

Clean sweep?

Curling isn't dead yet. But only a renewed interest and support by Georgetown residents will keep it going into the nineties.

While curling may be prospering elsewhere in Canada, Georgetown is having trouble keeping the ice for its winter sweepers.

Shareholders of the North Halton Golf and Country Club decided last week to extend curling for another year. But many club executive members would prefer to have the space for other uses.

A vote was held on a proposal to discontinue curling at the club. The intention of ousting the curlers was to make room for a multi-million dollar expansion, including squash courts, exercise facilities conference rooms and increase dining room space.

Though shareholders rallied to support curling for another year, available ice in the future for the sport in town is uncertain.

Already this season some curlers decided to sign on with other rinks out of town because they weren't certain ice in Georgetown would be available.

Numbers have dwindled because of the uncertainty caused by the July letter by the club warning that a vote would be held for September.

If the curlers, who do not have to be shareholders (and most are not), cannot muster enough players for the '87-'88 season, the club may decide to re-introduce its motion.

Perhaps now is the time to involve organizations such as the recreation department or the YMCA to help support curlers with new programs or promotional initiatives.

In the long-term, it may be possible to work on an independent facility so curlers will be prepared for their break with the North Halton club.

The sport is considered to be one of our national pastimes and we've always excelled in international competition.

Curling also offers an alternative for men and women and facilities to compete together in a sport less strenuous than hockey and less costly than downhill skiing.

Two factors make curling an alluring sport worth keeping for future generations. One is our aging population; baby boomers are growing up and a non-contact sport suitable for families is attractive to them. Secondly, there is a trend towards healthier, more physically active lifestyles coupled with increased leisure hours. Curling is a sport of the future.

It would be a sad day for Georgetown if there came a time when we couldn't support our curlers.

No perfect solution

The promise Mountainview Road traffic study didn't measure up to its expectations. No fears were put to rest. Increased vehicle flow will disturb the lifestyle of residents on the south Georgetown border.

Concerned residents and the ratepayer group opposing Mountainview as a main artery into town will have more to fight about.

The report released last week predicts a possible 4,300 extra vehicles on the road once the new subdivision is completed. About 35 per cent of the vehicles from the new development would head north along Mountainview Road into town each day. Traffic will increase from 600 to 1200 cars per hour.

Perhaps the public and politicians put too much hope in finding the perfect solution by hiring consultants to study a problem. At least this seems to be the case with the traffic study report, a condition required by council for Enterac to complete.

The study suggests putting a road from the Ninth Line (Mountainview Road) to the Eight Line to divert traffic flow - but it was not a new idea. It had been discussed before when Enterac first unveiled its plans.

Other suggestions from the report would alleviate traffic problems in a minor way. But road improvements may not be all that is needed.

Council has a commitment to look after the needs of existing residents. The town should address the impact of the new subdivision now so that planning and expenditures are in place when major road changes are required. The study outlines problems ahead that will have to be met later with imaginative - and costly solutions.

The animal farm



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

"What's this about the Mayor of Halton Hills stirring up the dirt?" said the chief pig Napoleon, caretaker of the Animal Farm. "Well," said Charlie Chicken, "it seems the Mayor said he has five pigs on council, just like the ones at the Acton Fall Fair."

"Quite right," answered Tony Turkey. "Even without seasoning, it's in bad taste. Shall we call for his resignation?"

Cooler heads prevailed around the Animal Farm.

"I guess this means the Mayor won't be pen pals with all councillors at the very least," said Nathan the Nag. "But thankfully no one is considering sue-ing the mayor."

"That's right," said Charlie Chicken. "They've already tanned his hide. What more can they do? He's not even in town to defend himself."

"Pork-barrel politics it is not," said Nathan. "The integrity of the mayor's office has been upheld."

"Well," said chief pig Napoleon. "What can we make of all this?"

"The press are dangerous animals and should be avoided unless you're carrying a tight lip," noted Harry the Holstein.

"There's a lot of 'em out there on council clutching forks and knives ready to get the Mayor's bacon," added Nathan the Nag. "This is not a cohesive council and it's not necessarily the Mayor's fault."

