

Ours to discover

The Ukraine may have been the joyous land of golden wheat and merrily dancing farm folk, but it is no more.

Not since the accident at a Soviet nuclear plant in Kiev last week.

The leaked radiation at the Chernobyl plant isn't just a local disaster like an earthquake or landslide, but something that affects all life on earth.

As the ominous black cloud of radiation moves across our planet, it's depositing poisonous radioactive fallout on fields, animals and humans.

People in distant Poland and Scandinavia face long-term health risks according to a senior Canadian physician. They are inhaling and ingesting radioactivity even at that distance.

What about Canadians? Will we not be susceptible to the same radioactive fallout as that black cloud moves northwestward?

We may feel no pain this week or next, but weeks or years later, the effects of the invisible energy rays may appear in symptoms ranging from nausea, skin blisters, diarrhea, internal hemorrhaging, cancer and death.

In it together

Parents and teachers at Stewarttown Senior Public School have decided it's better to be safe than sorry.

Instead of making their annual trek to Washington, D.C., the American capital, they've decided Stewarttown students should stay in Canada this year.

Fear of terrorism has even hit the tiny hamlet of Stewarttown. It's unfortunate that fear can spoil a school trip for a group of 88 students. It certainly shows how pervasive is the power of the underworld.

In this case, perhaps, fear has worked to the good. Instead of exploring another country, our students will be learning more about their own country, discovering the diversities it has to offer in its many regions.

A visit to Ottawa, stopping at the picturesque towns enroute would be a valuable one. From the two cent parking meters in downtown Prescott to the craggy boulders of Kingston and the fruit orchards in Picton, there's an eye-ful our students should experience. Of course, a tour of the parliament buildings and visits with MP Otto Jelinek and John McDermaid would serve to teach Stewarttown students even more about their country.

So much for Washington. Maybe next year, when the students will have something of their own to compare it with.

The whole tragic incident is an international one, and the Soviet Union deserves all the rebuking it's getting for not accepting the help of the rest of the world in combatting the disaster. Denying, then downplaying the incident and being secretive about it shows heady foolish pride on the part of the Soviets. Especially when human lives and the future of our planet are at stake.

The lesson to be learned, if it's not too late, is that of brotherhood among nations. During a tragedy like this, we must work together to achieve solutions, or else suffer the consequences of greater disasters.

Did town fans get what they deserved?



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

A pillar of Georgetown society has been torn down.

When sports editor Dan Ralph told us Monday morning the Raider hockey club was folding, he was met with cries of disbelief. We always thought the Raiders were an unshakable institution, a part of town life second to none, our sport, our culture, our namesake, our team.

The rise and fall of the Senior A Chrysler Raiders... was it the monster within or the Mogul hordes from without which cused its demise?

One overzealous general manager for the team once told me the Raiders "were the town". What is the town without them?

We've already lost the magic of Little NHL, in its time Georgetown's singlemost important contribution to hockey in Ontario.

But through the years fans could always count on the Raiders. To youngsters, Raider games gave them a chance to see their heroes, emulate them if they could and dream of one day wearing a red and white sweater.

To the adults, many of them oldtimers, the Raiders were the team they could count on, even when the Leafs were losing and the Canadians were slumping.

As ambassadors for our town, the Raiders gave Georgetown a name among hockey circles across Canada. We were seen as a hotbed, a hockey capital of sorts.

Many people I've talked to outside of town know about the Raiders, but they haven't a clue where Halton Hills is.

People have been treated to a high calibre of hockey for so many years - and now (perhaps executive members are saying this), the fans got what they deserved.

Not enough fan support? Does the blame come from within or without. True, it was hard for an executive

to put together a team that could match the prowess and excitement of the Hardy Cup championship team three years ago. Moving to Senior A proved costly, in finding better talent and paying the price of travel, ice time, equipment and so forth.

The numbers of fans dwindled slowly. The diehards came back weekend after weekend, but in the end, who could blame the current executive for their lack of enthusiasm, for hanging on?

An amateur hockey club needs more than a hard-working executive and sponsorship. It needs committed fans who give the players the support they need to combat their on-ice opponents.

One wonders if the constant rivalry between the Junior B club and the Raiders did more than just create a healthy competitiveness. If the clubs had combined their executive machines and worked in concert with one another, we might now be the hosts of two Ontario championship teams.

Georgetown, Acton and surrounding areas breathe, eat, sleep hockey during the winter. Hockey here is a part of us all - and now a big chunk of it has gone.

A cooling-off period of a few years may be good for us when we decide whether or not Georgetown again wants - or deserves - another senior or intermediate franchise.

What do you think about what is happening in Halton Hills...in this province, across the nation and around the world?

We are interested in your opinion. The Herald invites its readers to express their opinion through our citizen's forum section.

All letters must be signed and include an address. Your phone number should be listed in order for us to verify the signature. Please keep your letter brief and to the point. The maximum length is 400 words.

