

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866

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Help them help us

Feeling the Christmas crunch? If you're considering a trip to Brampton, Guelph or Toronto for a shopping spree, we've got words of caution.

It's busy out there in the hinterlands beyond Halton Hills.

By shopping locally residents can avoid traffic in the aisles and roads that lead to many of the same purchases that can be made right here in town.

We're willing to bet you'll find more smiling shopowners and clerks here.

There's another reason besides fighting crowds and helpful staff, though.

Local merchants support our town through their taxes, sponsorships and charitable donations. Part of the money they make helps a multitude of programs ranging from minor hockey to the Red Cross.

A good Christmas season for some firms means the difference between closing their doors forever, or continuing on.

What other's say

No time to idle

It seems some members of council finally believe Brampton's representatives must take an active role in the search for a new garbage dump.

Garbage dumps, for that matter any kind of dumps, are hot political items. And Brampton city council is just starting to feel public pressure even though Peel Region will have initial say in choosing a site.

Under an old agreement, the region's dump must be located in Brampton. The existing dump at the Britannia landfill site is in Mississauga.

Peel Region has badly handled the issue. Consultants were hired and five sites were chosen. The preferred location, near Mississauga Road and 5th line west, (Site B) received strong public and corporate opposition. Markborough Properties told the region that Mississauga could lose millions if the dump was located near its proposed industrial park.

The region folded and in a panic rejected all five sites. Consultants picked seven new sites. The preferred one this time is in northwest Brampton near one of the original five.

The site ranks last from a hydrogeological standpoint. Area residents are already campaigning to stop the dump.

To now, Brampton's representatives have been strongly quiet about the whole process. It's apparent Mississauga doesn't want the dump anywhere near its boundaries.

At a meeting last week some city representatives suggested Brampton refuse to pass an official plan amendment if it disagreed with the region's choice of site.

That doesn't solve the problem and only delays the result. The time to become involved is now.

Coun. Dianne Sutter's motion, approved at committee level, asks the region to conduct soil tests at Site B, the original preferred site, opposed by Markborough.

Mississauga will likely pull all the stops to oppose Site B, the original preferred site, opposed by Markborough.

Mississauga will likely pull all the stops to oppose Site B, but it shows a willingness here to get involved.

Brampton, otherwise will have to live with the consequences. It's no good complaining after the decisions are made.

City council should be involved if only to save their own political hides. Ultimately Brampton's representatives will bear the brunt of the opposition.

They can no longer sit idle and blame the region.

—Courtesy of
Brampton Daily Times



"The city's trying to beautify the downtown area so they'd appreciate it if your mother stayed off the streets."

'Armchair general' misjudged



Ottawa
Report

By Stewart
McLeod

Although he was a federal cabinet minister for nearly eight years, Gerard Pelletier never managed to bare his immense intellectual energy before us. As Secretary of State, and then as Minister of State, and then as Minister of Communications, he tended to come across as a sort of cultural czar, often viewed by English Canadians as an armchair general in the battle for bilingualism.

And then he slipped out of our immediate view as Canadian Ambassador in Paris, followed by a three-year stint as Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations. Certainly a distinguished career but, so far as the general public is concerned, he remained largely underexposed.

And it's really a pity because Gerard Pelletier, recently retired from the public service at the age of 65, is an intensely interesting individual who, despite the image that his various portfolios imposed on him, is far from the aloof, morning-coated thinker we have come to imagine.

Had Pierre Trudeau made him his Minister of Labor, or even Agriculture, we would no doubt have come to know a far different individual.

GOOD STORY

What we tend to forget, in Pelletier's case, was the fact that he, along with Trudeau and Jean Marchand,

were in the trenches fighting Maurice Duplessis during the infamous 1949 asbestos strike.

And while we may have associated his newspaper career with a publisher's suite, it was as a slogging labor reporter that he really established his reputation. As a gutsy activist he took a backseat to one — although it was Marchand and Trudeau who captured most of the glory, such as it was. Perhaps Pelletier simply looked too cultivated.

