

Like businesses and individuals, the Y has been through their share of belt-tightening. Nancy Shortill was recently laid off after two years as a program administrator. She was publicly thanked for efforts, Wednesday.

Nancy, I understand, has just been hired as a sports administrator in Barrie.

The Y will have to increasingly rely upon their network of volunteers who act as advisors, coaches and fund-raisers to assist in maintaining and developing programs.

In 1983 there were 130 volunteers for the Y in Georgetown who donated 1,747 hours of their time for the organization.

If you're interested in working to help Y programs, or help contribute to their financial success, either through a donation or through fund-raising of your own, I'm sure the Y would love to hear from you.

The Y is only as strong as the community it belongs to.

To the editor
of The Herald:

Permit me to comment on the question of whether to appoint our next mayor or use the democratic process and have an election.

When you consider it will be the taxpayers of Halton Hills that will have the most to gain or lose, they should be the ones to decide who the next mayor will be

through the election process.

With all due respect to Mayor Pomeroy, and I wish him well in his new job, I do not agree with his reasoning in advising that his successor should be appointed.

I find it difficult to understand the logic of his reasoning when he claims it would save the taxpayers about \$50,000 if the job is filled by

appointment while he advocates the spending of 4 or 5 million for a new municipal complex at a time when governments are imposing and preaching restraint.

Mayor Pomeroy is quoted in the local press (Nov. 9, 1983) as having said before the November 1982 election he made his primary commitment to the administration of Halton Hills. In a direct

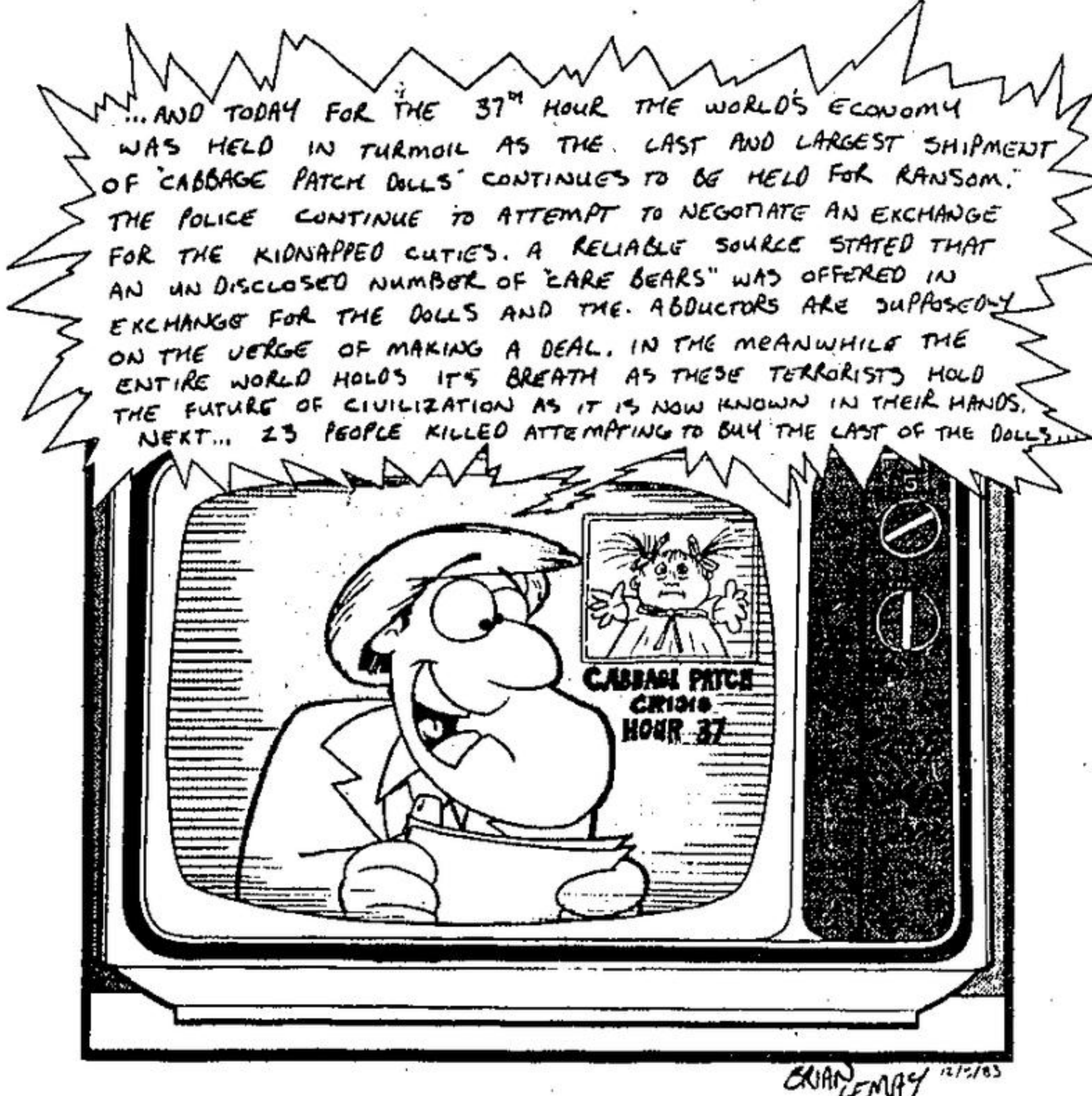
quote he says, "I am enjoying the job I am doing now", adding that while he may consider other future political opportunities, the regional chairman's job isn't one of them.

