

Difficulties for public schools

The good burghers of 1867 Ontario would be rolling in their graves if they knew what was happening here as a result of the full funding of separate schools.

In particular, they would be astounded at the assumptions underlying arbitrator Stephen Goudge's Hamilton decision.

That's the one that has given use of three public secondary schools to the local Roman Catholic school board, starting next year.

The decision itself isn't so bad, given the guidelines laid down by the original full-funding decision. Goudge's ruling was a reasonable compromise.

The Roman Catholic board needed the space and the two public boards in the Hamilton area had surplus rooms. The three schools transferred were only 60 per cent of what the separate board wanted, but should meet its immediate needs. The particular schools chosen will also cause the least disruption to the public system.

But it was the premise upon which the transfers were made - just three of many to come province-wide -



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

that would have amazed our ancestors.

ONE RELIGION

The use of assets paid for by non-Roman Catholics was being transferred to a confessional school system aimed at followers of one religion only.

Education Minister Chris Ward was hit hard on the television show Dateline Ontario with this question: "What do you say to the parents and students and teachers and principals of those secondary schools which now basically disappear, in terms of your commitment not to harm the public system at the expense of the Roman Catholic one?"

"Well, it certainly is a very, very difficult situation, and certainly it

has been a trying time in our community as we've had to cope with this...but it is important to note (Goudge) did understand and address the whole issue of the viability of the public education system," by going for three school (two different than requested) rather than five, he replied.

Stripped of the rhetoric, one might conclude Ward was really saying: yes, it is harming the public system, but the arbitrator tried to minimize the damage.

How the men who put together the public school system in this province would have been offended by that.

The theory behind the extension of full funding to the Roman Catholic system is that there was a deal at Confederation to allow two parallel education systems to grow in Ontario, in exchange for allowing the same thing in Quebec.

But does anyone really believe that the majority Protestant yeomen of 1867 Ontario - at a time when religion was taken seriously and most mainstream churches hadn't degenerated into branch plants for Marxism - were willing to see themselves taxed to sustain a Roman Catholic school system?

ABSURD

It is absurd. What was given at Confederation was the right to opt out of a public secondary system open to all - but only at the personal expense of those who withdrew.

The result, for years, was that we had a dual stream at the elementary level that became a single stream at the secondary.

The early years, important for fixing religious beliefs in children, were under confessional control, while all faiths mixed at the secondary level.

This admirable compromise was ruined when past premiers John Robarts and Bill Davis, in 1964 and 1964 respectively, extended Roman Catholic funding.

In the process, they have caused enormous difficulties for the public secondary system.

(And the current Liberal government, by refusing to fund Protestant, Jewish and other denominational schools, has made religious discrimination the official educational policy of the Ontario government.)

If the ghosts of 1867 ever get wind of these decisions, they will pay visits to the premiers responsible.

Going it alone

It was a sad day in town when an executive couldn't be found to keep the Halton Hills Arts Council afloat.

The annual general meeting Nov. 26 generated interest among only 17 members. Other supporters stayed home. No one volunteered for executive positions.

That's too bad, considering the work the arts council did and the ideals it stood for. Now there is no umbrella agency to co-ordinate art projects in town. There is no one to lobby the public, media, businesses or government for more exposure, more money or more support.

The various arts groups will be left to go it alone in a town which is often indifferent to our local talented artists.

Ironically, the announcement comes after a successful Art in the Park show last summer which offered a unique opportunity for the town to view local artists and their works.

Summerfest, the annual dinner-theatre show during the downtown Georgetown Pioneer Days celebration will be missed. Summerfest was always able to add a good measure of entertainment for adults during the special week.

To the end, the arts council helped further the arts community. The last act of the council was to donate a \$800 one-time scholarship to an Acton High School student. An additional \$200 was handed over to the GDHS jazz choir and stage band attending Musicfest in Calgary.

Recently, the arts council lost one of its most ardent supporters when former citizen of the year Ralph Ursel died.

Another prime mover of the group is Gretchen Day, who will be leaving the community shortly to join her husband in Barrie.

It is too bad that enough support, especially from new members, could not be found to keep the group going.

There are a lot of projects for the arts community to tackle. To gain support a group must be vocal. Unfortunately there will no longer be a united voice in the arts community.

Just punishment?

Those who feel legislators and governments are too lenient with hunters should have a field day with this story.

A 29-year-old hunter killed his companion last November and through a legal loophole, his hunting licence won't be revoked. This inane oversight has to be corrected!

The Burlington man will not be allowed to possess a firearm for two years. He was found guilty of careless use of a firearm during the 1986 deer hunt.

