

SPORTA SALES LTD.
853-2030
Check out our free Lifetime Service Guarantee
Lifetime Service Guarantee

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1987

OPEN 10-10, 7 DAYS A WEEK

the olde
Hide House
15 EASTERN AVE. ACTON (919) 853-1031
It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

Knight plans to step down

Halton-Burlington MPP Don Knight, announced Monday he will not seek reelection in the next provincial election this fall.

The 45-year-old said although he has enjoyed his constituency duties, it became obvious to him that "something was missing" during his two-year term as a Liberal back-bencher.

"I've been in business for some time now," Knight told the Herald Monday. "In making decisions I felt I was making meaningful contributions to the community."

"I didn't feel that was part of my function as a Liberal back-bencher."

Other back-benchers have faced the same problem, Mr. Knight added, but few have dealt with it.

Mr. Knight is meeting with the Halton North Provincial Liberal Riding executive to discuss a possible successor. He said he knows of no one at the moment, but he thinks the Association will have few problems finding a candidate.

"I think you'll find people jumping at the chance," Mr. Knight said. "Halton-Burlington has been Liberal for the past 12 years - during bad times."

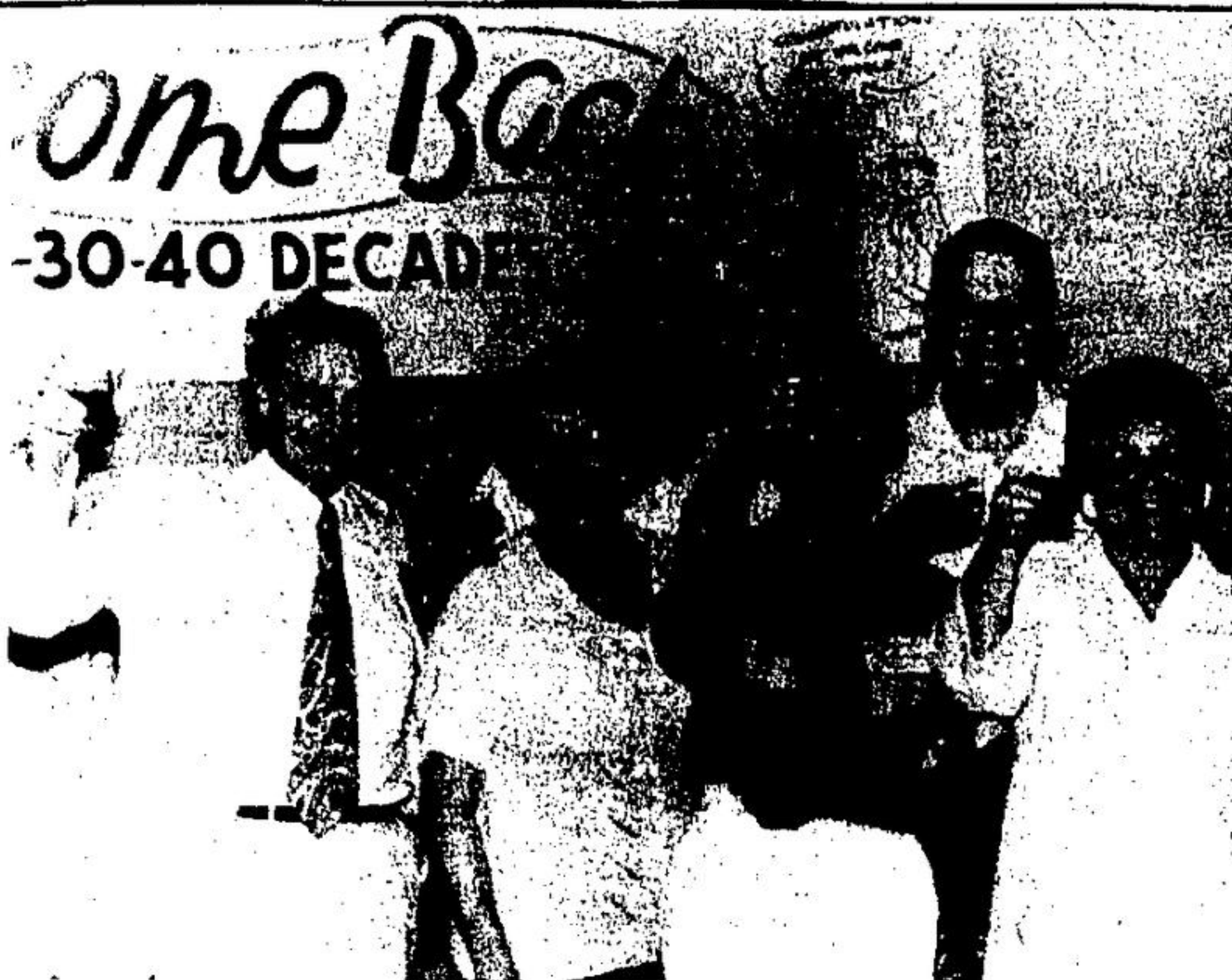
Since the Liberals are expected to form a majority government in the next election, a Liberal candidate in the Halton-Burlington riding would have a good chance of winning, the MPP said.

