

## Keep teen nights

The question of teen nights in Halton Hills underlines a need to provide more activities for our youth.

Last week, The Herald reported on one parent's discomfort with sending his teen to a bar where teens were able to dance and drink non-alcoholic beverages.

His point was that in the case of one local restaurant, the bar was not closed and that those with age of majority cards could be served.

Do restaurants where alcohol is served create a bad impression for teens? Or is it an opportunity to exploit by having pamphlets and literature available on drinking and driving and abstinence.

We feel that teen nights are fine for youths. The restaurants are helping to keep teenagers occupied and off the streets.

Still, there is not enough for our young adults to do in Georgetown and Acton. With no public transit, teens are limited to where they can go; they are discouraged from milling about in front of stores and restaurants.

Vandalism is high in Halton Hills. We wonder how much of it can be attributed to children with "too much time on their hands."

If anything, the town should be working with the police, restaurants, schools, churches and media to promote activities for teens.

Teens with a handful of hobbies, events and places to go to are less likely to turn to alcohol later in life.

## What makes you mad?

What makes you mad about your local newspaper? There must be something.

What can make the Herald a better newspaper? You must have some ideas.

What is it you like about what we do? If we know, we'll keep doing it.

The Herald wants to reach out to its readers Monday. We've scheduled a time from 7-9 p.m. when representatives from the paper will answer your questions and make note of your comments and criticisms.

This newspaper is for you, the reader. We want to incorporate your ideas into our format, if possible. Tell us our strong points, tell us our weak points, but give us some feedback.

We are not nameless, faceless people who work here at the newspaper. Each of us takes pride in our work; we care about the job we do and we care about the community.

Although staff at The Herald is active in town events, we don't often have an opportunity to talk about newspapers to others.

Give us a chance to make us better by voicing your opinions. Call us Monday. If you're not going to be home then, give us a ring or make an appointment and drop by another time. We also welcome letters to the editor on any subject you wish.

We're the newspaper that cares -- and we want to prove it to you.

## Council can't pull together



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

Town Council deserves a swift kick in the pants for its "performance" Nov. 17. Councillors weren't on a stage but they might as well have been.

Trying to publicly ridicule a fellow councillor, they came away looking like court jesters with a mean streak. But in the meantime, the public is suffering. We aren't getting the representation we deserve.

Anyone who has been closely following the proceedings of council knows about the "factions" which exist. Where are all the independent thinkers?

It makes me yearn for the days when people like Ross Knechtel and Harry Levy were on council.

I personally don't care if councillors want to sling mud at each other, but don't grandstand in front of each other during valuable council time. Enough of this gang warfare. People have a right to express their own opinions. If it happens to differ from the mainstream think-

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Last Monday night after the town council meeting, The Herald received a letter to the editor from Coun. Betty Fisher. The letter was in reply to a letter written by Barry Page which appears on the editorial page (A4). Due to the late submission, the letter has been placed on page A7.

### WRITE 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

# Drug bill requires super salesman

It's little wonder that Consumer Affairs Minister Harvie Andre ran into such heavy fire when he brought that drug bill before the Commons. Not only is it a natural and ir-refutable target for the opposition, but the government's case seems far from convincing.

As the government discovered during the furious debate on pension de-indexing, it's not easy to sell legislation which is perceived to be to the disadvantage of the elderly or sick.

And you can bet your bottom dollar that the Liberals and New Democrats will continue to emphasize this aspect of the drug bill. They will also continue to argue that the multi-national drug companies will benefit at the expense of the elderly and the sick - and the fact that the Americans have been pressuring the Mulroney government for such legislation.

When everything is added up, it's the type of legislation that requires

super salesmanship. And Mr. Andre didn't seem all that effective with his initial pitch.

Like the proposed postal-rate increases, the drug bill is very apt to cause difficulties for MPs back in their ridings. Not all Conservative



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

MPs are enthusiastic about supporting it.

**NO INCREASE**  
Under the bill, which changes the Patent Act, the brand-name companies which produce drugs will have a 10-year "exclusivity" period. That is, other firms can't produce cheaper "generic" copies of the drug for 10 years after their develop-

These other firms now produce generic copies by paying a four-percent royalty fee to the developers. The big multi-national companies, with help from some U.S. government officials, have been applying strong pressure on the Mulroney government for the additional protection.

The opposition contends that the pressure is associated with the free-trade negotiations now going on with the Americans. The government denies it.

The opposition also contends that the legislation will result in a dramatic increase in the price of drugs. The government also denies this. Mr. Andre repeatedly claimed the bill will not "raise the price of one, single drug now on the market - not by one cent."

He did say that new drugs might remain expensive for a longer period of time. But he suggested the impact would be slight because, in any event, it takes an average of 11 1/2

years for generic brands to reach the market.