Because Mr. Neilson was charged under the Criminal Code of Canada, his hunting licence was not affected by the judgement.

As reported in a Herald story Nov. 25, the Fish and Game Act contains several stipulations for the removal of hunting licences. However, none of them refer to injuries or killing people.

As Crown Attorney John Ayre said, a hunter may injure a cow during the hunt and could lose his licence permanently. But if the same hunter attempts to murder someone in a hunting context, his licence may remain intact.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has to act to change its regulations. No one who has shown carelessness with a firearm during a hunt should ever be allowed to re-apply for a licence.

Hunting is a sport and no one has a right to use a rifle or shotgun if they are irresponsible. Only those who obey the laws and have proven to be careful should be allowed to carry arms of any kind.

A caring bunch



Editor's notebook
By Dave Rowney

How can you help? There are four drop off points for toys in Georgetown. They are: The Herald, Arthur F. Johnson and Associates, Post Office and at the Stiles household, 25 Heather Court.

The Kinettes are looking for a variety of toys.

Usually there are many articles received for children seven and under, she said. Therefore, "it's better to buy for those eight and up and games are especially good," she says.

Clothes are difficult items to buy because the Kinettes have to guess at sizes. Teenagers are traditionally hard to buy for, but they are in demand.

The Georgetown high school last year helped by contributing money and then they went out and bought pocket radios which were very popular, says Mrs. Stiles.

Because Kinettes are swamped with work, if money donations are received, they often give gift certificates. However, the toy chairman said if they can find a volunteer to shop for toys, with money collected, they would be happy to try buying more last-minute gifts.

In the meantime, Mrs. Stiles is hoping that there will not be a flu epidemic or a snowstorm during sorting days. One year there were only about two people who showed up to help due to flu and weather.

Help a child in the area and prove that we're a caring bunch. As Mrs. Stiles says: "There seems to be a lot of generosity in this area."

WRITE US A LETTER

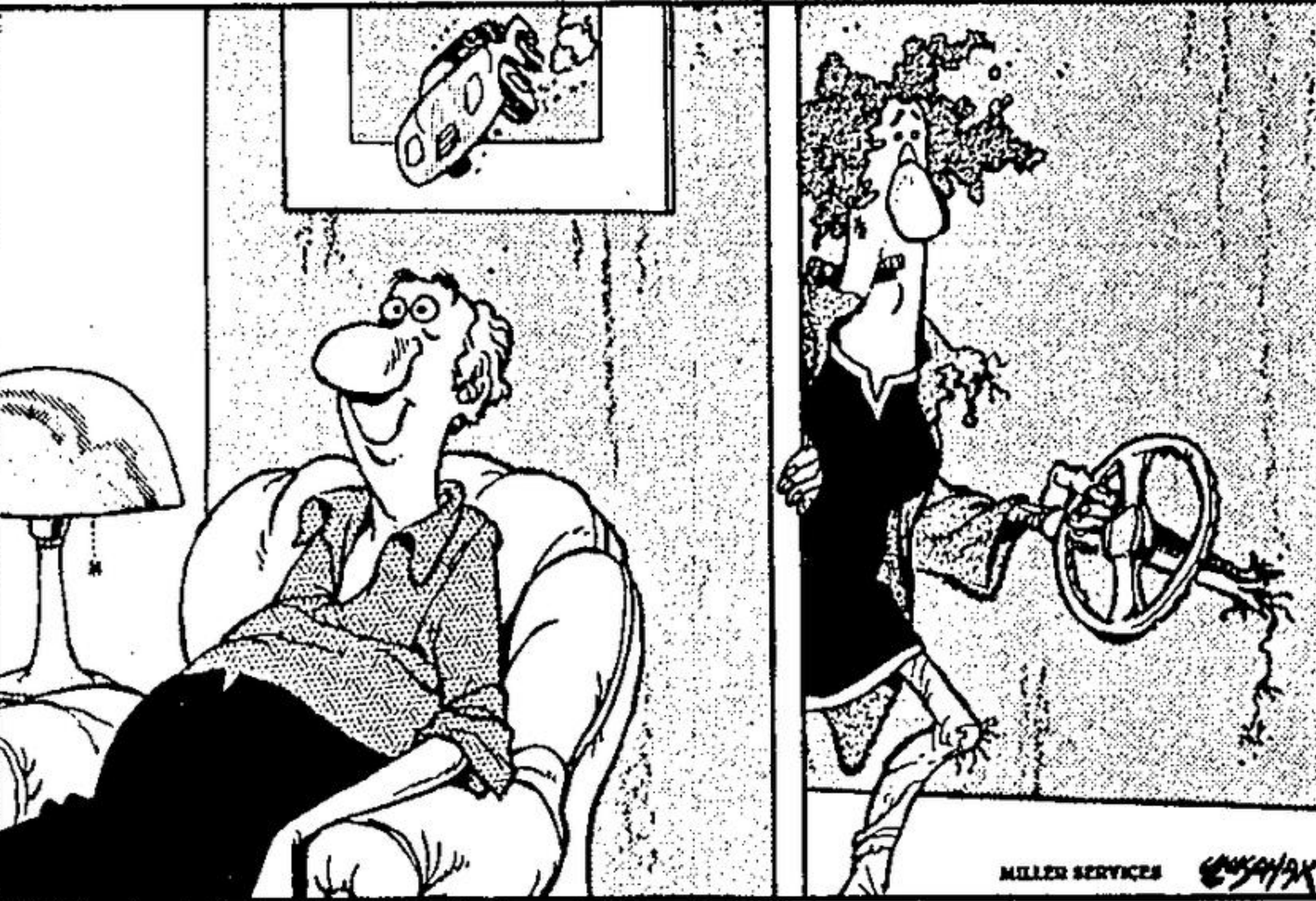
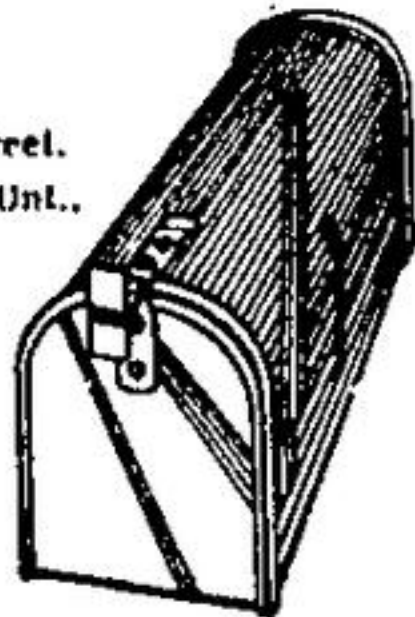
What do you think about what is happening in Halton Hills...across the nation and around the world?

