

A happy band of MPP warriors

TORONTO - There is a happy band of warriors in the legislature. Who are they? Tories! Can it really be... The 16 Progressive Conservative survivors of the September election debate are actually playing the opposition game, and playing it not badly.

INCOMPETENCE
This week, they finished filibustering the government on free trade and beat up on it for administrative incompetence in the Idea Corp. mess.

They even got a front page New Year's headline in The Toronto Star, a newspaper many politicians here call the Liberal Party house organ.

Cynics suggest this blooming of the PCs is because, as a party, there is nothing left to lose; the Tories have now bottomed out.

There are no more patronage jobs, no more limos, not even the solace of official opposition status.

They have no money and don't even have a leader... or do they?

When Andy Brandt was chosen as interim leader by the caucus short-



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

ly after former leader Larry Grossman's resignation, it was on the understanding that he would step down at a leadership convention to be held in one or two years.

And that is still Brandt's stated intention.

But the short-term nature of the job hasn't made his quite the lame duck a lot of observers expected.

He has been forceful in the legislature and quotable in the media. The issues he and his caucus have raised have, in the main, been relevant.

'DRAFT ANDY'

Speculation has already begun about a "draft Andy" movement for the coming convention.

It is more than a little premature, of course. He still has as much as two years to go in his mandate and Brandt's rising star could flame out

tomorrow in the turbulent atmosphere of this place.

Still, he is a canny politician, a former successful mayor, a former MPP who ran and won as "Andy" in the last provincial election.

It isn't inconceivable, that, despite his public denials, the lure of ambition could bring him to change his mind as the date of a convention draws closer.

But, for now, the two leading names being bandied about are northern Alan Pope, third-place finisher for leader last time, and party president Tom Long.

Pope, who disappeared in a snit from the Queen's Park scene after he lost the race to Brandt for interim leader, finally re-appeared in the assembly shortly before Christmas.

He then highlighted the Tory free-trade filibuster with an almost five-hour speech, spread over three days.

It wasn't bad either. It lacked the pseudo-righteous tone that envelops, and detracts from, many of Pope's questions in the assembly.

And - aside from the obvious filler, material - it was intelligent and well-reasoned, two of Pope's strong

points.

His weak side is a perceived lack of warmth and an almost total failure of the media to take him seriously as a potential leader.

Long, on the other hand, is considered a contender by the media, and although no more conservative than Pope, has been designated the "right-wing candidate" by many of them.

GOOD CONTACTS

A young (maybe too young at 30), personable lawyer, Long, has widespread support and good contacts among numerous rank-and-file PCs.

The drawback he faces is that he's climbed to prominence through the party organization rather than in the outside world of elections.

Elected politicians tend to view non-MPP contenders with a slightly jaundiced eye.

That's why there are (foolish) rumors about Long running in the London North byelection that will be called to fill the vacant (Liberal) seat there.

Still, Brian Mulroney became federal leader without a seat. It is always possible Long can duplicate his feat.

On the other hand, if Brandt continues to do well...

Glory days

For a few residents of Halton Hills, December and January of 1987-88 will be remembered as glory days.

Selected among thousands, four local citizens were honored by carrying the Olympic torch on its windy path to Calgary.

One travelled to Bellville to be handed the flame; another had the privilege of being the first runner to carry the torch into Metropolitan Toronto.

Last Wednesday two other runners carried the Olympic symbol high as they braved the cold near Orangeville.

Because of the torch relay across Canada, the glory of being a part of the Olympics is not just for the athletes. It's for all Canadians as we take part in the spirit of the Games.

The torch run provides an opportunity for communities to become involved in the winter athletic competitions. With over 6,000 torch bearers crossing Canada province by province, individual Canadians had a chance to participate.

Each of the torch bearers from Halton Hills are overwhelmed by the experience of being a part of the relay.

By relating to these runners, listening to their stories and congratulating and encouraging them, we too can feel a part of the Olympic magic.

Everyone can understand and appreciate the spirit of the Olympics. The Games represent the best in all of us. We empathize with the struggling athlete who refuses to give up in a race despite all odds.

We admire the athlete who trains and trains for this one opportunity in his or her life to "go for the gold." We appreciate what our country and its athletes can do, giving us a feeling of patriotism.

While not every Canadian can compete to be stronger, higher and faster, it's nice to be part of the Olympics by cheering on our torch runners and feeling their pride and excitement.

