

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866

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The year in review

For 1984, The Herald is pleased to announce the winners of their year-end awards. It's our light-hearted look at people, places and events that made the past year so memorable for us.

WHODUNNIT OF THE YEAR:

To the person or persons unknown who caused such a stir in that tiny hamlet of Norval by capturing the old Norval School Bell one late night. It was later found abandoned in a cemetery thanks to some investigative police work. To the robbers we give you, a heavy-duty pair of rip-stop nylon stockings.

ITCHY PANTS TROPHY:

To Burlington's Mayor Roly Bird for being just a bit impatient with a regional task force set up to study the possibilities of creating a Halton United Way. He deserves a clock with stopwatch feature and some calamine lotion.

EMPTY CUP AWARD:

To our new Sport and Fitness Minister Otto Jelinek who promised Actonians a stop for VIA Rail trains. Residents are still waiting to collect on that promise. His gift should be a coffee mug with the inscription, "I've got to hand it to you."

HEADLINE BLOOPER OF THE YEAR:

In a historical feature for our bicentennial series, The Herald used the ridiculously inept headline "Walking comes naturally to Irene", because she used to walk 'everywhere'. The editor deserves a journalism refresher course and a shorter working week.

TRY, TRY AGAIN:

To the organizers of the Acton Rock 'n' Roll Fest for their daring attempt to raise funds for their minor hockey teams travelling to Norway. They have our admiration for trying other fund-raisers and not giving up. A suitable gift is the rock video "band-aid".

BEST SUPPORT IN A LEADING ROLE:

To Actonians for their devotion to the Terry Fox Run. To the few who never gave up at the Jaycees Winterfest despite the balmy weather. If Harold Ballard knew who you were he would gladly seek your help for upcoming Leaf games.

NEW IN '84:

The multi-cultural event by the Y; a open house club night with the rec department; pumpkin fest courtesy of the Kinsmen. The organizers all deserve a week at the Holiday Inn, Brampton think tank.

QUOTE OF THE YEAR:

"Things have a way of changing on a daily basis." Sept. 12, 1984. Peter Pomeroy a few weeks before he announced his candidacy for the Halton-Burlington Progressive Conservative riding association leadership.

BEST PRESSURE GROUP:

Norm Elliot and the coalition of citizens formed to fight the Stevens property purchase slated for a municipal complex eventually. Suggested gift: thirty acres of prime land near Maple Avenue with a money back 10 year guarantee, interest included.

The blahs of 1984

1984 is a year that many will remember, some would like to forget and in the main it was one of those years that may not even have a place in the history books.

The year opened with a few guarded predictions: nobody was too sure about the economy; there were signs it had a slight uphill direction but the momentum needed for the big push was still hovering around the corner.

Politically it was a big year. Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada since 1968, resigned and caused the need for a leadership convention; we saw several cabinet ministers enter their names for the post of prime minister and Canada had a non-sitting member emerge as the top man. There was an election and the Liberals were snoued under by a Tory landslide. Mulroney and his new boys took over Parliament Hill; a lot of promises were made during the campaign, not much action has been taken since.

Bill Davis, Premier of Ontario, decided to retire instead of fighting another election and Ontario is presently in the midst of a leadership race; very mild but could heat up after the New Year.

Our neighbor to the south had their usual fourth year political conventions, primaries and an election that saw Mulroney's friend Reagan returned as president. Canada's Prime Minister and the President of U.S. have become so friendly this year that since our election and even before there has been a continual parade of Canadian ministers to Washington.

Canada enjoyed its usual labor disruptions; a number of noticeable strikes affected the economy. Instructors at Sheridan College along with instructors of other colleges disrupted education for several weeks before they were legislated back to their classrooms.

Several major companies showed a profit for the first time in two years; steel showed some recovery; this industry experienced a few months of uncertainty when U.S. decided to protect their home steel industry. Automobile sales increased and the big three all showed greatly increased profits. The oil industry with the help of Ottawa survived N.E.P. and Canada now has a surplus of natural gas; the west sent a lot of it to Ottawa in September but they still need markets.

Retail sales didn't show too much of an improvement; small increase in sales had a better effect on the Pacific Rim economy than the Canadian suppliers. Eaton's became unionized, had six of their stores struck at Christmas time; this is what is termed good labor relations; give us our way or we will penalize the country.

Housing slogged along building expensive housing; some industrial growth; no major construction; Hamilton still trying to build a highway bypass.