Mr. Knight said however, he fears a large majority government in power. It tends to inhibit back-benchers and compounds feelings of discontent, he added.

"I think the federal scene (under Prime Minister Brian Mulroney) shows us some of the problems of a large majority government," Mr. Knight said.



Don Knight



Cheers to you, GDHS

A toast to good memories and old friends - The Georgetown District High School centennial reunion was a smash this weekend as almost 3,000 people registered for the three day extravaganza. Here, former chums meet in the '20's - '30's and '40's decade room for a toast.

Swept away in the waves of emotion

Sandwiched in between the opening and closing ceremonies of the Georgetown District High School Centennial Reunion were an abundance of events to keep former students buzzing and the atmosphere electrifying.

Former Rebels returned to their old stomping grounds - the GDHS gymnasium - where they took aim at the hoops once again in a basketball tournament.

Close on the heels of the basketball tournament came spikers - and those who perhaps couldn't get as high over the net to spike as they used to in a volleyball tournament.

The 100 Years in Revue musical play written by Jim Broughton was a hit with everyone who saw it. As Norma Thompson, who attended GDHS in the early '40s, now a London, Ont. resident said, "The show was marvelous. Hats off to the person who played J.L. Lambert. You just felt like you were back in J.L.'s class."

Both Norma Thompson and her friend Betty McCumber (nee Grant) who also attended in the early '40s were pupils of former teacher

Florence Luke. "She's just terrific. She's just the same. She hasn't changed a bit," Norma and Betty said.

As Betty Flemming (nee Carey) who attended in the late '50s and is now a resident of Calgary, and her friend Susan Aiken (nee Cunningham) who attended in the early '60s signed in their respective decade books they reflected on the reunion. "I'm seeing people we haven't seen for over 20 years. For sure it was worth coming from Calgary. It's phenomenal," Betty said.

While former students, often seen with kids in tow, paraded up and down the halls of the school trying to remember if it was math or French they had in one classroom or another, Ted Gorth was busy receiving and tabulating registrants and June Lenze was kept occupied registering the thousands in attendance.

An earlybird walk and a heritage walk on Saturday and Sunday and breakfasts in the cafeteria kept former pupils eyes fixed on changes which have taken place throughout

the years.

But the closing ceremonies Sunday afternoon provided some moving moments for organizers and former students.

Al Darby was recognized as the person who travelled the furthest for the reunion - all the way from Australia, and Hattie Sykes Gibbons (1912) was the oldest former student in attendance.

Bob McMenemy and Bill Bingham read the list of ex-students who died during the two World Wars and the Korean conflict while a lone trumpeter (Paul Thompson) saluted the fallen soldiers.

"Stories have been told and retold. There were a lot of familiar names, a lot of familiar faces - a lot of familiar names and faces that didn't come back right away," Mr. McMenemy said.

"The people that we've seen again this weekend are the people that had an important impact on our lives. The people here are the people that gave us the knowledge and gave us the discipline and they gave us the support so that we could go out and be what we would become," Mr. McMenemy said.

Reunion '87

Quite simply, amazing

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

They came from all over the world.

From Australia, India, West Germany, Scotland, Austria, New Mexico, California, South Africa, New Zealand, the Caribbean, Iceland and from all over Canada's ten provinces and two territories.

They met former classmates, rekindled old memories and made new ones.

Throughout the weekend sounds of surprise were followed by laughter and then by long, involved conversation.

And there were almost 3,000 of them.

The sounds of the Georgetown District High School Centennial reunion rang through the halls, resonated through old classrooms and bounced through the gymnasium for three days.

It's impossible to determine which was the most successful. The decade rooms where long chats, old photos and memorabilia often entertained former students, the wine and cheese party on Friday night in the cafeteria, the Saturday barbeque, or the massive outdoor dance which drew close to 4,000 people Saturday night in the parking lot at the pool entrance.

