

## Hope for homes

For all the good things to say about Halton Hills, affordable housing wouldn't be on our list.

Shelter - our most basic necessity - isn't easy to find if a resident has a limited income or is facing hard times.

But a non-profit apartment proposal may change all that, soon enough. At least it's a start.

A non-profit homes corporation called Lantana has proposed a 39-unit, two-storey housing project on Carruthers Road in Georgetown. The project requires funding from the Ministry of Housing and zoning approval from our local town council.

One of the obstacles facing the project, ironically, is that many people have given up applying for co-op, or subsidized, housing. When there is a long waiting list and few chances for help, people become discouraged and stop applying. By doing so, they hurt their own cause. Housing subsidy lists are used to determine whether there is a need for such housing.

A survey completed recently by the Halton Social Planning Council proves conclusively the need for affordable housing in north Halton. Emergency shelter is especially needed, and a group called the Task Force for Emergency Shelter is meeting monthly to search for solutions to the problem.

We are a giving community. But faced with one of the top social issues of the '80s, we could be doing more.

## Few converts

Three public meetings later, it's hard to say whether a Halton Hills Consolidation Committee report has won over any parents or taxpayers.

They were billed as information meetings with a question period, not forums for debate. The real battle will be fought March 20 in Burlington. On that date, school trustees from the Halton Board of Education will decide if three schools chosen in the Committee's report will close.

It's hard for parents to accept that their child's school is closing and this was readily apparent at all three meetings. Even with putting emotions aside, parents sought more reasons why their school was chosen. They suggested alternatives and questioned the methodology of committee members.

Depending on which school parents represented, there were charges of being biased against rural schools, or against urban schools.

We are not sure it is possible in one short meeting to adequately explain how the selection process works. That's not the fault of the Consolidation Committee, considering the amount of information they were required to mull over during 38 meetings.

We would have liked to have seen more background information in their report to the board of education. This would have helped parents better understand all the difficult decisions that had to be made.

At the public meetings, the Committee could have anticipated some questions that only experts, such as planners, could adequately answer.

Nevertheless, the public meetings provided parents with the chance to have their questions answered. To their credit, Committee members stayed until virtually all questions were answered.

It is time now for school trustees to make a decision on whether the Committee has done its job. We'll know the answer March 20.

## 'Sorry Herb' the more likely answer



### Editor's notebook

By Dave Roney

Herb Pilles is fighting an upward battle, but I guess he knows that.

Mr. Pilles is a teacher from W.I. Dick Public School in Milton. He's also the head of a group called the Halton Outdoor Teachers Association.

Concerned about Halton's complacency with the status quo when it comes to outdoor education, he met with principals and parent reps from Halton Hills Feb. 17.

In his view, the Halton Board of Education should be actively pursuing a role in using the 540-acre Scotsdale Farm property for Halton students. He came to town looking for support.

The week before in Milton, at a parent's meeting, his ideas were met with a warm reception. But in Georgetown, the reverse was true. You'd think he was an economic advisor for Michael Wilson.

Concerned more with school closures and other board priorities, the Scotsdale idea does seem to rate a low priority here. The farm property, bequeathed to the people of this province through the Ontario Heritage Foundation, would make an excellent facility for students, Mr. Pilles argues. Their outdoor work would be connected with classroom studies and would enrich students' curriculum, he says.

Behind Mr. Pilles' proposal to use Scotsdale for students, is his desire to improve outdoor education in Halton.

He has been asked to sit on an outdoor information task force that will go to the board of education with proposals for improving our outdoor education programs.

Most boards of education have a residential outdoor education centre for students, or a day facility, he says.

A trip to Mountsberg Wildlife Centre in Milton costs parents \$3 per child, plus busing expenses. But these trips are optional and some parents do not want to send their children because of the cost, he said.

Only teachers in Halton who are able to organize and plan outdoor trips and feel they have the expertise to lead them, are exposing students to the outdoors, Mr. Pilles says.

He would eventually like to see a residential program at Scotsdale Farm with staff members on-site to instruct students.

In Etobicoke every child in grade 7 goes on a trip to Caledon Hills for a week and there is no charge for the activity, he says. In North York they have two outdoor schools and a third is being built that will cost around \$3.5 million, he says.

