

Put in the signs

Rural road hazards - we all know about them and we've all had close calls.

But nothing hits home with as much force as when a member of our community dies in a car accident.

March, 1986, two women died in a collision at the intersection of Sideroad 15 and the Fifth Line.

A coroner's inquest recommended that rural stop signs, near intersections with partially obstructed views, be supplemented with a warning sign.

We think that makes sense and we hope Halton Region will act on the recommendation.

Rural roads are usually not maintained to standards expected in more travelled areas.

The road surfaces in rural areas can be anywhere from smooth asphalt, tar and crushed stone, to loose gravel. Not all dangerous curves have been smoothed away and cars do not always obey the speed limits.

Stopping does not come easy for a driver on a country road with a poor surface underneath.

A stop warning sign can only help to prevent the type of tragic accident which resulted in the deaths of Christine Wilcox and Mary Robertson.

It is an unhappy moment for everyone in the community to learn of an accident which claims the lives of two talented people.

Our memory of them can best be served by doing something to help prevent the same type of accident.

Tide has turned

A 13-year-old girl didn't have any luck fighting the staid attitudes of the Ontario Hockey Association.

That is, until her case went to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Justine Blainey is within her constitutional rights to try out for the all-boys Metro Olympics hockey team, the court ruled last week.

Ms. Blainey's victory is a victory for us all. The tide turned long ago over questions of sex discrimination. It can no longer be tolerated in a society so involved with human rights.

Justine is a symbol that women can compete alongside of men in a variety of male-dominated jobs.

It's a shallow excuse to say women don't belong playing hockey with men. If they have the ability to make the team, they should be allowed to play.

No legal status



Against the odds

PAT WOODE

Over the past six-month period the Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped (ARCH) has won several charter cases.

The first involved a young woman who had a brain tumor 15 years ago. She and other family members were denied the right to become permanent residents of Canada because it was considered that the woman, who was mentally handicapped, would become a burden on the social services system if the family ties broke down. Although a relative had offered to sponsor them, the whole family was denied legal immigrant status as the woman was deemed "inadmissible."

The sponsor appealed the refusal. ARCH presented Charter arguments against the section dealing with this matter. The Board decided in favor of the family.

It was decided by the federal court of Canada that a man who "is accused of mischief and damage to property, under the criminal code, and who was remanded to a sixty-day assessment at the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre could still collect his unemployment insurance benefits.

The centre is not a "prison," and

the court decided that he should not be disentitled as a "prisoner" under the act. As he was unable to work due to illness, he was therefore eligible for benefits.

For mentally disabled persons or those thought to be mentally disabled, who are brought before the criminal courts, this means they will not become disentitled under the Unemployment Insurance Act if they are sent to a mental facility for medical assessment.

Multiple sclerosis affects the myelin sheath surrounding the nerves and causes scar tissue which can prevent the transfer of messages. There is no confirmed cause for this sometimes debilitating condition, which is known for its episodic exacerbations. Dianne Fisher, a Milton resident, speaks candidly about her experiences in living with MS. Cable 4, Against the Odds, has Dianne as their guest on Wednesday July 2, at 7 p.m. and July 17 at 7 p.m.

Osteoporosis is estimated to cause suffering to over 250,000 Canadian women. While they make up the majority, men and youth are not immune to "brittle bones". Its slow progress often prevents early detection delaying changes in diet, exercise, and other preventive treatment measures.

"Stalking the Silent Thief," is a film that discusses the physical and psychological systems of osteoporosis, how it can limit lifestyle, treatment, and prevention. For information contact the Osteoporosis Society of Canada at (416) 922-1358.

Soviets try 'hard-sell' tactics

There is a dramatic change in the way the Russians are conducting their business in Ottawa. And while it's too early to tell whether it will drastically alter the Soviet Union's image in Canada, it is certainly shaking up Embassy Row.

Suddenly, Soviet diplomats have become hard-sell salespeople. No more vodka, back-slapping and hockey talk. Presenting the Soviet side of international events has become a very serious business.