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.



GOOD NEWS - WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE BANK REPOSSESSING THE CAR.

Citizens' forum

Thanks to parade people

Dear Sir,
Through the facilities of your editorial section please allow us to extend the thanks of the Georgetown Lions Club Parade Committee to all who participated.

When we have finally put all the pieces together we will acknowledge all the many generous donations of cash and goods through an advertisement in this newspaper.

In this letter we wish to thank those who gave of their time and talents to construct the floats, those who braved the cold to take part in the parade, and in particular our public servants, the Fire Dept., the Works Dept., and the Police Dept. Without the willing assistance of all these people it would be impossible to hold this parade.

So, to all who took part, to all who gave, and to all who watched, a great big thank you from the Georgetown Lions Club, and look out for an even bigger and better parade next year.

Yours truly,
Ron Lacey,
The Georgetown Lions Club,
Santa Claus Parade Committee

Ambulance staff 'great'

Dear Sir,
I would like to express my sincere thanks to ambulance crews for the efficient way they prepared me and transported me to the hospital.

I would like to thank those who tended to me in the emergency ward and the nurses in the intensive care ward and thanks to doctors C.A. Thompson and Mackintosh.

I salute you all.
Yours truly,
Steve Emmerson,
Acton, Ont.

Give more than toys

Dear Sir,
Christmas is a time for giving. It's a common mistake, however, to think that toys and money are the only things you can donate. Often your time, your caring, and commitment to helping others can mean just as much or more.

Volunteering is a way to share your talents and abilities with others. Without volunteers, many services would not be able to be offered to those who are most in need of them. Your time and commitment is what is required to help out. Instead of simply reaching into your pocket once a year, consider reaching into your pocket once a year, consider reaching into your heart and make a decision to help someone in the New Year, be it directly or indirectly, by doing some sort of volunteer work.

The North Halton Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Halton Social Planning Council, has a wide range of volunteer opportunities available. Volunteer drivers are needed by several organizations. With January being the start of the new fiscal year for many agencies, positions on volunteer boards are yours for the seeking. If you are thinking of returning to the work force and have secretarial skills, consider doing some clerical work for a social service agency. This is a valuable way to gain up-to-date experience and obtain valuable references while performing an important service. If you are attracted to working with the elderly, either in a large care facility or within their homes, numerous requests for volunteers have come into the Bureau. Telephone work is always in ready supply also.

If you are interested in finding out more about these or other volunteer opportunities, call the North Halton Volunteer Bureau at 877-3219.

