

## Timing is wrong

To disclose or not to disclose?

The Herald this week printed a story about school closings in Halton Hills. We were asked not to announce the names of the three schools affected, by the board of education.

We printed the story because we felt it was in the best interests of the public not to wait for a formal announcement.

The Halton Board of Education's consolidation study group made their decision on which schools to close last Wednesday. The Board representatives wanted us to wait to release the information until a February 27 meeting. That means the information wouldn't reach our readers' doorsteps until our March 5 edition, three weeks later.

The request seemed odd to us for several reasons. Initially, The Herald was told that information from the meeting would be forthcoming immediately after the discussion. The day of the meeting, we were asked not to report the findings until the Feb. 27 meeting.

The Board cited a lack of proper procedure and the fact an executive committee had yet to go over the results, as reasons for waiting.

We disagree about withholding the information because the public has a right to know what decisions the consolidation committee has made. They have a right to know as early as possible, especially before the Feb. 27 board meeting when the final report is released.

Printing the story this week, might prevent a string of untrue rumors from circulating. A decision made by over 20 committee members cannot be kept secret for long. A newspaper works for the community, just as trustees must work in the best interests of the ward they represent.

Public meetings have been scheduled for March 3, 4, 5. If information wasn't disclosed until Feb. 27, there would be scant time for parents to prepare for the meetings, with well-planned and thought-out questions.

Releasing the facts of the study early in the month can help the Board in their efforts to maintain a good rapport with parents of schoolchildren and taxpayers.

By stalling in the name of procedure, the Board risks the possibility of losing credibility with those they were elected to represent.

It's unfortunate the incident was sparked by a case of bad timing. Perhaps next time the Board can work out a timetable that doesn't leave a newspaper in a difficult position about whether to disclose or keep mum.

## Drug abuse week

### Damaging effects

What can you do for drug abuse week?

Ray Martin, executive director of the Drug Abuse Committee in Georgetown, wants us to become more involved. That's fair enough.

Drug abuse isn't going to go away. It takes the interest of a community and the involvement of many to solve the problems of drug users and addicts.

Why should we help? The RCMP in November released statistics that indicate about 50 per cent of all robberies and break and enters are drug related. Customs agents are only able to stop about 5 per cent of the total amount of drugs imported into Canada annually.

But more importantly, it's a shame to witness the deterioration and character change of a drug user. The damaging effects of most drugs are well documented. Some are deadly, others just slowly wear away at a drug user's mind and body.

Being so close to Toronto makes us vulnerable to the drug networking that takes place in such a major urban centre.

Halton Hills isn't any different than any other community. We aren't drug free. Wherever there is money to be made there will be a drug problem.

## Quadraplegic a whiz on computer systems



By PAT WOODE  
Herald Columnist

I first met Lew Boles, an intelligent, determined young university student, about 15 years ago when he was admitted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Toronto as the result of a football injury. Today, he is still there but now, has an office within the hospital where he has been working for the past five years for Systemhouse - a company that designs, develops, and integrates computer-based information systems.

Lew has an aptitude for data processing but due to his limitations as a quadraplegic with controlled motion in his head, neck and shoulders the process of using a mouthstick to press each key was cumbersome, frustrating, and caused him to be less productive than his peers.

The technology could not match the speed of Lew's mind. In an effort to rectify this situation, a co-operative project ensued involving Systemhouse, IBM, and Ministry of Community and Social Services. Lew now "writes" with his voice. The voice recognition unit is a card that can be inserted into any IBM compatible personal computer.

It works in conjunction with a microphone, speaker, and a software program called Keymaker. With the unit Lew can speak to the computer and see data appear on the screen as though it had been entered on the keyboard.

The system is activated when Lew says the name "Cleo" (short for Cleopatra - the temptress). Cleo is monogamous and recognizes only Lew as her master. "Speaker dependent" units, such as Lew's, are capable of understanding repeated sounds and, therefore, even someone who is non-verbal but capable of a range of consistent sounds might well be able to use them. Orientation is fast and easy.

Lew no longer struggles with tedious, painstaking, and possibly debilitating strains of manipulating a headstick for hours on end. His life has taken on a more rewarding outlook with a brighter future. Such innovations with co-operative efforts are pioneered by a few, but hold out promise for others in the future. If you wish more information about the voice recognition unit, please feel free to contact me at 877-1438.