It used to be that one could go to Russian embassy affairs with nothing higher in mind than the food and drink. Whatever these diplomats did in their working hours, never seemed to spill over into social occasions. When the Soviet ambassador invited you to lunch, it was a signal to take the afternoon off and enjoy the hospitality.

No more. The Russians in Ottawa now seem to have a single-minded determination to get their message across. And if you're going to lunch with the Soviet ambassador, it's best to read up on current affairs, particularly disarmament.

"We've been very bad propagandists," said one embassy official the other day. "We are trying to correct that."

They sure are.

PREPARED TEXT
Six or seven of us were invited to the ambassador's residence for lunch, and the new approach was obvious the moment a maid opened the door. In hand was a tray, offering a choice of tomato juice, orange juice or cranberry juice.

Seating in the lounge was carefully arranged so that the journalists - and an equal number of Soviet diplomats - could face the ambassador, Alexey Rodionov.



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

And in a 10-minute period that would normally be devoted to small talk, the ambassador read a prepared statement, all about Russian efforts to reach an agreement on disarmament. Then he turned things over to a Russian military attaché who provided all the technical details.

It was fairly predictable. The Russians, perhaps not unlike the Americans, tend to see things in black and white. They insist they are

sincere in seeking disarmament, the Americans are not. Their latest proposals represent a genuine desire for weapon reduction, the American counter-proposals, on the other hand, are stalling tactics. And so on.

TABLE TALK

Moving to the dining room, things didn't lighten up.

"In the mind of the western press," said one of the diplomats, "there is an iron curtain." And that's about as close as we came to a smile.

"Nuclear disarmament is very, very important," said the ambassador. "The question is, to be or not to be. It's as simple as that."

There was caviar, smoked salmon and steak. And lots and lots of soda water.

"There is absolutely no truth to the rhetorical claims of the American administration that the Soviet Union has violated the terms of the SALT II treaty," said the ambassador. "Our behavior is above reproach."

"We are not good at telling our story. We are going to try to be better at this."



ONE OF MY PATIENTS STRUCK BACK!

Search for a welcome



Clergy Comment

in our churches. Often a church is described to me as being cold, unfriendly, uncaring. What an irony! Here in the very place where the love of Christ is proclaimed, the people are often experienced as less friendly than the clerks, waiters, receptionists, and many others who are encountered in every day life. I cringe when I hear this report about a church, sometimes even my own parish.

I wonder whether it's just an unfortunate first impression, but I fear that even first impressions have a lasting effect on people's assessment and decision about church. The Director for Evangelism of the Episcopal Church in the United States has written "People in the community need repeated assurances that they are welcome and wanted."

This principle must be behind any other efforts to proclaim the faith. Without hospitality, words are empty and ineffective.

This summer, be aware of the hospitality you receive from those you meet. Thank them. On Sunday, seek out a church on your travels, let the people welcome you, and return home to do your part in welcoming others.

Good returns

Dear Sir,

In retirement, I did not go the dream route of relaxation, and travel, for various reasons. Someone asked, could I spare a few hours in volunteer work. Some experience in entertainment were my credentials. I became a grandteacher at Holy Cross School, Georgetown. This letter is my means of thanking the staff and pupils for a wonderful year of love and affection, in sickness and achievement. What I gave was returned "An Hundred Fold". Thank you all.

George Mitchell
81 Baylawn Cres.

Halton's History

from our files

30 years ago

Canada was taken on a tour of Rex Heston's home on CBC TV, while Joe McCulley interviewed Mr. Heston. He was described as a "construction millionaire who builds whole cities."

Gordon Preston, who recently escaped a Midland truck accident, won \$1,000 in the Lions Club monster bingo at the Georgetown arena. Lions President Jim Jones presented the cheque to the Glen Williams resident.

