

An added surge

Almost every town has a fall fair. Every town deserves a fall fair. Georgetown could have lost its annual agricultural extravaganza last year had it not been for a last minute appeal.

It's annual general meeting time for the fair board and support is needed again to continue the September event.

People may say they back the fair by going to the Georgetown Fairgrounds faithfully each year. But residents must dig down deeper than that.

The fair needs creative people to sit on committees, to plan for new events, coax others to return and give the board of directors an added surge of enthusiasm.

In Halton Hills there is a strong agricultural heritage that needs to be preserved and honored. Our present-day farmers work hard for the crops and livestock they raise. Fall fairs are a chance to showcase the harvest of their labors.

For the urban folk, fairs are a chance to experience the country atmosphere amongst the excitement of midway noises and grandstand events.

Children love the day with their parents learning about animals, farm produce, tractors and the array of exhibits and displays.

The fair is worth preserving and worthy of our participation and help. Come to the annual general meeting this Saturday at the Lions Club Hall at 1 p.m. No one will be turned away who believes in the Georgetown Fall Fair.

When autumn comes, the board of directors will be ready for the best fair yet - with your support.

What others say

Take active role

The debate over garbage disposal will dominate political agendas for the next decade. And municipalities gripe they must unfairly carry the burden.

The planning process for a garbage dump is lengthy. Peel Regional Council is in its fourth year of debate and it still has not resolved the issue here.

Municipalities in the Metro area (including Peel) have warned the province that unless it starts acting in unison with municipal and regional governments on garbage disposal it may be left holding the bag.

Recently, when Peel officials sought clarification on the guidelines which govern building near landfill sites, the province responded in a vague, non-committal fashion.

The letters seem to imply the region should stand by its own interpretation of the guidelines. However, if they are wrong, and if it costs millions to put right, the region would be responsible.

The recent controversy over Metro's search for a disposal site outside its boundary demonstrates the need for third party intervention.

But it's the political sensitivity of the garbage debate that holds the province at bay.

But someone needs to co-ordinate this province-wide problem. The costs and time involved could be reduced if the province appointed an independent group to work with municipalities in the planning process.

It may also help residents to know that decisions on this sensitive issue are not made with political gain in mind.

—Courtesy Brampton Times

Recycled thoughts



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

Canadians have a way of complaining about garbage dumps, but we can't wholeheartedly accept ways to combat the problem.

Two cases in point: Thursday evening at Limehouse Public School members of the environmental protection group POWER held a meeting on recycling. There were about 15 members present. As spokesperson Ruth French said, it's surprising no one bothered to come out to the meeting outside of the group's membership. The recycling information meeting was well advertised in local newspapers, welcoming members of the general public.

Point number two: In Europe, where land is at a premium, governments have moved ahead in developing waste-related programs and technologies which residents have accepted. Garbage incineration (Energy From Waste) plants and recycling programs are much more advanced than in North America. In Holland there is a motto which states that "there is a recycling bin closer than your mailbox."

A special guest at the POWER meeting was Albert Shames, Waste Reduction Co-ordinator for Halton's Public Works Department.

He told the audience that schools are now using a video provided by the provincial government on recycling to encourage youngsters to practise good habits. At least we're educating our children about the evils of waste.

Since 1977 the Region of Halton has had a recycling policy, said Mr. Shames. A Region-wide program which started three years ago aims to take 15 per cent of Halton's garbage away from a landfill by recycling.

Why recycle? Mr. Shames puts things into a clear perspective. With recycling, we don't need as many landfills, it creates jobs, there is less pollution, there is a saving in energy. But on top of that, and perhaps the most important reason, our environment suffers less.

A few statistics read out at the meeting show just what kind of an impact garbage has on our environment. In Halton, each person creates 7 tons of waste in a year. To save 6,000 trees, residents need only recycle 300 tons of paper products.

What is being done? The Halton Region's program concentrates on the four Rs: Recover, Recycle, Reuse and Reduce. Halton Hills started a divide and conquer program in 1978. Acton and Georgetown also held a Hazardous Waste Day Oct. 3, 1987.

