

# The lottery sweepstakes: fun or folly?

## My payoff arrives

By ROBIN BAKEWELL  
Well, I've finally cracked the lottery system! After over a year of buying a Lotto 6-49 and Lottario 6-39 ticket weekly, one didn't end up in the waste.

The pay-off arrived last week in the form of \$5 for matching three numbers in the Lottario draw.

The truth of the matter is, based on a year's playing, I'm actually out \$47 in Lottario and \$52 in Lotto 6-49.

Am I unlucky?

Not really. The provincially run Lottario gives you odds of one in 25 to win any type of prize ranging from \$5 to the jackpot which has been known to grow to a little more than two million dollars.

If the lottery odds are consistent, (that should make someone laugh), I should be due for another win within the next month.

Before anyone mortgages the house in search of instant lottery success, the odds of winning the Lottario jackpot are a slim, one in 3.2

million.

Quite reasonable when compared to the one in 14 million odds against winning the Lotto 6-49 jackpot.

The 6-49 lottery is played Canada-wide and gives odds of one in 53 of winning any prize which range from \$10 to millions and millions on occasion.

Not long after the Kellys, of Brantford fame, won a record \$13.9 million from 6-49, the jackpot prize format changed.

Today 6-49 jackpots can grow to seven million dollars before a percentage of the prize pool is allotted to the second place prize. The jackpot still grows, only somewhat slower with the second prize becoming more and more attractive.

If you're playing the odds for the jackpot win in 6-49 you'd have to live to be 270,000 years old, at the rate of one ticket per week.

So why bother?

Somebody has to do it, and, they do!

Every couple of weeks The Herald receives a press release from the Ontario Lottery Corporation informing us that some lucky Georgetowner has won such and such an amount.

Georgetowner winners tend to hover around the \$10,000 mark with the most recent winner being Rolf Braun who came within a 41 to one chance at a million dollars just last week. A finalist on the "Million Dollar Sweeps" show, Mr. Braun still walked away with \$10,000.

But you can't knock the odds! I've often thought the smartest thing to do would be for me to count my losses and quit.

No way! The first time I don't buy my weekly tickets with the same numbers I use every week, they'll be on the front page of the Sunday paper. I'd die!

I play because I actually believe I'm going to win. Maybe not the jackpot but at least a pay off of all my debts, down payment on a home, or a new car.

Even the forms I pick my numbers with for the computer are systematically ripped up after I get my tickets. I'm scared somebody will get hold of my numbers and I may have to share my winnings.

Greedy? Stupidity? Crazy? That's what lotteries thrive on!

Besides, apart from many people believing lotteries are just a "hidden" tax, I know the 33 per cent net profit the government receives will be going right back into Canada.

I've probably helped build some pretty nice sports and cultural projects and am constantly aiding health and social service agencies.

sometimes hard to understand. Let's look at it from two perspectives: winning and losing.

Suppose I win \$1,000,000 in a lottery. What have I done? I have received money from many different people without giving them any value in return. It was not a payment for goods, services, or labor.

It was not a gift or an inheritance. They did not want to give it to me but were each hoping to win it. How can that be anything but ill-gotten gain?

Suppose I lose a dollar or two or five in a lottery. What have I done? I have wasted a God-given resource. God enabled me to earn that money. I should have used it in a way that would have pleased Him.

I should have bought something necessary or beneficial for my family or myself. Or I should have given it to someone who needed it. Buying a lottery ticket was simply throwing it away.

But "charities" that raise money by lotteries are capitalizing on greed, not love.

No lottery is necessary. The money could simply be given to the organizations that would use it to help people. That would save the expense of running the lottery and paying the winners.

Lotteries do not seem as bad as other forms of gambling. We do not perceive them being connected with other vices. We do not picture a compulsive bettor losing the rent or the grocery money on a lottery. But that could very well be happening.

Some people say that everything in life is a gamble. But not every risk is a gamble. Every time you get into a car, there is danger. But careful driving and reckless driving are two different things.

An honest business transaction is not trying to beat the odds and get something for nothing. Some people trust in "luck". Others trust in the true God.

There is a treasure greater than all lottery winnings combined. Christ has already purchased it for every one of us. He bought it with His blood and death.

