

A step backward?

Progression or regression? The provincial government's move to clamp down on the number of optional programs for students has shown dramatic results in Georgetown.

It's too early to gauge the long term effects of the government's decision. What is apparent is that our educational system has taken a step backward — a more conservative retreat to times when students had little choice in picking their curriculum.

The school reform program, commonly known as OSIS, requires grade nine students and those in upper grades to take 16 compulsory courses — an increase in seven courses.

The program works well in providing students with direction in what administrators feel are 'must' courses for a well-rounded education.

But the system breaks down when considering the individual needs of some students who will never benefit from an abundance of compulsory subjects.

Technical courses at Georgetown District High School are down 56 per cent. This means that students who might otherwise have been interested in technical courses have been lead away into other fields of study that they might find less appealing.

This will undoubtedly show in their study habits and retention of course material.

Furthermore, the nature of the workforce is changing and skilled workers are required in a variety of trades. An exposure to some of these skills at the high school level would encourage students to pursue careers in trades where jobs are in demand.

It's a trade-off in legislating these new reforms. We'll be teaching students more of what we think they should know, without consulting the student to the same extent as was once done.

Will it stifle their creativity or their interest in high school. Will it improve their chances in finding a job once they're out of work? We'll have to wait and see.

Dental dilemma



Editor's notebook

By DAVE ROWNEY

The Herald office is a big, quiet place to work when you're all by yourself on a Monday night. Ani had gone off to enjoy one of her rare nights off from council meetings and made it to an exercise class. Robin flew the coop to compile Blue Jay baseball statistics, no doubt. Dan made plans for settling into his new apartment.

I was through my work too, except for a variety of letters to the editor about toothaches in town. Mulling over the comments, it seemed important to get at the root of the problem.

A letter last week by Bettyanne Wellstead on Page 5 of The Herald outlined her problems in finding an available dentist. She was dismayed in locating someone to look at a toothache.

We received two letters critical of her letter. One from an anonymous dentist — the other from the owner of the Georgetown answering service used by the dentists. Everyone so far has made some valid points, but there have been some words lost here somewhere in translation.

To separate the wheat from the chaff, I decided to do some calling and find out how tough it would be to have a tooth looked at.

These are my findings from phone calls at 9:30 p.m. Monday:

Distress Centre: The anonymous lady (yes, madam, all Contact Centre people are anonymous) thought it rather bizarre that I was calling, but after some digging and shuffling of papers she found me a dental laboratory in Port Credit and a dentist for the elderly.

No wait, seconds passed, but finally she produced some phone numbers of Georgetown dentists. In addition, there was a number for the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital and a name of an emergency service in Bramalea called Tridon. So far so good.

The next call was to Georgetown

District Memorial Hospital. A pleasant head nurse (Mrs. M. Caroll) spoke to me and said if I came into the hospital with a toothache I would be seen by the doctor on call and either given some tablets or a prescription and referred to a dentist.

Dental problems are usually referred to a 24-hour emergency service in Mississauga, but in the case of Bettyanne Wellstead, someone from the hospital wasn't aware of the number, she said.

Usually toothaches can be looked at the next day, but it was unfortunate for Mrs. Wellstead it was a long weekend and she would have had to wait an additional day, she said.

All told, the doctors at the hospital are very good at looking at dental problems, although they are trained for medical emergencies, she said. On to the next call.

Georgetown Answering Service. The young lady at the other end of the line was quite helpful with my dilemma. Lisa Monchamp was actually the one who was working the day when the Wellsteads had their problems.

She said the dentists using the service help cover for each other quite well in the off hours.

She remembers last weekend quite a few of the dentists being away. The majority of the dentists using the service request that the answering service phone them at home rather than the patient doing so directly, she said. Then the dentists will phone them back, she said.

The dentist in question did get back to the Wellsteads, Lisa said, but it wasn't before she went off her shift, therefore she doesn't know how long it took.

How do you sum it all up? First, like rural roads in Halton Hills, you have to realize that small communities can't afford the same type of luxuries we see in big cities.

Second, it's probably not very lime or cost-effective for dentists to provide 24-hour service to customers. There just aren't enough of them to go around (or enough of us).