The blue box program will be expanded further in Halton Region and will be in Acton the summer of this year, Mr. Shames said. Blue boxes are given to each homeowner for recyclable materials and a special truck comes by with containers for tin, glass and newspapers.

The revenues you get for recycling materials is not very high and the job is very labor intensive, said the waste reduction co-ordinator. For example, the going rate for a ton of glass is \$3 and a ton of tin is \$77. Newspapers earn \$40 per ton.

But when you compare that to what Halton Region charges for its tipping fee to haul and receive waste (\$53.50 per ton) the economics don't sound quite so bad.

So what of the future? Mandatory recycling may be the next thing that comes along. That issue came up at the meeting and was discussed by members of POWER. Apparently there is one community in Ontario that won't pick up your garbage unless it has been separated for recycling.

Halton Region has stepped up its restrictions on industry and by September 1988 will require companies to recycle all their cardboard, said Mr. Shames.

In Ontario, the government has legislated companies to recycle 50 per cent of their non-refundable bottles.

Meanwhile, the POWER train continues to steam on. Members of the group, who oppose the use of a local quarry for landfill purposes, deserve credit for being positive and proactive in their opposition.

More high risk babies being saved

There is a simple explanation why high-risk new-born Ontario babies had to be flown to Buffalo and Winnipeg for treatment.

More of these babies are being saved, increasing the number requiring treatment or care.

"We have the kind of health-care system in Ontario that can respond to those kinds of needs and save lives of infants who previously would not have survived," Health Minister Elinor Caplan told the legislature.

It is a lesson in miniature of a key reason why the health-care system is undergoing increasing strain. And why it is so hard to bring costs under control.

Caplan suggested the immediate cause of the transfer of a sick baby from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto to its equivalent in Buffalo was shortage of nursing staff.

"There was no lack of beds or respirators. There was a nursing shortage," she said.

Critics suggest the province-wide shortage of about 1,500 nurses is a consequence of poor pay.

But Caplan saw it as something more.



Queen's Park

By Derek Neilson

ONEROUS
"I am concerned that it is not so much nurses are not available as the fact that this particular job is extremely stressful. It is very hard to find nurses who will do this type of nursing. The requirements are very onerous," she added.

Ontario has 10 hospitals equipped to handle high-risk birth situations.

Two are in Toronto. The others are in Hamilton, London, Kingston, Sarnia, Windsor, North Bay, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie.

And, if necessary, hospitals in adjacent jurisdictions can be called upon as well, as happened in the Buffalo case and another involving a Thunder Bay baby flown to Winnipeg.

Those Buffalo and Winnipeg incidents, plus flying a woman expecting premature triplets from Toronto to Kingston to find a suitable

hospital, triggered an uproar in the legislature.

How could this happen in Ontario, the opposition parties wanted to know.

Caplan's explanation was that there had been an "unusual peak" of difficult, premature births in the last few days, although Tory MPP Ernie Eves noted there were 24 transfers from Toronto to other Ontario hospitals in 1986.

But Caplan also said the system is near-full.

"These (special perinatal beds) are for low-birth-weight infants, many of whom previously would not have survived," she said.

BETTER JOB

In short, we're simply doing a better job of keeping people alive. And of giving them the opportunities to be alive.

Take the triplets as an example. The mother took fertility drugs. She was flown to Kingston for the birth. The triplets went into a specially equipped ward.

None of that is cheap. And it can only get more expensive.

As Caplan noted, the system is nearing capacity. She suggested ex-

pansion was in the works, with a perinatal ward promised for Ottawa.

Funding would not be a problem, she said.

Yet...

Whether Caplan is right in hinting there is a limit to the number of nurses willing to handle the emotionally arduous chore of taking care of "preemies," or whether it is low pay that causes the nursing shortage - the system is demanding more nurses.