1985 will be an exciting year; the year of the municipal elections; this year we will hear from all the "me-too" councillors and board members who feel it is their destiny to warm the several chairs of their meeting rooms.

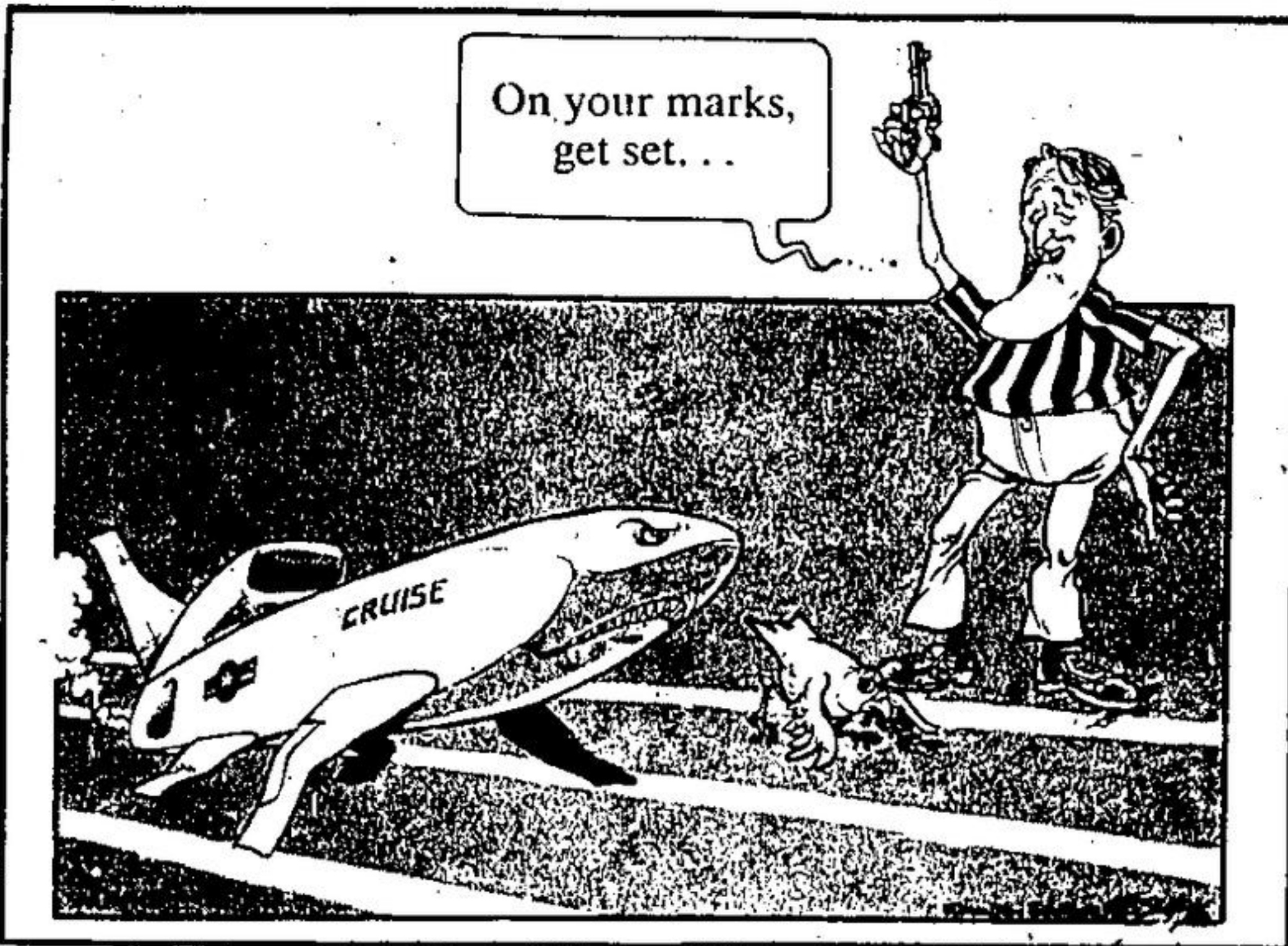
Small business is still in place, still managing on its own resources, still being told they are the backbone of the country and still waiting in the wings for some sign of assistance so they can take their rightful place in the economy.

There were a few signs Canada made a little progress in the return to an acceptable economy. Interest rates declined, the inflation rate was below 5 per cent, some unions settled for jobs instead of monetary frills and the export of Canadian resources increased.