But he has finally gotten around to telling us the full story of those early stormy years, and a good story it is. If there is one thing that Gerard Pelletier can do better than any of his contemporaries from that era is write, and his new book, *Years of Impatience*, is one of the best reads for anyone who has the slightest interest in Duplessis' Quebec and the often stormy years which followed.

If he was an enthusiastic participant, he was also an astute observer, and, it seems, that little has been missed.

Without having to wade through any dreary documentation, he tells us more about Pierre Trudeau than many of the books devoted exclusively to that fascinating subject. There are equally intriguing insights into the restless Rene Levesque and the feared Maurice Duplessis.

But, most of all, we finally get a long-overdue insight into the author himself and his unwavering commitment to the country, he served so well.

STILL GOING

And what I got from a long conversation with him were encouraging indications that it's far from over. Gerard Pelletier may be 65, like Pierre

Trudeau, but as he resettles into his old Montreal stomping grounds after living in New York and Paris, he can't wait to plunge headlong into new projects.

Being Chairman of the National Museums Corporation might look after one day a week, but he has six others to worry about.

So far, he has been busy organizing a forum in Montreal for the discussion of international affairs — "The interest in international affairs throughout Quebec is quite phenomenal" — and he's mulling over how to harness the energies that might be left over from the nationalist movement.

He has even talked to his old buddy, Trudeau, about the possibility of starting a new magazine to this end.

"What worries me is what will happen to a whole generation of Quebecers who have worked toward independence and who were on the verge of power. What will happen to this energy? Are we going to lose a whole generation? How are we to harness this into productive pursuits?" To Pelletier, whose eyes and ears have missed few sights and sounds in Quebec, the present situation, if allowed to drift, "is fraught with danger."

"Somehow we must create a forum that will bring two generations together." This is what he has in mind for a possible magazine. In fact, he has already talked with potential backers and participants, although "very tentatively."

Considering the fact that he still was surrounded by packing cases, and wasn't yet living in his own house, it was difficult to expect much more progress. But it will come — bet on it.

Thursday day of reckoning



Queen's
Park

By Derek
Nelson

Thursday this week is the day of reckoning for Liberal leader David Peterson and, to a lesser degree, NDP Leader Bob Rae.

That's when voters go to the polls in five by-elections. How they turn out should be a pointer to the future hopes of both Peterson and Rae.

It's true that by-elections can be unrepresentative of how an electorate will vote come a general election — the Parti Quebecois in Quebec is the ultimate example of that, losing 22 by-elections out of 22 but winning two general elections.

But even in Ontario, voters will cast by-election ballots to punish a governing party when they really don't intend to vote against it in a general election. That happened with the NDP's rural breakthrough in the Middlesex by-election in 1974, a breakthrough that ended as soon as the next general election was called.

NDP BEST

And it is also true that when it comes to by-elections the New Democrats are usually the best organized, with the greatest number of bodies knocking door-to-door.

Interestingly, while in the past few years, the Tories have maintained they're as entitled as the NDP to the by-election organization award, no Liberal has ever made such a claim.

This time round many Conservatives are tied up with their leadership campaign to replace Bill Davis as premier.

Still, all that hedging aside, these by-elections are important in terms of credibility for both Peterson and Rae.

Four of the ridings were Liberal-held (Hamilton Centre, Prescott-Russell, Wentworth North and Ottawa East) and one NDP (Ottawa Centre). In all but Hamilton Centre, the Tories were the number two party.

TORY HOPE

Considering they are running with a lame-duck premier (Davis) and only partial organization, a victory by the Conservatives in any of the seats can only be seen as a plus for them.

There is speculation (I haven't been in the ridings to check it out) they could win as many as three of them

(not Hamilton Centre or Ottawa East).

Since even Ottawa Centre isn't a "safe" NDP seat, its loss to the Tories wouldn't necessarily hurt Rae. He has only to run up respectable totals in the two seats in which his party has a chance (Ottawa Centre and Hamilton Centre) and hold his own or improve his vote in the other three contests to be a winner.

That will indicate, although not prove, that the NDP's nine-year slide in provincial politics has ended.

