

the HERALD

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Report condemned as pro-abortion

Was there anything more predictable than the reaction of various groups to the Powell report on abortion services?

Pro-abortionists hailed it for its indictment of existing law, anti-abortionists attacked it as a "predetermined sham" and politicians (except NDP) ran for cover.

Dr. Marion Powell was commissioner to do the study by the Health Ministry in June 1986, soon after the Liberals took power.

It fulfilled an election promise by Premier David Peterson to examine accessibility to abortion.

However, the appointment of Powell, who is director of Toronto's Bay Centre for Birth Control, was immediately denounced by right-to-life activists on the grounds she is a pro-abortionist.

Her report is now being condemned for being in the pro-abortion vein. There is no doubt that the logic of her document leads clearly to support for the establishment of free-standing abortion clinics.

Her call for regional abortion centres linked to hospitals but not

necessarily in them sounds suspiciously like sanctioning such free-standing clinics in reality, if not in name.

Established in such a form however, the centres would uphold the law.

Powell herself notes she was constrained in putting her report



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

together by the need to make her recommendations fit existing law. Among other things, that law requires the approval of a hospital therapeutic abortion committee (minimum three persons) before the operation can be performed.

Yet she makes clear that these committees, even where they function adequately, are time-consuming roadblocks in the abortion process, part of the reason that

Canada has so many abortions (at least 10 per cent) later than three months.

Her own view seems mirrored by the following quote:

"Close to 95 per cent of the 150 physicians interviewed stated that the (committees) served no useful purpose and there was almost unanimous support for their abolition," she said.

But committees themselves are only part of the problem.

Of 176 accredited acute care hospitals in Ontario only 54 per cent (or 36) had therapeutic abortion clinics, and 28 of those performed few or no abortions.

In addition, the norm in hospitals is to limit access to abortion to the first third of the pregnancy (12 weeks).

Powell stated bluntly that "the absence of small numbers was not due to lack of demand. Women from these areas were having their abortions elsewhere."

After peaking at 31,009 in 1982, the number of reported abortions in Ontario declined to 27,000 in 1985.

But Powell notes that 3,700 abortions were performed at the Illegal Morgentaler (and Scott) clinics for Toronto in 1985 and that in 1984 a reported 2,200 Canadian women had abortions in U.S. border states.

Overall, Powell found the entire abortion process "to be protracted with women requiring three to seven contacts with health professionals before the actual procedure could be performed."

And so on.

Frankly, if one concedes the principle of legalized abortion (and this country has) it is very hard to see how Powell's report can be rejected.

Yet the amazing thing is how fast the Liberals rushed to put the report out to pasture for another year.

Moreover, Health Minister Murray Elston ducked the possibility of lobbying Ottawa for changes to the abortion law.

"I can only work and deal with the system that I have," he said, ignoring the lobby efforts by his colleagues on all kinds of federal legislation, from the Auto Pact to daycare.

Peterson, who is on record as favoring better abortion access for women, should simply have told Elston to implement the report.

Not "in the clear"

As Herald reporter Ani Pederian states, no longer will Halton Hills be standing on the sidelines when it comes to choosing a new dump site for Halton Region.

Residents will have to stand up for their side in a coming battle against a landfill site in a quarry near Acton.

News broke late last week that a Toronto firm has been studying a 65-acre piece of land at RR4 Acton. The firm called Shieldings wants to convert methane into electrical energy to be sold to Ontario Hydro.

This bombshell was released after Burlington and Milton had been chosen as the two top candidate sites for a new dump required by Halton Region. Oakville and Halton Hills were considered to be "in the clear."

As lawyers for the two proposed dump sites prepared their cases for an environmental assessment hearing, we've been watching almost obliviously to the whole procedure. We've now learned that no municipality is free from having a new landfill in its borders under the process.

But are people overreacting to the 11th hour news that a third candidate site may be a possibility? We think not. Although all the information is not clear on the intentions of Shieldings, their plans may be exploited by lawyers representing the citizens of Burlington and Milton.

We've heard one Burlington solicitor say the Region seems to have overlooked the Acton site. There is a possibility that Milton or Burlington may ask the Toronto firm to enter a bid as a sound alternative to the main site selection to the south.

At the least, a Shieldings involvement in the environmental hearings could delay the site selection process further and give the two candidate communities a breather.

There is cause for hope, nonetheless. There are reported problems with the Acton quarry site because of hydrogeological and hydrological findings. Much of the community of Halton Hills depends on groundwater which could possibly be contaminated by the leaking of leachate from the dump.

Shieldings spokesmen have also commented that their proposal is not meant as an alternative to the Burlington and Milton landfill proposals.

