

Make taxation fair

Everyone loves to grumble about their taxes, and with the present system of taxing in Halton Hills, they've got lots to grumble about, especially in Acton.

As the town treasurer has said, the present assessment and taxation system produces many tax inequities. This week, retiring Coun. Ross Knechtel reminded councillors again of the unfairness in charging 25 per cent higher taxes to many Acton residents and 20 per cent higher taxes to many Esquesing residents. He endorsed the province's Section 63 of the Assessment Act, and urged his fellow councillors to do likewise.

This is the time to make the change to market value assessment and the system of property classes which keep the proportion of the overall taxes each class pays (like residential) the same. For example, if the residential class pays 20 per cent of the overall property taxes, under Section 63, it will continue to pay a 20 per cent share at the time of assessment.

With new development being encouraged in the expanded urban boundaries of Georgetown, keeping the tax system as is will create "severe" problems, town treasurer Ray King has warned.

Already 75 per cent of Ontario municipalities have accepted this system of levying taxes.

If council doesn't get itself out of the confusing tax quagmire it's currently in, things will only get worse. Residents in the new developments will be appealing their assessments and questioning why their neighbor is taxed less when he has a similar home.

The time for change is now, before those new homes are constructed.

Letters to the editor

Unfair to candidate

About computers -- never mind

Clergy Comment

by Dr. John M. Driekamer
Immanuel Lutheran Church

A scientist had a running debate with me. He said a computer could be developed with the ability to translate from one language to another. He did not know what he was talking about. He understood computers. He did not understand languages.

He tried to prove his point with stock phrases like "good morning". That is no problem. A machine can certainly go back and forth between languages when there are equivalent words and phrases. The problem is that there are very few equivalencies beyond the standard expressions in a traveller's phrase book.

Take the word "see." A computer could be programmed to substitute a similar verb in another language. But it cannot catch the difference between literal (perceive with the eyes) and figurative (perceive with the mind). In the latter case a whole different expression might be required in the other language. And that is only a very simple example.

Language is personal. Linguistic communication can only occur between human minds. The mind is not just the brain. The brain is only a physical organ. The mind is the spirit's ability to understand, to think.

The mind not only understands idioms, nuances, figures of speech and shades of meaning. It positively relishes them. That is what makes words fun and beautiful. No machine can deal in categories of good, true, beautiful - or funny. At most it might be programmed to ape the mind.

A computer operates in terms of yes-or-no, one-or-two, period. It does not think at all. It is not simple-minded. It has no mind at all! What is a computer? Never mind! It is only a matter, a machine. It is not a person, and there can be no personal communication, no personal relationship with it.

That is what bothers me no end about books, movies, cartoons and TV shows that portray robots or computers acting human or communicating on a human level. Fables about talking animals can be good. At least animals are alive. To ascribe personality to a dog is not true. But is a cute and innocent little game we play - and know we are playing.

To ascribe personality to nuts, bolts and wires is shocking. What does that say about how our culture views human nature? It hardly reflects the image of God! Our society is in danger of viewing people as machines or, worse yet, as parts of machines, not as persons.

What will our children think? Will they think? Are they being taught to think or are they being programmed to interface with machines? Technology - no matter how "high" - is not culture, learning, wisdom or personality. It is only levers and wheels in complex combinations.

Computers compute. People count! Computers may be expensive, but they are still just expensive junk. Persons are valuable. The Bible says that God loves people. It says nothing about Him loving robots. Christ died for persons - not for machines. We may not know the details of heaven. But you can be sure that the pearl gates are not computerized.

Dear Sir,
I refer to your paper dated Wednesday, October 16, 1985, Section A, page three and in columns titled, Election Update.

One has to be dismayed at your lack of discretion in your coverage to the up-coming election and in particular your coverage of Ward two.

Your article covered incumbents only, leaving a ward two ratepayer with one of two impressions...1) The Herald has implied by the absence of the other two candidates, namely Jim France and Joe Hewitt, that there are only two people running for council in Ward two, and this is in error.

2) The Herald has implied, with write-ups on two candidates in Ward two, The Herald is endorsing these candidates.

In the best interest of The Herald and in fairness to all Ward Two candidates, your article should include each and every candidate and allow them the same forum as the incumbents.

The inaccuracies in your article will be left for the politicians to defend.

Yours for fair representation of all candidates,

Regards,
Bryan Lewis,
Member of the Country Committee
to elect Joe Hewitt

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Hewitt was profiled in a background story Sept. 11 when he first announced his candidacy. His name has been mentioned in two general stories about the election Sept. 11 and Sept. 18.