The relay has drawn Canadians closer together and has drawn us closer to the Winter Olympics in Calgary. The one thing that's left for us to do is to watch our athletes in February and cheer them on to victory.

Mobile thinking

Ironically, a few weeks after 1987, a year designated by the United Nations as the year of the homeless, a proposal has been put forth by a developer for affordable housing.

The year of the homeless is over, but that doesn't mean we can't continue to push to help people find affordable shelter here in Halton Hills and elsewhere around the world.

Al Pilutti owns a tract of land behind the Trafalgar Road municipal offices with access from the Sixth Line.

Spurned once before for his attempts at building on this property, Mr. Pilutti has offered another proposal.

His plan calls for building a mobile home park. The area would not be a home for trailers or become a host park for transients. The developer is thinking of putting up large-scale mobile homes worth around \$75,000.

The subdivision would be well-planned, we presume, and feature most of the amenities expected for a self-contained community on 117 acres.

It may be too early to comment on the actual plan by Mr. Pilutti. However, the thought of a developer wanting to provide more housing to the first-time buyer, the elderly or the single parent is indeed encouraging.

Governments may apply for funding for affordable housing plans and zone lands appropriately, but in the end, the initiative to build affordable homes must come from the developer.

There is overwhelming evidence that housing costs in Halton Hills are unbearable for many people. Rents are also extremely high because of a shortage of affordable apartments.

While there are some questions left to be answered about an adequate water supply on the site, the Pilutti proposal deserves careful consideration.

While no one wants to see unstructured or unaesthetically-planned growth, hopefully there will be no bias towards a mobile home park without good reasons.

Flare journalism



Editor's notebook

By Dave Roney

An interesting new movie, Broadcast News, explores a topical issue for journalists and their audience.

In the movie, our heroine leaves her boyfriend for his lack of professional ethics as a news anchorman. She is a pristine, professional, hard-working broadcast news producer who prefers to dig for entertaining stories the old established way. In other words, she's creative, and imaginative but she won't fudge the news to make it look like something it's not.

Do people really want more flare than substance in their lives? This is the message behind the movie and it's worth examining on other levels.

For example, when we view a politician on the news for a 60 second interview, is it fair to make an accurate assessment of him when voting time comes? Today, anyone can master the broadcast media by dressing well, use short quotable quotes and sport a darling smile. It's possible to sell a lot of people in a short period of time.

The Charles and Di saga shows us how far the media has gone to deliver royal romance into the living rooms of millions.

The atmosphere at Buckingham Palace is marred by continuing tales of gossip and heresy.

Do people really want this? The British tabloid press wouldn't be staking out the Royals if there were a chance there wasn't an audience. More than ever, polls and reader surveys are telling news organizations what people want to read and see and hear. Sometimes ethics can get in the way.

That's why each year in journalism schools across Canada and the States, professors and students are talking more about ethics. Journalists have to be entertaining or they will lose their audience. But at the same time they can't lose their integrity, self-respect or the respect of others.

In short, journalism has to be honest, but it can't be boring. That's the challenge of the nineties for broadcasters searching to maintain their piece of the Nielsen-based rating pie. Print reporters are just as vulnerable to excesses in their trade. To ensure newspapers keep their audiences, they too must respect their readers and give them what they want.

Citizens' forum

Tommy will never forget

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a news report written by Centennial Public School student Colin Kax about Tommy Demble, who was a torch runner for the Olympic relay last week in Orangeville.

A Day Tommy Demble Will Never Forget

Tommy Demble, a Georgetown 11-year-old, participated in something most people only dream of, he carried the Olympic torch for his country. Tommy applied to run about one year ago. In 1986, he sent 30 applications and he found out he was chosen in September 1987. Young Tommy ran at Mono Mills near Orangeville. The torch weighed about 4 pounds. Near the end of his run the torch seemed heavy, but he was happy and proud to be a torch bearer and would do it again for anything.

1987 toy drive was successful

The Kinette Club of Georgetown has completed another successful Toy Drive thanks to the generosity of local citizens and businesses. The Kinettes, working in conjunction with the Good Neighbour Service, made Christmas a happier time for 120 area children and teenagers.

A special thank you to Mr. Neil Cotton on behalf of the staff and students of Georgetown District High School for their very generous contribution. Thank you to all the other groups and individuals who donated towards this very worthy cause.

Thanks again this year to our drop-off centres (for toys) - Arthur F. Johnson and Associates (Pinn Poulstrup), The Herald, and the Post Office.

