

## Looking back

Looking back over '85 isn't as easy as it seems.

One can't conveniently press a label to a jar whose contents consists of a rollercoaster list of paradoxes, tragedies and, of course, happy and exhilarating moments.

Here in Halton Hills, we were touched by events affecting many others in Canada and around the world.

1985 was a year of terrorism and disasters. In Georgetown, one of our own residents lost her life in the crash of an Air India jetliner in June. A tornado narrowly missed us, instead causing severe damage and loss of life in Grand Valley, Orangeville and Barrie. Residents responded with gifts of aid while the Red Cross and students from Acton High School helped in the cleanup.

Around the world countries celebrated International Youth Year.

In Canada, one-legged runner Steve Fonyo made us proud by running across the nation for cancer research. At home, our youth were active and successful. In the provincial election, GDHS students made headlines by creating their own political party and entering Neil Siverston as their Trillium Party candidate.

Canadians wondered about the state of our banking systems after the fall of the Canadian Commercial Bank. At Halton Region, councillors had some of their own financial worries when beset with news of a multi-million dollar lawsuit charged against Brampton along with Halton's responsibility for chemical spills in our region.

Provincially, David Peterson's Liberals took charge in May by brushing aside 42 years of Progressive Conservative rule in the province. At home, Halton-Burlington remained a Liberal seat, with newcomer Don Knight accepting the torch from 10-year veteran Liberal Julian Reed.

But where is the good news, you say? We're happy about Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's summit talk with U.S. President Ronald Reagan; Bob Geldof's Live Aid concert for African famine relief and the Toronto Blue Jays!

In Halton Hills we had an equal number of successes and victories: the passing of Georgetown's Secondary Plan; a dance for tornado relief victims; 911 emergency call implementation; opening of the Bennett Health Care Centre a new youth employment service (called YES). ... the list is endless.

Like silly putty, it's hard to fix a permanent mold on all that's happened in '85. One can only wish for less tragedy and more happy moments. Perhaps '86 will be a omen for better times to come. The United Nations have designated this year as the Year of Peace.

## Bricks and bouquets

Certain people and various groups worked hard to make 1985 an interesting year for us. To celebrate, we've compiled a list of noteworthy events over the past year. All of the people involved deserve special commendation.

### LOVEBUG AWARD:

To the federal government for their handling of the Polar Sea icebreaker episode. Their soft-spoken reply to the United States about Canadian sovereignty made us realize that cuddling up to Ronald Reagan has its dark side.

### QUOTE OF THE YEAR:

"I got the feeling as I campaigned the people trusted me because of my personality and way of dealing with them and my experience too - 21 years is a long time." - Mayor Russ Miller, Nov. 12, '85.

### IRONIES OF '85 AWARD:

Norm Elliott, a strong opponent of developing the Steven's property, becomes a town councillor; the same week a drug abuse expert comes to town, 37 are charged with drug offences; some Acton youths charge police with harassment after police charge the youths with loitering. The police charges are later withdrawn. Wintario comes to Georgetown, but no one wins.

### LOOK MA, I'VE GROWN AWARD:

To Joy Swain, 10, who fought for equality among sexes. She wants to fly combat jets for the Canadian Armed Forces. To town councillors who decided that Georgetown must grow, paving the way for over 14,000 new residents in coming years.

### WE'RE STILL WAITING AWARD:

MP Otto Jelinek's promise to have a VIA rail stop in Acton - made to constituents during election campaign, summer of '84.

### CART BEFORE THE HORSE AWARD:

To consultants and staff at the Halton Board of Education who talked seriously about an education centre at Scotdale Farm, a 450-acre farm near Ballinasfad. A horse park proposal was rejected in favour of a multi-use education centre that may be run by the board.

### POSITIVE TRENDS:

Welfare rolls in Halton decrease in 1984 and predictions are that '85 figures will be lower. During New Years Eve in '84, 254 vehicles were stopped, but no drivers were charged with being impaired.

### POLITICAL COMEBACK AWARD:

Peter Pomeroy is back in the driver's seat as regional chairman. He resigned to be a candidate in the provincial election, then needed another election to win his old position back.

### BEST PRESSURE GROUP:

HAND (Halton Hills Action for Nuclear Disarmament) for their organization and perseverance; Alex Furness for his probing questions on the Steven's property; Peter Woolgar, Roger Stopford, Gord Benner and all the others who show us that responsible government works best when people are responsive - for their stance challenging parts of the Secondary Plan and Transportation Study in Georgetown; A group of mothers who fought the hospital to allow sibling visits for infants and 24 hour rooming in with their babies.