In addition, Mr. Hewitt was listed in a chart together with all announced candidates (Oct. 9). Every incumbent and every newcomer candidate has had one story written about them on their background. Because candidates do not announce their decision at the same time, it is impossible to group together articles until after nominations close (Oct. 21, 5 p.m.). The articles Mr. Lewis is referring to dealt specifically with profiling only the incumbents.

\$13,000 raised

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Acton Terry Fox Run committee, I would like to thank all the people who helped make our Terry Fox Run in Acton so successful. Thanks to all the participants and their sponsors, to all volunteers who helped during the run, and to all the merchants who donated foods and services.

With your help and commitment The Acton Terry Fox Run pledges and donations this year exceeded \$13,000. This was the 5th Annual Terry Fox Run, and so far, including Terry's Run, over 40 million dollars has been raised across Canada for cancer research. Thanks again to everyone, for your help in keeping alive the hopes of cancer patients, and the dream of Terry Fox.

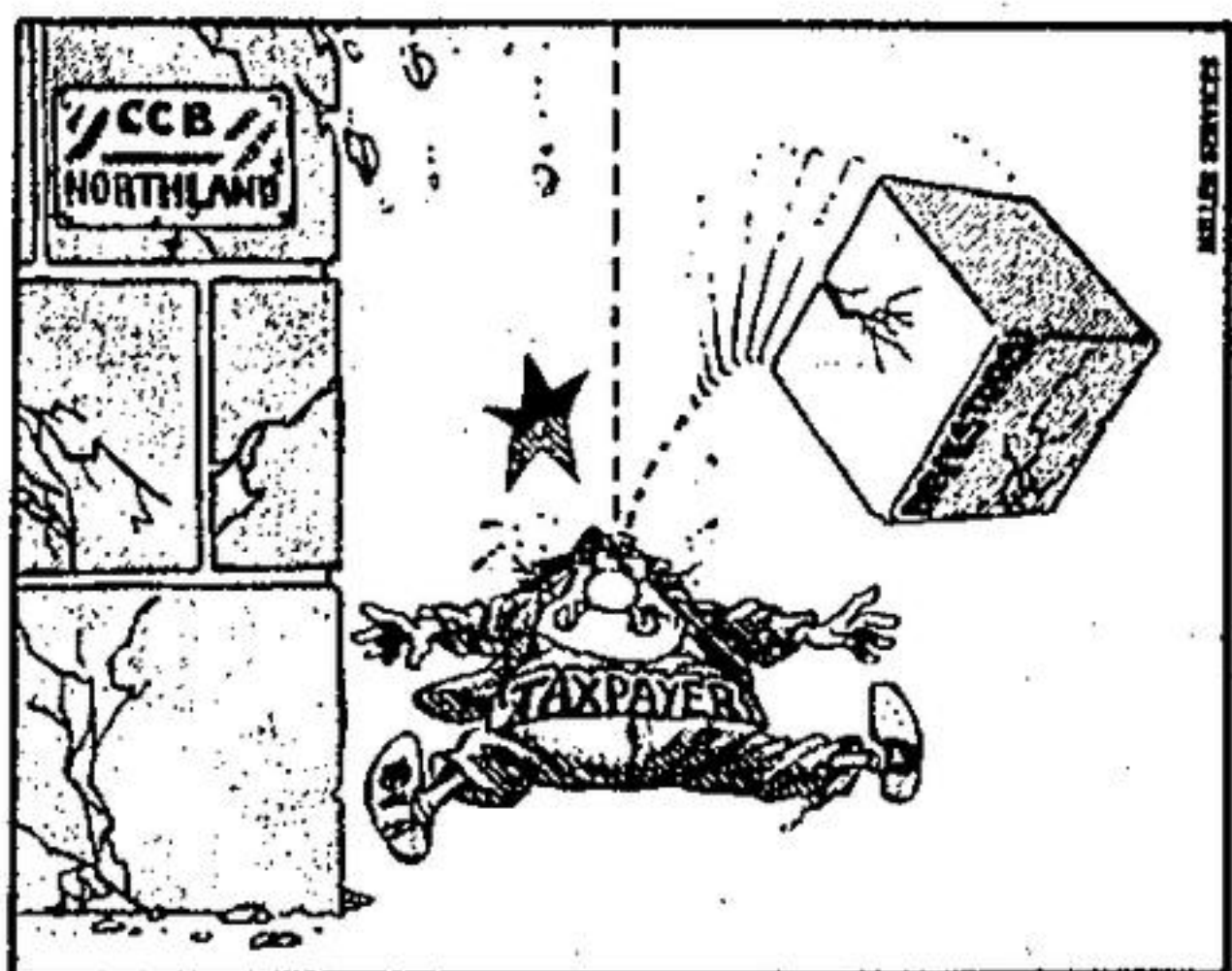
Sincerely,
Jon Hurst

Send us a letter

Got a gripe, or a reason to praise? Then send The Herald a letter to the editor. All letters must be signed and include your address and phone number because we need to verify them.

