

Too long to wait

As if one big delay wasn't enough. It was an unfortunate decision by the Ontario Hospital Appeals Board to postpone the Dr. Jack Ford hearing until Dec. 7.

It's another wait that puts a doctor, his patients, the hospital and the community on hold just a little while longer. Eight months to be exact. Eight months to the day when Dr. Ford's privileges were revoked at the Georgetown hospital.

It was bad enough when the appeals board couldn't fit in the hearing until October although papers were filed in the spring. This left dozens of expectant mothers without their regular obstetrician. The delay caused tensions to build and kept the two principals from telling the entire story about the revocation.

The appeal board should have been prepared for a longer hearing to begin with. No one should have been shocked when the chairman said it would take about seven days to finish the appeal. But what came as a surprise was that this was mentioned in October, not back in the spring when the dates were being finalized.

Someone should have realized the case, where incidents are being reviewed from over three years ago, would require a long hearing. Splitting the case and having the appeal date delayed for 48 days does neither side any good.

It disjoins the process and leaves those patiently waiting for a decision in an emotional turmoil.

Eight months and counting. That's too long for an appeal when a doctor's practice is being threatened. That's too long to wait without knowing the truth.

Dips and swings

News from Halton Region keeps going from bad to worse. Who needs to check the latest stock market prices? We've got our roller coaster item with all the dips and swings to make a manic depressant out of almost anyone.

The story, of course, is again about garbage. It continues to pile up, counsellors continue to squabble and money disappears from our regional coffers.

What's new this week shouldn't make any of us sleep any better.

One of the members of the consolidated board hearing has gone on to another job. The member resigned to seek employment elsewhere with the province, leaving the board with just two people.

After costing the Region millions of dollars in studies and hearings, the province has allowed further discord by approving a transfer during such a crucial time. Hasn't the Region suffered enough? Halton doesn't deserve more trouble when the provincial body it must answer to doesn't seem to take the hearings with the same degree of seriousness.

The news does get worse. In order to fulfill an agreement with Burlington, the garbage transfer site at Aldershot will be closed January although it is fully functional. The new garbage compacting centre, also to be built in Burlington, will cost us about \$2.5 million more than if the Aldershot site was left operational and expanded.

Taxpayers will be paying about \$10 more next year for the Region to handle their garbage. Part of the reason for the big increase is because of decisions which ignore the most viable solution for more politically realistic alternatives.

The Region's Chief Administrative Officer, John Fleming reminds us that our costs, as taxpayers, are really less than \$1 per month.

That's still a lot to pay for the Region's woes.

A few little extras



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

Okay, so now that we have ourselves a town complex ready for construction, what about the extras. The Town of Halton Hills has approved spending \$6.1 million on the building. That includes, of course, carpeting. But what about the other extras.

Look what they forgot to include:
-A retractable dome for the council chambers. It could double as a planetarium during off hours.
-A terrorist-proof wall protecting staff from car bombs or radical groups threatening to take hostages when the right decisions aren't made.

-A bomb shelter to house town council and their families with enough food to last for 30 days.
-A heliport and private helicopter for the mayor to be whisked away at a moment's notice for those important Toronto and Oakville meetings.
-A moat around the complex with paddle boats and swans.

-Ejection seats in the council chambers with engage buttons in the public gallery to get attention of their favorite councillor.
-An indoor track facility to keep the staff and administration in top shape plus Gold's Gym for the serious fitness buff.

-Gift shops and boutiques, luncheon restaurants.
-A stress centre with full-time attendant on duty.

-An outdoor skating rink.
-A cineplex theatre, an Imax projector.
-An extension of North Halton Golf and Country Club to include a few holes on the complex property.

-An underground tunnel leading to the Fairgrounds should the complex ever be surrounded by angry taxpayers.
-A sculpture outside the building and perhaps a few inside similar to Toronto's The Archer.

-A press room for the CBC, CTV, Global, City, CHCH and yes, our local media.
-A time capsule with council minutes outlining how a decision was reached to build a municipal complex.

I haven't put a price list on these additional items, but costs are going to rise, anyway. Surely, somewhere they could be added under "miscellaneous expenses." Will anyone notice the difference?