I was recently in touch with a young woman who has a daughter with a cleft palate. She would like to hear from other parents who are willing to share their experiences with her with regard to raising children with this particular problem. I have agreed to act as contact person and will gladly put you in touch with her.

## Physician's esteem at stake



### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

TORONTO—There was a genuine air of puzzlement in the speeches of New Democrats and some Liberals here as they debated the bill to ban extra-billing.

They honestly couldn't understand why most doctors were and are upset at the ban.

To the NDP-Liberal Accordites it was a simple matter: equal access to health care is a right. Since a cash fee to a doctor over and above OHIP rates may deter someone from getting medical care, such fees must be

abolished.

And, frankly, if it were really that simple, then their puzzlement could be understood.

But the more one listened to the doctors and read the Hansard of the debate in the Legislature the more clear it became that the issue - in doctors' minds - was much more fundamental.

It is physicians' esteem that is at stake. The majority of them feel the ban on extra-billing is the final nail in the coffin of independently practiced professional medicine.

With the ban, they've taken the road to civil servant status.

Listen to the tone of these words from former cabinet minister Belte Stephenson, one of only two doctors in the Legislature. (The other, Toronto Liberal Jim Henderson, broke party ranks and also voted against the bill ending extra-billing.)

"A conscripted army does not provide the kind of service that a free

and voluntary participating group within society - the members of which are proud to be part of the group - will provide for the people of the province.

"Most of the physicians who are opted-out at present would probably make 1.5 times the amount of money they make right now if they were opted-in.

"They do not want to make more money. They want to preserve the freedom of a self-governing profession, which is what this government is removing with this legislation."

And so on. It was clear from Stephenson's fiery (critics said inflammatory) speech, and from Henderson's much quieter one, that what they were talking about was pride.

They fear for the future of a health care system that they believe they were instrumental in bringing to its current level. (Actually, one might make the argument that it has been going downhill since 1968, when

government took it over, but that's for another column.)

What is repeated over and over in letters from doctors that various Tory members have read into the record is this concern about the future.

It is usually expressed in terms of second-rate medical practice elsewhere.

Quebec, for example, is said to have restrictions on the number of visits patients may make to their doctor for any one problem while doctors are forced to practice where they are told, and sometimes take under-the-table payments.

But it really isn't the particulars that are important. It is rather the sense of outrage the doctors generate at being taken down the same fool's pathway.

And it has to be understood that even if they are wrong about the result there is no doubt they FEEL extra-billing is a watershed, a focus for their anger over many aspects of state-run medicine.

## Halton's History

from our files

### 30 years ago

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Three of five municipalities from North Halton approved an eight room addition to Georgetown High. The \$175,000 two storey project will provide eight more classrooms for the crowded school.

J.B. Mackenzie and Son Ltd. submitted the lowest tender and was awarded the contract for the building of Harrison Public School on Rexway Boulevard. The Mackenzie contract of \$180,440 is part of the estimated \$216,000 cost of the school.

Reg Ryall and Joe Hall were the best bowlers in the Georgetown industrial league this week. Ryall's score of 358 gave him the top triple score of 819. Hall had a 362 high score and 603 for the week.

### 15 years ago

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—Reverend Lynne Adams is the new pastor at Hillcrest United Church. She worked mainly in Christian Education at Fairlawn United Church in North Toronto for the last two years.

Before the town's 1954 Cadillac ambulance is sold the high school will be given first refusal. The high school band would like to use it to carry their instruments. Cr. Donna Denison said.

Montanna, a Georgetown rock group, performed at Sheridan College recently for student photographers. Pictures taken were for album covers, a class project. Members of the group include organist Larry Thompson, drummer Peter McCormick, lead guitarist Brian Day, bassist Gary Pignatelli and vocalist Nino Mart.

Next week the Georgetown Little Theatre will be presenting The Mouse-trap. Ron Hunt is directing the Agatha Christie murder mystery.

### 10 years ago

TEN YEARS AGO—Marijlyn Morrow, 13, of Stewarttown Senior Public School won the Halton Public Speaking Contest. She spoke on "Fun". Second and third place went to students from Milton.

Brian Herner of 10 Edith St. in Georgetown was named 1975 Man of the Year by Calgon Corporation's Water Management Division. He is the sales manager of Calgon Canada.