The Herald reserves the right to edit, condense or reject letters. We have found the most effective letters are those that are concise and to the point, no more than 250 words.

Send letters to: The Herald, 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 3Z6.



Being constructive



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Okay, it's time to be constructive. Let's end, momentarily at least, this constant carping about the blunders of the Mulroney government and replace it with a positive proposition.

We will return to the carping tomorrow.

Come to think of it, there have already been a few allegedly constructive proposals offered to Prime Minister Mulroney by assorted pundits - that he replace half his cabinet, that he fire most of his office staff, that he look for a new principle secretary.

But, I would offer a far simpler solution, one that could be implemented without replacing anyone. All the prime minister has to do is hire one more body, and in an office of 120 people, who would notice? The only catch is that none of Mulroney's old cronies from university days would appear to qualify - and, based on hiring trends so far, could prove to be an insurmountable problem.

Anyway, should the prime minister be enticed to go shopping outside the crosby circle, I hereby suggest that he hire a "political instinct" consultant, someone who would do nothing else but think about the public's likely perception of government initiatives and other ministerial activities.

He or she should be paid by the Progressive Conservative Party, not the taxpayers.

SMALL PROBLEMS

You see, one of the seemingly obvious problems in Mulroney's office - although no one in the establishment cares to agree is that most of his friends and cronies are short of experience in positive political thinking. The majority of them grew up outside the Tory Party establishment, spending their time with outsiders who wanted to burrow their way in. This naturally gives rise not only to an inherent negativism, but also a lack of "feel" for the political fall-out from positive initiatives.

I suppose this was what Justice Minister John Crobie had in mind when he talked about the lack of political astuteness in the prime minister's office. What that establishment needs is someone who knows instinctively what will fly and what won't with the Canadian people.

Many of the difficulties that have befallen the Mulroney government are relatively minor in the overall scheme of things and most could have been avoided if ministers and MPs had sat down for a moment or two with my proposed political consultant.

I am not talking mainly about earth-shaking events like billion-dollar bank collapses, which tend to be beyond normal political strategy. But even here, a seasoned politician, with that elusive gut instinct, could help smooth the subsequent debates.

What has been more bothersome to this government are the smaller, unrelated events that have come tumbling down with embarrassing

frequency. And if there was an open door with someone like Robert Stanfield or a Don Mazankowski sitting inside, most of these problems would have been avoided.

COMMON SENSE
If Revenue Minister Elmer MacKay had checked before speaking to that Taiwanese National Day celebration in Toronto surely it would have been apparent that this would aggravate the mainland Chinese. It was no big deal, but it certainly offended the Peking government.

And so has that junket to Taiwan by 10 parliamentarians, most of them Tories, who are having all expenses paid by their hosts. No politically astute person would sanction such a journey at this moment.

And worse still was that African safari by Immigration Minister Walter McLean, his wife and one aide. They zipped around Africa in a government jet for a month and the cost of transport alone is estimated at \$100,000. The prime minister, noting that McLean had been a missionary in Africa and now was representing Canada in a "noble" way, would have been better advised to declare simply that this will never happen again.

McLean didn't develop this lifestyle as a missionary. And if he couldn't get to every last destination by commercial jet, it wouldn't have been unreasonable to revise an itinerary. Other people do.

Not politically astute. Perhaps because they were so long on the outside, many members of this government seem somewhat over eager about embracing the trappings of office. And a competent consultant would probably begin by advising the prime minister himself to be a bit less presidential in this respect.

The enormous expenditure on refurbishing ministers' offices also should have been avoided.

As for the tuna affair, a great deal of that stink could have been prevented if everyone around the prime minister had simply sat down with my proposed consultant and got their stories straight.

Having offered this unsolicited advice, it goes without saying that it won't be accepted. Politicians will admit to just about every shortcoming from a lack of economic knowledge to a fear of heights, but none has yet confessed to a shortage of political savvy. It's like the rest of us confessing that we don't have a sense of humor - it just isn't done.

But I still maintain the government needs help in this respect.

A big thirst

There must be a big thirst in the region. According to Halton's treasurer, water consumption has increased by 6.5 per cent over what the region was expecting.