Six Georgetown students received Hyman Silver memorial awards from Syd Silver, who presented the awards in honor of his father. Chapel Street principal Harold Henry presented the awards to Dorothy Thomson, Joan Craig and Hank DeBoer. Wigglesworth principal William Kinrade presented awards to Karen Norton, Lois Niven and Francis Ernewein.

Seven Georgetown boys are off to Camp Ipperwash for seven weeks of cadet training. The boys are Doug Wigglesworth, Tom Barber, Earl Little, Roger Shaw, Peter Canham, Herb Ford and Fred Young. All are members of the Georgetown High Cadet corps.

15 years ago

Deborah Wilson of 85 Moore Park Cres. passed her Royal Academy Dancing Exam with a mark of Highly Commended. It is the second exam the student of the Vicki Lay School of Dancing achieved this mark.

Bishop John Bothwell, the elected Anglican Co-adjutor Bishop of Niagara, made his first official visit to Georgetown. He officiated at the induction service of Rev. Robert Gallagher.

Letter to the editor

Redefine porn

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

Hon. John Crosbie
Minister of Justice
Dear Mr. Crosbie:

Having worked on the problem of pornography for over five years (as our past correspondence with you would indicate), we meet your proposed legislation with mixed views.

We support your proposals concerning the making, distribution and possession of child pornography wholeheartedly.

We feel that the tabled legislation dealing with adult pornography goes too far. The phrase "other sexual activity" is too vague and has the potential to restrict erotica or other examples of healthy human sexuality. Those of us who initially raised concerns about the inadequacy of the Criminal Code of Canada, believe

But most of the subsequent comments represented an attack on the Americans. Over a two-hour period, there was not one acknowledgment of a possible Russian shortcoming in the search for peace. Questions about the alleged use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan were countered with "proven" cases of the Americans using chemical weapons in Vietnam.

"We also want to ask you questions," said the ambassador. But few were asked. It was mainly a briefing, and a rather heavy one at that.

Two days after we left the ambassador's residence, awash in soda water, an embassy employee phoned the guests to ask whether they had written, or intended to write, anything. "Shall I mark it 'yes'?", she asked, in a business-like voice.

Not a bit like the old pre-Gorbachov days, when one's thoughts were not expected to go beyond the next course.

As for the admission that the Russians have been poor propagandists - and at the risk of appearing unappreciative of their hospitality - I would offer the view that they still haven't quite got the hang of it.

Glen Williams came first in the Georgetown Area Junior Track and Field meet. David Pierce accepted the trophy from Hilda Clark, physical Education Consultant for the Halton Board of Education.

Norm Ullman is coming to Georgetown at the request of Peter Pomeroy whose sports store Mr. Ullman will be visiting. The Toronto Maple Leaf will be greeting locals on the street in front of the store as part of the Western Days promotion.

10 years ago

Chris Milne won the invitational contest of the Kentners Dairy Bar Old Time Ice Cream Eating Contest. He polished off a three scoop banana split in 32 seconds. Sam Holmes equaled the time. Chris showed he was champ by finishing a cone in 14 seconds.

Kelly Murumets won the Principal's Award for achieving an above 90 average at Centennial Middle School. Ron Chatten is the principal.

The North Halton Golf and Country Club celebrated their expansion. Councillor Ern Hyde helped club members Ted Evans, Bill McNally and club manager Marian Faulkner with the opening ceremonies.

5 years ago

Otto Jelinek and Peter Pomeroy were among those who toasted Ron McKnight at a banquet at the Acton Curling Club. Mr. McKnight was Acton's Citizen of the Year.

After 40 years of teaching Marian Cleave retired. The students of Joseph Gibbons said goodbye to the kindergarten teacher who has lived most of her life in Georgetown.

Speyside Public School caretaker John Muir and secretary-receptionist Irene Murphy were overwhelmed by the affection of the 170 children of the school. Students presented them with poems, posters, songs and cards to show their appreciation of the two.