Clearly, the Halton Board of Education is lagging behind other school boards when it comes to outdoor education. But then, our school taxes (high as they are) are less. We can't have it both ways, but Herb Pilles is making his pitch for a bigger piece of the budget pie.

As was pointed out at the Georgetown meeting, we are willing to spend more money, and if we are, should it go towards outdoor education? What about busing for French immersion students, school closures, split grades, more teachers, and so on.

If you're a Miltonian, outdoor education is 'in'. But for Georgetown and Acton the answer is more likely to be "sorry Herb".

TORONTO - The real problem with the Liquor Licence Board is that it exists.

When you peel away all the rhetoric about incompetence, corruption, and what not, that's the base.

It is a 1915 organization (its birthdate) fooling around in an 1986 world, upholding rules and regulations totally out-of-date.

True, there are other elements involved.

There is politics. The Liberals are having a fine old time hinting at wrongdoing and evil deeds one minute, while saying the next that, of course, no charges are pending.

Then, too, there is Premier David Peterson's campaign allegations about "the subtle and implied pressure that comes on licensees to make their contributions to the Conservative party to perhaps the liquor inspector may come in and you may get slapped with charges."

Although that sounded an awful lot like extortion to those of us who



### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

heard it, Peterson said that isn't what he meant - "no gun was put on these people."

Regardless of what he meant, since there are only 60 liquor inspectors, since campaign contributions are public and since those charged for liquor offences are also publicly known, it shouldn't be too hard for the Grits to document their case.

Yet even after eight months of running the government they haven't been able to do so.

And that includes an Ontario Provincial Police raid on the Liquor Board offices last autumn, which a

then board member later said was part of a deliberate smear campaign.

Finally, last month, Consumer and Commercial Relations Minister Monte Kwinter simply fired the Conservative-appointed Board and replaced it with his own people.

Among the reasons given was that the board hadn't cracked down on breweries offering inducements to taverns to stock their brands.

Another was that it appeared badly managed internally. There were also constant complaints about how it issued licenses, conducted hearings and launched prosecutions. ("Just plain abuse," Kwinter said.)

In any case, a new broom can't do the place any harm and may do it good.

But the fundamental difficulty remains the board itself.

At one time, the board issued licenses to pharmacists filling liquor prescriptions and sampled patent medicines for demon rum.

Things haven't changed a lot.

Today, the board opposes inducements such as those mentioned above, even though they're common in almost every other business.