## Peace not possible

Dear Editor,

Once again the snow has fallen, bringing with it the calm and quiet of winter, where it is too peaceful and serene to pass without experiencing the sense of beauty our Creator has revealed.

And so our thoughts travel back in time some 1900 years ago to a field in the region of the tiny hamlet of Bethlehem. It was neither snowing or as cold, yet a great message of peace was expressed with the birth of Messiah.

Many of the people of the world over consider this time of the year the anniversary of that event and express their own thoughts of peace and goodwill. Yet, however sincere their intentions, we have little confidence that lasting peace will be achieved.

In a few short days, what the United Nations has designated, "The International Year of Peace", will be upon us, and we wait to see the results...of 1986.

Indeed, peace is what this world wants! But why do so many professing Christians fail to recognize that peace will come only when Christ returns. Many of us recited "The Lord's Prayer" and do not understand the verse that says, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Jesus, is teaching us that peace will come when the Kingdom is established. God has a plan for worldwide peace but it will not happen through the efforts of man.

The Scripture speaks of the King of the Jews and the Prince of Peace, but does this lead us to take the Bible out of its place of clause and read it for ourselves? In looking forward to 1986, whatever it may bring, let it become the year we begin to read the Bible and its great promise of peace.

Thank you, Sincerely,  
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## A government in-charge



### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

TORONTO - The fundamental difference between Queen's Park now and over the last few years is that today one gets a sense of a government in-charge.

Since their 1981 majority election victory the Tories had been drifting, going nowhere slowly, barely handling the various tasks and problems that afflict government on an on-going basis.

It was as if having obtained his majority, Davis decided there wasn't anything else to worry about. He produced no vision of the future except more of the same.

This failure at the centre, of course, didn't necessarily extend to all the ministries. That would be unfair to those like Larry Grossman and Alan Pope who midwived major changes in their departments.

For example, Liberal Natural Resources Minister Vince Kerrio was on his feet in the Assembly here

recently praising Forest Management Agreements with pulp and paper companies. You'd never had known from what he said that Pope and other Tories put them together over the past half-decade.

No, the lassitude here was more in the general atmosphere, a sense of drifting because no one at the top was really leading. It was as if it was easier to postpone a hard decision than to make it.

There are a couple of specific examples that come to mind, both in the Environment Ministry.

One is the famous Spills Bill, passed in 1979 but never proclaimed because the Conservatives couldn't figure out how to handle the insurance clauses.

Liberal Environment Minister Jim Bradley did, and in such a way that all but the most major spills will follow the normal insurance route.

The second item was the dispute over whether aluminum cans should be allowed to compete in the Ontario soft drink market.

Several attempts by Conservative environment ministers to get legislation through stalled in the Tory cabinet.

Bradley also made a decision here, too. Aluminum will be allowed to

compete after an adjustment period.

The above are two good examples of Liberal activism because they are essentially non-ideological in nature. After all, it was Conservative Environment Minister Harry Parrott who put together Spills in the first place, and at least two other ministers who took the aluminum decision to cabinet.

Bradley's success highlights the difference between the paralysis of Davis' twilight years and the Liberals' willingness to make decisions.

This doesn't mean the Grits always make the right choices, mind you. One could rhyme off the foolish programs to which they are committed, from pay equity to the morally bankrupt religious discrimination they practise on denominational school funding.

But the point, of course, is that they are actually approving policies in which they will have to live with the consequences.

And in the short term what rightly impresses people is the sense of direction and movement rather than the policies themselves, many of which are still quite vague on detail.

## Script is letter-perfect



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

The current wrangling between Ottawa and the provinces over the forthcoming free-trade negotiations with the United States could not come at a better time for Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa.

The script is letter perfect. Here he is, just sworn into office, and getting ready to talk to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney about finally affixing Quebec's signature to the Canadian Constitution. This was left undone back in 1982 when the other provinces all agreed to the formula for patriating and amending the new Constitution. Then premier Rene Levesque wanted nothing to do with that deal.

But Bourassa, as he began his methodical climb back to power in Quebec, said that constitutional negotiations would be given a high priority by a Liberal government. He has made it clear he wants Quebec to be part of the constitutional accord - but not as it exists. What he wants, specifically, are veto powers for Quebec on future constitutional changes.