Harrison Public School students bid farewell to principal Allen. Mr. Allen, who has taught at Harrison for the last six years, received a 30-foot long farewell card. Acton is where Mr. Allen will be principal next.

Path to personal grief: the fatal mistake



Grade 13 student Janet Friskney has captured top honors in The Herald's essay contest on drunk driving. In a bid to heighten the awareness of old and young people alike to the dangers of drunk driving, The Herald invited essay submissions from students asking them to write

Yesterday is in the past; a time captured forever within the embrace of history. It can not be relived or changed beyond the realm of film or memory. Yesterday a man or a woman or a child was killed or maimed in an alcohol-related accident. That is a fact which can not be changed.

However, tomorrow is ours; within it lays the opportunity to alleviate one facet of mankind's oldest and most deplorable trait - man's inhumanity to man. And drunk driving is inhuman. Socially and legally, drunk driving must be regarded and defined as a vicious act against humanity.

Drunk driving is not unique to any one country; however, it is a painful ill the world suffers from. Indeed, driving drunk is an act of violence against innocent bystanders and a socially accepted form of homicide. Although alcohol-related accidents often provoke fatal results, in the past the law has allowed repeat offenders to walk away with only a slap on the wrist. Why?

One must understand society's position with respect to alcohol. Alcohol has lived through the ages. Indeed, drinking is an act steeped in

traditions encompassing everything from Holy Communion to the rites of manhood. Thus, alcohol is a symbol of continuity. In a lighter sense, the town drunk as portrayed in books and films has always been a harmless old fellow and a source of humour.

In consequence, society has sympathized rather than condemned the heavy drinker. This attitude has extended into the realm of the drunk driver. Unfortunately, the difficult task of transforming an attitude of generations has become necessary to regulate the too often fatal mix of alcohol and motor vehicles.

From a legal perspective, laws have not evolved with the times. The invention of the automobile did not inspire laws covering drinking and driving. Society was first faced with the deadly debris of the problem. Even so, early laws were ineffectual at best; regulations making reference to the "impaired" driver.

Unfortunately, nobody saw fit to conclusively define "impaired". Thus, progress was not truly made until a legally impaired blood-alcohol level was defined and imposed by the law.

During the last few years the massive social costs associated with alcohol have come under question. When one considers the emotional trauma experienced by the families of the innocent, the expense is boundless. The victim's family must face the fact that their parent, child and/or sibling died without justifiable cause - his/her life tragically wasted. Society also pays for the social services the drunk driver has incurred and supplies necessary funds to charities that are working to combat drunk driving.

At the same time, hours of manpower are a direct result of the drinking and driving problem. From hospital staff to advertising executives, many man hours are spent attempting to correct the damage or prevent future horrors. The cost is infinite.

The deadly irony of drunk driving is that the hazards and often fatal consequences have been proven repetitively, and yet, people still drink and drive. One might call drinking and driving an addiction. How else can an individual justify drinking heavily if he plans to drive. Thus, a fully conscious decision to drive drunk is an inhumane and violent act against other individuals. The person that the drunk driver

may hit was not involved in the decision - only the outcome.

Educating the public and gathering their support against drinking and driving is the goal of such groups as MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) and SADD (Students Against Drunk Drivers). The Ride program in Ontario has proved to be an effective tool in deterring the drinking driver.

Also, the designated driver program has provided results. However, the wide-scale support of public opinion is demanded and necessary to truly combat drunk driving. The belief that "driving is a privilege - not a right" must be fostered. Also, a driver must be aware that he is responsible for both himself and others.

Society must learn that ignoring the problem of drunk driving will not make it disappear. Each of us are potential victims. As an individual, one faces risks too many to count. However, by controlling the drinking and driving problem, society can lessen the risk.

To willingly be victimized by individuals too inconsiderate and irresponsible to care is not the road to sainthood and martyrdom - merely a rather dim and painful path toward personal grief.

Yours truly,
Gail Rutherford, Chairman
Citizens Against Violent Pornography