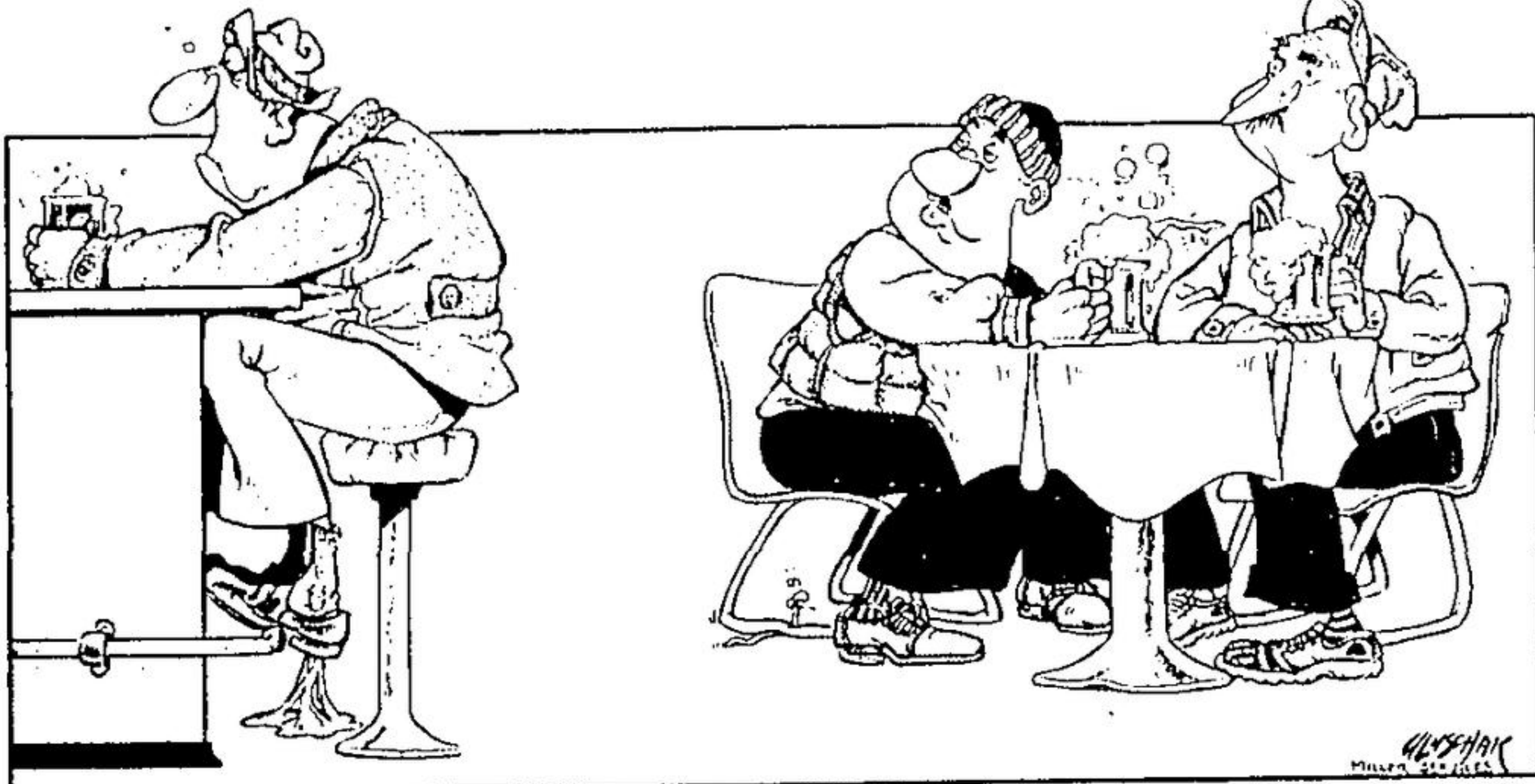
But that pales beside the absurd rule which states 40 per cent of sales in licensed establishments must be food. (It was 50 per cent until just a few years ago.)

The worst part, since many establishments can't make the quota, is how it forces those owners, to either close or illegally get around the 40 per cent rule.

The fact is, the market should establish sales (and zoning the type of establishment). The board should have nothing to do with it.

Nor should it worry about inducements.

Better the inspectors spend their time making sure no one is watering the booze.



"Doesn't know whether to laugh or cry - won the lottery... in Canadian dollars!"

## Citizen's forum

### You alerted us

Sir:

Words cannot express my gratitude to you and your staff. I understand the Board of Education was very upset at your publishing the report of the Consolidation Committee. Thank God you did. I think the Board of Education found out that the parents of the students at these schools will not just sit back and do nothing. We have you to thank for alerting us to what was about to happen.

Keep up the good work. We really do appreciate it.

Yours truly  
R. Hiseaman

### Revoke licences

Dear Sir,

Over the past several months much has been said about the dedicated and deserving medical profession and how this dedicated group is going to leave Ontario if we fail to provide doctors with what they feel they deserve. I feel good doctors should receive good wages and excellent doctors should be compensated accordingly. This is fair.

Less the adequate doctors on the other hand should be forbidden to practise. Of the thousands of doctors in this province, how many have had their licences lifted until they can prove themselves worthy of re-qualification in the last 10 years?

This failing to weed out the "bad apples" has resulted in almost everyone knowing a medical horror story that has happened to someone they know and/or love. It has seriously tarnished the image of a very worthy profession.

Failing to remove the undesirables appears to be a human trait and not something exclusive to the medical profession. It seems that most self-policing professions have this problem.

Perhaps the next time we hear about the "human approach" to serving the public we should also remember the "human approach" to serving oneself. Maybe we should take a little more interest in those groups that are set up to serve us before we set out to grant them more freedom.