Joanne Stiles, Kinette Club of Georgetown

Thanks to our service clubs

Dear Sir,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank two service clubs in our community who provided a valuable service this past holiday season.

The Acton Rotary Club and Optimist Club of Georgetown sponsored 39 hours of free skating at the three arenas.

This is the sixth year the Recreation and Parks Department has coordinated this program with continuous support from our service clubs.

In total over 2,500 residents took advantage of this generous opportunity, a 25 per cent increase over last year.

These clubs have pledged to sponsor these free skates on all upcoming P.A. Days as well as the March Break.

On behalf of the residents of Halton Hills and the Recreation and Parks Department thank you service clubs for your continuous support and for the contributions you make to our community.

Sincerely,
Joy Thompson,
Superintendent of Recreation Services

Many people working on goal

Dear Sir,
The Christmas Hamper Committee, consisting of The Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, Lakeside Chapter IODE and the Rotary Club, all of Acton, wish to express our sincere thanks to the schools, churches, various groups and individuals who generously donated cash, food, toys and many useful items to our work.

With the help of all these people we were able to assist about 70 needy

families in Acton, Rockwood and Georgetown areas.

We would also like to thank the Good Neighbours, Georgetown, for their support. We've learned that it takes many people working together to meet the needs of our commitment and the thoughtfulness of caring people that make it all possible.

Sincerely Yours,
Wilson Perrin,
Captain,
The Salvation Army Acton Citadel

Wow! exclaims happy reader

Dear Sir,
Wow! It was a very impressive page you helped sponsor for the Halton Lung Association Colouring Contest.

We offer free services to your community through Christmas Seal donations. These services include a Better Breathing Club for adults, an Asthma Club for children, and Cold Turkey Stop Smoking Clinics.

Community support like yours makes our job more effective.

