

Crazy Boat Race

Help required

More security needs to be hired for next year's Crazy Boat Race.

The weather and water conditions at the race April 6 underline the need for additional safety measures.

Beer cans that floated past the finish line even before the first boats arrived told a sad story.

It indicated that some participants were willing to risk their lives and those of others to get an additional 'high' by drinking before the race.

As if the challenge of maneuvering freezing cold waters with a tricky current isn't enough for thrillseekers!

Alcohol mixed with frigid temperatures is a dangerous combination. A person doesn't feel the cold as fast, but alcohol acts faster in bringing on hypothermia.

A boat racer under the influence of alcohol makes it more difficult for the rescue patrol, and puts added strain on the ambulance and medical staff called in to help.

Besides, the Crazy Boat Race is a family event and having so many crews blatantly drinking isn't setting a good example to our youth.

The Jaycees are a small service club who works hard and does a good job organizing the race, but they need more help to turn away drinkers.

At rock concerts police are hired to check the audience at the door for those trying to sneak in alcohol. The same thing must be done next year at the Crazy Boat Race.

The costs may be high, but the job has to be done before an unfortunate accident occurs.

Great way to grow

Volunteer Week is particularly meaningful in Halton Hills.

We have more than our share of volunteers in town who make so many programs, projects and services work.

Join with us this week April 14-20 in congratulating those who donate the most valuable commodity possible: time.

Think of our volunteers who spend hours away from their families, work and friends to help others.

Volunteering can be an enjoyable experience, not just a task required for a community-minded citizen.

There are benefits in being a volunteer. It's a chance to learn skills, develop a hobby, make friends and invigorate an organization with new ideas.

We agree with the motto of Volunteer Week: It's a great place to grow.

Volunteering is a learning experience. It shows how a town can pull together with the help of dedicated people.

Check out candidates

April 23 at Sacre-Coeur parish hall is the date for an all-candidates meeting in Georgetown.

Sponsored by the Jaycees service club, it gives us a chance to size up our local candidates.

We urge everyone who has registered to vote to attend the meeting.

Come with an open mind and listen to each of what the party candidates have to say. Come armed with questions on issues about which you are concerned.

We're blessed with free elections and should take advantage of opportunities given us to make what we feel is the best choice to represent us at Queen's Park.

Right to be worried

Regional councillors are right to be concerned about the implications of a \$6.3 million award to a Brampton youth.

At age 14, a youth was paralyzed in a vacant lot owned by the lot after a collision on his dirt bike.

A recent court decision leads to all sorts of questions about the accountability a town has against accidents on its property.

It could mean that parks will become highly supervised with restricted hours and more fences.

It could increase insurance costs. In any event, taxpayers and users of recreational areas could be hard hit with gloomy news.

Liability suits are a high stakes game which few can afford to pay without proper precautions.



"No need to thank me — just part of my make-work program!"

The elusive womens' vote



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Ahh, the women's vote.

Was Premier Frank Miller playing to that elusive bloc of voters the pollsters call "women" when he appointed Bette Stephenson as his deputy? The answer is yes.

He denied it, of course, and there is no doubt that Stephenson is as good or better for the post than anyone else in his cabinet he might have named.

She was a solid supporter of Miller throughout the Tory leadership race and afterwards he gave her the low-profile but vitally important job as chairman of management board.

That board keeps track of government spending during the year and is among the toughest assignments a politician can receive.

Giving her the deputy premier's job as well allows her to retain the high profile she acquired as minister of major ministries, first Labor and finally Education.

WHY NOW?

But the interesting question concerns the timing of the announcement rather than the announcement itself. Reporters saw the timing as strictly a political ploy.

After all, it gave Miller a chance to look premierial at Queen's Park as she was sworn in. And there is a suspicion the polls show him relatively weak among "women voters".

Appointing Stephenson is a symbol that he cares and that he believes in the advancement of women within the system.

That isn't the same thing as appointing a token, mind you. Stephenson rightly reacted strongly to the suggestion she was a token of any kind. Anyone who has ever watched her in action would be dumb to suggest such a thing.

But again, that doesn't mean she isn't a vote-getting device.

DAYCARE KICKOFF

The simple truth is that politicians believe they have to do and say certain things to dramatize their commitment to women. High level appointments are one of those ways.