Blank cheque voting remarkable

The blank cheque nature of the electorate's endorsement of the Liberals is its most remarkable aspect.

Premier David Peterson fudged on virtually every major issue, from free trade to official bilingualism, in the election campaign.

And the voters still said, "that's okay, we trust you."

It was a ringing endorsement of Peterson's past two years at the helm of the Ontario ship of state.

What it means is that Peterson now virtually has a free hand with both social programs and the economy.

Liberal candidates ran on his coat-tails. They know quite well why they were elected. They'll follow wherever he leads.

And that's the chief puzzle of the new four-year Liberal administration.

Where does Peterson want to take it?

In 1985, the Liberals ran a campaign loaded with specific promises of an interventionist or (to use the common phrase) left-wing nature.

It allowed them to easily draw up an accord with the NDP and in-

duce legislation like the ban on extra-billing, pay equity, first contracts, and so on.

This time because of the lack of clear direction in the Liberal campaign, no one has any idea where Peterson intends to go, except that he intends to spend a lot more money.

Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

INTERVENTIONIST Peterson's instinct is interventionist. "The government which governs best is the government that reaches out to the greatest number of people," was and is the scary Liberal theme.

The voters have decided they don't mind. To what degree and how the Liberals "reach out" to them, they've left up to Peterson's conscience.

But his campaign was so fuzzy we

have few clues. In some ways, the past two years were easy years for the Liberals.

The economy boomed, which pushed up revenues (helped along, too, by tax increases) so that the Liberals could pour out literally billions in new spending on almost every special interest group that came crying to them for cash.

But that has to come to an end sometime.

Either the economy will falter through recession, or U.S. protectionism will continue to slam shut the doors to our biggest market.

Eventually, there will come a crunch time when those "tough choices" that Peterson likes to brag he makes will actually be forced upon him.

And the first test case may be free trade.

Peterson's tone during the election campaign was such that almost every anti-free trade economic group in the province is convinced it has a veto over its implementation.

Yet Peterson hasn't said so, barring his rather incredible promise to the tight little oligopoly that runs Ontario's breweries that these brewers

won't have to face competition. The point of freer trade, of course, is that some industries are going to suffer at the same time as others will benefit.

Overall, we'll gain. What Peterson steadfastly refused to say in the campaign was what he would allow to be sacrificed.

One might even conclude that the generally hostile rhetoric he directed at free trade means he opposes it - except that his track record on freer competition is as fuzzy as his campaign.