A federal inquiry released last year said the present system saved Canadians \$21 million in 1983 and that the multi-national drug companies still made healthy profits. Consumer groups are strongly opposed to the changes.

**GOOD AMMUNITION**  
Not only do the opposition parties have a highly attractive target, but, from a public viewpoint, they also have great ammunition for the fight.

If it takes more than 11 years to bring out drug copies, they ask, why is the legislation necessary? And if drug prices are not going to rise dramatically, why are the multi-national drug companies promising to double research spending to \$3 billion by 1995? And if prices are not going up, why is Ottawa proposing an annual \$25 million "transitional payment" to the provinces to offset the "impact"?

The provinces, which pay for drugs used in hospitals, are hard hit by price increases.

Mr. Andre knows he has his hands full. "It is a political risk and it's something that I and my colleagues are going to have to get out and do a selling job on," he says.

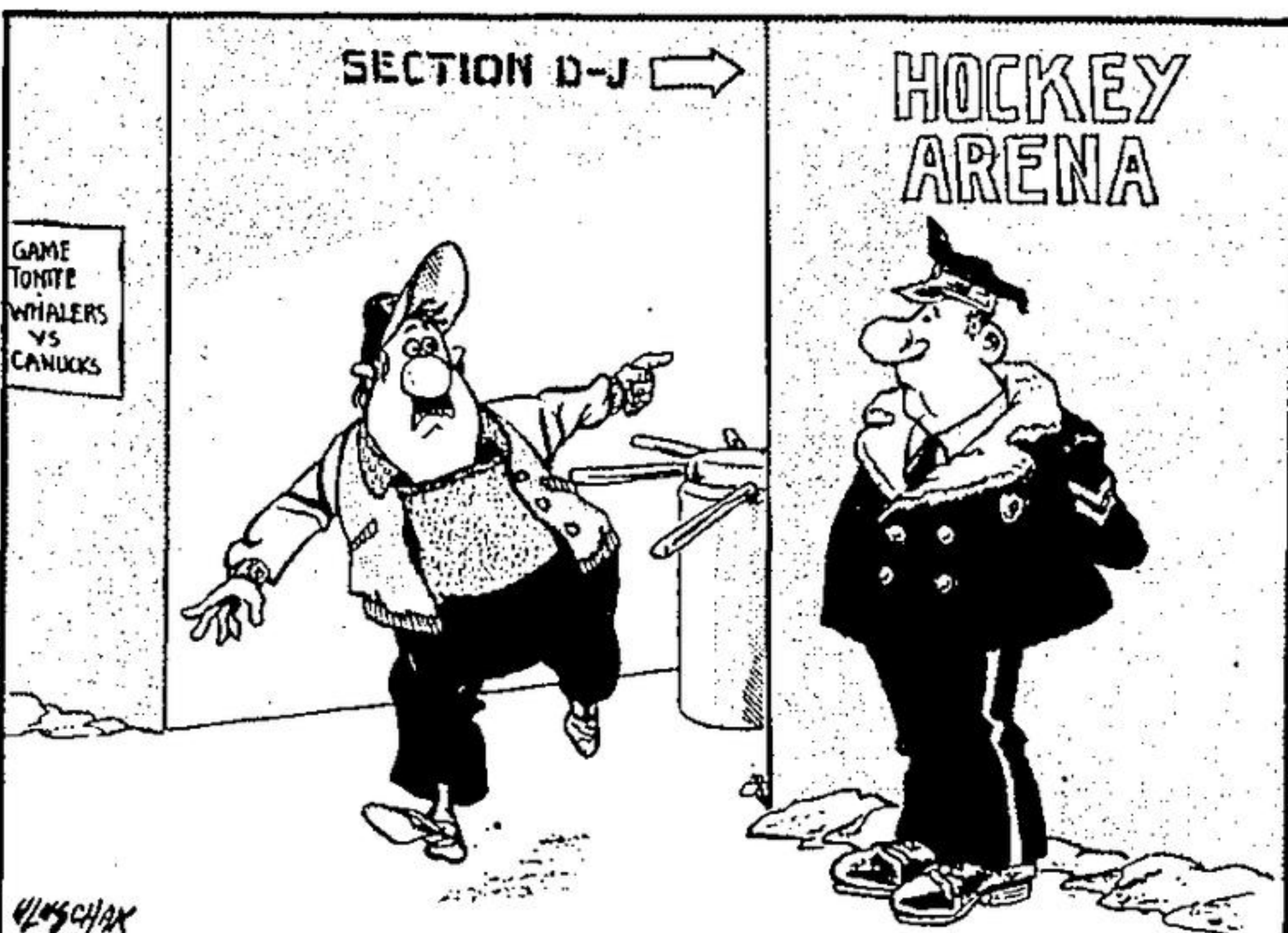
And he added, with massive understatement, that if the arguments become too emotional and hysterical, "we'll be at a disadvantage."

