

How 'right' are human rights?

Short notes on long subjects...

First: G.B. Fossener takes strong exception to a comment of a critic here that the farm machinery section of the farm machinery and food processing technology centre in Chatham is a "failure".

The truth is just the opposite, Fossener said. Both segments are doing equally well. He is president of the Ontario government-owned centre.

He also rightfully objects to not having had a chance to answer the criticism before it appeared (for which I apologize).

Like the other tech centres, Chatham helps appropriate small- and medium-sized businesses adapt relevant technology to their current needs.

An essential difference between it and the others, however, Fossener said, is because its client group is smaller and each can and has been approached individually by the centre.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

The most recent centre newsletter (Sprouts) has two examples of aid to farm machinery companies.

One was for improvements to the hydraulic system of a bagging machine for silage.

Another was the addition of an electronic monitoring system to a liquid manure spreader.

Fossener said in the last fiscal year 43 small projects completed by the centre resulted in \$1 million in direct savings and \$10 million increased annual sales by clients.

The farm machinery and food processing centre recovered 24 per cent

of its operating costs last year, up from nine per cent the year before and half-way to the government-sanctioned target of 50 per cent.

Second: In paragraph 16 of a statement by Environment Minister Jim Bradley concerning PCB clean-up in Smithville, Bradley mentions the task has been granted an exemption from hearings under the Environmental Assessment Act.

How ironic. Bradley's Liberals have, for years, whined about the need for environmental assessment hearings on virtually everything.

And the PCB storage in Smithville wouldn't have been necessary if the Liberals (plus the NDP, Tory backbenchers, local politicians and environmental activists) had not opposed high temperature incineration of PCBs in Mississauga in the first place.

Third: An Ontario legislative committee has approved an amendment to the Human Rights Code that would prevent homosexuality being considered a factor when a person is

hired or fired from a job. Except, of course, in the Roman Catholic separate school system.

There it would remain totally legal to discriminate against homosexuals under the separate system's mandate to ensure teachers display church-approved lifestyles.

That won't be acceptable in the public system. But then, this double standard is nothing new.

It has long been illegal, for example, to discriminate against a Roman Catholic who applies for a job in the public system under that same Human Rights Code.

The Roman system, however, is under no such restriction when it comes to non-Roman Catholic teachers (except for high school teachers displaced by full funding).

It kind of makes you wonder about the fairness of it all.

It also has to make you wonder about how much a "human right" is really a "right" when it only applies to one group of people and not to others.

Superstitious 13

Thirteen is an unlucky number if you're superstitious - or if you live in Acton.

Coun. Rick Bonnette is questioning Halton Region's decision not to allow Acton to put up 13 new homes.

Lack of water is the obstacle holding back the development.

Mr. Bonnette, as Acton's regional representative, is deeply disappointed.

Can the estimated 475 gallons per day use by each of the 13 households make a dent into Acton's water supply?

Public Works Director Bob Moore thinks so. He isn't willing to sign a permit based on his experience as an engineer. He won't risk Acton's water supply.

That leaves Acton high and dry with little more than a wishing well.

If one is willing to think optimistically, a \$55,000 study into developing new water wells may allow the development to start by the end of the summer.

If that's so, why not let Acton build its 13 homes now. Surely they can't be completed much before September.

Acton has been waiting patiently enough. The town needs a positive sign that its civic bureaucracy is working for them.

If anything, the building of 13 new homes might spur on the efforts of those working on the Acton well study to hurry things along.

Bricks, bouquets

Subtle changes are taking place in our community; some for the better, some for the worse. From the newsmakers of Halton Hills, here's a list of bricks and bouquets from the past week:

BRICKS: To the person who pulled the 'airplane in distress' trick on police, firefighters and a helicopter rescue crew from Trenton. Our people are obliged to check out all calls, even if there is a suspicion the distress signal is bogus. The rescue search was costly in time, money and manpower.

BOUQUETS: To the Halton Hills Chinese Canadian Cultural Association. By forming their group, they will help to preserve Chinese culture for their children. In turn, all the residents of Halton Hills will benefit by the cultural diversity from our variety of minority groups. When will we stage an event similar to Toronto's Caravan?

BRICKS: To the federal Ministry of the Solicitor-General who denied Halton money for a Crime Victim Service Unit. There's already one in Burlington, but the rest of Halton isn't serviced.

BOUQUETS: To all of our fitness-conscious members who participated in the Participation Challenge and helped us win against Caledon. The staff at the Recreation Department deserves some praise for their good organization of the event.

BRICKS: To any student complaining he or she can't find a job for the summer months. As of last week, there were 60 jobs available at the Canada Employment Centre for Students.

BOUQUETS: To the Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic. Sensitive to the needs of our citizens, the legal clinic moved into more accessible headquarters on Mill Street in Georgetown. That's good news for seniors, the disabled and young mothers. We hope the staff will be happy in their new office surroundings, allowing them more space to handle their daily workload.