The amending formula as it exists permits changes provided they are supported by seven provinces representing 50 per cent of the population.

### SEE SUPPORT

Bourassa, in his previous incarnation as premier, was personally attracted to the so-called "Victoria formula" which came close to approval back in 1971. That would have effectively given both Quebec and Ontario veto powers, along with the combined western provinces and the combined Atlantic provinces.

But back then, Quebec more or less stood alone in seeking these powers.

No more. With the free-trade negotiations looming, and provincial concerns obviously on the negotiating table, the word "veto" has taken on new meaning. It may not involve constitutional changes, but it certainly serves to put the whole business of veto powers in focus.

Now it's Ontario Premier David Peterson who is doing the most talking about vetos. After Prime Minister Mulroney and the premiers announced they had reached an understanding regarding provincial participation in the trade talks, Peterson said, with apparent enthusiasm, that this gave the provinces the power of veto.

His interpretation was disputed by Ottawa, but regardless of the outcome, the continuing arguments have clearly brought the veto issue down to the level of practical application.

There seems to be a widespread feeling among provincial officials that, with so many divergent interests at stake in the free-trade talks, some form of provincial veto is needed.

Among those holding this view, and rather strongly at that, is Robert Bourassa.

### USES EXAMPLE

There is no doubt that the Quebec premier will be using the current disagreement as an example when he talks with the other premiers about a constitutional accord.

He noted that Donald Macdonald, the former federal Liberal cabinet minister who headed a royal commission on the economy, recommended that any free-trade pact with the U.S. should be ratified by the provinces, using the existing constitutional formula.

Said Bourassa: "There is an argument I can use with some provinces saying that if they are nervous about the consequences of a free-trade treaty, the amending formula that Quebec proposes - the Victoria formula - would permit them to feel more secure."

Under that formula, Peterson would have the veto he wants and Bourassa would have the one he also wants. It's reasonable to expect that this subject came up when the two men met recently in Montreal.

It also came up, without much progress being made, during Bourassa's later meeting with Mulroney. When reporters asked the prime minister about the premier's request for veto powers, he said, "Why talk about negative things?"

But, like it or not, they will be talked about a great deal in the days ahead and at every opportunity Bourassa will be reminding his fellow premiers of how attractive Macdonald's suggestion would be if only the Victoria formula were in place. On this, he is likely to get support. No, he couldn't ask for more opportune timing.

## The book was better...



### Clergy Comment

By DR. JOHN M. DRICKAMER

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Many of us have seen a movie based on a novel we had already read. We are seldom satisfied. We usually say, "The book was better." Movies and books are two different ways of communicating. Something is inevitably left out in the translation.

A film is more limited than a book. There are major technical and financial obstacles to overcome in creating the visual impact of a film: cast, costumes, travel, location, weather, danger, props. Those things do not limit a person sitting alone with research notes, a typewriter, and several reams of blank paper. It is a lot more expensive and difficult to film a chase scene than to write about it.

An author also has the luxury of explaining thoughts, feelings, and meaning. A film maker must get the

same things across in less time with fewer words. What a writer says with verbal expressions, a director must often try to say with visual impressions.

At Christmas time some movies about the Bible are usually shown on television. Then people often ask me as a pastor, "Did you see such-and-such? What did you think of it? Is that really the way it was?" I always respond, "The Book was better."

Part of the problem is the difference between truth and fiction. A novel is fiction to begin with, and there is no absolute limit to artistic license in changing it for the screen. A director can negotiate with the author or copyright holder to alter the story.

But the Bible is historically true. Facts are stubborn. There is no license to depart from the truth. And God has given us no reason to believe that He will change His mind and meaning, nor agree to changes in His Word, His Book.

The same problem is faced by anyone making a movie about any historical events. But it is more acute in dealing with Biblical history. For we are dealing with the most important

events in all history and with their interpretation by God.

The real problem in making a movie about the Bible is in conveying its meaning. Our sinful minds may want to change things in the Bible. But God is a good deal smarter than we are. It is vitally important to stay with the meaning that He intends in His Book.

It can be good to watch movies about the Bible just as it can be good to view the works of the great painters who have depicted Biblical scenes. It can help us to have a better mental image of those times, places, and events. But we must remember not to trust any artist's conception. The real facts and their true meaning must be learned only from Scripture itself.

The Bible says, "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Faith is trusting and believing the meaning of the birth, life, death, and return to life of our Lord Jesus Christ. The lasting impression that counts is the realization that, as serious as our sins are, as great as our guilt has been, Christ lived and died and rose to forgive those sins, to erase that guilt, to give us eternal life.

