

Feeling the pinch

Halton farmers are feeling the pinch badly in two areas that have to be addressed: one is development pressure from urban areas, the other is increasing damage to land caused by trespassers.

Last week Halton Federation of Agriculture representative Norm Biggar talked about the need to keep the best agricultural farm land in production.

It won't be possible to keep all the present farmland in Halton away from developers. Let's be realistic. Already in the region there has been a decrease in the total cash receipts from farms. One of the main reasons is that corn acreage is also down, from 27,000 to 17,500.

Governments have to take a strong-arm approach to builders who want access to prime farm land. Good soil and flat lands make it attractive and less costly for a developer to put up homes, but it costs us all dearly. Taking good farmland out of production reduces our ability to be competitive in agriculture. It will eventually lead to higher prices for all kinds of food.

Also, developing prime farmland attracts more development and invites further encroachment of urban lands. Well-planned, sensible and gradual growth of urban areas is needed to prevent the gobbling up of whole farms in a haphazard manner to serve the demands of eager developers.

As reported in this week's Herald, damage to farms caused by trespassers is growing at an alarming rate. Damage from intruders more than doubled from 1985 to 1986. In 1985 damage was estimated at \$16,960 while in 1986 it was \$35,000.

Perhaps one reason for the dramatic increase is that farmers are more aware of what it is costing when someone clambers over their land. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles damage a farmer's yield by crushing ice and snow which prevents an oxygen cushion underneath.

A farmer's work is never done. Not only that, he faces a multitude of obstacles each spring: weather, interest rates, economic downturns and much more.

A farmer could use a little more understanding from his urban neighbour. We share a responsibility for the future of our agricultural industry. If we plan wisely and give our farmers a fair shake, we will all reap the profits many years down the road.

Good for life

A blood donor is good for people who go through windshields and red lights. For somebody with leukemia. For people being operated on. For barefoot kids who aren't careful. For people who are into feudin' and fightin'. For haemophiliacs and daredevils. For people undergoing dialysis while waiting for a kidney transplant. For people who fool around with guns. For little kids who manage to uncup something poisonous.

A blood donor is good for people who have been badly burned. For new mothers who need transfusions. For new babies who need a complete change of blood supply. For people having open-heart surgery. For cancer patients. For people with severe hepatitis and anemia.

A BLOOD DONOR IS GOOD FOR LIFE.

The next blood donor clinic is May 11th from 1:30 to 8:30 at Holy Cross Auditorium, Maple Avenue, Georgetown.

O negative and B negative inventory is down below the optimum level that is required at the Toronto Blood Bank.

Art in the Park

Finally, a summer celebration! We'd like to give praise to the Halton Hills Arts Council and its decision to hold Art in the Park, July 4.

The idea is tremendous and has worked famously in places such as Oakville. Anyone who has visited Lewistown in New York State knows the potential of such an event.

And we think the town is ready. There's not an overabundance of things to do in Halton Hills on a hot and lazy summer's day. We believe the people are ready to try something new.

Help to support the concept and perhaps the Council will consider making the event an annual affair. If you want to get involved call 853-0361.

Names in the news

Jonas Hamilton wants to become a member of a Canadian family for a year. He is 18 years old, Swedish, and an avid golfer, hockey fan and amateur radio broadcaster. He also likes acting, music, soccer and volleyball.

As part of the ASSE student exchange program for the school year 1987-88, Jonas awaits word from a Canadian host family. The family would provide care and understanding while sharing daily life and experiences with their "extra son".

All ASSE students have full medical insurance and their own pocket money. They come with high academic and personal recommendations. They are eager to participate and learn about the Canadian way of life.



Jonas Hamilton

If you feel there is room in your home - and your heart - for an exchange student like Jonas, call Mrs. Lewis at 877-1026 any evening this week.

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Allan Thompson, RR 4, Georgetown is one of 30 agricultural leaders from across Ontario who met in Guelph April 8 - 9 to kick off the second session of a very special leadership course. The Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) is designed to fine tune the abilities of the participants through a series of seminars, workshops and travel studies over the next two years.

During this first seminar the participants were challenged by various high profile university, agricultural and community leaders. They were urged to develop an awareness and tolerance of different attitudes towards the problems in agriculture.

The group is made up of farmers, agribusiness and government people. Funding for AALP is provided by the four initiators of the program, University of Guelph, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Foundation for Rural Living, donations from business, organizations and individuals, and participant tuition fees.



Allan Thompson

Pulling the plug for June election

As the new session of the Legislature gets underway, the key date to watch is May 18.