Third, don't give up on Georgetown dentists. In an emergency, call them first. But if you can't get through, get the car gassed up and be ready for a trip to Mississauga or Bramalea.

Fourth, don't get a toothache on a long weekend.



"I'd like to re-negotiate my mortgage."

Changes are long overdue



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
of The Herald

Where things are likely to change most under John Turner's leadership is in the administration of assorted government departments. And, heavens knows, the change is long overdue.

The organization and, more particularly, the reorganization of government departments has always been heavily influenced by prime ministerial whims and, in this respect, Prime Minister Trudeau has been decidedly whimsical during his stewardship. If he were to learn the number of person-years devoted exclusively to the reorganization of Ottawa's bountiful bureaucracy over the last 15 years, I suspect we'd all be thrown into a state of shock. There are some senior public servants, strange as it might seem, whose careers have been almost exclusively devoted to restructuring departments.

And Trudeau, more than any other prime minister, instigated these changes. Seldom a year went by without the prime minister deciding on some administrative reorganization, whether it was the simple transfer of an insignificant unit from one department to another, or the creation of some super-ministry, or "economic czar" to centralize the decision-making process.

NOTE EASY
Trudeau at times deemed almost obsessed with establishing superstructures which, he hoped, would make the unwieldy public service more efficient. He talked frequently about the need for a central authority to co-ordinate events, and various experiments ranged from the formation of information Canada, back in 1968, to the establishment of an economic super ministry a few years ago.

"He has always been concerned about the duplication in various departments," says a Trudeau aide, "and he was determined to establish some effective system to end it." But, as we all know, that's easier said than

done. Just ask some of the public servants who have been associated with encouraging industrial development in Canada, particularly in areas of slow growth. Over the last 15 years, many have been shunted around through various reorganizations in the departments of Industry, then Industry, Trade and Commerce, also Forestry and Rural Development, then Regional Economic Expansion, now Regional and Industrial Expansion, not to mention the Ministry of State for Economic Development and Ministry of State for Small Business.

And there are many public servants who will argue that, despite these massive overhauls, remarkably little has changed — except that the decision-making process has become more cumbersome.

The cabinet also grew larger, from 28 in 1968 to the present 37.

NO TAMPERING
And, as Turner discovered the moment he came to grips with his long-held determination to reduce the size of cabinet, it is easier said than done. Once a bureaucracy is in place, it isn't easily dismantled and, apart from everything else, there are those practical considerations of cabinet appointments. If the new prime minister had

his druthers, he would surround himself with no more than 20 ministers, but as an immediate goal this is obviously impractical. It's doubtful whether he will ever again see such a small cabinet.

But there is no doubt about Turner's inflexible commitment to a more efficient bureaucracy. He is known to feel, and rather strongly too, that many of the administrative changes involving industrial development were little more than bureaucratic window-dressing, which not only confused public servants, but also industry and the provinces. He has also felt that the overlapping of jurisdictions has encouraged unnecessary power jockeying among ministers.

"He has a couple of changes in mind," says a close Turner associate, "but they will be in the form of obvious streamlining, not the creation of any new apparatus." But after that "you won't see any of this year-to-year tampering."

Among the several things that make the new prime minister shake his head in bewilderment is the fact that some Canadian companies hire Ottawa representatives merely to advise them where to apply for grants and other assistance. "And that," he has said, "is ludicrous."

Letter to the editor

Canada Day spirit

Dear Sir:
Glen Williams Town Hall Canada Day Committee, you did it again!

You and the many groups, organizations, officials, volunteers and donors put together another terrific day of entertainment, fun and

pleasure for the residents of the Glen, Georgetown, the rest of Halton Hills and elsewhere to celebrate Canada Day 1984.

Through your efforts Canada Day in the Glen always reflects the 'rur-

al Ontario' spirit that is so very much alive here and causes residents such as myself to be very thankful to be living in one of the few remaining unspoiled villages in Southern Ontario.

Thanks for a great Canada Day!
Tony Taylor

Art display planned

If you've got a bit of art in your fingers, the region's Art Selection Committee is interested in you.