Thank you.
Tanya Kuhnles,
Halton Lung Association

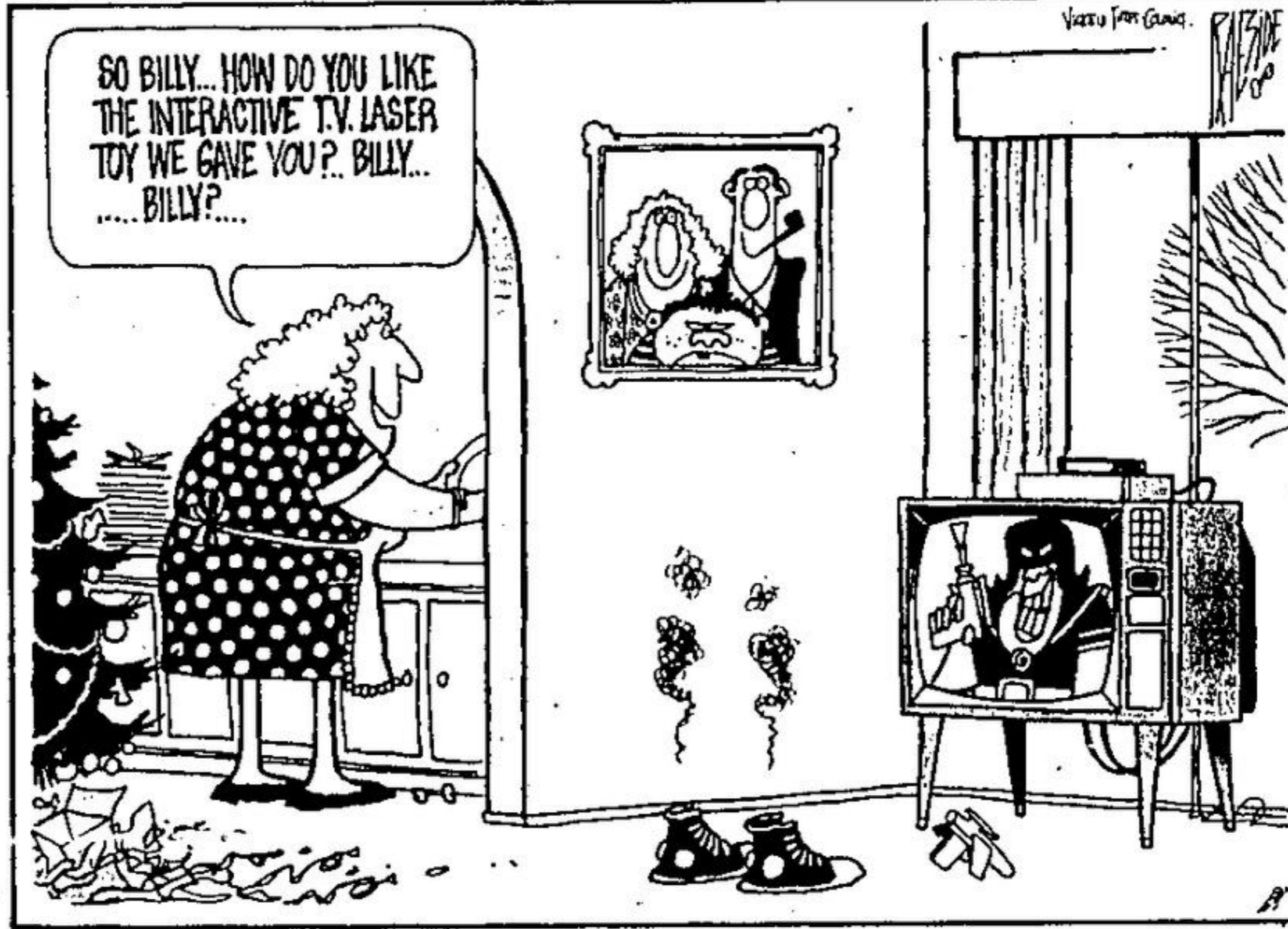
WRITE US A LETTER

Want to share your feelings on any subject with the community? The Herald welcomes letters to the editor on any topic and from anyone who has the urge to write.

We only ask that the letters be signed with your name and address in case we must call to check some detail. We will not print unsigned letters nor will we use pseudonyms.

Now all that's left is for you to do is pick up the pen!

Address your mail to letter to the Editor, The Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.



Halton's History from our files

30 years ago

The Georgetown Kinsmen Club, the town's third service club was formed. Clare Burns headed the new club which was organized by 12 men in the Halton Hills area.

High school students Pat Sykes of Georgetown and Jim Gill of Norval chatted their way to the winner's circle at the Georgetown Lions Club public speaking contest. The pair advanced to the zone competition representing the Georgetown club. Female winners received gold, silver and bronze spoons with the Lions Club emblem on the handle while the male winners received gold and silver medals.

Ray Salter of Georgetown was appointed chairman of the Georgetown Public School Board for the fifth year. The board elected its new members 1958 at a meeting held at the Harrison Public School.

15 years ago

Knocking on hundreds of doors and lugging boxes and bags of glass the 2nd Norval Browne Pack collected \$115. during a Saturday bottle drive.

The collected glass was sent to Dominion Glass in Brampton to be recycled.

Five volunteer firemen, three of them with a total of 87 years service to the municipality, were honored at a retirement dinner. Mayor Wm. R. Smith presented Clarence Spence, 32 years service, Walter Richardson, 31, Wilfred Breen, 24, William Hillier, 10, and Jack Davidson, 8, with clocks engraved with their names and years of service.

Georgetown Girls Pipe Band pipers, led by Tracy Porter and Diane Arthurs, officially opened the women's provincial curling playdowns held at the North Halton Curling Club ice rink. The competitions lasted a week.

Diane Rainbow of Georgetown won a draw held by the Tinkerbell Nursery for Mentally and Physically Handicapped Children. Ms. Rainbow received a Raggedy Ann and Andy doll as her prize.

10 years ago

Walter Gray, 85, of Georgetown was named Georgetown's citizen of the year by members of the Georgetown Lions Club. The octogenarian was chosen for his long record of service to the underprivileged in the community as well as his efforts on their behalf during his years on Georgetown council.

The Halton Hills library board decided to experiment with abolishing fines for overdue books. A 1977 inventory showed over 1,800 books were missing at an estimated replacement value of \$20,000. The library board decided to work on the theory that books were missing because people did not want to pay the fine.

Charles Ross Valentine was honored for his 40 years of service with the Georgetown Volunteer Firefighters by his co-workers. Mr. Valentine joined the fire department at its first meeting in 1938. The firefighter received a gold helmet from his fellow firemen and an engraved ice bucket.

Grade 8 girls from Centennial Middle School became stars when they went on a ski trip to Mount St. Louis near Coldwater, Ont. The 47 students were used to make a promotion commercial for the resort's student instruction program which was shown on the Barrie television station.