It will be champagne time should he win both Ottawa Centre and Hamilton Centre.

PETERSON'S PROBLEM

However if the Liberals win those two seats, then the bubbly will be out in Peterson's office. Such victories would confound the media pundits predicting the demise of the Ontario Grits.

Hamilton Centre's loss would be the most devastating for the Liberals. Their high-profile candidate is Lily Munroe, wife of former federal cabinet minister John Munroe, and the former representative was Liberal staff Sheila Coppins, who took Munroe's Ottawa seat. The competition there is solely the NDP.

If the other three seats also stayed Liberal, the Grits would be ecstatic. But Ottawa East is their only sure bet.



CLERGY
COMMENT

By JOCELINE TATE
Herald Special

"Away in a manger", Santa Claus, the miracle of the virgin birth, Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer. So many different images float through our minds as we think of Christmas.

Christmas-memories of the skates we unwrapped one year, a pretty doll the next or maybe a fluffy kitten or frisky pup. The warm memories clash with the radio announcer's voice: "Only 18 more shopping days before Christmas!" Ugh! The crowds, the confusion — who needs it?

In between our thoughts of fruitcake and fudge come the questions like "How did Christmas get so commercialized?" And we wonder about the possibility of putting the Christ back into Christmas.

Yet, Jesus did not come into the

world so that we could romanticize the beauty of a baby — so soft, so sweet. Jesus was born long ago into a world of violence; remember the slaughter of all the little children in Bethlehem? — how many children are assaulted across our land every year?

The Christ child came into the world, poor; he was born in a stable on a bed of hay — how many will die of starvation this very day? The Saviour arrived in a world of indifference; remember those who "followed him no more" because his words were too hard — how many in our land of materialism follow other gods whose words are alluring?

The Messiah arrived in a world of unfairness; after all, the purpose of the census was so that taxes could be levied — and in our world it is still the many who support the few.

So let us not allow ourselves to be distracted because the birth of baby Jesus seems to be left out of Christmas in our society. Why was Jesus born? Was it not to bring a message of hope to a world where violence, poverty, indifference and inequality are

rampan?

The message of Christmas is that there is hope to be found — our world is so in need of hope.

"Doesn't anybody have the answers?" "Doesn't anyone care?" Jesus came to speak a resounding "YES" in answer to those questions. The Jesus we know came not to be cooed over as a baby but to be looked to for the answers to life's dilemma.

Our Saviour came to communicate that YES there is the possibility of peace in your life when conflict abounds. YES there is strength available to you when you have exhausted all of yours.

And YES, YES, YES there is love — a love so great you can never exhaust it.

So this Christmas, let us focus not on how commercialized the celebration of the birth of Jesus has become. But rather let us focus on the people in our lives who need to hear the message of hope that Jesus was born to bring. And let us praise God for the reality of that hope in our own lives.

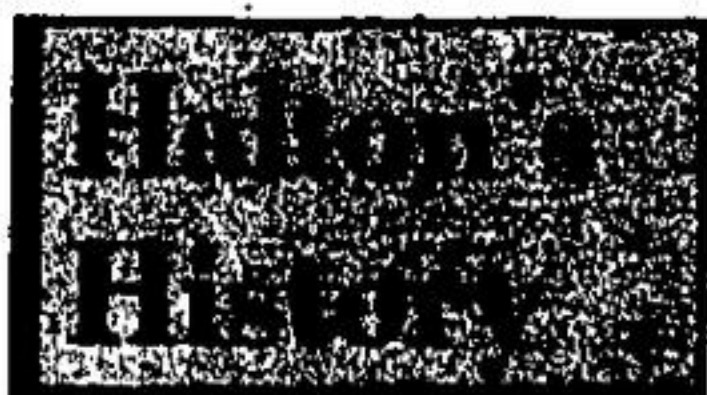
150 Years
of service
to firm

With combined service of 150 years, six employees were honored at a dinner and dance held at the Acton Legion on Sept. 22, 1984. Joining the Company's list of dedicated

employees having reached 25 years of service were Helen Noble and Terry Norton, both members of the maintenance department; John Doherty, Bill Watson and

Lloyd Dyer, tool and die makers; and Francis Hulme, a supervisor in the assembly department.