The year is ending with employment below the 90 per cent level, we still have a large group of youths seeking satisfactory employment. Governments are addressing unemployment but little has been done to create long term employment.

In a few days the year will close; by the end of 1985 there will be a lot of new faces in government and some of the results of a change in government at the federal level should be apparent, we can hope. Who knows, if the present government soon gets over congratulating themselves on their election last fall, we may see some advances in the economy that will be beneficial to the whole country.

—Courtesy Halton Peel Hamilton-Wentworth Business Journal



'Sacred' rhetoric hurt



Ottawa Report

By Stewart McLeod

This incredible, and entirely unnecessary, controversy over our universal social welfare programs probably would not exist had not Prime Minister Mulroney soared off into that flight of rhetoric about the "sacred trust".

But having given Canadians the understanding that he considered the universality of such programs to be in this sacred trust category, the prime minister now finds it decidedly awkward to desecrate them. A "sacred trust" is, after all, about as solemn as you can get in the general lexicon of political promises. It's not as though he said the programs deserved a sympathetic hearing.

But what has become apparent, largely through the controversial utterances of other cabinet ministers, is that the government wants to change the present system in which these programs, such as family allowances and old-age security pensions, apply to all Canadians regardless of their needs. However, perhaps because of that sacred-trust commitment hanging over their collective heads, cabinet ministers, including Mulroney himself, are having a déuce of a time saying what's in the government's mind, or their own minds for that matter.

As a result, as this is being written, we have no idea what to expect in the way of social program reform.

WIDE CHOICES

On the one hand, we can still have, for the record, that original commitment by Mulroney about universality being a sacred trust. But then we have a later one from Finance Minister Michael Wilson that suggests it is the programs themselves, and not necessarily their universality, that's the sacred trust. We have the prime minister asking rhetorical questions about bank managers, earning \$500,000 a year receiving family allowances. And while we're busy agreeing that this shouldn't be the case, we have Wilson lowering this figure to \$35,000.

Then, before we have time to come to grips with this, Health Minister Jake Epp is talking about redirecting social benefits from those earning over \$26,000 a year. We also have Wilson talking about the country not being able to afford social payments to middle-income earners while the prime minister appears to deny that such a remark had been made. This brought unparliamentary charges from New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent who, consequently, became the first party leader to be expelled from the Commons for a day.

It's the prime minister's claim that Wilson was merely trying to provoke debate. And if this is the case, we can only conclude that his success has exceeded all expectations.

SHOULD EXPLAIN

If the government had not decided

to perform radical surgery on the social programs, we can assume it would have taken advantage of its many opportunities to say so. No government in its right mind would go through these verbal gymnastics, and risk its own credibility in the process, unless there were good and sound reasons. If only the prime minister could say that he stands squarely behind his sacred-trust comment; there would be no debate raging around him right now.

We are left with the impression that the government is clearly committed to redirecting social monies, in one way or another, but can't bring itself to say so. Instead, we are getting these assorted explanations, including a rather funny one about being unable to be candid during election campaigns because the Liberals would only distort things.

Seems to me the government is doing a fairly good job of distorting things without any help from the now-gasping Grits.

Politicians traditionally have difficulty in acknowledging errors, but surely this is a case where the prime minister should blow away all that verbal verbiage, even if it involves a confession of campaign overstatement, and simply explain what he meant then and what the government plans now. That would be far preferable to this feeling of being systematically prepared for a decision that has already been made by a group of ministers who never "mispoke".

Caring for your eyes



By PAT WOODS
Herald Columnist

This week's column is derived in part from a publication by the Optical Radiation Corporation of California. It does not purport any immediate or new hazard to health is imminent. If you have questions contact me or ask your optometrist at your next regularly scheduled eye examination.

Last year on CBC's Marketplace, sunglasses and ultraviolet (UV) light was examined. They concluded that very few sunglasses effectively shielded the eyes. Price seemed to be of little relevance.

In their presentation, they did not break UV radiation into sub-segments as to which UV was being stopped by which glasses.

The human eye is designed to "see" radiation as light above 400 nanometers (NM) and below 750 NM in length. UV, for discussion purposes, shall be considered as light waves below 400 NM in length. The retina is 800 times more susceptible to damage from light near the UV end of the spectrum than from the other (infrared).