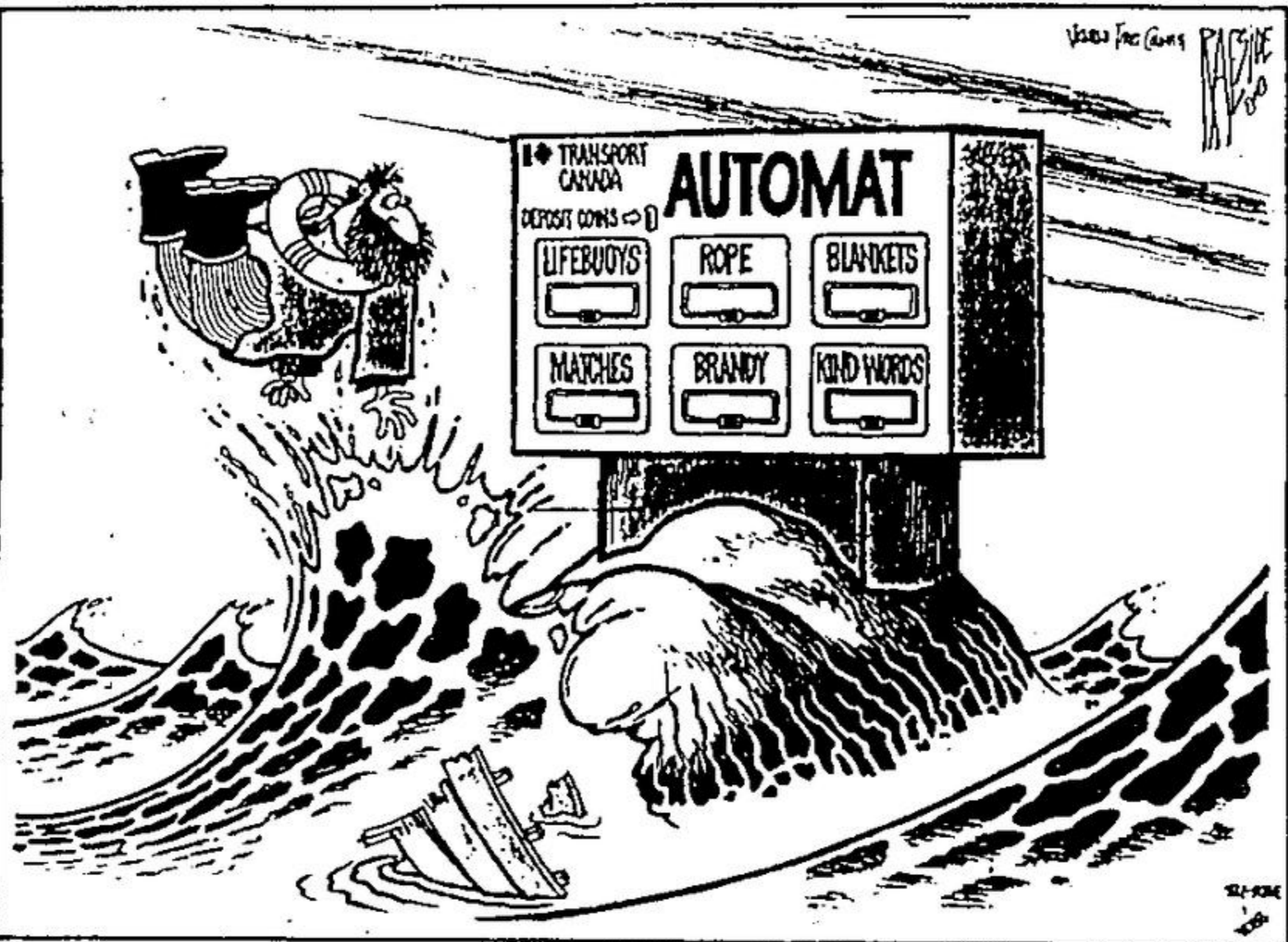
For example, it was during the short Peterson term that Ontario's securities industry was thrown wide open to both domestic and foreign competition.

The result is that all but one of Ontario's major investment dealers (stockbrokers and such) have now allied themselves with, or been bought out by, larger financial institutions, some of them foreign.

In that particular service industry, Peterson showed no protectionist inclination at all.

Was it an aberration or the mainstream of his thinking? The voters concluded it didn't matter. They just liked the way he did things.

I could mean an interesting four years, full of surprises.



Citizens' forum

Support for Nicaraguan people

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was written to Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs and was filed with The Herald for publication.

Dear Sir, After spending four weeks working and travelling in Nicaragua, needless to say, I have been closely following the unfolding of the Arias peace plan. At first I was hopeful; I am increasingly uneasy. I am writing to request that the Canadian government act in support of the plan.

Instead of applauding this creative initiative it is increasingly apparent that the U.S. is intent on undermining the process. Mr. Reagan continues to misinterpret the Nicaraguan people and now he is also showing contempt for four other countries that he calls democracies.

This week, U.S. Education Secretary Bennett speaking at a press conference in Managua, said a sign of democracy would be that people could speak without fear. It seems to me that he was doing just that!

He contended that Cardinal Obando y Bravo, an outspoken critic of the Sandinista government, should regain his TV time slot. Surely his being named to the treaty verification commission will provide him with an even wider audience.

Bennett's contention that the government has shown no desire to restore democratic freedoms is insulting. Less than one week after signing the peace accord Orjuela had met with eleven political parties, including the four that boycotted the democratic elections of 1984.

It is critical that Canada clearly indicate its support of this attempt by the Central American people to bring peace to their countries. The plan is consistent with Canadian policy and deserves a chance.