So far, Halton Hills has been spared the costly battles it takes to oppose the selection of a landfill site. Milton has spent \$700,000 in its fight against those who want a dump in its backyard.

For Halton Hills, it's not a time to panic. It's time to be prepared for events still to come.

Scouting fever

Catch the scouting fever.

There's a lot of spirit among the hundreds of boys and girls and volunteer leaders who contribute to the Scouting movement.

It's Scout-Guide Week in Canada and the event isn't going unnoticed in north Halton. Elsewhere in this week's Herald you can read about all the programs offered by the North Halton District Scouts.

Scouting throughout the country is prospering, not just here in Halton Hills. There are 97,787 young members in Ontario Scouting, we are told, with 21,316 adults involved.

We take our hats off to these instructors. If you're interested in becoming a leader, don't hesitate for a moment. The North Halton District is always in need of new adult supervisors.

In the meantime, if you see a Beaver, Cub, Brownie or Guide this week, remember they're part of a fortunate group. We all benefit from their development as they progress through the Scouting movement.

A numbers game?



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

Don Scallen has come to the rescue. Last week we ran a picture of an unknown feathery species perched atop a light standard. The pose caught reporter Sandy Campbell's eye and he snapped a shot.

It puzzled us here in the newsroom so we opened a "hot line" for our readers to respond after we printed the picture.

The winner? We had some good guesses, but it was a bit of a wild goose chase because of the fuzzy picture. Rob Baker, Vytas and Paul Kiss thought the bird was a Falcon. Darin Ciglen phoned in to say it looked like a Goshawk. Likewise, John White offered his choice of birds and guessed it resembled a Cooper Hawk or perhaps a Mourning Dove.

Our Friday Outlook naturalist columnist Don Scallen had another look at the bird from a different view, enlarged through the miracle of our high-tech darkroom equipment.

Don's best guess is that it's an American Kestrel, also known as a Sparrow Hawk, a type of Falcon. See, everyone who phoned in was partially right.

With election rumblings growing throughout the province, a timely profile has been released by the Ministry of Treasury and Economics.

A summary of Halton North, based on 1981 census data was sent to us Monday, outlining information about the constituents in the new provincial riding.

It's a helpful reminder for prospective candidates just who they will have to woo when the election race begins.

What are some of the most striking statistics? Well, for one, Halton North has quite a few more residents

of English and Scottish origin than the provincial average. Our constituency consists of 25,969 residents (of a total of 61,130) who listed their ethnic origin as English. That's 42.5 per cent of the entire Halton North area, compared to 32.7 for the provincial average. According to the report, we have 5,720 Scots, or 9.4 per cent, while the provincial average is 7.3 per cent.

Also noted in the profile is that 89 per cent of the constituency lists its mother tongue as English, with German being 2 per cent, Dutch 1.9 per cent and French 1.7 per cent.

We have more people living in single detached homes (73 per cent) than the provincial average of 56.9 per cent.