GDHS Centennial Committee vice-chairperson Tom Ramautarsingh said it best. "It was fun for me not only to talk to former students, but to call them their names. Many were surprised when I addressed them by their first and last names. I was greatly impressed with the eagerness, the joys, the ecstasies and the manner in which former students, teachers and friends reminisced about their past eventful times."

Committee chairman Tom Beer reflected on the weekend's events as he and his wife Penny dismantled the alumni art show at the Halton Hills Library - Cultural Centre early Monday morning.

"I met millions of former pupils. They came up and I saw their names (on name tags) and I saw their faces and once they started talking I remembered who they were," he said.

"They all seem to have found their little niche in life. They all seem to be doing a job that they were satisfied with. Just about all of them were happily married with families."

While the '80s decade room seemed sparsely occupied during the three day event the rooms became more and more packed as one strolled through the '70s, '60s, '50s and finally to the '20s through '40s decades room.

By far the biggest contingent came from the 1950's and 1960's

though the '30s and '40s proved to be surprisingly well attended.

"Everyone enjoyed themselves so much they didn't want to leave," Mr. Beer said of each night's gala get-together.

"There were a lot of older people who thought that this was the most wonderful thing they ever had," he added.

"Perhaps the most electrifying and the most rewarding was the Friday night wine and cheese party. They didn't even know there was wine and cheese available. They were too busy talking to each other. We finally had to turn the lights out to get them out," he said.

With close to 3,000 people attending the reunion, logistics of organizing the activities were extensive but everything went off without a hitch, said Mr. Beer.

"Everyone was pleased. I had a lot of people come up to me and say thank you very much. The thing that impressed them was that everything went smoothly," he said.

The hit of the opening ceremonies Saturday morning was Florence Luke - a former teacher at the high school from 1930 to 1962. Many of those who spoke at the opening ceremonies remembered Miss Luke from their High School days. Halton Region Chairman Pete Pomeroy a former pupil of Miss Luke said: "The education that was fostered here is now spread throughout the world and the world is a better place because of people like Miss Luke."

Centennial Committee Secretary Norah Williams had a few tall tales about her days as a pupil in Miss Luke's class.

"Miss Luke is not very tall and she was writing things down on the blackboard and then came this student - Larry McKenzie, who I can see is here today - and he wrote way up high and Miss Luke could never get up there to correct his mistakes," she recalled.

Other dignitaries who brought their greetings to returning students at the opening ceremonies were Mayor Russ Miller, who's grandfather attended GDHS in the late 1800s, Mayor Miller carried on the tradition by graduating in the '40s and his daughters attended Georgetown High in the '70s.

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid brought greetings from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. "The word is spreading rather rapidly what a great party is going on in Georgetown," Mr. McDermid said.

MPP Don Knight also greeted onlookers. "As you look around at the former students you've noted they've been successful beyond your wildest dreams - or perhaps you just overheard them telling their former classmates," Mr. Knight chuckled.

Capital budget meeting

Council at odds on Acton firehall plan

The Acton fire station is "inadequate" and badly needs to be replaced but funds for a new station may be slow in coming.

Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham said fire underwriters surveyed the Acton station in September 1984 and termed the station "inadequate."

The underwriters recommended a three bay depot with a lot large enough to provide a training area, Chief Cunningham said.

"The working area of the station is anything but suitable. Downstairs, which is the nuts and bolts of the fire station, is very inefficient and a number of times we've had to move trucks out to get at other trucks," Chief Cunningham said.

"It needs to be replaced and it is not at the best location at the present time," the Chief added.

The three bay station now houses five vehicles. Firefighters often must move trucks to get at the water tanker needed to fight rural fires, the Chief said.

Chief Cunningham was attempting to secure funds for a new station at Monday's Capital Forecast meeting but councillors put the project on hold for another year pending the outcome of a study by

town planners and the fire chief.

Chief Cunningham had requested \$65,000 for architectural fees in 1980, \$140,000 for land acquisition in 1982 and \$650,000 for completion of the station in 1989. Councillors denied the funds for designing the building and deferred the land acquisition funding until 1990.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller said the station should not have become inadequate so fast because it was expanded ten years ago and the town's population has remained relatively stable since 1974. "Maybe we should have somebody look at it instead of spending money irresponsibly as it appears the council did ten years ago," Mayor Miller said.

"A conscious decision was made with the best information available at the time," Chief Cunningham said of the decision to expand the station ten years ago.

The mayor suggested the \$140,000 for buying land be deleted from capital forecasts in 1989. "Sometimes you have to put up with something a little inferior if you can't afford it," the mayor said.