Mike Dixon won the high school two mile race at the Toronto Star Maple Leaf Indoor Games. His time of 9:10.7 was a new meet record. He beat the mark he set last year and defeated 30 of Ontario's best high school runners.

Mike Stankovitz scored a career high 27 points as the senior Rebels lost a game against Oakville Trafalgar High School. The Rebels lost 78-65.

### 5 years ago

FIVE YEARS AGO—Greg Socha of Limehouse took first place in the North Halton District Annual Kub Kar Rally. Second place went to Doug Thompson of Georgetown.

Wally Knapp of Georgetown was awarded the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada's highest honor. For his Holstein cows he received the Master Breeder Shield at the association's annual meeting.

Former Boston Bruin star Derek Sanderson was a guest speaker at the Hockey Heritage awards. In addition to praising heritage winner Bud James, the 33 year-old stated he was not coming to Georgetown to play for the Raiders.

## Come on out to Open House

Dear Sir,

Come one, come all to the Community Open House on March 1 at Georgetown District High School. Now is your opportunity to meet Jennifer, Mark, Ellen, Jane and Melodie - a few of the "Kids on the Block". The North Halton Committee will have a booth at the school where you will be able to ask questions, learn more about the program and talk to the "Kids".

At 1:45 p.m. puppeteers will make their debut so don't miss the performance. Anyone wishing to join the committee is welcome to attend the next meeting on March 3. Direct your enquiries to Benny MacLeod at 877-7186.

Yours sincerely,  
Pat Woode,  
Publicity Chairperson



## Citizen's forum

### Resentful, 'kill crazy' reader

Dear Sir,

"Of course that won't appease the kill crazy hunting fraternity" - a statement by Bill Johnson - an elected member of Halton Region Council. Of course a remark like that could be normal from someone outside Canada - for instance, a South African white well-versed in bigotry and discrimination - but from an elected Canadian official?

Hunting is a multi-million dollar recognized sport in Ontario, and in Canada for that matter, so it was a mistake to ban hunting in the first place. The ban was arbitrarily made last October without any input from a large group of citizens directly affected. Under the circumstances the ban was unfair and probably unconstitutional.

Allegations of holes in barn roofs, shotgun pellets in underwear hanging on the clothes line, trouble with trespassers, bargages of gunfire into farm buildings, horses being shot, fear that an accident might happen - are all undocumented and emotional, full of sound and fury signifying nothing. It sounds like public mischief rather than hunting offenses.

Someone should bare the facts about the two horses being wounded. Who shot the horses and why weren't charges laid? You can bet your bowler hat it wasn't a hunter - otherwise it would have been front page news and the hunter would probably be in jail by now.

Why are all the trespass complaints undocumented? Who were the trespassers and why are their names being withheld?

I have heard no complaints about problems within the agreement forests - only from private land owners. To my knowledge no complaints have been made by the skiers, snowmobilers,

### Donor clinic thanks

Dear Sir,

The Blood Donor Clinic Committee would like to thank all donors who supported Monday Feb. 10th's Clinic, sponsored by the Optimist Club.

Their help with distribution of the posters, setting up the clinic, loading equipment and general assistance at the clinic is appreciated.

Thanks to Dr. Panabaker, who was on call, the nursing staff, nursery help and drivers, volunteers and volunteers, the clergy, John Ollivier of Halton Cable Systems, Halton Hills Hydro for special efforts with promotional banners, Mr. Samcoe of the Dairy Queen for donation of orange juice and cups, Mr. Donnelly and Mr. McIntyre of Loblaw's for donuts, Mr. Ronald of Pizza Hut for tea, coffee and servicette, Catholic Women's League for kitchen help, caretaker Carlos Domingos and the many volunteers who gave their assistance to this clinic.

Special thanks to Betty Milton and her telephone committee, and to Alice Greenaway and Ina Reed, convenors of this clinic. Thank you to Mr. T. Ferguson of Mac's Milk and to Mrs. Shirley Chaplin who looks after publicity.

Georgetown and District Red Cross Blood Donor Service

hikers - not even from the bird watchers.

The public should take a keen interest in this affair and observe the performance of our elected representatives. It's three long years before the next election but at least people will have a chance to make up their minds about who they want to run for office and who they want to vote for. Anyone with tendencies toward discrimination should be turfed out.