He didn't have long to wait. The moment the legislation was mentioned in the Commons, Liberal Leader John Turner charged that the government "has used the sick and the elderly as a pawn in order to maintain the currency of the free-trade negotiations with the United States."

And before the bill ever becomes law, you can bet we'll be hearing even stronger accusations. When it comes to a political showdown, it's better to be on the side of the sick and the elderly, than on the side of the multi-nationals.

## Halton's History

from our files



"SEA SHEPHERD'S STRUCK AGAIN - THE ICE RINK'S MELTED AND ALL THE HARTFORD WHALERS SANK!"

## Citizens' forum

### Council's immature behavior

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following letter was filed with The Herald for publication. Mayor Russell Miller, Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills, Main Street, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4T1

Dear Mr. Mayor, I am writing to you to express my concern at the immature behaviour and puerile remarks made by some of your councillors over the issue of Councillor Pam Sheldon's release to the press, of discussions made during the so-called 'in camera' session held to choose the architect for the new Municipal Complex.

After their first full year of office, one would have expected that councillors would have matured sufficiently to know what type of behavior that we, the voters, expect from our elected representatives, even from the obvious slow learners apparently sitting on council.

I could not agree more fully with Councillor Sheldon's remark that her first duty is to the people of our community, not to the other 12 members of council. As taxpayers, we have the right to know on all but the most sensitive of issues, and the choice of architects does not, in my opinion, come under that definition.

My main fear, and I speak from bitter experience during my tenure as Chairman of the Business Advisory Committee, is that council is turning into a Star Chamber, and any time that certain members wish to indulge in character assassination, an 'in camera' meeting is held.

If members of council are not prepared to stand up and be counted over certain issues or comments they make, one wonders why they are there in the first place. A point that the voters may well consider in two years' time!

What is needed is more councillors of the calibre of Pam Sheldon to encourage openness and as full information to the community as is ethically allowed.

So, through you Mr. Mayor, I congratulate Councillor Sheldon for her honesty to the electorate and feel that if more councillors were to follow her example, we would be a better informed and involved community.

Councillor Sheldon, more power to your elbow ma'am, we, the great unwashed, are with you and in two years' time, I know the voters will prove the accuracy of that statement!

In conclusion, I feel it is time that council get its act together and if they spent half the energy they are using to indulge in pitiful displays of pique over Pam Sheldon's comments, on running the affairs of our community, we would all benefit!

Yours truly,  
Barry Page

### Sankey disagrees with decision

Dear Sir,  
This letter is in response to the number of friends, business people, and residents who have been asking us why the Sankey team was not selected to design the Halton Hills Municipal Building. We have been asking ourselves the same question and after reading

articles on the subject in the local papers we still have no answers.

The reasons cited for the decision to choose the firm from Simcoe: Previous work with municipalities, willingness to work with local firms, and adherence to proposed budget are weak since

1. Sankey Partnership Architects and other team members have worked with many levels of government including a number of municipalities.  
2. I was not only willing to work with local, I developed a team of six people, four of whom live in Halton Hills and one of these has a business in the community. The other two members have done work on buildings in the municipality. We would all be sensitive to local manufacturers, trades, and contractors. We live here, shop here, and support local functions.

3. Our team stated its ability to stay within the proposed budget. The Sankey Partnership has many ongoing clients who trust the cost control process used by our firm. Many of our projects come in below budget and during our oral presentation, and discussed in more detail in our written presentation, we identified two such projects. One was awarded to a contractor 2.4 per cent below budget, the other was at 6 per cent below budget.

What we find most difficult to understand is that at one point there was a tie vote between the selected firm and the Sankey team. The council chose the firm from out of town.

From what we read in the papers, the firm from Simcoe left no written material and has not identified its team members. In contrast, I have been working with my team members on this project since September when all candidates were requested to identify and supply all professionals necessary to carry out the project.

Four of our team have been living in or have a business in Halton Hills and have been doing so for over 15 years and paying municipal taxes during this period. The other two members have contributed their expertise on the Georgetown Hospital, Acton High School, Georgetown Library and Cultural Centre and have an understanding of the municipality. All of the team members have worked together in the past and appreciate the importance of bringing in a project within budget and on time. Most of our team members have won awards in design, innovative engineering solutions or energy conservation.

We believe that since most of us live in the community and have contributed to it for a number of years we would offer a commitment to the Municipal Building project difficult to find in an outsider. Our written presentation expressed this commitment and also expressed our familiarity with the Stevens property and its potential for bringing increased tax revenues to the residents of Halton Hills. We understand the significance of this matter.