They're planning an art display of work by local citizens and regional staff in the council chambers, committee rooms, main foyer, the regional chairman's reception area and even the grounds in front of the green regional building in Oakville.

"I want to encourage staff. Let's try it on a one-time basis. Let's see what talent we've got here," Milton Coun. Bill Johnson said last week.

planned

Francis Barclay

Georgetown's second Reeve

EDITOR'S NOTE: Noted local historian Rev. Rick Ruggle will be writing a series of articles for The Herald each week about the history of Halton Hills and the people who have helped the town develop. This is the first article of the series.

By REV. RICK RUGGLE
Herald Special
FRANCIS BARCLAY:
GEORGETOWN'S SECOND REEVE

The opening years of the 19th century were marked by Napoleon's attempt to dominate the continent of Europe, to the exclusion of Great Britain. When he placed his brother Joseph on the throne of Spain, the Spanish revolted (1808) and Britain sent an army in response to a Spanish request for help.

British troops were to remain on the continent until the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo seven years later. The peninsular campaign was a David and Goliath affair which captured the hearts of Britons.

It was led by a Scotsman, Sir John Moore; and in the ranks was another Scotsman, a veteran artilleryman named Matthew Barclay (1781-1867) who had joined the colours at Woolwich at the age of 18. Barclay also fought at the bombardment of Copenhagen, when the British took possession of the Danish fleet.

Barclay's health was poor, and he returned to his native Paisley, where he manufactured shawls. The Paisley 'corks' or master-weavers were typical of the educated middle-class that was coming into being, noted for combining piety with independent thinking. Matthew Barclay seems to have shared this outlook.

Matthew married Mary Fleming, and a son John was born in 1820, and another son, Francis, in 1822. When Francis was ten, his father emigrated with the young family to Canada, taking up farming in Markham township.

In the year of Mackenzie's rebellion, 1837, the Barclays moved to a farm in Trafalgar township.

When he was about 17, Francis decided the farming life did not suit him, and tried his hand at a number of occupations, including teaching. In the spring of 1848 he formed a partnership with Peter A MacDougald (1823-1884) in a dry goods store in Georgetown. MacDougald was born at Colonel Talbot's settlement in western Ontario, and spoke and taught Gaelic. The partnership only lasted a year, when MacDougald returned to Oakville and Barclay carried on by himself.

MacDougald carried on a grain buying business at Oakville, where Francis' older brother John was also a major grain merchant.

When the Grand Trunk Railway was constructed from Toronto to Sarnia in the 1850s, the wagon journey to the lake ports was no longer necessary, and the north-south commerce was diverted to an east-west axis. Francis became one of the largest grain buyers in Georgetown.

Barclay was married first to Isabella McKirrie (1827-1863); then to Helen McKirrie (1839-1888). When Edith Street was opened, Barclay was one of the first to build a house on it. He served as second reeve of Georgetown,

and later as reeve of Milton. He was a decided Liberal supporter, and a Presbyterian.

In 1863 he took two young clerks into partnership: James McLean and William McLeod. He remained as a silent partner, and in 1871 sold out his interest in Georgetown and moved to Toronto. Here he ran a wholesale boot and shoe business in the Iron Block on Front Street. One wonders if some of his goods were manufactured at the Dayfoot tannery in Georgetown.

The venture was short-lived, and he suffered disastrous losses in a fire the following year. He returned business in Georgetown and Milton, and in 1881 became registrar of Halton County. He died on 5 March 1889.

A sketch in the Cyclopaedia of Canadian Biography (1886) described Francis Barclay as 'of a genial and kindly disposition, but uncompromising with all shams and false pretences.'

POETS' CORNER

SPRING TIME IN THE FOREST
Jane said to Jim, it must be spring,
buds are on the limb,
Then they walked around a pond, noisy
frogs within,
The air was soft and gentle, sunshine
bright and clear
Little birds did whistle, then they saw a
deer.
There were wild flowers growing here
and there,
Each one of them, they plucked their
share.
Wild woods were wonderful, the leaves
were sprouting through

Halton's History

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Completion of a new \$500,000 thermo-plastics division of Smith and Stone Ltd., Georgetown, was announced recently by Col. W.E. Phillips, president. Simultaneously, he also announced that the plastic facilities of an associated company, Duplate Canada, Ltd., Oshawa, have been transferred to Georgetown.