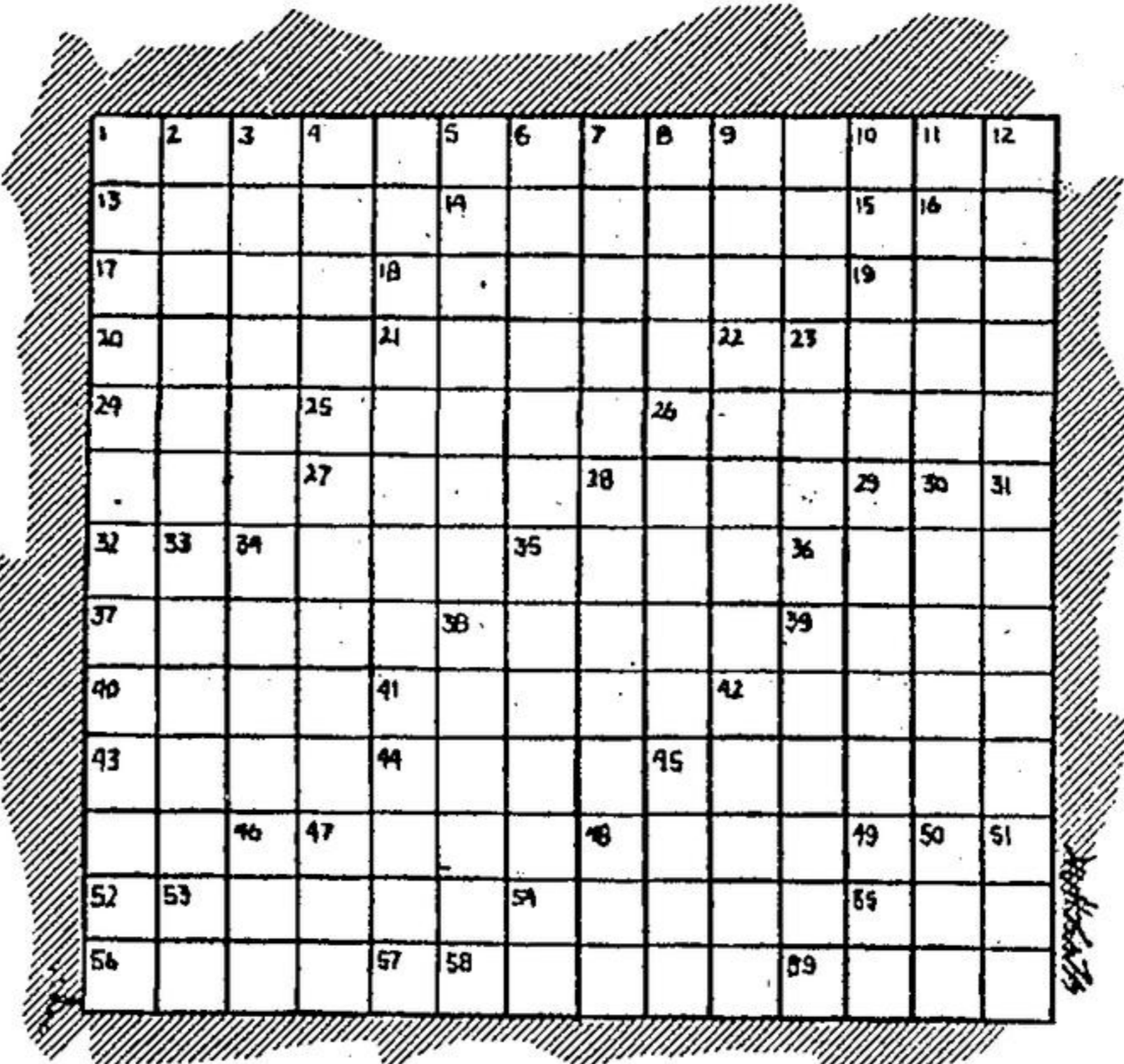
In Halton North 33.2 per cent of the people live in households containing between 4-5 people. This compares to the provincial average of 29 per cent. Does this mean we like bigger families in North Halton or is it an indication our grown up youngsters love it so much at home they haven't left the nest?

We differ in a couple of ways from the rest of Ontario when it comes to raising children and having children. There are fewer lone-parent families in Halton North (7.1 per cent compared to the 11 per cent average) and fewer husband-wife households without children (27.5 per cent compared to the provincial average of 32.5 per cent).

The consensus of the census? We're more family-oriented in Halton North, perhaps thus more sympathetic to proposals for more day-care facilities. Also, forget about aggressively pushing rent controls as an issue. On average, not enough of us are renting compared to the provincial average.

Initiating programs to attract the ethnic vote in Halton North would be a low priority for a market-oriented campaign manager.

Our suggestions for the candidates? Present yourself as a family man (or woman) who lives in a detached household with 4-5 people. Keep smiling and don't get mixed up in a political scandal.



CROSSWORD IN A S. AFRICAN PAPER

Citizens' forum

Red Cross clinic has lots of helpers

Dear Sir,
The Blood Donor Clinic Committee would like to thank all donors who supported Monday Feb 9th's Clinic, sponsored by the Optimist Club.

Their help with distribution of the posters, setting up the clinic, loading equipment and general assistance at the clinic is appreciated.

Thanks to Dr. Kennedy, who was on call, the nursing staff, nursery help and drivers, volunteers and volunteers, the clergy, John Oliver of Halton Cable Systems, Halton Hills Hydro for special efforts with promotional banners, Mr. Samcoe of the Dairy Queen for donation of orange juice and cups, Mr. McEachern and Mr. Jack McIntyre of Leblancs for donuts, Mr. Aristone of Pizzaria Hut for tea and serviettes, Mr. Jones of Miracle for coffee, Catholic Women's League for kitchen help, caretaker Carlos Domingos and the many volunteers who gave their assistance to this clinic.

Special thanks to Betty Milton and the telephone committee and to Janet Dean and Peggy Douglas, convenors of this clinic.

Red Cross officials reported 341 donors attended the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic and donated 326 blood packs.

Yours truly
The Canadian Red Cross Society
Georgetown - District Branch.

Be careful of rising rivers

Dear Sir,
The Georgetown Red Cross would like once again to remind everyone, especially children of the potential dangers of our creeks and rivers at this time of year.

We urge you to stay away from creeks and rivers, especially when banks are apt to be slippery.

Don't walk or play on natural ice.

If you go out to play tell your parents where you are going and when you will be back.

If you see some one in trouble get help immediately.