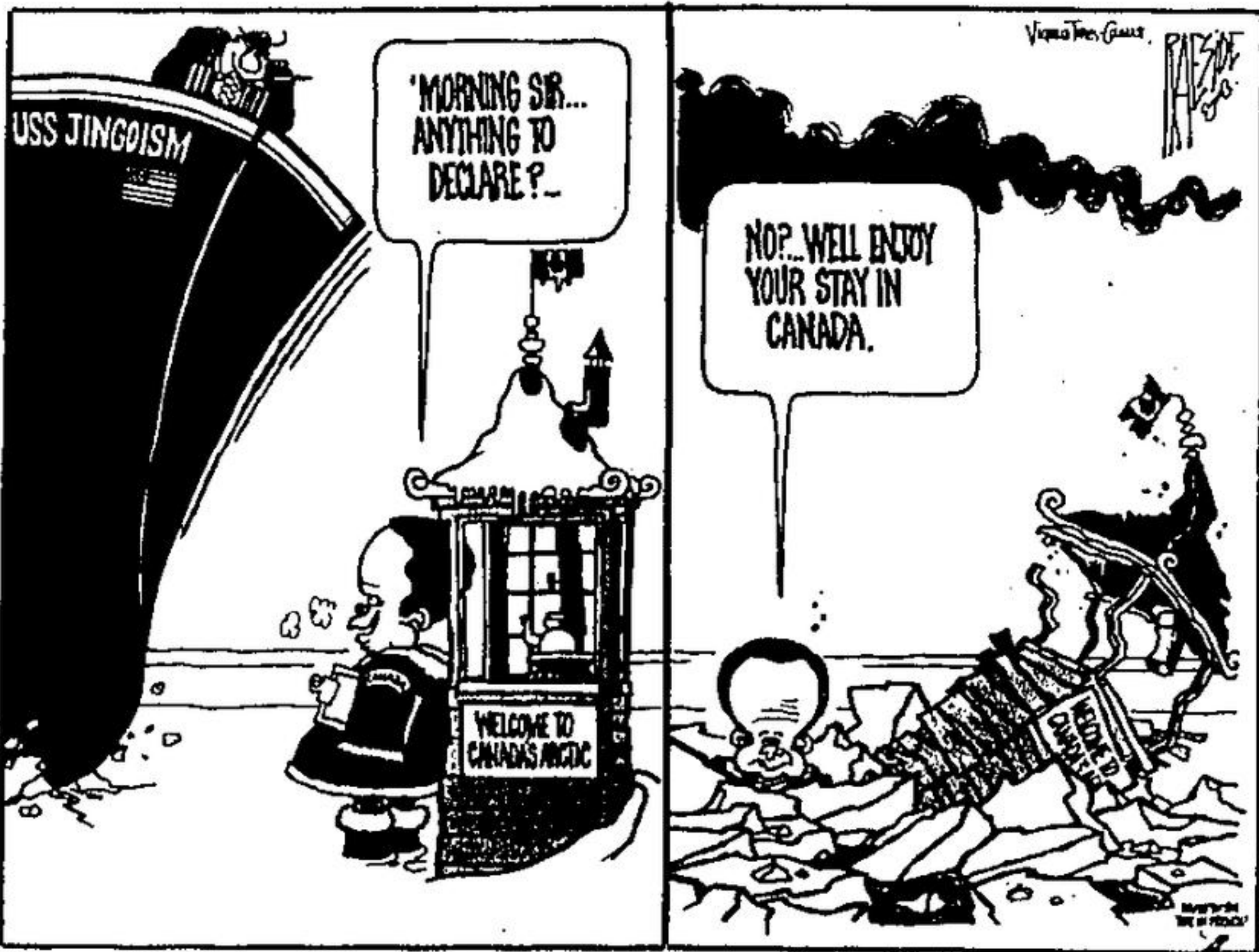
And it is demanding more because it is successful in keeping more babies alive.

Since no one would suggest letting these babies die if the technology is available to save them, questions have to be taken a step further.

How do we pay for our miracle-working?

It isn't enough to talk of orienting the health-care system towards preventive care rather than treating illness (as, ironically, Caplan did in an announcement the very same day she was peppered with questions about the baby air express).

Those hard-to-treat babies are a good illustration why that can never be more than part of the answer.