Hunting is one of the most regulated sports in the country and I hope the task force takes this into consideration. It is my opinion that the task force will

### Hunt 'facts' needed

Dear Sir,

As a non-hunter concerned with the welfare of deer and other game animals in Halton Region, I feel that the issue of a "no hunting season" must be addressed with factual information rather than from a purely emotional base.

I am writing to bring to the public's attention the consequences of a similar hunting ban in 1972 in a New Jersey township.

In that year there were "33 deer-car collisions reported in the township. In the eleven years following the enactment, there has been a 536 per cent increase in the number of deer-car collisions - 177 reported in 1983." (New Jersey Outdoors, March-April 1983). Of these collisions, there was one human fatality, one near-fatality, and three serious injuries.

In addition to the human injuries and deaths, many deer are also victims - "73 killed instantly of 113 hit in 1981. That leaves 40 injured deer that are able to escape after being hit, but many of these animals limp away and die later in the woods." (New Jersey Outdoors, March-April 1983).

Banning the hunting season not only results in the above mentioned increased deer-car collisions, but also in a more intense competition for food. The deer population increases, but available forage does not.

Consequently, the deer do great damage to farmers' crops and fruit trees in an effort to locate sufficient amounts of food for survival. This increased competition for food means that many deer (usually the youngest) will starve to death over the long winter months.

Being a non-hunter, I can understand people's emotional responses to deer hunting, but I feel that if we are to come to an intelligent decision on this matter, one must consider all available facts on both sides of the coin. If deer are to thrive, then we must keep them within manageable levels.

The only successful way to achieve this is to continue with the hunt, as deer now have no natural predators in Halton Region. If the hunt is banned, deer will be controlled solely by starvation, disease, and road kills - extremely cruel forms of death in anyone's books. Let's learn from New Jersey's mistakes! If not, we will soon be experiencing similar problems. After all, the ultimate responsibility for the well-being of all wildlife lies in our hands.

P. Wells, Actor

be biased in favor of the anti-hunting group but am certain they will take an unemotional and sensible look at all the facts. If they get good constructive and factual input they should be able to come up with a fair and equitable solution and at least eliminate the present aura of discrimination.

There, I feel better - using the Johnson tactic of shooting off my mouth and confirming my ignorance to the public.

I remain your resentful, Johnson-labeled, "Kill Crazy" hunter.

Max M. English,  
Weber Dr., Georgetown

### Get priorities right

Dear Sir,

The Hong Kong Veterans of Canada, on whose behalf I write this letter as their Grant Patron have had a long-standing claim against the Japanese Government for slave labour under some of the most inhumane conditions in modern history, while prisoners of war. They were captured as part of a British Force in the fall of Hong Kong in December of 1941.

The guilt of the Japanese Government was verified by War Crimes Tribunals and a token payment was made (\$1.50 a day) from seized Japanese assets as part of the Japanese-Canadian Peace Agreement signed in 1951.

Following the recovery of the Japanese economy, renewed efforts were made by the Hong Kong veterans to seek the balance of payment but both the Japanese and Canadian governments stated that the matter was closed by the terms of the treaty. We have always contended that this is not correct and that there is no Statute of Limitations in regard to war crimes.

We felt this to be amply demonstrated by the current negotiations between the Canadian Government and the Japanese-Canadian Association in regard to indemnification of claims on behalf of the latter groups who were interned and whose property was seized during World War II.

Frankly, there is no issue unless the Japanese-Canadians wish to make it one. We had voiced no opposition to their claim until their spokesman decided that, in some way, our recent efforts to revive the Hong Kong veterans' claim against the Japanese Government was in some way prejudicial to the case for indemnification for the Japanese-Canadians.

Some individual Hong Kong veterans have publicly voiced opposition, but no official objection was raised by us until Mr. Obata's criticism aired on television.

Following this, we did advise the Minister of Multiculturalism, Mr. Otto Jelinek, that, because of the initiative taken by Mr. Obata, we were suggesting that the Canadian Government should withhold further action on the Japanese-Canadian claim until we received some indication that the Japanese Government is prepared to honour the obligation to pay Canadian veterans for slave labour.

H. Clifford Chadderton, CM, CAE,  
Chief Executive Officer