To make UV understandable we

can divide it into 3 segments. Very short wavelengths (below 286 NM) are exceedingly dangerous. Fortunately most of this originating from the sun is filtered out in the upper atmosphere by the ozone layer.

Medium length UV (286 to 320 NM) causes sunburn. It may pass through light clouds while the longer infrared rays do not. Thus you feel cooler and still burn. Sunscreen lotions will protect your skin from damaged caused by prolonged exposure.

UV between 320 and 400 NM does not seem to cause immediate problems. The concern is with long term exposure by those working outside, man made sources such as daylight or cool white fluorescent lighting, photo-flood, germicidal, xenon arc lamps, and high intensity mercury lamps, those after cataract surgery, and those taking certain types of medication. The effect is not great, but it is cumulative.

A natural lens in the eye absorbs UV below 400 NM and protects the interior portion of the eye. Continuous exposure by the lens may cause photochemical damage. Absorption of UV increases as the eye ages, generally as more pigment. This results in a yellowing of the lens as it continues to protect the rest of the eye.

In some cases this may lead to cataracts. These brunescent or "sunshine" cataracts are thought to account for 10 per cent or 45,000 of the cataract operations each year.

Those having cataracts removed have also lost an effective filter of UV upon the retina and may be exposed to

photochemical damage from solar radiation.

Most artificial lenses filter some of the UV. Polarized glasses eliminate glare from a specific angle. They do not eliminate the total spectrum of ultraviolet light.

Sunglasses shade the eyes. The iris opens wider to allow in more light and exposes the eye to more UV. If you must wear sunglasses to protect you from prolonged exposure to the sun, you should have protection up to the 400 NM level, not 98 per cent. Percentages do not indicate what is being filtered out.

Those with operations for cataracts should be advised by their surgeon as to what is best for them.

Medication may affect your tolerance to UV. Hypoglycemic, anti-diabetic, diuretics, antihypertensive, tranquilizers, urinary antiseptic, anti-histamines, psychotropic, artificial sweeteners, psoriasis medication, oral contraceptives, chemotherapy, and antibacterial may fall into this category if used on a daily basis. While not all drugs used in each area have this effect, if you must use lithium, valium, or cyclamates or any other drug or chemical, remember that it will affect more than one part of the body.

Those of you, like myself, who wear glasses all the time may want to look at prescription lenses that filter out all the UV. These may be clear or tinted. At present they are expensive, but time will bring the cost down as they become more popular.

Halton's History

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Killer dogs made a raid on Dr. H.A. McCullough's prize flock of South Down sheep which led to the death of eight sheep and left only two out of 44 untouched.

Luckiest buyer of a Christmas tree in town was Del Laird whose lucky number won a turkey in a draw shared by those who bought trees.

Bob Hardman escaped injury when his car was struck by an east-bound CNR passenger train Monday night as it was breaking to a stop at the station.

Rev. Kenneth Richardson, newly appointed Anglican rector in Georgetown and Glen Williams preached his first sermons in St. George's and St. Alban's churches on Sunday.

Georgetown's public school teaching staff increased to an all time high of 19 teachers when school opened Monday.

Georgetown's fourth Provincial Police officer, Guy Harrington, started his duties in town this week.

Georgetowners will have an opportunity to hear the latest hit vocal group when the Modern Aires bring the Mello Macs quartette to town.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—The old Forge in Terra Cotta, former home of sculptress Rebecca Sisler may become a museum or an educational site.

Georgetown's police department will have its own breathalyzer unit in a little over a month Chief Constable Harley Lowe said this week.

Avian Aircraft Limited on Armstrong Avenue has closed down but not folded and will stay that way till sufficient funds are accumulated.

A Georgetown dentist, Harry Greig, is the new president of the Halton-Peel Dental Association.

Jack Cunningham has been voted fire chief for a second term when members of the volunteer fire department held their annual meeting. Erwin Lewis was returned as deputy chief.

A Georgetown man, Dick Riddall, was presented with the highest award available to salesmen on the North American continent "the Salesmasters' Oscar of salesmanship" at the Toronto American Salesmasters Congress last month.

There is no official explanation for the derailment of three diesel locomotives in the CNR's Georgetown yard early new year's day.

TEN YEARS AGO—Halton Hills is one year old. Although most of our local politicians went into the new regional plan with reservations, most of them are beginning to see it was a workable system, provided the separate towns are allowed to maintain their original identities.