5 years ago

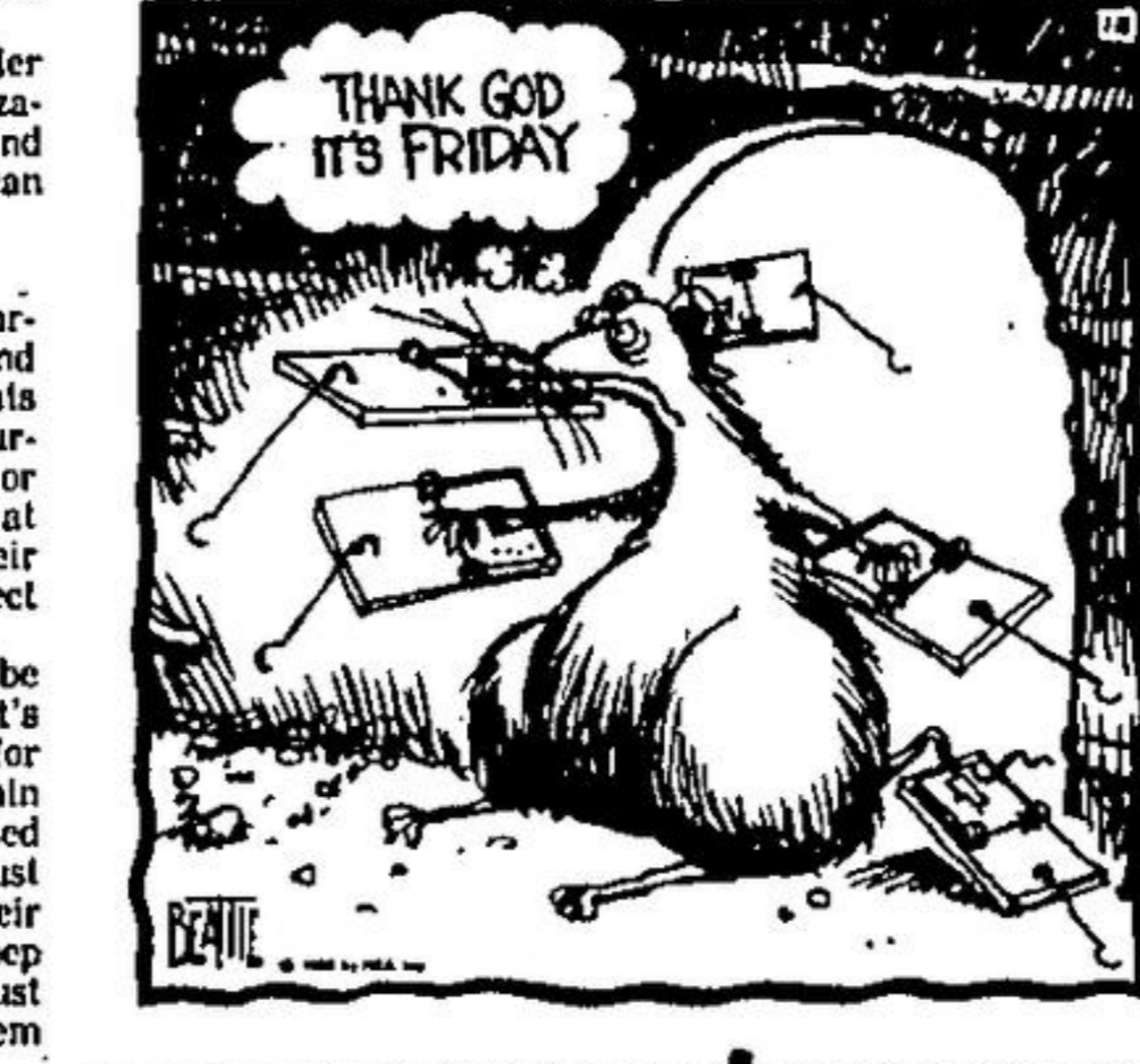
Figure-skater Darren Kemp became the third resident of Georgetown to advance to the Canadian figure-skating championships. The 18-year-old came fourth in his figures in the Men's Novice Division going on to an overall third place finish based on his free skate routine.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy promised to look into the fate of Acton's swans which were being threatened by a lack of open water on Fairy Lake.

A council discussion became more of a pillow fight as councillors debated the issue.

Georgetown bookbinder Keith Felton drew a large crowd to the Georgetown library when he demonstrated the careful and painstaking art of restoring old and rare books.

SNAFU by Bruce Beattie



KIT 'N' CARYLE by Larry Wright