In summary, when council was faced with a tie vote it turned down

- a team which
- 1. Has 4 out of 6 members living/working in Halton Hills.
- 2. Has contributed individually both time and effort to local community organizations, BIAS, etc.
- 3. Has a strong commitment to the project and to the residents of Halton Hills.
- 4. Has worked together on numerous projects.
- 5. Demonstrated ability to bring projects in on time and within budget constraints.
- 6. Has members who have won international and national design awards.
- 7. Gave council a thorough presentation (oral and written) and responded to all issues.
- 8. Offered a comprehensive list of references.
- 9. Presented to council a written text outlining scope of service, backgrounds of team members, detailed information of past projects, cost control process, scheduling, tender packages, sample of specifications to expect, etc.

We, as the architects on the team, have never been awarded a contract in Halton Hills and we were sincerely looking forward to contributing to this significant community project.

Yours truly,  
Lloyd Sankey,  
RRA, Acton

### Coverage thanks

Dear Sir,  
May we take this opportunity to thank you and Mr. Garnet Cowsill for the coverage you gave us in your newspaper concerning the 30th Anniversary Celebration of Holy Cross Parish.

We very much appreciated the story and pictures you managed to put together on such short notice.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely yours,  
Jan Cook, Secretary,  
Holy Cross Pastoral Council

### Uncleared slush

Dear Sir,  
As an individual who regularly walks to work, I was disappointed in the town's negligence in providing for pedestrians after the recent snow storm.

In other towns I have lived in, once the roads are plowed, the sidewalks are also cleared. Here, I am forced to walk for blocks through dirty slush and snow that is knee deep in spots where the plows have thrown snow up onto the sidewalks. The alternative is even less appealing, walking on the street to be splashed or possibly even struck by passing motorists.

Uncleared sidewalks are forgiveable on small side streets, but surely not on Guelph Street, the major one in town.

Taxpayers who walk deserve as much respect as taxpayers who drive. If Georgetown does not have the equipment to clear sidewalks, they should consider investing in it.

W.R. Campbell,  
A concerned pedestrian

### 30 years ago

Mrs. John Bell of 79 Main Street South became the ladies champion of the North Halton Golf and Country Club. Club president Mrs. J.H. Chamberline presented the McNally Trophy at the ladies' closing dinner.

Gord Inglis bowled a 374 game last week to become the new pacesetter in the industrial league. Harry Bradford retained the best triple score this year. He has bowled 893.

Vocal and piano pupils of Kenneth Harris were prominent at the Kiwanis Music Festival in Guelph. Roberta Hawes of 14 Mill St. won the Simpsons Sears scholarship, as the best soloist girl under 10 years old. The Georgetown High School ensemble won a silver medal for their festival entry.

### 15 years ago

Walter Gray is head of the Christmas Welfare Committee for the 10th consecutive year, despite the fact he wanted to retire. He was persuaded to stay by promises of a bigger organizing committee.

Among those competing for the worst dressed couple at the Georgetown High School Sadie Hawkins dance were Dixie Nuttall and Gord Fendley. The annual dance was inspired by the work of cartoonist Al Capp.

The Mill Street Sportsman Bowl was bought from Al Norton. The new owners are Roger Primeau, Omer Parent and Bernard Jacques. Their wives have a hand in the business where some of the goodies at the snack bar are homemade. All three men have other jobs.

### 10 years ago

Claude Pickett of Georgetown and a man from Italy spent \$82,000 Nov. 17 for a heifer at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The cow's dam recently sold for a world record \$235,000.

Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Bennett, owners of the Scotsdale Farm, had the Grand Champion Shorthorn Bull at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Their cattle also captured the Junior Reserve Female Champion, Premier Exhibitor and Premier Breeder awards.

Singer and lead guitarist Bill Cudney of Silver Creek and three Brampton musicians have formed a band seeking the Jeff Beck Band sound. The group is called "Airtight."

"It's a gimmick. People come to hear us to find out if we really sound like Jeff Beck's band," Mr. Cudney said.

### 5 years ago

The Georgetown District High School girls swim team finished first of eleven teams at the University of Toronto invitational swim meet. First places went to Heather Michie, Cheryl Thompson and Karen Pepper.

Halton Hills had five competitors in the 35th annual Queen's Guineas steer competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Bev Wingfield finished in the first prize group of the Aberdeen Angus class. Other competitors were Lori Parsons, Doug Donaldson, Brian Wingfield and Stephen Lasby.

The Georgetown Senior Girls Hockey team registered their first tie. Lisa Allen scored both Georgetown goals in the game against Oakville.

Mona Milne won the first annual Wilbur or Purple Pig Award at the Fall Fair Board's annual dinner at the Credit Lodge in Georgetown. Helping with the presentation were Betty Ann Wellstead and Emily Besse.