Others involve daycare, equal-pay laws and abortion.

It thus came as no surprise when Miller promised 7,500 more daycare spaces to kick off the election, or that

both the opposition Liberals and New Democrats think that wasn't enough.

Miller even has an equal-pay law that didn't make it through the last legislative sitting because, naturally, the opposition parties once more thought it didn't go far enough.

ABORTION, TOO

Even on abortion, an emotional topic politicians of all stripes prefer to avoid and where the three parties have different platforms, there is at least agreement on two fundamentals.

First is that current law allows them to be performed and abolishing that right is not in the cards. The second is that there is a problem with access to abortions in many regions of Ontario.

Miller would jawbone hospitals to allow more access, Liberal Leader David Peterson favors a combination of travel subsidies and hospital "satellite clinics" and NDP Leader Bob Rae supports non-profit non-hospital clinics.

Polls show women tend to favor the Liberals more than the PCs or the NDP. The appointment of Stephenson in the middle of the campaign, along with the other promises, is obviously part of the Tory strategy to change those sentiments.

Stornoway, a pricey house



Ottawa Report

By Stewart McLeod

It's not clear whether the fault lies with the landlord — in this case the federal government — or with the tenant — right now it happens to be Liberal Leader John Turner — but perhaps we should sadly face the fact that opposition leaders are simply not suitable for public housing.

The public housing we're talking about is Stornoway, the government-owned residence provided for the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. It's a grand old home in Ottawa's exclusive Rockcliffe Park area and it has been the official home of opposition leaders since George Drew moved in 30 years ago. It had been purchased by a group of private citizens who felt that these party leaders shouldn't have to go through the indignity of house hunting.

Later, the government decided that private citizens shouldn't have to go through the expense of maintaining the house and it was taken over by the public works department which had already been looking after the prime minister's residence and summer cottage.

As houses go, Stornoway has proven to be a somewhat pricey undertaking. In fact, it has been outrageously expensive.

And as this is being written, workmen are standing around twiddling their thumbs while Mr. Turner is forced to decide on what renovations should be proceeded with. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who went through a similar embarrassment 18 months ago, has sort of washed his hands of the matter.

HUGE OUTLAY

And it's little wonder that the prime minister would want to remain on the sidelines. What we're talking about here is not your average little touch-up. If all the desired renovations are carried out, taxpayers will be facing a bill of about \$500,000. And for that, you must admit, one would expect a fairly complete overhaul.

Actually, one could assume that the old place was dilapidated, if not in absolute ruins.

But that's not the case, not at all. The place looks just dandy — and so it should, because when the Mulroneys moved in, a total of \$150,000 was spent to bring the joint up to scratch. At the time that seemed like a fairly complete tune-up. They were so proud of their restored home that they threw several parties to introduce friends to their Quebec City interior decorator.

But the Mulroneys were rather fortunate that their occupancy followed on the heels of Joe Clark and his family who had brightened up the place to the tune of \$35,000. It probably would have been more than this, but when Pierre Trudeau occupied Stornoway during the brief Clark government in 1979, a total of \$100,000 had been spent to make the old home more liveable.

Just prior to this, during an earlier incarnation, Mr. Clark had the home improved to the tune of \$25,000.

It was assumed that when the Turners got around to moving in after last September's general election that Stornoway would be in tip-top condition. But, alas, it wasn't. Mr. Turner's wife, Geillis, two government officials and Ottawa interior designer Maureen Milne toured Stornoway and found that the old home was in dire need of repair. In fact, it was discovered that a whopping \$500,000 would be required to satisfy everyone. We learned that the interior designer charged \$27,500 just for her examination and recommendations.

START MADE

Work began immediately, with \$112,000 being spent to replace existing wiring and plumbing. And this little

outlay brought to some \$500,000 the amount that has been spent on Stornoway in the last 10 years — a property that has an estimated value of \$800,000, half of which is applied to the land.

Mr. Turner, no doubt acutely embarrassed by his personal housing crisis, ordered a work stoppage when he learned that this latest round of repairs had not been approved by the new advisory council on national residences. This council had been established by Mr. Mulroney, partly to avoid further controversy over horrendous repair bills.