Kit Woode

### Obscene taxes

Editor's note: This letter was filed with The Herald for publication addressed to the town council of Halton Hills.

Dear Sir:

Having just paid the first installment on our 1986 property taxes, figuring that the increase as compared to 1985 is going to be more than 60 (sixty) % and noting that our house was built during 1873 building standards, I can only describe the action of the Council for the Town of Halton Hills (re. Section 63 Reassessment) as obscene.

Yours truly,  
H.J. van Goch

### Not fair weather

Dear Sir,

Red Cross is not a "fair weather" friend. Good times or bad, boom or bust, the Red Cross strives to provide a high level of life-saving programs and health and community services to the public.

Despite inflation, unemployment and recession, the Red Cross continues to work with volunteer donors to ensure that blood and blood products are available when you need them. Red Cross volunteers continue to help prevent accidents and death through the teaching of first aid, water safety and health courses. In local and international disasters,

Red Cross stands to provide emergency services.

The Red Cross works hard to live up to its aim of relieving human suffering and promoting health. But it can't be done alone. When you voluntarily support the Red Cross in your community everybody helps and everybody benefits.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Lea Douglas,  
Chairman of Public Relation,  
Georgetown and District Branch

### No Star Wars

Dear Sir,

While we mourn the deaths of the American Challenger crew, we also note that much of the research on these missions is military.

This, and the recent crashes of two Cruise missiles over Canada, doesn't give us much faith that American "Star Wars" technology will work perfectly, as it must, the first time it is ever used.

Yet our government seems prepared to endorse a new NORAD agreement which will let "Star Wars" installations and anti-ballistic defences into Canada over the next few years. They have quietly dropped a NORAD clause rejecting such defences in Canada.

Canada said "No" to Star Wars last summer. Now we are letting it into Canada "through the back door". Do we really want to bet our lives on technology which is thousands of times more costly and complex than a Cruise missile?

Yours truly,

The members of "HAND",  
Janet Duval, Peggy Bowhay,  
Cheryl Lightowers,  
Vicky Clark-Davies, Morley Mills,  
Wayne Davies, Janet Southworth,  
Nora Lipp, Cheryl Broughton,  
Jim Broughton

### School reunion

Dear Editor:

W.J. Wood Secondary School in Port Credit is closing in June, 1986. The school began its educational career as Port Credit Secondary School in 1930. It survived a disastrous fire in 1953 and continued to serve the students of Port Credit until 1963 when it became a vocational school, renamed South Peel Secondary School. In 1980 it was given its present name of W.J. Wood Secondary School.

To celebrate these 56 years of educational excellence, we are planning a reunion for all former students, staff, friends and anyone who has been associated with or had any interest in the school since its beginning in 1930.

The reunion will be held on April 25 and 26. Further information is available by contacting the school at 278-6118.

Yours truly,  
Reunion Committee Publicity  
Donna Gracey  
Sharon Kaslouskas

### Oppose closing

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a former pupil of Howard Wrigglesworth Public School, I strongly oppose the proposed demise of this and other Georgetown schools. Georgetown taxpayers should be asking many, many questions.

Municipal elections took place four short months ago, and now these elected politicians are making major decisions affecting all Georgetown public school supporters. I urge all taxpayers to exercise their rights and strongly object to these proposals. Approximately fifty percent of the municipal taxes you pay are used by the school

board, and it is the duty of these elected officials to furnish taxpayers with all pertinent data on any major decisions affecting them. You are entitled to facts and figures and concrete reasons for these proposals. Is it a mere coincidence that Howard Wrigglesworth school is situated on prime real estate property? What is the reason for closing Joseph Gibbons School which is only twelve years old? What are the enrolment figures, the costs of upkeep, what are the alternatives, and what will this cost Georgetown taxpayers? Are any schools being closed in the affluent communities of Burlington and Oakville?