The six were presented with suitably inscribed timepieces



THIRTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown farmer Tom Brockbank enroute to England on the S.S. Franconia helped an American ship in distress during the crossing which involved picking up 18 dead sailors from the ship.

Footings are being poured this week by Hawes and Nelson, contractors for the new addition of Cedarvale School.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Roy Hurren will be making their home in Acton after being married Dec. 3.

Plans are proceeding for formation of a Rotary Club in Georgetown.

Mrs. Nancy Horwood became the first lady mayor in Brampton defeating Bill Robinson.

Gilbert Cunningham from Salmo, B.C. joined the MacCormack Drug staff last week.

Lt.-Col. Sam Charters succeeded Lt.-Col. John R. Barber, Georgetown, as commanding officer of the Lorne Scots Regiment.

Pipe Major of Georgetown Girls Pipe Band since 1950, Mrs. John (Scotty) Patterson has retired and will be succeeded by Ann Luke.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—A section of Main Street between Park and Maple was closed this week when work started on storm sewer, the first step in road reconstruction.

1983 Christmas seals have been distributed to Halton County area homes for the 43rd year.

All schools in Halton County are receiving nursing service on a full or part time basis, the board of education personnel office said this week.

Frank Cleave, Don Parker and John Narey won door prizes at the Smith and Stone annual staff Christmas party.

A 25 clause bylaw setting up a community program of recreation was given two readings by council Monday night.

An overloaded feeder line was the cause of a 20 minute hydro blackout which left a large section of the town without electrical power early Monday night.

Dr. J. David Hogan is a new member of Georgetown's medical fraternity with an office on Young Street.

TEN YEARS AGO—It's almost official. There will be three provincial ridings in Halton region next year.

The Georgetown boy scouts have been granted permission to purchase trees to plant on the site of the former Georgetown landfill site.

As a result of what is believed to have been smoking in bed a Georgetown District Memorial Hospital patient died in a fire there.

A standing Committee on the Status of Women which will be co-chaired by Peggy Balkind and Sylvia Oprica, was formed at the December meeting of the Local Council of Women.

Councillor Harry Levy has been nominated to represent Halton Hills council on the special fund-raising committee for the new Georgetown recreation centre.

Mike Richmond, 15, is co-organizing a street hockey game in the hopes of breaking the world's endurance record for the sport.

A critical sand and gravel shortage in Halton Hills has town council seeking a petition asking the provincial government to amend its Niagara Escarpment policy.

Dorothy Zebede, from the Georgetown Leos Club, presented GDMH with a cheque for \$360 which will be used to purchase a microteom knife.

FIVE YEARS AGO—Their crops threatened by starving wildlife, Halton farmers want an open season on deer next year in order to try and control the size of area herds.

Councillor Harry Levy, who has on occasion had differences of opinion with Mayor Pete Pomeroy, praised the mayor for his contribution thus far to the municipality.

Although the Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee has come up with a way to raise the necessary \$50,000 for its share of the project, members aren't talking about it until all the details are in place.

Adding impetus to efforts by downtown Acton merchants to beautify the central business area, plans are now being made for the construction of a five-store mall at the corner of Willow and Mill Streets.

Thursday's defeat of Prime Minister Joe Clark's government has sent the three riding associations in Brampton-Georgetown scrambling to organize campaigns.

"Chamber Alert!" a pre-planned way of warning Chamber members of problems such as bad cheques has now been implemented.

Jake's Restaurant, and Disco in Georgetown is looking for couples to enter its 29 hour dance marathon Jan. 11 and 12.

Norval residents expecting their regular newspaper pick-up will have to wait until January, Art Rice, a spokesman for the Norval Cubs and Scouts said.

Poets' Corner

GOOD FRIENDS

In the continuum
of my needing
none
save god
listen
even he's
been too busy
to return
my messages
lately
a modern day
rip van winkle
recently awakened
i keep asking
where'd you all go

—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,
Boston, Ontario



"Could I have eight reindeer bags?"