So, with the stoppage, work ceased on about \$110,000 worth of cabinet renovations, the installation of \$20,000 worth of kitchen and laundry appliances, \$47,000 worth of painting, wall-papering and floor-finishing, \$125,000 worth of furniture and other fittings and a \$40,000 staircase demolition. With construction halted, the place is reported to be in a mess.

While Mrs. Turner still lives in Toronto pending the completion of the repairs, Mr. Turner was being gently eased out of the heritage farmhouse that is the summer home of the House of Commons Speaker. The opposition leader was given the use of this place while Stornoway was being redone, but Speaker John Bosley, and more particularly his wife, didn't expect the job to take this long.

In any event, Mr. Turner got the message and has made arrangements to move into a hotel while some sort of acceptable solution is found for Stornoway.

Until a better idea comes along, I would offer the suggestion that the government sell Stornoway for \$800,000, invest the proceeds, and from the interest give the opposition leader a housing allowance of, say \$80,000-a-year. And he could negotiate with private landlords to his heart's content. Then he wouldn't lie awake at night wondering how it's possible to spend \$40,000 to demolish a staircase. My kids used to do it for nothing.

By PAT WOODS
Herald Columnist

Letters to the Editor

Campaign well received

Dear Sir,
On behalf of the Georgetown and District Red Cross Branch I would like to thank all those who contributed to our Campaign-for-Funds during the month of March. Generous support came from residential, rural, professional, business and industrial canvasses. The amount is steadily growing despite a poor start due to the weather and we should reach our target of \$25,000 providing expected donations are received. We extremely appreciate the kind and generous response given to most our canvassers.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers, particularly those who went out in very difficult weather conditions, who helped make the 1985 campaign a success. To those who took on responsibility as an Area Captain, District Co-ordinators, chairperson and administrative organizers a special thank you for giving many hours to ensure everything possible was done. This year as in the past we enjoyed increased support from McDonalds, which helped the campaign both financially and through additional publicity.

We would appreciate it if all those residents who give at work, would specify Georgetown and District Red Cross for a portion of their donation, when they make their 1986 commitment. In our case the money that comes back to Georgetown to be recorded as part of our campaign-total and a good portion will be used in this area to provide the service for which every effort is being made to maintain.

Yours sincerely,
John Wickens,
Campaign Chairman,
Georgetown and District Branch

Enforce alcohol rule

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was filed with The Herald for publication: Mr. Al Stuttard, Chairman of Events, Junior Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 98, Georgetown, Ontario Dear Sirs,
As the doctor on call in the Emergency Department on Saturday, April 6, 1985, and as chairman of the Emergency Department Committee, I would like to express my serious concern for the safety of the participants in the Crazy Boat Race.

Hypothermia can be a serious medical problem, but when coupled with acute alcoholic intoxication it can become a life threatening emergency. The public expects that events such as the Crazy Boat Race will be conducted in a very professional fashion. No organizing committee of such events where some danger is involved can permit alcoholic beverages to be consumed prior to the event, or for intoxicated persons to partake.

I feel that it is the responsibility of the organizers to create and strictly enforce regulations regarding the consumption of alcohol before the Crazy Boat Race. From what I witnessed in the Emergency Department on Saturday, if this is not done I am sure that the Committee will be faced with the problem of loss of life or serious injury in the near future.

The appearance of many people suffering from hypothermia, all at once, in the Georgetown Emergency Department places a strain on both the staff and facilities, and when one has to deal with intoxicated people as well, the care of all individuals becomes jeopardized.

I am forwarding copies of this letter to the Georgetown Herald newspaper, as the fastest way of communicating my concerns to the general public and future participants.

R.E. Bourns, M.D., C.C.F.P.

POETS' CORNER

BRAIDING RUGS

Here I sit in my easy chair
Cutting up clothes that we used to wear,
A dress of Maggie's, a skirt of mine
And trousers of Tom's, I remember the time
He bought this suit, how slim he was then;
He'll never be that slim again.

Here's Kathy's dress - oh what a disaster -
It never was the same after
I threw it in the washing machine,
When I took it out, it was clean,
But a whole lot smaller than it should have been.

There's Lorrrie's suit she bought in the city
When she went to college she looked so pretty,
And this old coat that belonged to Pat
It's just the colour to edge my mat,
Now these are those slacks that I made for June

Halton's History

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Cyril Buchanan, Carl Piellusch and Gladys Valeriotte will join the staff at Acton District High School.