Frustrated over our values, tragedies



Staff comment

By Ani Pederian Herald Columnist

This is a column of frustration, frustration over the tragedies this community has suffered and will continue to suffer because of drivers who drink.

Stop in at any of the local drinking holes one night, from the upper class golf and country club to the lowly tavern. There's sure to be a bunch of men huddled around the bar ready to tell you, "This is only my second drink, dearie." With great concentration they reach for the glass, again.

How are these men getting home? Why is "getting bombed" such a highly regarded accomplishment in our society? Is there nothing more worthwhile for adults and teens to do? I wonder sometimes about the values of our society.

I remember the kids in high school, and the kids in university. Those guys with the damp beery breath were turnoffs, and their exploits consisted of how many they were able to swing back without throwing up. How boring, to say nothing of revolting.

Just this week, one young person was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident and another died. They were 19, at the crest of that exciting voyage of discovering independence and themselves.

A crash and within seconds their future was as mangled as their bodies. My heart goes out to their parents. I share in their shock, fear, anger, guilt, and that pain that will stay with them for a long time as they remember their golden child.

Students nowadays are hearing about the dangers of drinking and driving, and one progressive school is even taking young people on tours of Sunnybrook Medical Centre where the victims of drunk driving are being cared for. Nothing strikes home as much as seeing someone your own age in a coma, or paralyzed for life. Perhaps the new generation will be teaching their parents right from wrong and the dangers of drinking and driving. I sure hope so. It's time somebody smartened up.

SEND US A LETTER

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



"For a species threatened with extinction, they seem calm"

Citizen's forum

Disheartened by Bill 94: MD

Dear Sir,

Please excuse me for my long letter, the subject is complex. If you prefer conclusions (or a solution) skip to the last paragraph.

I am disheartened with the approach the Ontario Government is taking with the health care issue. They say we are going to end extra-billing; of this fact there can be no debate! Then they say, let us "negotiate" how to end this practice. All we hear is "You are going to die, which way do you want, gun, rat poison or snake bite?"

Confrontation produces the expected results: heightened rhetoric, unhappiness and reaction from the other side eg. strikes. This is NOT the way to solve problems in Ontario. If the doctors are forced to bow to this might of the government they will react in ways that will be damaging to the health care system.

I personally donate (free, unpaid) 10 hours a month to our hospital to ensure that it runs safely. If Bill 94 passes I will cease to function on all these committees. So will most of the other doctors. This is a result of Mr. Peterson's confrontation. Government must work with the medical profession to ensure cooperation and thus quality. I am on call 84 hours a week or 350 hours a month for anaesthesia in Georgetown for which I am paid nothing, 00! If the government remove one of my freedoms what will be my reaction? Will I continue to be as conscientious?

Not one of the 18 MDs in Georgetown that respected the Ontario Medical Association's call for withdrawal of services bills above the OHIP rates, not one! We complied because we feel this issue is so important. We don't want more money, we do not want absolute government control. When we think of government controlled medicine we think of the Workers Compensation Board. It is a mess, ask any worker or any doctor. Ask anyone who has moved from Quebec what the health system is like there? They banned extra-billing over 10 years ago. Think of the National Health

Service in Britain. Why are there so many private health schemes?

How soon before governments (for "excellent" reasons of course) will limit the number of visits per week, month and year you can pay to your doctor, or which doctor you can see. Government desire to control and regulate our lives is insatiable.

The government wishes equal access for all to medical care. They also want the \$153,000,000 a year they lose while not conforming to the Canada Health Act (this Act may well be unconstitutional as well as Bill 94).

How can we accommodate the freedom of the doctors on one hand with the wishes and needs of the government on the other hand. The

OMA will ensure that in every community, on every speciality doctors billing the OHIP rates will be available. Now the problem is not too great. Add to this Mr. Peterson's suggestion that if the patient was ex-

tra billed and complains to the government, the patient will be reimbursed from the doctor's OHIP account. Pass the bill banning extra-billing to comply with the Canada Health Act (and thus get your 53 million a year) but remove all penalties except the compensation clause. I think all parties could live with such a solution. We must work together government and medical profession.

Alex Furness

Getting it straight

Dear Sir,

Regarding last week's "Do we need corner store liquor?"

Some people you asked seem to think that Brewers Retail is owned by the Ontario Government. Well let's get it straight, Brewers Retail is a private company owned by the Breweries of Ontario. They were given the complete monopoly some years ago to distribute beer in Ontario. Only beer brewed in Ontario can be sold in these stores. Brewers Retail says so.

Four of the people you spoke to were really negative thinkers. Anytime this subject comes up they try to turn it into a moral issue. And we all know it is not. It's really a common sense issue.