The air raid sirens in Toronto, Hamilton and Georgetown were activated at about three o'clock Monday morning due to a short circuit in the control phone line.

Members of the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service received new uniforms from the provincial ministry of health.

George Crabtree accepted an award for being the most outstanding student in "Advance Body Repair", a course offered through the Canada Manpower training program.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Earle of 12 Prince Street celebrated their 50th anniversary Sunday.

The November Jaycette General Meeting was held at the home of member Anne Burns.

Completion of work on the Scotch Block dam and reservoir on the 16 Mile Creek will be aided with a grant from the provincial government totalling almost \$4,000.

Dr. Frank Philbrook is spending his Christmas recess in his Halton riding defending his stand in favor of the proposed pay raise for MPs from \$18,000 to \$27,000 annually.

FIVE YEARS AGO—Halton regional police will adopt a six-month trial traffic safety program which will see police cruisers using their flashing lights when driving over the speed limit.

Questionnaires on the status of transportation for the disabled in Halton Hills will be sent out in the second week of January, according to Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson.

Members of the Georgetown congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses joined 1,200 other witnesses from surrounding regions at their assembly hall in Norval Dec. 15 and 16.

Seven year old Dallas Smith was one of two lucky youngsters who won new bicycles in a contest run in conjunction with the filming of "Never Trust an Honest Thief".

The 7-Ups, a Citizen's Band radio club which claims some 100 members in Halton Hills and Milton, has donated \$300 toward the Salvation Army's local fund-raising drive.

C.R. (Jimmy) Valentine, one of Georgetown's best known firefighters is retiring after 42 years with the volunteer force.

POETS' CORNER

WAITING

I'll wait
with all the patience
of a kitty
at a baseboard opening
I'll wait
as a morning glory
for the sun
I'll wait
as a rustling bike
for kids at play
I'll wait
like a tummy
after a two day fast
I'll wait
as resurrection
even before death
I'll wait.

—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,
RR2 Beeton

The year at our paper

At The Herald in 1984 staff members aren't just innocent observers of change. Like the rest of the community our paper has moved forward in certain areas and we've licked our wounds during times when we've recognized our setbacks.

Since 1866 The Herald has been publishing in Halton and through the years the paper has sought to improve itself in countless ways.

Proud of our past achievements, The Herald in 1984, helped the community remember the town's historic past by publishing a souvenir bicentennial section during the BIG Celebration (Business In Georgetown) in June. We printed a special booklet about The Herald and distributed them at our booth at the BIG Celebration.

During Ontario's 200th birthday year, our paper ran a series of articles on Halton's seniors entitled "Reflections"—a series of historical articles on Halton's Heritage.

Among those articles was a

story about Aileen Douglas, the daughter of a former publisher at The Herald. Her dad Mr. Moore directed the policies and destiny of The Herald for 30 years when the town was only about 2,500 in total population. He began as owner in 1891, taking over from Douglas Warren.

Thanks to the efforts of Murray Ezeard, an 1867 copy of The Herald was found and Mr. Ezeard was able to reproduce copies with help from our modern printing facilities. Specially laminated copies can be seen on many walls now thanks to Mr. Ezeard.

As well as a special edition on the province's bicentennial, The Herald ran feature editions on volunteers week, minor hockey week and a month-long undertaking that resulted in a comprehensive look at growth in the community.

In February, the paper adopted a third section, allowing for a 'Family' sector where news and features are presented in a more

eye-appealing layout.

From our advertising department, a special 'easy-sell' classified section was started which increased our classified pages substantially with the promise of \$1 ads.

The building itself got a facelift, in the way of a bright new sign for our Guelph Street entrance and an extensive overhaul of our air conditioning and exhaust systems for downstairs.

In staff changes we have been lucky to pick up two talented reporters to replace Chris Aagaard and Gerry Timbers who went on to daily newspapers affiliated with The Herald.

Robin Bakewell came to us from Sheridan College in April while Dan Ralph of the Stratford Beacon Herald took over the sports desk in July.

Whatever the changes may be for 1985, you can be assured of our commitment to serving the community with the means available to us.



Staff at The Herald had fun on the baseball field in a serious game of slow-pitch with the politicians of Halton Hills during Canada Day Celebrations. Other community events we participated in included the Terry Fox Run, Winterfest Broomball, Kiwanis Car Rally and Rotary Club Skate-a-thon. Seen here are (left to right) Ad Manager Bob Lightbourn and former sports editor Gerry Timbers.