The local contracting firm of J.B. Mackenzie and Son Limited tendered \$36,500 for construction of three standard classrooms, a small store-room and a nurse's room as additions to Acton high school.

Georgetown Joe Schertzl is engaged with the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen in the Allen Cup playoffs picking up an assist in last night's game.

Bill Leslie, Manager of the Roxy Theatre, was the guest of MGM Pictures at the company's ticket selling workshop at the Statler Hotel in Buffalo.

William Anderson, former reeve of Oakville, and a man who has been in public life in Halton for many years, was the choice for candidate by Halton Liberals at a convention held in Trafalgar Hall last Wednesday.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—"An excellent presentation" was the way Mayor Wheldon Emmerson described Georgetown's opposition to a Canadian National Railway plan to cut two commuter trains from its schedule.

Inability to find a suitable water source in the Glen Williams area has resulted in the Ontario Water Resources Commission asking Georgetown to reconsider its stand on refusing to supply water to that portion of Esquesing township.

Mrs. William McPherson was elected as the new president of the Hornby Women's Institute.

Mable Sanderson was elected president of North Halton Curling Club's women's section when officers for the 1970-71 season.

The new golfing pro at Georgetown Golf and Country Club is Jason Haugh.

Georgetown's recreation committee hired Susan MacDonald as supervisor of the Community Swimming Pool.

Novral and Union Presbyterian Churches have called Rev. Howard D. Smith of Ormstown, Quebec to the Novral charge.

TEN YEARS AGO—A provincial grant for the Glen Williams ball park is unlikely according to Doug Colison, recreation director of Halton Hills.

A letter from Julian Reed did little to further talks with the Halton Board of Education in considering that the Novral school be re-opened for the 1975-76 season.

Georgetown artist David Vance's paintings of area farm scenes found ready buyers at the National Home Show in Toronto last week.

The Georgetown District High School boys' bowling team won the All-Ontario High School team title this past weekend at April Lane in Scarborough.

Linda Middleton, Andy Long and Mary Elison were presented with trophies and certificates last Monday as the results of the Halton County Accounting Test were finalized.

David Dolg feels that "teachers deserve a round of applause instead of criticism" and recently conducted a poll of the parents who had children in the controversial Three-Dimensional Portrait given at Park School.

FIVE YEARS AGO—More than \$1,400,000 worth of health and social service programs, nine staff positions and road reconstruction projects that were to include the regrading of the hazardous Mountview-River Drive intersection, may have all fallen victim to regional budget cutbacks.

The McNally-Firefighters celebrated winning the Ontario double A championship after over three months of Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoffs.

By PAT WOODS
Herald Columnist

If you are a person with a disability, be it physical, mental, or emotional - a sense of loneliness or isolation may be familiar, particularly if you are "shut in" or feel "shut out" of society.

If this is the case, dial 877-1211. The North Halton Distress Centre will answer you with the friendly voice of a volunteer.

The Centre is familiar with the services in the community and may know of organizations, programs or benefits that could make your life easier or more enjoyable.

They have information about the Act/Van, Halton Helping Hands, the Physically Handicapped Citizens Association, Friends of Schizophrenics, Kidney Foundation, Make-a-Wish, and many others.

For certain services, eg. Meals on Wheels and the Red Cross Loan Cupboard, the Centre acts as a 24 hour contact. With names of doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, chiropractors and family counsellors, they can assist you with a referral.

Maybe you just want to talk or share a laugh. That's fine too.

Recently, the Centre was donated a telephone deaf device (TDD), so the hearing or speech impaired, with access to a keyboard, are able to phone in. Bridging the gap is vital to this segment of our population who face a daily barrier of communication.

For the mobility impaired, an accessibility guidebook, which was just completed by the March of Dimes, is located at the Centre as well as the library. Anyone wishing to know about the accessibility of banks, stores, churches, restaurants, recreational facilities, physicians, dentists offices and other buildings in Georgetown, Acton or Milton can call for advice.

Wednesday May 1 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, May 15 at 5:30 p.m. an interview with the Executive Director of the Distress Centre will be aired on Cable 4 in "Against the Odds". This will be a fully signed show for the hearing impaired.