The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters as to length, good taste and possibly libelous material.

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

Tobacco firms take backward step

When it comes time to select the most counter-productive business decision of 1986, I suspect the tobacco industry's boycott of Air Canada will be a runaway winner.

It was, when you think about it, quite an incredible decision by Canada's four largest tobacco companies - to boycott Air Canada because the airline is banning smoking, for a three-month test period, on some short-haul routes.

The four firms employ some 6,800 employees and each year they do about \$1.8 million worth of business with Air Canada.

Normally, a boycott of such potential magnitude would scare any airline into submission. But not when we're dealing with a lost cause. Cigarette smokers are being systematically defeated by Canadian society and it's clear that the process is irreversible.

This action by the tobacco companies, apart from encouraging costly counter-boycotts, is almost certain to speed the process. Within hours of the announcement, federal Health Minister Jake Epp was hinting that Ottawa might ban smoking on all airplanes in Canada.

Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Furthermore, serious consideration is being given to banning smoking in all federal buildings - a move that would affect, directly or indirectly, nearly 600,000 employees.

WRONG CAUSE Now if we were dealing with a ban on, say, milk, I am sure a boycott by the dairy industry would have the desired result. Countless organizations would probably line up to support the industry and Air Canada planes might well be flying half-empty.

But not with the cigarette industry. The only organized lineup this time is on the side of Air Canada. As the four tobacco companies urge employees to use the Crown-owned airline only as a last resort, various associations are urging the public to fly Air Canada as a first resort.

One of these associations is the influential Canadian Medical Association. Another is the Canadian Cancer Society, which has 350,000 volunteer employees. Then there is the non-Smokers Rights Association which, by coincidence, has about the same number of members as the four tobacco companies have employees.

The list is long, and one of the organizations, the Canadian Lung Association, hints that a counter-boycott could easily spread.

For instance, one of the boycotting companies, Imperial Tobacco, is owned by Imasco Ltd. And apart from Imperial, this huge firm also owns, among other enterprises, Shoppers Drug Mart and is acquiring control of Canada Trust.

And we have learned over recent years that some non-smoking organizations can be rather militant at times. Furthermore, there are few known cases of them suffering any setbacks.

POOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

It's quite clear from various surveys that Air Canada has wide public support for experimenting with a smoking ban. One of the airlines' polls showed that 85 per

cent of passengers favored the move, and many of these were smokers themselves.

Prior to the announced boycott, the airline said there had been only one letter of complaint about the experiment. In fact, various health and safety organizations have been suggesting for years that smoking be banned on all aircraft.

And anyone who questions the success of the smoke-free campaigners need only look at the shrinking size of the smokers' section in aircraft.

So long as there is a demand for cigarettes, and they are not declared illegal, the tobacco companies obviously have every right to promote and sell their products. But it's not very smart public relations to initiate a boycott against a Crown corporation at the very moment the federal government is considering the most massive smoking restrictions ever imposed by Ottawa.

Not very smart at all.



30 years ago

Oil was discovered on the Gilbert English Farm on Sideroad 15. The crude of the 20,000 acre farm is believed to be the best in Canada according to Ryan Magloughlin, an associate of Anthony Gas Explorations.

Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Norton celebrated fifty years of marriage. The couple have lived in Limehouse forty years.

Service for another 1,500 phones is being added to Georgetown, said Lloyd Denby, Bell's Georgetown manager. "This work is being done so that Georgetown's telephone system can keep pace with this growing community," he said.

It was junior prom night at Georgetown High School. Billy Montgomery and Beverly Wilson won the broom dance, Gail King and Terry Harley won the lucky spot dance.

15 years ago

Irene Nickel of Georgetown won a Bell Canada Centennial Fellowship. As one of eight recipients she received \$3,500 for her studies, and \$1,500 was donated to the University of Guelph where she is a graduate student.

Meadowglen will build their new mushroom plant no closer than 310 feet from Mountainview Road, and no compost piles will be kept there. Town council agreed to these plans.

Jack Bowling of Delrex Boulevard is the new sales manager for the Township Division of Crothers Ltd. of Toronto. He recently moved to Georgetown and he will service his new community.

The Georgetown Red Cross succeeded in establishing a Homemaker Service. Mrs. Laney Brands of 5 Hale Drive is supervisor of the North Halton service.

10 years ago

Whipper Willy Watson was in town to help raise money for the Ontario Society of Crippled Children. Six local service clubs are working together to raise money.

Vic Hazel, 79, was the oldest member of this year's 23.4 mile walkathon. Because of the limited participation (800 walkers), the walk may be cancelled, said Keith Mills, Georgetown's representative on the Peel-Halton Walkathon Planning Committee.

Georgetown District High School's math team finished 50th out of 90 at the national Junior Mathematics Contest. Representing Georgetown were Nigel Phipps, Nigel Cooper, Lance Adams, Chuck Kalil and Dave Nichols.