Beyond help in verifying a ceasefire, I urge the Canadian government to volunteer for the international commission that will study whether the countries have met their commitments. In this way, Canadians can join Central Americans in saying, "give peace a chance."

Sincerely, Cheryl Lightowers

An update on H.A.N.D.

Dear Sir: H.A.N.D. is a local Georgetown-Acton peace group. H.A.N.D. stands for Halton Hills Action for Nuclear Disarmament. Our group feels that the Canadian Peace Movement is an extremely vital one because without peace there will be no secure future for our children.

Millions of Canadians feel threatened by the risk of nuclear war. We feel we are working, against this threat. Together we can make a difference!

We meet the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Scotsdale Farm between Georgetown and Acton.

We have a group of core members who are very active and come to most meetings and a large group of "peripheral" members who are kept in touch with, regarding our various projects and the letter of the month.

We have a letter we write each month to various people such as our M.P., Brian Mulroney etc. about such issues as expressing our opposition against Star Wars and the testing of the Cruise Missile.

Last year H.A.N.D. became a member of the Canadian Peace Alliance, which includes 280 groups across Canada. We use their direction to decide on certain projects or goals.

Last November we gave local clergy information on war toys and several made use of it. We recently donated subscriptions to the Peace Magazine to the Acton and Georgetown Libraries. Over the years we have also donated various books related to Peace to these libraries.

Last April we organized a public meeting presenting Doug Mohr of Kitchener. He biked across Canada for peace and was a founder of Ads for Peace and the Canadian Letter Writing Network.

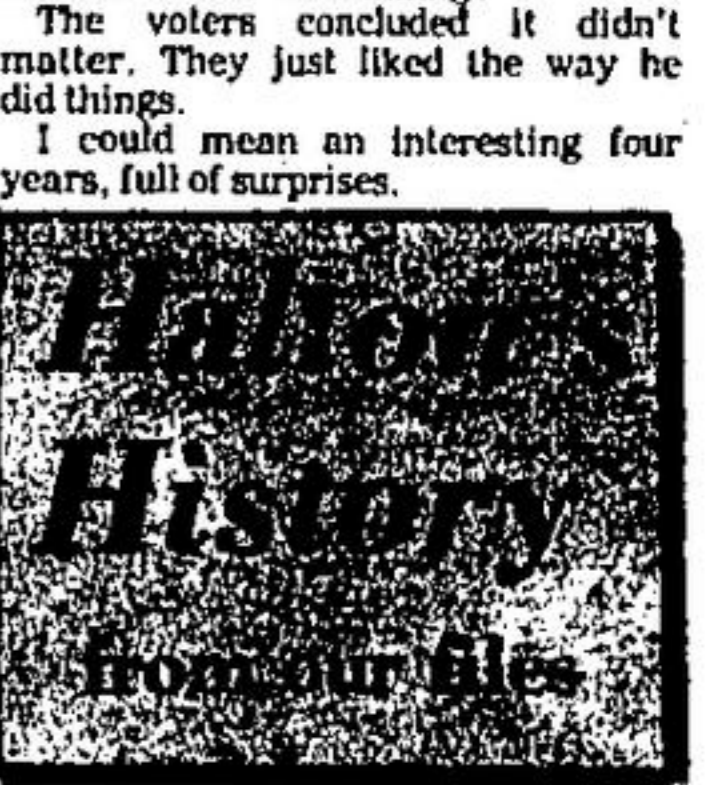
At present we are joining a Peace Pledge Campaign in preparation for the next Federal Election. We are trying to alert voters to the urgent need for a strong Canadian policy for world peace.

We're also helping with a petition, which will be going to the different boards of education, trying to get peace related issues into their school curriculum.

So, as you can see, we have been busy and will be in the future. We welcome and need new people in our group. Anyone who is interested may contact H.A.N.D. at 877-2994 or 877-8209.

In conclusion, if a 7 year old Canadian child when asked "How I'd put the world right" wrote "I would put the soldiers on farms. They grow crops. The crops would feed the people. The guns would make good fence posts" - Surely we as adults can work towards a more peaceful and safe world.