Analysis indicates that consumption by both residential and commercial users is following this trend of increased use.

There is also a 6 per cent increase in the flow for sewage by these consumers.

Waste generation is no exception to the trend. It's projected to increase by 2.7 per cent in 1985.

THIS EARTH

This earth was meant as a garden of Eden,
its wonders and beauty untold,
After all life's a great purpose of



THIRTY YEARS AGO—Dean Stanley Harley, 75, long-time resident of Georgetown and inventor of the Harley Fire Escape died at St. Joseph's Hospital in Guelph. Rev. Alfred Barker of First Baptist Church assisted Rev. John Ostrom, the former minister of First Baptist Church, with the funeral.

Three-year-old Hendrik Oosterloo of 47 Main St. South is in critical condition in Sick Children's Hospital after being run over by a car. Hendrik was knocked down and run over when he ran into the street; he arrived from Holland one week before.

Cliff Clarkson is opening his second Safe Driving School, in Georgetown. The first is in Clarkson. He is a former field representative of the Ontario Safety League.

At the Roxy this week Alan Ladd stars in "Drum Beat". Because there is no school Friday Hopalong Cassidy will be featured in a special matinee. Robert Mitchum and Marilyn Monroe star in "River of No Return" next week.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—Miss Laura Treble's Petunia, a Keeshond from Tanhardt Kennels of RRI in Georgetown, won the "best opposite sex" championship at Greenway Racetrack dog show. Mr. Sandman of Tanhardt Kennels is also a champion.



Legion Lines

By RUBY BAILEY
Herald Special

Anyone wishing to place an order for Remembrance Wreaths, please do so now. Contact Harry Brown at 873-1157. Poppy Week is Nov. 1 to 9. Anyone who would do tag on tag day are requested to let Harry know as soon as possible.

CAR CLUB WINNERS: Oct. 17 - 82 K. McHugh, 409 G. Powell, 92 A. Dobbie, 438 G. Webster, 263 R. Knight, 468 D. Engleby.

EUCHRE WINNERS: Oct. 18, Ladies 1st Ina Switzer, 2nd Mary Lou Ireland, booby Beasle Allen, Gents 1st Bill Richards, 2nd Tony Reid, booby Bert Porter.

SICK LIST: B. Waites, B. Postlethwaite, F.W. Cowan, G. Hayes and Ormie Carter in Georgetown Hospital, Gord Bottoms in St. Michael's Hospital, P. King in Sunnybrook Hospital, Stan Swann in St. John's, Bill Wylie in Milton Manor, Wm. Bryden, Bill Gibbs and Fanny Weaver in the Bennett Centre, Chubby Stapleton, M. Hennessey and Sharkey at home.

At our meeting Thursday our president Flo Carswell asked Marion Carney to drape our charter in honour

A building boom?



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

A building boom in Georgetown? We recently asked our planning department about a big increase in construction around town. They refused that theory pretty quickly. Construction figures for August in Halton Hills seem to support their case. However, I can't help but think of all the new additions we've seen creep up on us. It's changing the face of Georgetown's Guelph Street.

There's a small plaza at Normandy Boulevard being built, an addition to McDonald's restaurant, A and P is expanding and there's a retail-commercial building going up beside Baz Motors. Halton Credit Union looks like they're ready for business after building on land at Mountainview and Guelph Street.

There have been two cheque passings lately worthy of note. Recently the Georgetown Lions Service Club presented a cheque for \$350 to Halton Hills Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwell. The money goes towards a book collection for the blind offered at the Georgetown Library. The Lions are helping the CNIB raise money for special projects and they've just completed a mail-in campaign for funds. The donations for "talking books", or taped stories, are an ongoing project by the Georgetown Lions for the library in town. The Georgetown Kinsmen last week presented a cheque for more than \$1,600 to Assistant Hospital Administrator Brian Pollock.

Don't believe everything you read. Reader Allan F. Johnson and I recently had a conversation about motorcycle statistics. It seems we both had a very different set of figures, both produced by the Ministry of Transportation, on motorcycle deaths in Canada in 1984.

Ours said there were 140 deaths, up from 128 the year before. His statistics indicate there were 116 deaths caused by motorcycle accidents, up from 95 in 1983.

Some of the difference might be accounted for the increasing number of ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) deaths

Twin's Woodworking is expanding their Limehouse shop from 1,800 sq. ft. to 10,000 sq. ft. Owner Joseph Meurer and his wife Margaret came from Cologne, Germany and lived in Toronto until opening the business in 1964.