Yours truly,
Dianne Anderson,
North Halton Volunteer Bureau.

CAS raffle gift tickets

Dear Sir,
If you are searching for an original painting to leave under the tree of someone special this Christmas, Halton Children's Aid Society may have just the ticket.

And the price tag is much lower than you might imagine - provided yours is the number drawn in a C.A.S. raffle Dec. 18.

Proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets will go to the Agency's Volunteer Incentive Fund, which helps Halton area children. Your support of this raffle could make the difference between a child having scales to join a hockey team or the local YM-YWCA.

In the summer time, there is a great need for bicycles, which are especially important to children who have paper routes. Other areas assisted by the fund include special camps for children in the Agency's care.

The painting is an original water color by Oakville artist Dee White, depicting a pajama-clad child kneeling in prayer with his puppy. The painting was reproduced by Halton C.A.S. as a limited edition Christmas card in 1987.

Help preserve a child's childhood by purchasing a ticket at a cost of \$1 or a book of three tickets for \$2. Drop by the Halton Children's Aid Society, 467 Speers Road, Suite 201, Oakville or call the PR/Volunteer Department at 844-8211.

Yours truly,
Ann Hauppich,
Public Relations Co-ordinator,
Halton Children's Aid Society

In your opinion

Putting you "into the spirit"



LYNDA WHITEMAN: Decorations in the windows and the music playing. And seeing Santa because the children get so excited.

ALORNA BROWN: The decorations and the excitement of the kids.

DOUG PRELOR: It would have to be dealing with as little commercialization as possible.

ROD TAYLOR: The kids. They get all excited about it, and that tends to rub off on you.

ALISON SCHULZE: Christmas music, and lots of snow, a week before and a week after.

Question: What puts you in the Christmas spirit?

30 years ago

Two of the six candidates seeking election to town council for the first time were elected Monday. The new councillors are: John Gunn, Coun. McGillvray, Ern Hyde, Alfred Sykes, Fred Harrison and John Elliott. Voter turn-out was 1877 or 42 per cent of eligible voters.

Reverend Alfred J. Barker, minister of the First Baptist Church for six and a half years, will be moving to Hanover to accept a post there. He begins his work at the Hanover Baptist Church in January.

Former American League hockey star Joe Schertzi is the latest of the fast-expanding Raiders Hockey club. He is expected to bring a much-needed boost to the faltering squad.

Walter Bianchi married Sylvia Patterson at Grace United Church last week. Mr. Bianchi is a Norval fruit farmer. Sylvia Patterson is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Patterson, Norval.

15 years ago

An indoor swimming pool at the Georgetown High School has been recommended by the Recreation and Parks Committee for inclusion in next year's budget.

Incumbent Ric Morrow won the Reeve position on council Monday night, defeating former Reeve John Elliott, who was making a comeback attempt. Mr. Morrow is one of nine men elected to council. The others include Mike Armstrong, Harry Levy and Bill Hunter.

Bill Rowney of Milton has been awarded a special honor award by the Tri-County Minor Hockey Association. He is the league's Past President.

The highest score of the Georgetown Industrial Hockey league was reached Sunday when Norval beat Mac's Milk 13-5.

10 years ago

Halton Hills residents got their first taste of winter Monday when over seven inches of snow blanketed the town. Road crews worked most of the night to keep the roads clear, according to Works superintendent Frank Morette. He added that fewer cars were left abandoned on the roads than he expected, making his job much easier.

Joan Lister, current Library Board Chairman, has announced she will retire from the board this year. She has served on the committee for the past six years.

James Fisher of Georgetown has been honored with a special plaque by the Georgetown Agricultural Society. Mr. Fisher has been a member of the society and the fair board for the past 50 years.

The Acton firehall will have a completed addition by the end of December, according to consulting engineer Allan Zeegen. Doug Fread, a member of a citizen's group trying to save the town hall, reminded council of its original promise to match the old building's brickwork and style.

5 years ago

Acton businessman Stewart Bennett has donated more than \$5 million to the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the largest donation in the foundation's history. Mr. Bennett left his property and home at Scotsdale Farm to the OHF.

Acton resident Mary Jane Madgett won \$100,000 in the Wintario draw December 2. She is 57 and has two children and three grandchildren.

Halton Hills council was sworn in at the town's inaugural ceremonies Monday night. Mayor Pete Pomeroy said one of the town's priorities is to bring new business into Halton Hills.

Georgetown trustee Betty Fisher was named vice-chairman of the Halton Board of Education Thursday night. Mrs. Fisher beat out Burlington's Cam Jackson for the post.