Citizens' forum

Good Neighbors say thanks

Dear Sir,
A very sincere thank you goes to our police and high school students for the pickup from all the schools. To all people who came to sort and pack. With the amount of people it sure did not take long. And to all who came with trucks and cars to deliver also our firefighters. To Mr. Bobert for use of the nice warm place. The community support was tremendous in all ways. We are very grateful and thank you again.

Sincerely,
Sienna van Hoekelen,
Pearce Porter,
Good Neighbors Service Co-ordinators

Driver killed family dog

Dear Sir,
This letter is directed to any drivers who may have been travelling on Highway 7, near Eramosa Flower Mart (purple flower house) three miles west of Acton, Jan. 9, probably between about 10:15 and 10:45 p.m.

One of you killed a tiny little dog - an innocent little brown toy poodle who had slipped out of the house unnoticed, and who had never wandered more than 20 feet from the door - until that night, and who didn't know or fear, traffic.

You had to have seen her in your headlights, she was in the centre of the east-bound lane when we found her. Maybe you even tried to miss her. You didn't. You had to have felt the slight thump, you had to have known you may have hit her, yet you couldn't even be bothered stopping to check.

You left her there, in the middle of the lane of traffic, to die alone. She may have been saved if you'd had the decency, compassion, and consideration, of a human being,

for a poor little defenseless animal. I sincerely hope and pray that whoever you are, Mr. or Mrs. or Miss, ignorant, heartless driver, you read this and know the anguish and pain you've caused, both to a tiny little poodle, and to five heart-broken people who loved her, and miss her terribly. I hope that you never enjoy a good night's sleep again - you don't deserve it.

S. Wedemire,
RR1, Acton

Boots, shoes on Go-train seats

Dear Sir,
How do you recognize a GO-train passenger from the Georgetown area? You can't spot them all, of course, because many are quite normal in both appearance and actions but, if you find a passenger with its dirty boots or shoes up on the facing seat, there's a better than 90 per cent chance that you have found a Georgetown-area resident.

Who are these people? Street kids? Vagrants? Nothing of the sort! They are usually smartly-dressed, middle-aged men and women who probably don't wear their outdoor shoes in their own homes beyond the front doormat. Yet there they sit with their dirty, wet, salt-laden shoes on a seat where some other passenger will subsequently sit in his/her clean clothes.

Do they see the error of their ways when questioned about their filthy, aberrant practices? A few actually do but the majority believe their middle-class appearances with foul-mouthed, gutter invective. Can they be persuaded to wipe their dirt off onto their clothes? Rarely!

What is wrong with the upbringing received by these Georgetown-area residents? Why have so many parents failed to teach their offspring how to behave in public and on public property?

If a few spouses/parents/children of current GO-train passengers will ask those passengers where they place their

boots and shoes while on the trains, this practice can probably be ended quickly. We may then stop thinking of Georgetown-area passengers as dirty, ignorant, selfish and inconsiderate. Remember, the majority are often inherently branded with the acts of the obnoxious minority and this could easily lead to the impression that Georgetown is a hick town lacking in manners and common decency.

Can we look forward to Georgetown area commuters immediately cleaning up their own acts and, in the process, the GO-train seats?

Yours very truly,
R.K. Willmott

Checking out the books

Dear Sir,
On Jan. 6 Mr. Burnett's Grade 4 class walked to the Georgetown Library. I want to tell you what I learned on my trip. I discovered that the Library is not just a place with lots of books, it's a place where you can learn a lot of things like space cars, planes, and a lot more. I would like to thank the library staff for teaching us and permitting us to check so many good books out!

Alfred Tsang,
Grade 4,
Park School

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.



30 years ago

With election of Rex Heslop as the first vice-president, Georgetown was prominently represented at the National House Builders convention held at the King Edward Hotel. Howard Green, minister of public works, was guest speaker of the event.

Norval Junior Farmers erupted with five big goals in the second period of their game swamping the Actonites 7-3. Ross Cunningham and Dave Leslie, each picked up their second tallies to lead the team to victory.

Herald staffer Dave Hastings of Georgetown was elected president of the Georgetown Brass and Reed Band. The band, under the direction of Alfred Perrott of Brampton, practices Tuesday nights.