Pat Joyes is the director of Georgetown Little Theatre's latest production, "There's a Girl in My Soup", which opens at the new Georgetown High School Cafeteria.

Esquing plans to have their own fire department because they pay 45 per cent of the Georgetown Fire Department's budget, Wilfred Leslie said. The budget totals \$35,000.

TEN YEARS AGO—Mr. and Mrs. James Marsh of Sargent Road in Georgetown died in a collision with a sander truck on the 401 near Etobicoke Creek. Their 46-year-old son, J.T. Marsh, suffered numerous injuries and is in Etobicoke General.

Ben Case of RRI will be attending the 57th annual reunion of the 43rd Battery Association at the King Edward Hotel. The World War One veteran has never missed a reunion.

Clive Llewellyn of Shelly Ave. in Georgetown won his first two wrestling matches at the Pan American Games in Mexico City. Clive said he was "staggered by the 120,000 crowd attending the opening day ceremonies".

The Georgetown District High School cross country team won four of six events at the Halton Championships where over 400 runners competed. Mike Dixon, Ian Clark, Cathy Clark and Jenny Thompson won their events.

FIVE YEARS AGO—Mayor Peter Pomeroy and Peggy Balkind, chairman of the board of directors of Halton Women's Place, officially opened a hostel in Georgetown for abused wives and their children.

and remembrance of Ann Collins, an old and very valued member of our auxiliary. We welcomed a new member into our fold, Margaret Elizabeth Doyle (Betty). Aleda McCartney is home from hospital and feeling better. Bubbles Waites came home from hospital this weekend as well and we all hope for a speedy recovery for you Bubs. Oct. 5 zone bowling in Brampton: Marion Carney's team came in third, congratulations to Leanne Hall, Barb Burns, Ann Nicholson, Monica Southan, Hazel Dumper and of course Marion.

Oct. 12 zone darts in Bronte with Rita Rudiger's team taking first. Congratulations to Mary Franks, Rae McAusland, Gwyneth Thompson and of course Rita. Oct. 26 there will be district darts at Bramalea and Nov. 2 district euchre at Dundas. In next week's column I will have the schedule ready for you so make sure you cut it out and use it as your guide for coming events. Marion Carney now has her full quota of tables filled for the bazaar Nov. 16.

Have your articles down to the branch as soon as possible, Marion will be receiving all contributions Thursday and Saturday at the branch. The following were winners of the draw at ladies night Oct. 18 at the branch: \$300 ticket No. 046 L. Barnes; \$100 ticket No. 012 Helen H. Holyne; \$50 ticket Nos. 100 Norretta Commo, 094 Donna Sproule, 119 G. Chartrand; \$10 ticket Nos. 056 Audrey Davies, 034 Ella Gibbons, 112 Nancy Webster, 113 Barb Davies, 011 Pat Loyde, 078 Penny Rand, 125 Mert Zillo.

which have been included in motorcycle statistics since 1983, but that doesn't account for all the difference. In 1984 there were seven ATV fatalities and 51 injuries and 19 ATV passenger injuries. In 1983 there were three ATV driver fatalities.

Do you congratulate someone who's just retired? Two hard workers from the Georgetown Y were recently thanked by that organization for their help. Past-president Frank Young stepped down from the advisory board as did Janet Boreen. The Y recently held their annual honor and recognition night to thank their volunteers.



FRANK YOUNG JANET BOREEN

How do you get publicity for your club or organization? The Volunteer Bureau of North Halton held an information session with the newspapers and Halton Cable last week.

Maureen McCallum, the Bureau's co-ordinator had lots of promotional ideas to get you started. If you missed the talk you might want to contact her for a copy of their helpful hints. Many people know how to contact newspapers, but John Ollivier's talk about Halton Cable was particularly interesting. There's several ways clubs or groups can use their local cable company to get their message across.

Although Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy is seeking re-election, he won't need to be elected by the people this time. When he was first elected as Regional Chairman, it was by his fellow regional councillors. At that time he was Mayor of Halton Hills. Rather than running for a Region seat in order to run as chairman again, Mr. Pomeroy just has to wait for the Nov. 12 results.

After the election, regional council will hold their own internal election. This procedure was also followed when former Regional Chairman Jack Raftis sought re-election in his second term.

Poets Corner

friendship and love we now hold,
The freshness and beauty of the morning
to enjoy it, rather than gold,
You can climb to the top of the mountains
to be able, is great, but bold,
Our dreams and ambitions we build for
It's the roots of success we are told,
If we could live without pain, or heartaches
Life would then never fold.
By ALBERT BROOKS