## It's not necessary

By DR. JOHN M. DRICKAMER  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Should we have and support lotteries? It seems strange even to raise that question today. Lotteries are

so much a part of Canadian life. But not long ago there was a fairly general consensus in our society that lotteries and all forms of gambling were wrong. The argument against lotteries is

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## A hard stance

Community groups might soon become a rarity. That's if Halton Hills takes a hard stance against users of town facilities.

Rising costs are listed as the reason to raise rental rates.

But the recreation department has proposed to not only include inflationary costs, but to play catch-up.

For example, a proposed rent hike for the Credit Valley Artisans at Cedarvale Cottage would make their annual fee \$1,300 instead of \$200.

Volunteer or non-profit organizations who are forced to pay high rents will lose members and supporters.

Volunteers who are active in the arts or on sports executives will lose interest in continuing on when they haven't got the support of the town they represent or their own club members. (complaining of high costs).

The result is that the recreation department will eventually have to fill the void at a much greater cost.

Program fees might be lower (obviously the landlord doesn't have to charge himself rent), but the recreation department administration staff will continue to grow and as taxpayers we'll all end up paying more.

In Halton Hills there is a large community involvement in sports, recreation and the arts.

The recreation department needs to act as a guiding hand to help these groups develop. The time hasn't come where the town has to take over exclusively in all areas of programming.

In Milton, for example, town councillors voted on a grant of \$10,000 which was given to the Milton Springers Gymnastics Club to help them with building renovations for a permanent facility.

In turn, the Springers run all of the gymnastics classes for the town of Milton.

The town has to recover some costs for facilities they rent out as landlords, but let's not forget the value or contributions of volunteer or non-profit organizations. They're irreplaceable.

## Excellent choice

"Citizen of the Year" is a title the Georgetown Lions Club think long and hard about before they bestow the honor on a Georgetown resident.

Steamer Emmerson is a man who has recognized the potential of our community and has contributed to its growth. What better choice could the Georgetown Lions Club have made?

Steamer has had his fingers in many community activities over the past 40 odd years and has been an amcee (on countless occasions), mayor, entertainer, fund raiser and deputy sheriff.

Not only has Steamer been an asset to the community but to all of Canada while serving with three regiments overseas during World War Two.

To top it off, Steamer's an unpretentious, friendly and extremely well-liked member of the community.

He's our choice too for what a model citizen should be.

Congratulations, Steamer on an additional title, and the Lions Club on an excellent choice!

## Meaning of freedom

By ROB FERGUSON  
Herald Special

Freedom, so what! At least, that is my first reaction. I guess because my first idea of freedom is a political one, having to do with our "free" society.

I find it difficult to try to explain what freedom is because everyone has their own idea — there is no one definition. For a poor man freedom is winning a lottery; for a deaf person freedom is a new hearing aid; for a blind person, a seeing eye dog; or for a quadriplegic freedom is a wheelchair.

You may not need any of these things and you would not think of them as making you free. Freedom for you depends upon your own personal needs. A lack of freedom is an "imprisonment", a mental, emotional or physical prison. To be free we must escape that prison.

When I dream I escape from my prison, it is as if I am no longer handicapped — that I am just carrying on the way I was before. I dream once that I was in an Oxfam walk, and that I quit halfway through! I just decided to sit it out. Another time I dream that I was standing up in front of my family telling a repertoire of jokes — like I used to do.

When I am awake I don't talk very much because it's too much trouble for people to hear me. That is a prison. What I miss most is the spontaneity of life. I have to plan to have someone with me everywhere I go, even to the bathroom. That would put a cramp in anyone's freedom.

Once I dream that I met a girl. We became friends and began a relationship. That felt real good. Well not "real" good; "real" would have to be when I am not dreaming.

I have given you something of what freedom is for me. I hope that sharing it helps you to appreciate the freedom you have and not to take it for granted. My dreams are your reality and what used to be my reality. I wasn't born handicapped. Instead, my freedom were there one day and gone the next.



"Good news — after a thorough examination of your financial condition, we've concluded you can't possibly afford an illness."