WRITE US A LETTER

What do you think about what is happening in Halton Hills...across the nation and around the world? We are interested in your opinion.

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.

Send your letters to: The Herald, 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 3Z6.

Bondhouses care about our deficit

by DEREK NELSON
Queen's Park Bureau
Thomson News Service

Earlier this year, Ontario served notice it may seek to borrow \$1.2 billion on New York money markets. It is stand-by financing for possible Ontario Hydro cash demands next year.

But one suspects that if present provincial spending trends continue, Ontario itself will soon be going hat-in-hand to the New York money markets.

In recent years, the additional funds needed to growing provincial debt have been borrowed from domestic pension funds.

However, for a variety of reasons, that capital pool will not be as big or as accessible in the future as it has been in the past.

And the direction the Liberals are moving in government spending is worrisome.

In the last year of Conservative rule, the province budgeted for and spent about \$26.9 billion.

Using a budget mainly put together by Tories, the Grits planned to spend \$29 billion for the 11 months remaining in the 1985 fiscal year.

They actually over-spent by \$300 million.

In 1986, the Liberals added more than \$2 billion to their spending plans, forecasting a budget expenditure of \$31.5 billion.

OVER-SPENT
They actually over-spent by \$1 billion, coming in at \$32.5 billion.

This year, Treasurer Robert Nixon calculates spending will grow to \$34.8 billion.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

But to match the projection, he is going to have to find (as he wrote in his 1987 budget) "\$350 million in relations through expenditure savings and constraints in the current fiscal year."

Or, to cut through the jargon, the existing budget will have to be chopped by \$350 million to keep spending down to \$34.8 billion.

That's unlikely to happen.

Not only does Nixon's track record show a consistent pattern of over-spending - never once meeting his budgetary targets - but he now has more than \$1 billion in Liberal campaign promises from the last provincial election that he has to meet.

True, not all of those commitments need to be met this fiscal year, but there will have to be at least token spending on some of them to show the Liberal are fulfilling campaign goals.

If Nixon actually holds spending this year to \$35 billion, it will be some kind of minor miracle.

It is also true, mind you, that the New York bond houses (both Moody's and Standard and Poor's) are still generally pleased with the province's financial management.

Moody's continues to rate the province (and, by extension, Ontario Hydro) a Triple A candidate for borrowing, meaning the best possible interest rate should be given for provincial or Hydro bonds.

Standard and Poor's gives Ontario a Double A, one rung down from the top of the financial ladder.

It took away Ontario's Triple A credit rating in 1985 after the Liberal takeover because of "uncertainty over the new government's objectives."

STRENGTHS

The firm still hasn't restored the rating, but it also hasn't lowered it.

As Moody's said in giving its Triple A seal of approval, its rating "reflects Ontario's fundamental economic strengths, which have continued to provide abundant taxable resources to support its relatively modest amount of debt and have led to reduction in the still-sizeable budget."

Or, to put it another way, a combination of a booming economy (driven by U.S. demand) and tax increases by Nixon (worth \$700 million in 1986 and multiplied thereafter) have helped keep the deficit in the \$1 to \$2 billion range in the past three budgets, including this year's even if, or more likely, Nixon exceeds his planned expenditures.

And the bond houses care more about the deficit than the growth in spending.

But what happens when the economy slows and there is no room left to manoeuvre? Then it is off to New York to borrow.

HOW TO SPOT WHO IN THE OFFICE PLAYS THE STOCK MARKET...



Support ban on tobacco

Dear Sir:
The Canadian Cancer Society is urging all citizens to support the speedy passage of Bill C-51 - The Tobacco Products Control Act.

The health risks of smoking have been well documented and major health, medical and consumer groups have identified a ban on all forms of tobacco advertising as an essential component of a smoking control programme.

Bill C-51 would ban tobacco advertising, but allows for certain exceptions including:
Continued entry of foreign publications containing tobacco advertising.

Retail displays of tobacco goods;
Generic signs, subject to regulation, in retail stores advertising tobacco products;

Regulated signs on vending machines;
Use of company names, but not brand names, for sponsored events.