That is when Premier David Peterson would have to walk down the hall here to ask Lt.-Gov. Lincoln Alexander to dissolve the House in time to have a June 25 election.

That is the date almost everyone favours as being the most likely if the Liberals decide to seek a majority mandate this spring.

It has its problems, however. The most important, of course, is that the Liberals signed a deal in the famous Accord two years ago with the New Democratic Party that said an election wouldn't be called until two years from the time the parties put their signatures on paper.

And since the Accord was signed June 26, 1985, that means Peterson can't call an election until June 26 this year.

Note: that's call an election, not have the vote itself. If Peterson did wait until the Accord expired to visit Alexander, the vote couldn't be before Aug. 6.

Yet, August elections aren't normally favored by political parties.

Voters hate to have their summers disturbed and party workers tend to have made other plans.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

There is a theory at Queen's Park, however, that voters don't really pay that much attention to details.

Since June 25 is about two years into the Accord some think that will likely be good enough in most voter minds to suggest the Liberals did live up to their part of the bargain.

Alternatively, Peterson might wait a week and call the vote for July 2, which would, at least, put the actual vote on the right side of June 26.

But there is another aspect to this whole Accord business, one pointed out by NDP Leader Bob Rae.

The Accord wasn't just a deal about dates, but an agreement to introduce and pass certain legislation.

Much of it remains to become law, both hot items such as pay equity and less controversial ones such as freedom-of-information.

And with the Legislature resuming just this week, there are only 10 actual sitting days between now and the May 18 date when Peterson would have to pull the plug for June 25.

Some of those are set aside for debate on the Throne Speech, and there is every likelihood of a budget from Treasurer Bob Nixon as well.

In short, there is no time to fulfill the terms of the Accord if the Grits seek a spring or early summer vote.

And, as Rae pointed out, not passing promised legislation would call into question Peterson's credibility.

Since the Liberals intend to run a campaign centred almost entirely on Peterson himself that isn't the best way to start such a contest. (He's not just their best asset he's almost their only asset, judging from polls on individual issues where the Liberals don't score that

well - that isn't the best way to start such a contest.)

Negative reasoning of that sort leads inevitably to thinking that the vote should come in the autumn (my own guess always has been Sept. 17).

The only thing that weighs against an autumn election is the incredible recent string of pre-election-like Liberal announcements, from the rate-capping of auto insurance to the abolition of tuition extra-billing at universities.

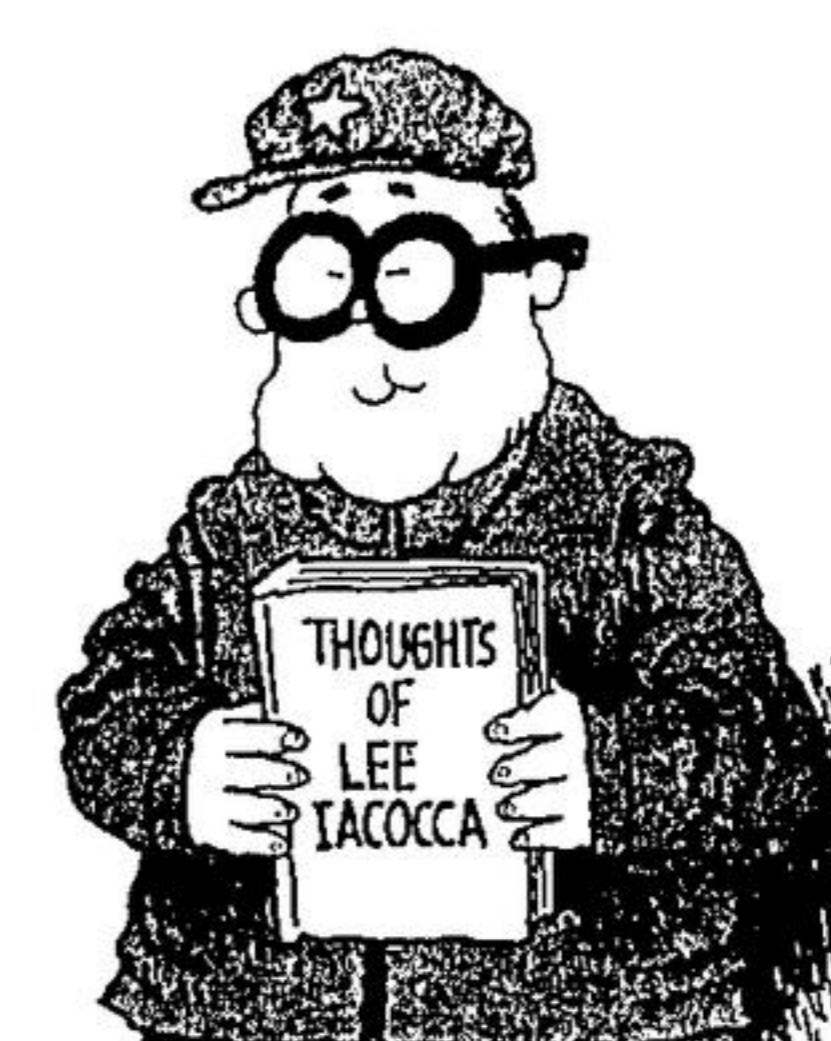
It feels as though they're winding up for a June or July vote.