Having said this and changed his mind as reported in the local press the following week, it is undeniably his privilege, but it is presumptuous of him to advise the vacancy

should be filled by appointment.

In my humble opinion, just because there is a law passed this does not preclude the possibility it may not be a good law, whether it be a municipal law, provincial or federal, when by its application the democratic way is bypassed.

Yours truly,
Steve Emmerson,
Georgetown



Landfill sites have uses that offset their liabilities

Sooner or later, somebody somewhere in Halton is going to have a landfill site in their back yard.

For all the charm, patience and detail the landfill site consultants have put into explaining the situation to residents (the study team was in Georgetown last week), there's going to be a lot of screaming when regional council picks a location next summer.

When you think of the ough-items that are thrown into the average household trash pail, can there be any virtues in a landfill site?

It was a question I raised with Cam Watson, an economist with the study team, and George Woodburn, the man responsible for the safe disposal of our solid wastes.

Assessing what they said, it's unlikely somebody would ever get rich just because they live near a landfill site.

But there are some spin-off benefits, most more likely to be enjoyed when the landfill site is closed and capped, but others evolving from the operation of the landfill site itself.

CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITIES
A landfill site isn't just a hole in the ground anymore; it's a "facility". That means construction. Big construction.

And depending on what the contractor needs in term of manpower, there could be some short-term construction work for the local area.

These days, landfill sites have to be built with catchbasins or other means of getting rid of the toxic ooze percolating from and through all that buried trash.



Staff
Comment

CHRIS AAGAARD

garbage will do just that.

OPEN SPACE
Generally, landfill sites do little to enhance the value of property around them. But a capped off landfill site can be used as attractive open space.

Mr. Woodburn pointed out that one landfill site in St. Catharines has been turned into a pair 60 executive golf course.

Centennial Park's ski hill in Etobicoke rests smack bang on top of old garbage.

Yet, Centennial Park has become a year-round community recreation centre—skiing in the winter and fitness and passive recreation in the summer.

In Kitchener, methane gas from a landfill site has been drawn off and used by a nearby manufacturing firm. The project failed because there wasn't enough methane gas volume to make it work properly.

A plan to heat greenhouse installations with methane at the Oakville landfill site which tested last year has also been shelved.

Halton's search for a landfill site, 10 years later and about \$2 million later, may finally be coming to a close—the proverbial buck is about to stop in someone's backyard.

Whether trash is burned or recycled, the stigma attached to the wastes of living will always make it an unwelcome and difficult issue to deal with.

The real heroes won't be those who fight it, perhaps successfully, pushing it into somebody else's neighborhood; the real heroes will be those who end up making the best of a bad situation.

Christmas with G. I. Joe

CLERGY
COMMENT



By Rev. GRAHAM BLAND
St. Alban's Anglican Church
Glen Williams

As my wife and I were leafing through a Christmas shopping catalogue from one of Canada's major department stores recently, we came across a startling double-page colour picture. In it, we were introduced, under the heading "Catch the Action", to G.I. Joe, a leading children's personality these days, and his frightening array of toy weaponry.

For instance, there are dozens of "Mobile Strike Force" members for your child to arrange in imaginative

battle formations. A "Rapid-fire motorcycle" packs a deadly punch.

You can make war with your buddies from a Dragonfly helicopter "loaded with weapons, including 4 Scorpion rockets". Or, the wonders of modern military technology bring you a "rotating twin battle gun" which might prove effective against a "Sky-striker jet armed to the teeth", although the "Cobra H.I.S.S. battle vehicle...double cannons elevate and swivel" provides a more formidable defence capability.

You can get one G.I. figure thrown in for a "battle tank with super-traction", while the "Attack vehicle" with "twin elevating machine guns" gives better value at only \$9.99!

And for the child who has everything, so to speak, a "Collector display case" provides portable "space for Combat Command file cards and weapons army".

For the more 'playful' child, there's the "Cobra battle game" (sic) for "age 5 and up". While for younger children of a more artistic bent, "age 4 and up", there are paint-by-numbers sets of battle scenes to help the child develop a more graphic picture of what war is like at first-hand!

This is frightening indeed! It conjures up pictures for me of families awakening on Christmas Day this year to the sound of machine-gun, rocket and mortar fire...not just on the T.V. newscasts, but around their own Christmas trees.

Now I am not one of those who wants to insulate my children against all of the cruel realities of our world. Better that they be aware of the inhumanities of the world in which they are to grow up. They might be more realistic then in their own adult struggles for justice and truth.

Something sticks in my craw, though, about this kind of Christmas propaganda. A season which proclaims "Peace on Earth and Goodwill" is perverted when 4 year olds are encouraged to fantasize about war and destruction. Here, combat and weapons are glorified and a new god, in the form of a plastic G.I., replaces the one true God in the impressionable imaginations of our children.