This act would be administered by the minister of National Health and Welfare and there will be a maximum fine of \$100,000 for non-compliance.

The tobacco industry has engaged in an extensive campaign - approximately \$4 million - to stop Bill C-51. They have sent a letter to 90,000 retail stores urging them to complain about the bill. A follow-up letter included pre-written letters to the recipient's MP that required only a signature. Phone calls were then made to see if the recipient had mailed the letter.

Letters

Therefore, the Canadian Cancer Society and your local unit are urging individuals to write letters to their Federal MP indicating their support of this major health initiative. Letters can also be sent to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, John Turner, Ed Broadbent, and Health Minister Jake Epp - c/o House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6 - no postage required.

Every day of delay will mean more Canadians dead. 35,000 Canadians died in 1985 from tobacco-related disease.

Barbara Johnson
Public Relations
Halton Hills Unit of the
Canadian Cancer Society

UNICEF saves lives

Dear Sir,
Once again, with UNICEF cards, the YMCAs of Georgetown, Acton and Milton will help you to remember your friends in the spirit of peace and goodwill at Christmas time and much much more - they will help you to save the lives of children in 28 countries!

By purchasing just one package of cards, you will save a child's life by paying for the costs of vaccinations against measles, polio, T.B., diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.

UNICEF Ontario has been active in this field for over 40 years and last year was able to raise about \$250,000. The Georgetown YMCA's International Committee, which coordinates the sale of UNICEF items here as well as in Acton and Milton, raised \$250 in 1986 with your help.

This year, the YMCAs will carry a selection of Christmas cards ranging in price from \$6 - \$12 for packages of 10 - 20, gift tags, greeting cards, year-round stationery, day timers, and calendars in both French and English. As well, for children 6 years and older there will be 2 jigsaw puzzles - one is of Noah's Ark and the other resembles a plate with UNICEF children dancing. Both are of about 200 pieces.

You are warmly invited to visit the Georgetown YMCA at 37 Main Street, South, any afternoon, to view and purchase your choices. Acton residents may drop into their YMCA at 40 Mill Street, daily, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, please call 877-6183 or 853-1070.

There is no feeling nicer than that of knowing you have given a child a chance at life!

Thanks for your continued support of the YMCA and its activities.

Sincerely,
Cathy Oomen

30 years ago

Halton's Member Parliament Sandy Best met with the Queen last week when she opened the first Session of Parliament. This is the first time in Confederation's history that a reigning monarch has opened Parliament.

Three Georgetown boys also met the Queen last week. David Sprague, Barry Hamilton and Serge Leduc, all Toronto Telegram newspaper carriers, were sent to Ottawa as part of the newspaper's promotion to get new customers.

The East Georgetown Ratepayers association approached council last night to introduce ward voting to Georgetown. Council declined the suggestion. Ratepayers president Sid Hardie introduced the association's new executive and then asked council to consider the new voting system.

Mrs. Jack McGibbon has been elected President of the Georgetown Ladies Lawn Bowling Club. She was voted in at the club's annual meeting two weeks ago.

15 years ago

Progressive Conservative candidate Terry O'Connor won the federal seat in Halton Monday by a 60-vote margin over Liberal incumbent Bud Whiting. Mr. O'Connor is the first PC member this riding has had since Sandy Best, who held the post from 1958 to 1982.

Donna Denison a Ward Two councillor told the Herald this week she will not seek re-election for a third term. Mrs. Denison has been a town councillor for four years.

The Georgetown Panthers in the Inter-district League Squirt division won the Halton-Feel Championships Saturday. The team was chosen last year from all seven and eight-year-olds in the Soccer House League.

In the second week of hockey season, the 4-Town Bankams surprised the Cycle crew by coming back from a two-goal deficit to win 5-4. Leading goal scorers were Mike Ryan and Dave Herman.

10 years ago

An Acton quarry company questioned council's decision to limit the use of 17 Sideroad by trucks. Indusmin said such action would create more unemployment for this area as it would seriously affect the quarry's business. Councillors assured the company it does not intend to close the road but just restrict its use through licencing.