Council gave final reading to a bylaw on Monday night authorizing the issuing of \$111,000 in debentures for the Georgetown Hydro Electric Commission to be used for conversion and other purposes.

Probably Glen Williams' oldest resident Mrs. William Sharpe celebrated her 95th birthday on Monday, July 12th at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Foster. Mrs. Sharpe is enjoying comparatively good health and is up and about her home each day.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—Georgetown District High School has six Ontario scholars this year. For obtaining over 80 per cent in their final year, they each get a government award of \$150. They were Douglas Stephens, Mary Pedverse, \$150. They were Douglas Stephens, Mary Pedverse, James Henderson, Ronald Dubien, Linda Carey and Richard Fogal.

Students in Halton County who are convicted of drug offences in future will face automatic prison terms, county judge Alan B. Sprague said in a stern warning from the bench this week.

When the Moore Park plaza on Main Street north is completed it will have 22 units and parking space for 220 cars a spokesman for the builder, Ecron Construction, told the Herald.

TEN YEARS AGO—Dr. Frank Philbrook defeated Halton Progressive Conservative incumbent Terry O'Connor with a lead of close to 2,000 votes. With two polls yet to report last night, the Liberals had won 23,479 votes to the PCs 21,556.

A number of Georgetown residents around Delrex Boulevard watched a sight that may have been a little bit of election hijinks when a man rode around on top of a car, "streaking". FIVE YEARS AGO—No one seems to know when or where debris from the USA's space laboratory Skylab will hit as it plunges back to earth after three years in space; some predictions call for it to land sometime last night but Halton officials are taking no chances as they dust off emergency contingency plans across the region in case pieces of Skylab crash to earth within Halton.



By PAT WOODE
Herald Columnist

At a conference sponsored by the Spinal Cord Society, on June 16, 1984, hope and optimism seemed to be the order of the day. The best form of care for paraplegics is work toward a cure and that is the ultimate goal of this society.

Today with medical advancement enabling doctors to manage secondary infection a patient who survives the first year following an injury can achieve a near normal life expectancy.

But, there are over 600,000 victims in North America and their average age is 19. This means they must face 30 to 40 years of life as members of a chronic spinal cord injury population.

Medical research is attacking the problem from several fronts. Early aggressive treatment, the restoration of bladder function, regeneration of nerve cells and computer controlled walking were topics of discussion for the day.

Traditional methods of treatment for an injury severe enough to cause complete paralysis rarely results in improvement. Pinching or shock to the spinal cord at the outset of the injury often causes ongoing damage for several hours.

Dr. Hansbout, explained that with the aid of a computer and scanning, they can detect where and what type of injury is involved. Such examination reveals a complete injury (no messages received beyond the site of injury) or incomplete (partial feeling and/or flicker of movement).

Animal research shows a potassium loss after injury. Cortisone steroids improve functioning if applied immediately.

In 1967 a spinal cord cooling saddle was developed. The patient is opened at the site of injury and unit fits around the spinal cord, cooling it to three degrees, reducing swelling and preventing further internal bleeding. Experiment conducted on patients with similar incomplete injuries proved that those treated with steroids and early cooling were later able to run. Seventeen per cent of others with complete injuries could walk but those without any specialized program of aid remained paralyzed.

For chronic patients, there are several surgical techniques, such as decompression (taking pressure off the spine), spinal cord cyst drainage, plastic surgery to prevent bed sores, and bioengineering (computerized walking).

Every kind of wild flowers, white, yellow, red and blue, it was a beautiful feeling, only spring time knew

We saw the little pussy willow, it was budding too.
And saw a black squirrel jumping in the trees
It was adventure in nature, like a swarm of bees.
It is a great sensation, to hear the wild birds sing
Only once a year, we are thrilled with the wonders of the spring.
—By ALBERT BROOKS,
RII2 Actor



The lazy days of summer are perfect for horsing around. This shot was taken in Stewartville near a field by Lawson's Creek. (Herald photo)