And I say "new god" advisedly, because G.I. Joe is not designed to die in combat. He lives to fight umpteen new battles; a sort of toy John Wayne!

This is the supreme danger of these war toys for me - that they, in fact, are insulating our children against reality in a more subtle way than we imagine, by failing to teach them the true horror of war. A thousand curses on such things!

I'm no child psychiatrist, but for the sake of my children's health, G.I. Joe will be an unknown quantity in our home. As I understand what a nursery is, what a home is, it's a place where human life is nurtured and valued. It is not a place where we plot, even in our imaginations, about how to destroy life. And if life is destroyed, that is no game.

This Christmas, in our own small way, we in our family will rejoice at the coming of God's life into our world's life in Jesus Christ.

I can only encourage you to think about doing the same, or else forget about calling it Christmas.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—The Royal Bank of Canada will pay over par for a \$140,000 debenture issue for Georgetown's high school addition. Successful tender of 101.15, submitted jointly by the bank and Equitable Securities, was accepted at Monday's council meeting. The debentures bear interest at five per cent for a 20-year period. Finance chairman Garfield McGillvray, in moving to accept the offer, said he was pleased to see Georgetown did not have too many debentures. "It certainly shows we are a long way from being bankrupt," was his comment.

A member of the family which gave Glen Williams its name, Charles Edward Williams, 85, died in Simcoe Nov. 26. Mr. Williams, son of Joseph Williams, was born in the Glen in 1868. He worked in the grist mill where the Apple Products Company is now located, then went to Chicago where he spent most of his life in the brokerage business. He was one of the founders of the British Empire Club there. Fond of music, he was probably the oldest living person who sang in the choir at the old Methodist Church in town.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO—The Georgetown Herald takes a major step in its development Jan. 2 when Thomson Newspapers Limited become its publishers. Sale of the 92-year old business was announced by Walter Biehn, publisher and editor since he purchased the Herald from the J.M. Moore Estate in March 1940. Prior to Mr. Moore, the late R.D. Warren owned the business for many years. No changes in management, staff or editorial policy are contemplated by the new owners who will retain Mr. Biehn as managing editor, Garfield McGillvray as shop superintendent and present employees Leslie Clark, Corey Herrington, David Hastings and Bob Baskerville in the print shop, and Mrs. Aileen Bradley and Terry Harley in the office.

With council's "Big Three" heading the polls for a second year, Monday's municipal election saw only one change in the 1959 council when couns. Alfred Sykes lost his seat to newcomer Mrs. Al. Currie. In her second bid for office, Mrs. Currie tallied 599 votes and fifth place in the standings to become the first lady ever elected to a government seat in Georgetown's history.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—With an approximate 50 per cent turnout of voters, Georgetown chose Wheldon (Steamer) Emmerson, council's finance chairman, as mayor. The mayoralty race was close. Former reeve John Elliott was only 71 votes behind. Robert Francis, four years a councillor, was third.

Council authorized the purchase of a five and a half acre school site in Moore Park for the price of \$3,500 an acre. The purchase price will be taken from money received from the Lane subdivision as a per lot fee for allowing residential building without compensating industrial assessment.

TEN YEARS AGO—Georgetown police chief Floyd Schwartz has been named staff inspector for administration of the new Halton regional police force. His appointment became effective Dec. 3 but the new regional force doesn't begin its operation until Jan. 1 with headquarters in Oakville and detachments in Georgetown, Milton, Oakville and Burlington. Burlington police chief Ken Sherratt heads the new force.



By PAT WOODE
Herald Columnist

Imagine Christmas without turkey, rolls, cake, pudding, pie, cookies, or ice cream. Many foods that we take for granted, a child with phenylketonuria (PKU) is not allowed to eat at any time.

PKU is just one of 100's of inherited metabolic disorders resulting in an abnormal processing of protein. Metabolic disorders can be thought of as having too much or too little of a specific protein or of that protein's activity. In the case of PKU this deficiency may be virtually complete.

Early diagnosis and treatment is a must. If developmental retardation is to be prevented, a dietary program must be started before 30 days of age. Consequently most newborns in North America and Europe are screened for high concentrations of Phenylalanine in their blood.

Untreated children often require chronic institutionalization due to hyperactivity, seizures and severe mental retardation. In contrast, children who are tested at birth and treated promptly show very few of these abnormalities.

Metabolic disorders can affect as many as 1-500 with effects ranging from inconsequential to death. With tissue analysis, cell cultures, prenatal detection, and improved identification of carriers developed in the last 25 years, the future appears to hold great promise.

Food is a big part of our culture. For those unable to consume regular meals and snacks, the approaching festive season accentuates an "invisible handicap".

A number of you have approached me about the handicapped parking permits. They are now available at the town offices in Acton and Georgetown.

Please note however that the plastic covers for the permits are not yet in stock nor are the special parking signs yet erected. There will be an announcement in the paper when the above is in place.

Elect mayor, logical step: reader.