Eleven-year-old Barb Stevens is looking for a grandparent she can adopt in Georgetown. She said her family will be moving here soon and is looking forward to running errands for and visiting her new grandparents.

The Ontario Federation of Labour told a group in Brampton last week that as many as 19,000 people are unemployed in the Brampton-Georgetown-Mississauga area. The figures are based on current Unemployment Insurance Claims.

The 12th annual Halton Plowing Match was held Saturday with close to 50 drivers competing in the event. The match was held at the John Breckon farm near Hornby.

5 years ago

Mayor Pete Pomeroy will seek support from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario over the town's aggregate problem. Residents and town council are concerned about the Ministry of Natural Resources plan to protect 14,000 acres of land in Halton for gravel producing.

A Georgetown man will be going to the Middle East as part of the United Nations Peace-Keeping force. Stephen Weaver, 26, of the Canadian Armed Forces leaves for Syria on Saturday.

Raiders coach Gary Ford told his team it has become over-confident. The club suffered its first loss on Saturday. The club lost to Midland 6-4, ending a six-game winning streak.

Centennial Middle School dominated the standings at the Halton Cross Country Championships at Bronte Creek Park last week. Among those competing were: Tammy Morrow, Angy Gray and Robin Cocks.



ADAM DONALDSON



GILLIAN DIBBITTS



MEG WHILTON



CINDY SQUIRE



ALFRED TSANG

In your opinion

My favorite books

Adam Donaldson, Age 8, Park Public School

Title: Trouble in Space (Choose your own Adventure)

Author: John Woodcock

The story is about you and an alien named Xmax, from the planet Zoon. The story begins in a space station high above the earth. Xmax is helping you with your homework. An emergency call comes in from the Galaxy Rescue Squad's Headquarters. It says that a spaceship is in trouble. You set out with Xmax on your mission. You decide to take the faster way. The story isn't sad or funny, it's just plain space age fun.

Gillian Dibbitts, Age 8; George Kennedy School

Title: Old Friends, New Friends

Author: Joanne Ryder

Grace and Laura were best friends. Laura got a part in the school play and met a new girl. Because they practised together they ignored Grace. Grace's feelings were hurt. Grace became friends with Pete and they roller skated together in a show. Laura was there to clap for Grace. At the end of Laura's play, Grace was there to clap for her. Together they

went back to Laura's house for cake and ice cream. This was an excellent story of friendship.

Meg Whilton, Age 8, Park Public School

Title: Ramona the Pest

Author: Beverly Cleary

My favourite book is Ramona the Pest. It's about a little girl Ramona who starts Kindergarten. Ramona likes a girl named Susan and a boy named Davy. Ramona calls Davy "Dear Little Davy." But alas, Davy always keeps away, for Ramona is determined to kiss him. Susan's red-dish brown curly hair is almost always causing trouble for Ramona. Then something terrible happens and Ramona becomes a Kindergarten Drop-out!

Cindy Squire, Age 12; Stewarttown School

Title: Anne of Green Gables

Author: L. M. Montgomery

L.M. Montgomery has written a fantastic series of books about the life of a young girl named Anne Shirley. She tells of Anne's life in P.E.I. from the time she was adopted by Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert until she marries Gilbert

Blythe and starts to raise her own family of five. There are several emotional situations throughout the books: sad - when Matthew dies; funny - when Anne dyes her hair green; happy - when Anne and Gilbert get married. I would recommend this series of books to any of my friends.

Alfred Tsang, Age 9, Public School

Title: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Author: Ronald Dahl

My favourite book is Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Ronald Dahl. This story tells about a poor boy who won a ticket to go to the world's biggest and best chocolate factory. But he wasn't the only one who went. There were four other children who went: Veronica Salt, Augustus Gloop, Mike Teevee, Violet Beauregarde and of course Charlie Bucket. Everybody got into nothing but trouble. Augustus fell into the Chocolate river, Veronica got shot down the garbage chute, Mike turned two inches tall and Violet ate a kind of gum that turned her into a purple blueberry. I thought this story was funny.