## Thanks for gift of life

### CLERGY COMMENT

By BOB TADMAN  
Herald Special

Thank you Lord for the gift of Life. Sometimes we appreciate it so little. We get caught up in all the details of how to do what we're doing. Why we didn't do what we should have done or why we cannot do what we want to do. We make so much of unpaid bills, irritating oversights, annoying circumstances and frustrating friendships. We often become overwhelmed by life-tasks and responsibilities. Marriage, Parenting and Growing up in this sometimes weird world. We get offended with ageing bodies or bodies not yet old enough. Unlooked for illness, Miserable weather, Towering work loads and The fact that there are only 24 hours in one day and only 7 days in one week.

Sometimes Lord, in the middle of Life, Death Tugs at our waking thoughts. News of it close to home sticks in our minds: "What if I were to lose Spouse, Child,

Parent or friend? Or die myself before doing the things I really want to do?" And we feel justified in our fear and anger At this ancient enemy.

Yet if we let the reality of Death sit longer on our brow, Not pushing away from its harsh breath, We may grow beyond the fact that All we are at its zenith. Can pass To Death In a moment, "in the twinkling of an eye." Then we may gain a more lucid view of Life.

When we embrace the reality that all in Life Must include Death, Then what is truly important in Life Comes rushing to the fore. Time We share with people. Moments Schedules crowded out of busy schedules. The hugs of affection, The kind words, the listening.

The ten-minute visit; These become the 'most important' things.

Our attention shifts from Unpaid bills to Unsaid words and Undone acts of love. Life's seeming sternness succumbs to Its many Simple Prolonged Joys. Instead of Life's "rough road" We can see the beautifully delicate and Intricately wrought Gift of Life.

Life that is seen and lived as Your gift Transforms Death Into an open door which leads from Life To Life. Thank You Lord for the gift of Life.

Bob Tadman is Secretary of the Georgetown Ministerial Association and Director of "Open Door", a drop-in centre operating out of St. George's Anglican Church for high school students.

## THIRTY YEARS AGO

Coming to town from New Hamburg, James Baverstock will replace John Oswald on the staff of the Canadian Bank of Commerce here.

Engineers and technicians will work the "midnight shift" for the next two weeks, carrying out Ontario Hydro 25 to 60-cycle changeover of the CBC's powerful radio transmitting station at Hornby.

Early closing for Georgetown gas stations will be rescinded when council passes a bylaw ordering this at their next meeting.

The 1954 fire report, presented by Fire Chief William Hyde, showed 24 calls in town.

The Rock-Ella herd of Kenneth Ella and Sons has been forging ahead very rapidly, and now it has one of the highest average milk productions of any constructive breeder herd in Canada.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—Ivan Crabtree, long time member of the arena board was elected chairman of the newly-formed Georgetown Recreation

## Halton's History

Committee and Board of Parks Management.

A start on a home for retarded adults is the major aim for the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded according to newly elected president James Langedyk.

Esquering council okayed the building permit for the control tower at the Golden Horseshoe Dragway, lot 29, con. 6, north of Highway 7.

Fred Nurse, RR2 Georgetown, was chosen as president of the Halton Holstein Club at their annual meeting in Palermo Hall.

Approximately 140 pounds of D.D.T. were gathered in the two-day pick-up by the town forces, on Jan. 17 and 24. One hundred pounds of it came from the Halton Co-Op alone.

Mrs. Harry Clarke was elected president of the first Georgetown Scouts and Cubs auxiliary at the annual meeting.

TEN YEARS AGO—On the basis of a resolution passed by town council, this week has been officially set aside as Dental Health Week in Halton Hills.

Effective February 1 the annual salary paid to trustees on the Halton Board of Education will jump from \$3,000 to \$6,600.

The 25 boys who staged a road hockey marathon presented a check for \$2,337 to Mrs. Mary Corey; president of the local chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Association.

FIVE YEARS AGO—John McDermid, PC incumbent candidate in Brampton-Georgetown riding questions whether Pierre Elliot Trudeau should be given the opportunity to lead the country under present world conditions.

Brampton-Georgetown Liberal candidate Ross Milne says energy is the major issue in the current election campaign.