## Halton's History

from our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-Junior Beaumont collided with another player and was hospitalized with fractured cheek bones on both sides of his face. Before the accident he had two goals. Junior Beaumont has helped the Raiders reach first place in the league, six points ahead of second place Stouffville.

Ken Meers plans to add a snack bar to the service station at the top of the Main Street hill. He will call the business he bought from Dick Riddall the Jack O'Lantern Snack Bar and Service Station.

Low Tracey is the new First Principal of the Halton Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons. He succeeds James McCraig.

Don't miss 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea with Kirk Douglas playing at the Roxy. Also showing this week is Walt Disney's Lady and the Tramp, and Knights of the Round Table with Ava Gardner and Robert Taylor.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO-Bob McArdle returned to the Georgetown Raider net in Fort Erie and led the team to a 3-1 victory. McArdle has not played for the Raiders in over a year and in his first game back he stopped 37 shots.

The outdoor rinks at Harrison and George Kennedy public schools have been well used, Doug Collison, recreation director, said. So well used, there are plans to add skating rinks in addition to these rinks with boards, he said.

Joe "Tiger" Fobert of Georgetown District High School is the unofficial junior free style wrestling champion of Yugoslavia. He cannot be the official champion because the Canadian team participated only on exhibition basis.

James Edward, son of Mrs. J. Holder of Main Street, flew to California to marry Diane Rose in Castro Valley. Rose's parents are from Trenton.

TEN YEARS AGO-After 51 hours of continuous basketball 50 Grade 9 students believe they have broken the world's record for continuous play. The final score was 3,204 to 3,177 for the red team over the white.

Eight young women raised \$26 for the Good Neighbor Service by carolling in Georgetown. The eight were: Robin Marshall, Sherri Marshall, Laverne Gilson, Christine MacDonald, Laurie MacDonald, Donna Herrington and Paige Curtis.

The Raiders won their first overtime game in four attempts and ended a losing streak which knocked them from first place. Mike Mahoney scored the Raider goal 43 seconds into the period.

Jim Lowrie and Hans Lindauer cut the ribbon and opened their man-made skating rink. The two men made the rink for the children in the Market and Wesleyan Streets area.

FIVE YEARS AGO-The Al Pilitti Minor Atoms are Champions of the Orillia Tournament after outscoring their opponents 23-6. Andrew Hoddinot was named M.V.P. for the tournament. Travis Gardiner and Jason Knight also gave strong performances.

David Chamberlin of Georgetown received a \$300 scholarship from the Halton Federation of Agriculture at Hillcrest United Church. David Chamberlin is attending the Central College of Agricultural Technology.

Midge Gourlay of McIntyre Cr. won an afghan in a Canadian Cancer Society draw. Second prize, a pine cone wreath, went to Norma Carlisle of Metcalfe Court.

Ted Tyler won first prize in the Acton Optimists Club Yule Log Draw. H. Rinsma won second prize and Fred Sheppard won third prize.

## Give, so others may see

Dear Sir,

The Christmas season is here and it should serve to remind us of all the blessings we in Canada should be grateful and thankful for. If we could only see the conditions in many other countries of our world, we would be better able to measure the extent of our blessings.

Let us remember that Christmas is meant to be a time of rejoicing for God's gift to mankind. It is to celebrate the birth of Christ, the one who gave us the greatest moral principle ever taught, the "Golden Rule". It eliminates misunderstanding and selfishness, it emphasizes love.

What better way to demonstrate love than to make it possible for a blind person to see. For a \$25 donation to Operation Eyesight Universal, this miracle can be accomplished. Operation Eyesight is a very small Canadian charity involved in sight restoration and blindness prevention projects in 17 countries of the Developing World.

In addition you will experience great joy when you are the recipient of a patient identification card, showing you the name, age, sex and address of the person to whom you have given this priceless gift of sight. You will also receive a receipt for income tax purposes.

Thousands are waiting and hoping for cataract surgery. Your \$25 donation will pay for surgery, drugs, hospitalization, food, glasses and follow-up care for a patient. Please help at least one of these needy people return to a useful self-supporting life.

Donations may be sent to Operation Eyesight Universal, P.O. Box 123, Station "M", Calgary, Alberta T2P 2H6.

Sincerely,  
Alta R. McCauley,  
Calgary, Alberta