Please remember your safety rules - play safe, be winter wise!

Yours truly,
Arlene Finlay
Water Safety Chairperson
Georgetown Red Cross

POETS CORNER

GOOD DAY

This day seems an egg salad sandwich between two slices of yesterday and tomorrow. More than a snack it's a banquet.
—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RR2 Beeton

SOMETHING NEW

We beat so many days with hurting words that our lives become black and blue. Only TIC can turn these bruises into something new.
—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RR2 Beeton

untitled

More than words are necessary to circumscribe what I feel. For now I love you.
—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RR2 Beeton

Question: What do you like about working or visiting at Terra Cotta Conservation Area?

In your opinion

What's appealing about TCCA?



ERIKA ABONYI: "It's lots of fun, VANRAVENS, the people are TEIN: "It's great, it's fresh, it's always a lot of fun and showboing. I'm doing it's hardly ever boring."

SUSAN N. LINDA SHAD-BOLAND: "OF HOLT: "It's a course, the out-really active job with people in here to be active friendly - at and therefore it's a fun place to be."

VICKI BARRON: "It's close to the city, but you feel like you're in northern Ontario. There are no ski trails as far north as Algonquin Park."
SUE POWELL: "Usually I work the special events and I'm not here too often, I like the surroundings, the trees, the fresh air. It's lots of fun to come out here and meet lots of good people."

30 years ago

New elders were ordained to serve the next session of St. John's United Church. The elders ordained were Dr. O.M. Brewster, Cecil Ford, Bruce Williamson, Fred Ross, E.L. Arnold, John van Witsen, Kevin Brown and Ernie Alcott.

The Georgetown rink skipped by Neil Robinson won the bonspiel at Georgetown Arena. Twenty rinks competed in the competition. Georgetown also picked up a second place in the second draw.

The Acton and Norval Junior Farmers elected their executive. William Price is president of the Acton group. Marilyn Wrigglesworth is president of the Norval Junior Farmers.

A new police cruiser was purchased by town council. Scott Motors will supply the Chevrolet V8 at a net cost of \$1,817, including the trade-in of the present cruiser.

15 years ago

Donald W. Cleave was presented with a Master Breeder Shield at the annual meeting of the Holstein, Friesian Association of Canada. This is the highest honor a Holstein breeder can win.

Barry Humphreys was acclaimed for another year as chairman of the Halton Region Conservation Authority. Alan Wright also ran unopposed and was reinstated as the vice-president.

Long time Georgetown residents Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bailley celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the Odd Fellows Hall. The Bailleys once lived on Charles Street and recently moved to Rockwood.

Georgetown's Junior Rebels remain undefeated after eight basketball games. The team coached by Bob Paul includes members: Ben Kazimir, John Breckenridge, Pete Lauderdale, Steve Foster, John Salles, Richard DeGroat, Mark Furlong, Ted Daric, Gerrard Jattan, Steve Burns, Sam Waldrum and Randy Pope.

10 years ago

The first Baha'i wedding in Halton Hills was held. Donald Frederick Windmill, 31, married Sherry Lee Emerson, 31. Instead of a minister officiating, a Baha'i chairman heard the couples vows.

Marilyn Serjeantson was acclaimed as councillor in Ward 4. The seat became vacant when Mike Armstrong succeeded Rick Morrow as the Ward's Regional representative. Mr. Morrow was elected regional chairman.

Jane McNally was hired as the new Georgetown YMCA director. Miss McNally is a native of Georgetown, attended Georgetown District High School, received her honors BA in physical education from the University of Western Ontario and has an MSc in sports psychology from the University of Ottawa.

Four Georgetown youngsters will be travelling to Kitchener to compete in the Knights of Columbus Regional free throw offs. Mark Lindauer, 11; Grant Nairn, 12; Herman Viera, 13; and Nancy Wong, 12, survived the District championships to qualify.

5 years ago

An announcement was made that Juno award winner Bruce Cockburn will be performing in Norval. He will be at the Norval Junction March 17.

TV game shows and soccer were the topics prepared by the two young men who won the public speaking contest at Stewarttown Public School. Jimmy Clark was the Grade 7 winner and Kelly Fogg was the Grade 8 winner. Both boys will represent Stewarttown at the North Halton championships.

The Georgetown father and son entry from the Peaker family were victorious at the Eighth Annual Kawartha Nordic Ski Tour. Kevin Peaker won a silver medal in the Men's 15 and 18 year category. Kevin's father, John, was awarded the Award of Excellence for his performance in the 75 kilometer cross-country ski race for men 35-44 years.

Doug Thompson scored six goals against Acton in industrial hockey league play. The Abney-Clark forward has 33 goals and 22 assists and is seven points behind the league's leading scorer, Brian Beaumont.