Former high school Prom queen and life-long Georgetown resident Karen Harrison has been chosen Georgetown's Citizen of the Year.

Jeannine Burns has set up a "house-sitting" service in which she will water plants, take care of pets and keep an eye on the dwelling for vacationing home-owners.

## Letters to the Editor

**Blood clinic excuses**

Dear Sir,

One of my pet peeves is people who refuse to be blood donors. They will send money to Africa, donate to charities, give to the needy, but when it comes to giving a little of themselves — literally — out come the excuses: "It isn't my time", "It isn't in a convenient location", "My one pint won't make a difference."

How wrong you are! Your one pint might mean that a child with leukemia can't have the cells he so badly needs today. Or that a young mother with four children can't have her surgery today.

Or that a small child with aplastic anemia, and others like him with blood disorders, who depend for their very lives on your kindness and generosity, won't get the chance he must have, just to stay alive. Is that not the best gift you can give to anyone — their life?

Donating blood is one of the easiest, quickest, and most painless ways I know of to be a humanitarian. And who knows? The next person who needs that one pint of blood to save a life may be you!

Mrs. R. Elliott, Georgetown

**Pay a tribute to life savers**

To the Editor:

The Halton Region Safety Council every year at time pays tribute to many citizens who by their courage assist in the saving of lives.

Should you know of an act of courage that took place in your community in 1984, please submit the person's name, address and description of the incident to the above-named Council.

Should you also know of a person or group which contributed to safety over and above their daily work requirements, names, addresses and the reason you believe they deserve an award of merit should also be sent to same Council before Feb. 22.

Yours truly, Allen Welke  
Halton Safety Council  
P.O. Box 561, Burlington, L7R 3Y5

**Driver should be more awake**

Dear Sir,

I'd like to commend the Georgetown Fire Department for the life they saved Feb. 1.

About 5:30 p.m. their main truck came south on Mountainview Rd. toward Highway 7. With lights flashing and sirens wailing cars were pulling off to give quick passage.

Suddenly a blue compact pulled out of the Consumers Distributing parking lot directly in front of the fire engine. Only alert and defensive driving prevented a horrible, if not fatal, accident.

Drivers be awake as you are behind the wheel. A fireman's job is difficult and dangerous enough once he arrived at a fire. Let's not make the drive there the most treacherous part.

J.D. Walker, Dawson Crescent



By PAT WOODÉ  
Herald Columnist

Transportation is vital to people with disabilities if they are to be allowed the opportunity to partake of the social, recreational, and employment opportunities permitted other members of society.

Last summer an interregional transportation study within Halton was conducted to determine the need for the handicapped to travel between towns and regions.

The report indicates that the need exists. At present three of the four municipalities offer service within their own communities but none will go beyond their boundaries.

This year the Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Communications will spend around \$10 million for parallel transportation systems such as the ActiVan. Toronto will receive almost \$5 million and municipalities like Halton will receive their 50 per cent portion of the cost. Even then Toronto has 3000 disabled users each month who are turned away. There is a financial limit to parallel transit.

At a ground breaking ceremony last December a group of individuals confined to wheelchairs expressed their anger that the new GO ALRT transit system would not be made accessible to them. GO's policy is to allow the able ambulatory on the trains.

The three new stations are being built to conform to existing GO standards in spite of the fact that in time there will likely be a change in policy brought on by public pressure, a court order, or possibly the constitution as the next portion is enacted this spring.

GO states that stations are to be retrofitted at a later date to make them accessible. The logical and less costly alternative is to make the stations accessible in the first place. It would save millions of dollars.

The provincial government has decided that for the present, none of the new rolling stock will be accessible.

## CNIB thanks

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank the opportunity to thank the people of Georgetown for their support of services provided by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

This past fall, residents responded to a fund raising campaign. Six thousand, eight hundred and eighty envelopes were distributed to homes in the Georgetown area. One hundred and seventy responded, resulting in a total contribution to date of \$1,833.00.

The results of their contributions will mean continued service to the many blind and visually impaired people known to the CNIB in the Georgetown area.

It is encouraging to know that such strong community support is available to this agency.

Sincerely,  
Patrick G. Crowther,  
District Administrator  
CNIB Halton Peel District Office