Both Rae and Conservative Leader Larry Grossman are on record as saying there is work to be done and no necessity for having an election.

Their comments are more than a little self-serving, mind you, based heavily on their fear of getting devastated in any early vote.

But they make a good case. The Accord legislation, obnoxious as some of it is, deserves to be passed before we troop to the polls.

THE CHAIRMAN SAYS: "IT IS GOOD TO MAKE POTS OF MONEY"



Citizens' forum

A mother's love is special

Dear Sir, "A Mother's love is special for we have only one Mother."

As Mother's Day is celebrated on May 10 I have the privilege of asking you to share with me a way of honoring and remembering our Mothers.

A youngster and on into my own mother and grandmotherhood I wore the customary red carnation signifying my mother was still alive. Now that she is gone I still like to remember her in a practical way, by restoring someone to sight who is blind.

Do you realize what a chain reaction is set off when sight is restored? There is a truism which says: Give man a fish and he can eat for a day, but teach him how to fish and he can feed his family.

In a similar fashion a \$25 gift can restore eyesight to a cataract blind person, enabling that person to work and thus be able to feed and support a family. There are many people in the developing countries who are curably blind. Can we in Canada comprehend 40 million blind people, almost twice our population, half of which are curable if funds were available. It's hard to imagine that many blind people but we can do something about it.

For a \$25 (tax deductible) donation to the Canadian charity Operation Eyesight Universal, will pay for sight restoring cataract surgery, drugs, hospitalization, special glasses and follow-up care for the patient.

A patient identification card signed by the attending surgeon will be sent to you, or if you choose to your mother, giving the name, sex, age and town or village of the one restored to sight.

Why don't you plan on honoring your mother or her memory in this way?

Send to Operation Eyesight Universal, Box 123, Stn. "M", Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2H6.

In care and concern, Gertrude Roberts, 48 Canyon Dr. N.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2L 0R3

Reduce road animal kills

Dear Sir, Thousands of animals are killed annually on Ontario roadways. Besides creating tremendous pain and suffering for the animals involved in these accidents (not to mention the orphaned young), these animal-vehicle mishaps can also cause injuries to the people in the vehicle.

Occasionally, these accidents result in human fatalities. Damage costs are also staggering with animal-vehicle collisions resulting in thousands of dollars damage in Ontario each year.

The number of animal-vehicle accidents could be significantly reduced if vehicles were equipped with a simple device known as a "Hobi" Animal Alert. This device consists of two small units which are attached to the vehicle. At speeds exceeding 30 miles per hour (50 kilometres per hour), the "Hobi" Animal Alert emits an ultrasonic sound in the range of 16,000 to 20,000 hertz. This sound is inaudible to the human ear, much like a dog whistle, but acts as a deterrent, warning animals in advance. Animal Alerts operate by wind power alone so wiring is not required in its installation.

Animal Alerts were developed and tested in Europe with excellent results. A credit to the effectiveness of these devices is that they are being used by some bus lines and truck drivers.

Since Animal Alerts are proven devices for reducing animal-vehicle accidents, it would make sense if insurance companies offered a reduction in premiums for drivers who equip their vehicles with these units.

Animal Alerts may be ordered through the Ontario Humane Society by sending a cheque or money order for \$18.50 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling per order (not device) to 620 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4V8. Large company orders are welcome and will be processed with purchase orders. Telephone orders, using Visa or Mastercard, are gratefully accepted.

Sincerely, N. Glenn Perrett, Humane Education Coordinator

Dear Sir,

In reference to my letter on the environment which appeared in your newspaper of April 29, 1987, I note that you mistakenly printed South America instead of North America in one sentence. The sentence should read, "In South America large areas of rain forest are being destroyed in order to introduce cattle to these areas to produce hamburger for North Americans, whose systems are already overloaded with protein." For it is indeed the North American market that these forests are being decimated for, and it is the North American whose system is overloaded, not only with protein, but also toxics consumed in red meat, as well as other processed foods.