No one considers the guy in Norval who has to do a six mile round trip for a six pack, or the senior citizen who has no car. He either takes a taxi or walks. The same applies to the people in Limehouse, Hornby, Glen Williams or even the people in the west end of Georgetown. There are more than 1500 towns and

villages in Ontario where one cannot buy a can of beer.

Good thinking Al Cook and Betty Fisher, the other four will sure be surprised when they discover we've already invented the wheel.

Regards, Frank Jameson, Georgetown

Speyside reunion

Dear Sir,

We would like to welcome all former staff, parents, and students of Speyside Public School to a reunion on Saturday, June 14, 1986. A variety of activities are planned at the school from 1-6 p.m. Come prepared for games, fun, and social time, followed by a suppertime barbecue. If you plan on attending, please call Eve Martin at 853-1382, or 853-0438 no later than June 6.

Thank you, Patti Freier, Speyside School Support Group

Question: What do you like most about the great outdoors?

In your opinion

What's 'great' about outdoors?



Russ Coens

"I like the quiet and solitude," Mike Lazor said. "I like the freedom," Mike Lazor of Hamilton Georgetown said. "For me, the great outdoors is better than the great indoors."



Mike Lazor



Krikor Dovlet

"I like the quiet and solitude; doors is peaceful, quiet, with nobody around to bother to me the most," Bob Callahan of Georgetown said. "It's clean and I'll find the fresh, totally worst place to go, relaxing and it's where nobody else fun."



Bob Callahan



Carl Watrock

"It's the quietness and being surrounded by nature," Carl Watrock of Acton said. "I love the animals and of course, the fresh air that goes with it."



George Cooke

"I like the quietness of it. That's the main thing," George Cooke of Mississauga said. "There's nothing like getting into the bush and just walking, in the fall especially when you can kick up the leaves."

Poets Corner

DAWN OF A THOUSAND POEMS

If life be some purpose royal, And I should serve some master true; Or if this song be muck and spoil: I will sing for you.

If life be for joyful praises Where glorious anthems ring; Or if it be a field of graze: Fresh flowers I will bring.

If life be of no purpose serving, I'll still my kindness do; Forever will I work unserving; Humble in love, for you.

Robert D. Rennie The Bard of Acton



30 years ago

Georgetown purchased a second fire engine. After listening to representatives from three companies council decided to buy an American Marsh Company pumper, mounted on a GMC chassis supplied by Scott Motors. The cost of the pumper is \$18,700.

John Kenneth Carson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Carson of 15 Edith St. received his Master of Commerce degree from the University of Toronto.

Barry Timleck received the Lt. Col. John R. Barber trophy awarded to the best cadet. Barry is a lieutenant colonel and commanding officer of the high school cadet corps.

Town Line neighbors and other friends attended the shower for the twins of Mrs. James DeSylva. Mrs. Roy Coupland was the guest of honor.

15 years ago

Wayne Thomas Weatherall, 8, of RR1 Georgetown drowned Saturday in a small quarry near his RR1 Georgetown home. It is believed cold water shocked his system, making him unconscious and he suffocated. No water was found in his lungs.

Reed Harper, "Mr. Texas", of Billy Graham films will be in Georgetown for an evangelistic service at Mountainview Baptist Church. Mr. Harper just returned from South East Asia.

Brian Beaumont and Bob Elinesky were drafted from Georgetown Midget Hockey by the Kitchener Rangers. Only four other Tri-County players were drafted by OHA Junior A clubs.

10 years ago

Roy Booth, town councillor and Georgetown merchant, is in the coronary unit of Toronto Western Hospital. He is listed in fair condition.

Two members of the Georgetown Majorette and Drum Corps travelled to Markham to participate in the Ontario Championships. Lisa Sheenan finished fourth in the Advanced Twirl, and Kim Marcel finished fifth in the Strut.

The first sod to mark the beginning of construction on Georgetown's new sewage treatment plant was turned. Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill, Councillor Dick Howitt, Regional Chairman Allan Masca and Environment Minister George Kerr turned the sod.

5 years ago

The most money collected during the YMCA's walk-a-thon came from the efforts of Michele Fisher, Laura Blair and Janet Milton. They said it was a "blistering" effort.

The Georgetown Parents Without Partners (PWP) presented International Youth Exhibit Awards to four Georgetown youngsters. The four winners whose work was shown at the PWP national conference in Winnipeg include: Kent Burke, Vicki Hughes, Calam Munro and Chris Hughes.

Veteran NHL referee and Georgetown resident John McCauley was appointed director of officiating for the NHL. He will be stationed in Toronto and will assist Referee-in-Chief Scotty Morrison.

A fall off the beam dropped Georgetown gymnast Sara Aggis from a fourth overall to seventh place finish at a national gymnastics competition. She received top marks for a vault, but a nose-bleed suffered in the fall from the beam prevented her from competing further in the event, and she did not finish in the medals.