These are important questions that must be asked and must be answered before any measures are taken to close these schools. Consolidation can mean the end of neighborhood unity and can cause other problems. What happens to the property values of surrounding homes when schools are closed? Were these schools designed in conjunction with open space areas for parkland, and what effect will these closings have on this concept? How will consolidation affect student/teacher ratio, and what happens to the teachers from these schools when they are closed? How many students will each consolidated school have in its enrolment? What about gymnasiums, libraries, auditoriums and playgrounds? Can these be handled with existing facilities, and if not, what are the costs of such additional renovations? What are the costs of busing - i.e. transportation costs, insurance, etc.?

As taxpayers, you have the right to know how your money will be spent. Ask the school board members, remembering that many are not from your community. Ask your council members, the mayor, your MPP, principals, teachers and anyone connected to the decision-making process in your community. Demand answers and urge the press from all communities in Halton County to give full coverage of this important issue.

Your elected officials should answer to you, and you must make a united front to show your solidarity. Remind them that you are the people who elected them. Please don't allow your schools to close without using every avenue available to keep them open.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.

Sincerely yours,  
Kathy Bradley Nelson  
(Formerly from Normandy Blvd., Georgetown)  
14 Rose Street,  
Kitchener, Ontario.

### Open House thanks

Dear Sir:

The organizing committee for the Community Open House, held March 1, would like to thank the 90 exhibitors who provided very professional displays showing the residents of Halton Hills the many opportunities and services available in our Community. Thank you also exhibitors for your generous donation of door prizes.

We would also like to thank those groups who provided demonstrations and performances making our event very entertaining. A sincere thank you to Principal Barb Singleton for trusting us with her school for the day. Special thanks to the Georgetown Outers Club for providing refreshments, the High School Janitorial Staff for all their assistance and the Optimist Club for their help in controlling traffic.

J. Thompson  
Recreation and Parks Department

## Halton's History

from our files

### 30 years ago

Georgetown Raiders, after losing the first game to Stouffville in a best of seven series, turned around to win 3 games with scores of 8-2, 4-3, and 5-2. Georgetown's Jack Rhodes turned in three terrific games in goal.

Georgetown resident, Phyllis Malcolm Stewart, daughter of Mrs. H. Stewart, Durham Street, played a starring role in an hour-long play presented on CBC television.

The first Georgetown Brownie pack was enrolled when district commissioner Mrs. S.E. Wood, Milton officiated at an impressive ceremony witnessed by a number of parents and friends in the parish hall of St. George's Anglican Church.

### 15 years ago

Glen Williams school took the top spot in a county-wide, junior school ski meet at Fairview School, in Burlington. Team members Tim Fendley, Ron Hills, Pauline Heaton and Ann-Marie Milne captured the race for the school.

Mrs. Betty Browne won a brand new 1971 Pontiac in the Canadian Legion Branch 120 car club draw. Pete Masson of Masson Motors made the presentation.

Glen Magnuson, past president of 1st Georgetown Scouts Group Committee, presented leader Dave Hastings with a gift in appreciation of his long service as a leader of 1st Georgetown Cubs and Scouts. Mr. Hastings has provided active leadership for both the cub and scouts levels for 14 years.

### 10 years ago

Six students of Georgetown District High School competed in the Peel-Halton Ontario High School German Contest held at Erindale College. Four of the students, Greg Halonen, Liz Smedema, Leslie Schenk and Lynn Partridge placed in prize-winning categories.

Georgetown Chrysler Raiders defeated the Thorold Athletics 14-2, in a game which the Raiders dominated entirely. Fine goaltending by Raider netminder Keith Pallett can be credited for the win.

### 5 years ago

Glen Williams figure skater, Kris Barber and partner Kelly Johnson of Willowdale returned from the World Figure Skating Championships in Connecticut, with a solid twelfth place finish.

The Georgetown Lions Club held a special Ukrainian Night, at their hall, featuring homemade artifacts, national costumes and cooking. After a 10-course buffet prepared by the Lions, members and guests enjoyed an evening of Ukrainian entertainment which included a group of dancers from the St. Elias Ukrainian Heritage School.

The Georgetown District High School swimming team won the O.F.S.A.A. provincial championships, with the girls team dominating the meet. Strong performances included those of Cheryl Thompson and Eric Elson.

Georgetown resident and Halton Regional Police constable David Richards has been appointed research and planning officer of the Halton force, and will be stationed with his new position, in Oakville.