Cliff Thorburn, Canadian and Australian Snooker Champion, crushed 12 local pool sharks at Club Billiards. Bernie Stoyles came the closest to victory with a 44-41 score.

5 years ago

Harry Levy bought the last seat plaque in the Georgetown Little Theatre's fundraising campaign for the Library Theatre Arts Centre. They reached their goal of \$30,000.

Boyd Hoddinott won the Georgetown Racquet Club's Annual Championships for the sixth straight year. He defeated Al Kogon. Andy Deruchie captured the consolation trophy.

Former Georgetown resident Paul Robinson who has coached the Raiders and the Gemini led the Bowmanville Eagles to their second Junior C championship in three years. They defeated Essex.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Smallwood of Georgetown announced the engagement of their daughter Shirley to Gerald Kelman. Their wedding will be at the Halton Gospel Temple June 27.

Poets' corner

STUCK IN THE MUD Driving along in the country Gravel roads are rough and broken too Then you bounce up and down Till your black and blue Next car follows, drops out of sight He just spins, nothing he can do The road is blocked with cars and trucks Then they call a towing crew Halton roads are made of mud Enough to lose a shoe You must wash your dirty car Or it won't look like new. -ALBERT BROOKS



Citizen's forum

MD's revolt not so simple

Dear Sir, It is not as simple as the issue stated by the government as ban on "Extra-billing" that makes it sound as if it is only an issue of medical economics.

It is an issue of taking professional freedom away from an old profession which cherished its tradition of hard work and sacrifice for the patients and the community they serve. Doctors have always put their patients' welfare above everything including their personal and family life.

When government steps in and takes away the freedom of this profession, it takes away the pride of the profession. It means the destruction of morale. When the conflict is over, what remains will be a demoralized group of doctors who only think of personal survival through the future stormy years. The profession will be left with little motivation to consider issues to improve health aspects for their patients and their hospitals.

To me, this is the death of a profession and will serve no good for the health care system in future.

It is greatly regretted that in the unfortunate challenge from the government against the doctors that

patients were caught in between and have been used as pawns. But, the challenge came from the government in the first place. We must take the route of protest or capitulate. Therefore, in choosing whether to take the short pain of walkout or endure the agony of seeing the entire health care system eroded gradually, in the hands of politicians, we feel here is no alternative.

We, as a profession, wish to continue to have the freedom of speaking up for our patients for what kinds of medical facilities they need and

their access to them rather than being merely government "voice-boxes".

We regret very much the temporary inconvenience to our patients, while we are out on May 7. But, every possible thing has been done to ensure emergency cases will be handled adequately on that day.

While you are reading this and thinking about it on May 7, if you should agree with us, please phone or write to your local MPP or

May 7 protest

Edit. note: This letter was filed with The Herald for publication. Dear Sir,

On Wednesday May 7th, most medical offices in Georgetown will be closed.

We're off to Queen's Park to protect Bill 94, the Health Care Accessibility Act. Professional freedom is being smothered and we're not prepared to let it die. We're battling for the right to remain independent, to work for ourselves and for you, our patients. We do not intend on being conscripted into the civil service. If we did, we would apply for a government position.

This is perceived by many as a desire for more money. It is not. We feel there are other ways of solving this problem.

I must emphasize that this protest is directed at the Coalition government of Queen's Park. This is not a protest against our patients and we hope it does not cause much inconvenience.

During the day the hospital emergency department will handle any urgent problems. Please feel free to discuss this with your doctor.

Dr. Donald F. Trant, President Medical Staff, Georgetown Hospital.

Queen's Park and tell them what you think. James Ying, M.D., President, Georgetown Medical Society

Distrust nuclear

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was filed with The Herald for publication:

His Excellency the Ambassador of the USSR, 285 Charlotte Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6L5

Your Excellency, I feel sincere sympathy to the families of the people killed in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, and wish to express our concern for the welfare of all others affected.

It is our understanding that Chernobyl was producing plutonium for nuclear weapons, as well as nuclear energy. The accident reinforces our distrust of nuclear defences in your country and elsewhere. What reassurance can you give that your military installations are any "safer" than the Chernobyl plant?

Once again we urge your government to seek the earliest possible reduction in its stores of nuclear weapons, as well as the cessation of testing and production.

Another disturbing aspect of the tragedy was the slow dissemination of news about it. For the sake of millions of innocent people in your own country and around the world, it is imperative that your government give immediate information about the nature and extent of peril when such accidents occur. It would be a comforting example of your professional desire for peace and trust among nations.

Yours truly, Janet Duval, For the members of "HAND"

In your opinion

Messages for mom's day

Grid of photos and messages for Mother's Day. Messages include: "She's always there to help me, off all the time, and she tries to but she still teaches me lots of listens. She's always nice, Gene-ing me to do my vieve Fauteux best, and when I do she's proud of me." Natalie Whiting said.