Councillor Pam Sheldon noted the need for a new fire station is

not being questioned but just when and where the funds will be allocated is in doubt. "I'm wondering, is this not the time instead of deferring it we should not be pushing them ahead," she said of the proposed new station.

"My God if we keep leaving everything in...then why don't we go ahead and leave everything as it is," the mayor said of attempts to cut some \$918,000 in tax levies out of 1988 and 1989 capital expenditures.

"Sooner or later we've got to bite the bullet. I thought we were here to cut the budget back. If there's one thing I hear it's how am I going to pay these taxes?" Mayor Miller said.

"To lose sight of the fact that we need a firehall, I think, is as irresponsible as the mayor feels to raise taxes too high is irresponsible," coun. Sheldon replied.

Councillor Norm Elliott said the new fire station likely would not be built in 1989. "I personally think that the fire station in Acton is in a lousy location, (at Bower Avenue and Willow Street)," he said.

Chief Cunningham said the fire

department is attempting to get firefighters off the back of the trucks. To do so it would require cutting a truck in half and adding a new section, thus expanding the truck several feet. But the current station cannot handle a bigger truck, the fire chief said.

"Under certain circumstances the truck will sit outside," Chief Cunningham said.

Councillor Norm Elliott questioned the idea of hiring an architect to design a fire station before finding out where the station is going to go.

"I have some definite ideas as to where that station should go," the Chief said. But he could not release the location because it would affect the value of the land.

The Fire Chief said the department is looking at purchasing a new truck in several years at a cost of roughly \$190,000. But the doorways are too narrow now and the trucks are getting damaged when they go out, he said.

The Chief's request for \$190,000 to replace the 22-year-old overhead doors in the Georgetown Firehall was left in the forecast.

Local post carriers back to business as usual

Though Halton Hills postal workers are relieved about being back to work they are still awaiting details of the tentative settlement from the Letter Carriers Union of Canada national office.

"I only know what I've seen in the newspapers. What I've seen in the news papers looks good," said LCUC Local 154 President Ron Ritchie.

A tentative agreement was reached July 4 in the three week old dispute which saw rotating strikes in cities throughout Canada.

"The workers are asking me for guidance and I can't tell them anything," Mr. Ritchie said.

"Everybody seems to be a little bit happy about it," he added.

He said there is often a time lag before the information can get printed up and circulated with all the details of the agreement.

Georgetown postal workers have "no big problems" with management because no strikebreakers were used in the one day local walkout June 19, Mr. Ritchie said.

Local 272 union president in Acton Lloyd Smallwood echoed Mr. Ritchie's sentiments. "I don't think anybody really gains from a postal strike," he said.

Unlike tension stemming from picket line violence in some major cities, Acton's five member post office had no problems during their one day walkout June 19, Mr. Smallwood said.



Jim Kelly was presented with a brick from the old Georgetown High School he had scratched his name and the year on 47 years ago during the centennial reunion last weekend. Former Georgetown high teacher Jessie Glynn found the brick 1 1/2 years ago when she was searching through the bricks she had saved from the old high school. "I can't believe it," was Mr. Kelly's initial reaction. (Herald Photo)

A brick by any other name

Sometime shortly before a young Georgetown High School student went off to join the air force in the Second World War he scratched his name and the year on a brick of the old Georgetown District High School. On Saturday, some 47 years later, Jim Kelly reclaimed that brick he scratched his name on in earnest almost five decades ago.

Jessie Glynn, a retired Georgetown High School teacher, took advantage of an offer to claim some bricks from the building before they were bulldozed into the ground in 1959.

"About 1 1/2 years ago I was looking through the pile and up pops this brick that said 'Jim Kelly 1940' - that was fantastic," Mrs. Glynn said.

Though Mrs. Glynn had never met the young air force officer, she knew his name. Jim Kelly had narrowly escaped death when his plane was shot down during the war. He managed to pull the rip cord just in time to parachute to safety before his plane plunged to the ground.

"The story is famous in Georgetown," Mrs. Glynn said.

Jim was ecstatic at receiving a piece of his own nostalgia. "I couldn't believe it," he said. "The next thing I thought is that's a wonderful thing to do because I didn't even know Mrs. Glynn," Mr. Kelly said. "The future of the brick is still up in the air. 'I don't want to be hasty but I certainly will never lose it,'" Mr. Kelly said.



Look who's here - Barbara Smiths (nee Cousens - 1844) and Ormie Carter (1939) look over the list of those who had signed up in their decade room at the Georgetown District High School reunion Saturday. The decade rooms proved to be a popular meeting place for old friends to relive their glory days. (Herald Photo)