Just one week after I sent my letter, the United Nations committee on the Global Village aired their findings on radio, and in the newspapers, and, unfortunately, confirmed that all I had surmised, and more, is indeed true.

Avoid polluting on our own soil

Yours sincerely, Peggy Bowhay

In your opinion

Why are you in Preppies?



Rick Sato (Parker Richardson Endicott IV) "I've always wanted to do drama. It's fun vocal music. I had an interest in something to work with people. We're all getting together. Plus the glory of being on stage."



Pat Reynolds (Angelica Livermore Atwater) "Just because I involved with all thought it would be fun."



Kevin Quinn (Botsworth Norvill Bogawater II) "I've always wanted to do drama. It's fun vocal music. I had an interest in something to work with people. We're all getting together. Plus the glory of being on stage."



Paul Tamblin (Joe Pantry) "I thought I'd like to be a part of anything theatre arts going on here. Just to have a fun time with the kids."



Keith Black (Major Domo Mr. Bonifacio) "We've got a staff and I great school here. wanted to help out. It's nice to be a part of anything theatre arts going on here. Just to have a fun time with the kids."



Bronwyn Powell (Mrs. Atwater) "Because I'm a staff member and I wanted to help out. It's nice to be a part of anything theatre arts going on here. Just to have a fun time with the kids."

A WINNER

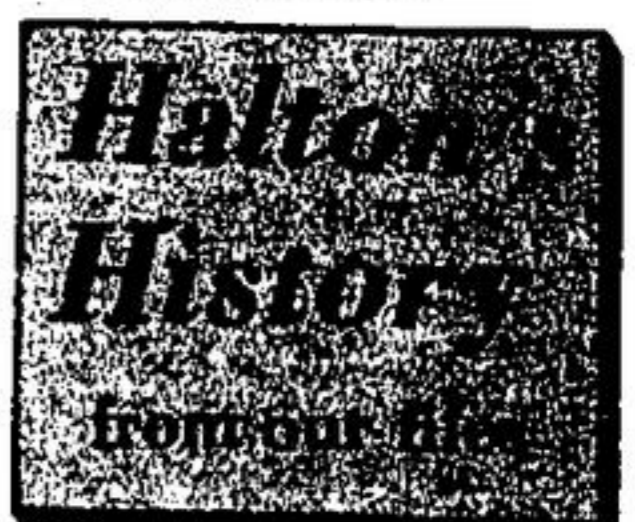
Having tried puts you well ahead on the twisting path to certain success. They only fail who choose inertia over chance.

By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RR2, Beeton

COMMUNICATIONS

It's so easy in the quiet or turmoil of my solitude to execute each and every success. Sometimes in the reality of the physical I trip over feet too far from my head.

By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RR2, Beeton



30 years ago

An initial attempt to introduce parking metres to the downtown Georgetown area was turned down by a seven to two vote in town council Monday. The motion was proposed by councillors Alfred Sykes and Fred Harrison.

There will be 3,515 eligible voters on the list from Georgetown for the June 10 Federal election.

Eileen Gates, daughter of Mrs. Oates, 5 Wesleyan St. in Georgetown was one of a group of students in the graduating class of the nursing school of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto who received their diplomas yesterday.

15 years ago

Two names, well known in Georgetown's past, were suggested as the new names for two streets in town Monday. Victoria Avenue and Victoria Crescent would be changed to Dayfoot Drive and Chapel Street west would become Ryan Road.

Claude Pickett, Bertram Stewart, M. D. Wingrove and Howard Laidlaw were among the district award winners at the Holstein Show Circle this past weekend.

Dave Dills publisher of the Acton Free Press was applauded as the Citizen of the year for Acton at a dinner this week.

10 years ago

Allan Peters of the Maintenance department of the Halton Board of Education searched the Chapel Street school Friday and again Monday but failed to find a cat reported to be trapped in the school.

David Judd was elected head of District Nine of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation last week.

5 years ago

A Georgetown woman and her 12-year-old son are still mystified by a nighttime close encounter they experienced with an unidentified flying object while driving through Glen Williams April 15.

Bob Freestone, Norm McGowan, Bruce Bridle, Ron Knight, Steve Matjanec and Paul Atkinson won safety awards for their spotless driving record as mail truck drivers last week.

Ian Keith, a 48-year-old Willowdale resident who has worked as a planner for private firms and municipal government has been named the town's new planning director.

Poets Corner

BIG WORLD! In a world of shadows you're my sun in a world of masses you're number one in a world of reflections you're my mirror in a world of distances you're always near in a world of hunger you're just enough in my world of anger you're the sweet touch of love.

By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RR2, Beeton