Janet Southworth



30 years ago

Councillor Alfred Sykes told council Monday he thiere being broken by the building of several semi-detached houses on Delreux. He is urging council to seek legal advice on the matter.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Wilson of Norval have just returned from the world's plowing match in Peebles, Ohio. The Wilsons attended the match with their daughter Jean, MPP for Halton Stan Hall also went to the event with his wife, following an extensive tour of the American West.

Edith Isabel Ostrander of Georgetown married Brampton police constable John Leslie Campbell at the Union Presbyterian Church recently.

Some of Ontario's finest horses are expected to participate in Georgetown's Fall Fair harness races next weekend. Two races, a 2:28 class and a free-for-all, will take place Saturday. Vince Mountford will be the Fair's Master of Ceremonies this year.

Prizes for the best decorated doll buggies, bicycles and tricycles will be given out this year at the Fall Fair. Prizes range from 50 cents to \$2. The contest will take place this Saturday afternoon.

15 years ago

William McNally Construction Ltd. is proposing to build an apartment building on Water Street on the site known as the Harley Kay property and the Beaver Lumber site. Mr. McNally called the current structures "eyesores" and he said the site would look better if his development goes through council.

Two councillors told council Monday that an industrial building on Delreux Boulevard is being used as a retail store. The property is owned by Harold Fobert. Councillors Phil Siddall and Joan Smith waved their purchases - potato chips and pop - in the air of Monday's meeting to prove their point.

A number of Huttonville residents opted to change the name of their town officially. The name of the town used to be Huttonville. The change is the result of a questionnaire by town council. One resident asked for the town to be re-named Wolf's Den.

A five-year plan to improve Georgetown's downtown core was approved by council Monday. The plan is based on a report made by architect Paul Martel eight years ago. The plan will cost merchants close to \$60,000 over five years.

Seven-month old Achilles Peildis was declared the winner of the baby contest at the Acton Fall fair on the weekend. He posed for photographs with fair queen Susan Thibodeau.

Canadian Football League players and officials are expected to attend the Georgetown Fall Fair this weekend. They will appear at the Alpha Tent, according to spokesman Rose Ann Newlove. Those scheduled to appear include Hamilton Ti-Cats wide-receiver Gary Tufford and referee Scott McBrien.

The first obstacle course for Great Danes in Canada was run Sunday in Glen Williams. The run included crossing the Credit River twice. The winners were Shirley and Ralph Lehman of Hamilton with their dog Zeus.

10 years ago

Conservative MP for Brampton-Georgetown John McDermid said this week that the federal government's wage increase plan, known as the "six and five" plan, is a gross waste of money. He said the Liberals are wasting more money promoting the program than they would if they simply increased wages at a higher rate.

Town council approved the final wording of a nuclear disarmament referendum that will be posed to Halton Hills residents in October. The question will require a yes or no answer.

Over 150 people participated in the Georgetown Terry Fox Run sponsored by the Canadian Cancer Society chapter in Georgetown. The event raised \$2,550 for cancer research.

Globe productions is preparing to stage the Rogers and Hammerstein musical Oklahoma. Director Mike Burgoyne said the musical is a curl of the American mid-west in the 1900's.

In your opinion

New home for Alliance members



Harry Legg: "The church is the important thing, not the building itself. It's a new era in the life of the church. It's a new beginning, a tool to carry out our ministry in the area."



Laurie Kemp: "It's a very exciting time. The Alliance Church (in Georgetown) is only 13 years old and it's generally a young church. Most haven't gone into a new church. It's the beginning of a new day I guess you could say."



Pastor Peter Ralph: "This makes eight years of faith, planning and hard work. We've also applied ourselves to two stewardship programs to get our finances within order. And to that end, God and his people have been faithful."



Bob Shepherd: "We felt a little like the children coming out of the wilderness. Now we see this as our promised land or home."



Sandy Coptana: "It's the beginning of the continuation of work. There's been exciting and satisfying times being part of the building committee. A sense of praise to God for letting me be a part of it."

QUESTION: On the occasion of the sod-turning for the new home of the Georgetown Alliance Church, what does the significance of this day mean to you?