Cr. Fred Harrison brought the issue of how the Georgetown arena was being operated to council. The Georgetown man said he had talked with ratepayers who were dissatisfied with the way the board was running the town-owned building. Instead of having the arena reserved for curling and hockey he wanted more free skating and hockey time for young people.

15 years ago

Georgetown mail carriers got a day off as a result of the Toronto posties' walkout. The only repercussion in Georgetown was that it happened on the day Family Allowance cheques came in.

A 28-inch layer of ice had to be chopped away to allow Kenny Diamond to take a mid-winter plunge in a backyard pool. It's not that the Georgetown was fond of taking a bone chilling swim. He did it on a bet.

Firefighter Jim Coulson was elected chairman of Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau while firefighter Doug Harley was elected secretary. Major programs of the bureau are the fire prevention week, Christmas fire safety, spring clean up, grass and bush fires, hospital and industrial fire safety training, fireworks and youth programs.

Councillors were shadowed by Georgetown high school students at a council meeting. Repeating an experiment, 11 students were selected to sit beside a councillor, receive and deputy receive and mayor in order to witness first hand what happens at council and the jobs these people do.

10 years ago

Art Mcunier, the Acton resident who was fighting to improve Canada's prison system, was a guest on the Shulman Files. Mcunier spent 42 years of his own life in various prisons.

Coun. Roy Booth resigned his position on the board of directors of the Children's Aid Society. In his letter of resignation to the community and social services committee of Halton, the Georgetown man cited a conflict of interest of CAS meetings with two at the local level.

Two-way radios were installed as standard equipment on all public school buses. The move, which cost \$15,000 for the board's fleet of 13 buses, was part of a package designed to improve the safety, service, communication and policies of the public school bus system.

Russell Hamilton and his daughter Evelyn took advantage of Jan. 10 - the one day a year eggs will stand on one end, to try an experiment of their own. The results were successful.

5 years ago

Average income for Georgetown residents was \$15,200. This compared with an average income of \$19,133 for Markham residents, \$17,906 for Oakville, \$16,621 for Burlington and \$14,947 for Toronto.

Georgetown Park School student Desmond Ng and Speyside School's Melissa Herrington joined Mayor Pete Pomery at the region as the two students was honored for their artistic efforts in the Halton Fire Prevention Association's poster contest.

Georgetown native Brian Hayward got his chance to play his first NHL game when the Winnipeg Jets called him up from Sherbrooke of the AHL.

Midland Athletic coach Earl Scott was fired by owner-assistant coach-defenceman Hugh Robertson because the team was not playing as well as expected. Mr. Robertson expected the club to be a solid third instead of a disappointing fourth at the time of the firing.

In your opinion

Where is your winter escape?



STEVE CHAFFEY: "San Diego because they have the best university volleyball team and the best beach volleyball."



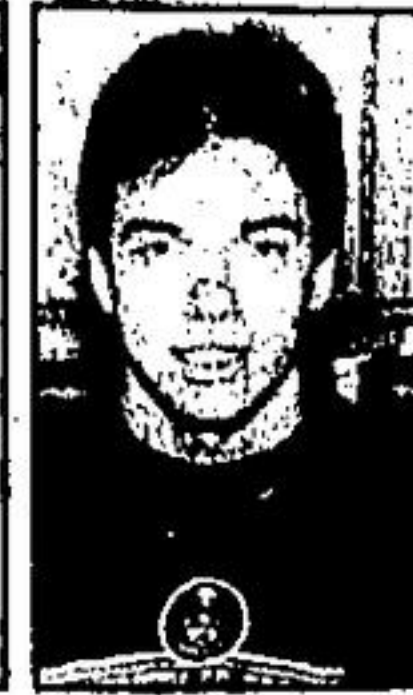
LISA MASON: "Australia. I have always wanted to go there. I would like to see the scenery. It is different."



MARTIN BARNARD: "Greece. I was there this summer and I loved it."



ALISON IRVINE: "Jamaica, because I have never been there and it would be a great experience to see it."



KEN DE JONG: "Hawaii, because the water is clear and the sun warm."

Question: If you could escape winter's chills where would you go?