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Page 4 - SECTION A, THE HERALD, Wednesday, April 6, 1988

Late decision

A \$25,000 bill is a small price to pay for some assurance about our water quality. Yet, the Town of Halton Hills made a Johnny Come Lately decision which contradicts the advice of its consultants.

The Town earlier in the year decided to sell some excess land to help defray the costs of building a new civic centre.

The intentions were noble enough.

But increasing pressure has been put on councillors to take a further look at building on the 15 lots on Princess Anne Drive. Council found that the heat was getting too much and decided to placate a determined pressure group of residents. Last week councillors voted almost unanimously to approve a hydrology study that will cost taxpayers \$25,000.

That doesn't sound like very much. Especially when concerns have been expressed about the possible contamination of the water table in the area.

But councillors have taken a back door approach to concerns residents in the area have expressed for months.

Instead of suggesting that a hydrology study be instigated months ago when citizens complained about the new buildings, council did nothing.

In fact, those who phoned and wanted to have the lots vacant were told experts had studied the land and found that there was no need to worry.

At a public meeting a few weeks ago experts again were called in to reassure the public that no contamination of the water table would occur.

Council didn't act irresponsibly as dissenting councillor Joe Hewitt suggested last week. The money spent is a small amount to pay for double checking the experts' best recommendations.

But it is sad that council had to make a late decision and bend to public pressure after staff had gone on record saying the site was safe.

Hands tied

It was a budget where town councillors had one hand tied behind their backs.

Called a "tough financial year" by Budget Chairman John McDonald, the 1988 municipal budget left little room to manoeuvre. But there were some significant additions and changes enabling homeowners a chance for a better quality of life.

Pushed through, despite the austerity measures, was a blue box recycling program. This allows the town to contribute to the Region's waste management fight. With the soaring costs of landfill sites and environmental concerns, recycling is undoubtedly the best method to combat garbage.

Money has been put aside to work with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority to purchase the Norval trailer park and turn the site into a park. Although the residents of the trailer park will be displaced, the lands will be a welcome addition to the town's recreational space needs.

The taxpayers' contribution this year to the construction of a new civic centre is \$474,000. That may not sound like much, but it works out to about \$13 for every man, woman and child in Halton Hills. However, the long-term benefits of a modern, consolidated base for municipal staff should be worth the added tax burden when all the pros and cons are weighed against each other.

All in all, the budget committee didn't have a lot of choices to make in paring down the long list of requests for money. There just isn't a lot of funds to spread around. Homeowner assessment growth amounts to a one per cent increase and provincial grants are up two per cent. That compares to an annual inflation rate just about five per

While a 7.9 per cent increase over last year's budget may be hard for some people to swallow, councillors were given few opportunities to cut costs. Services and programs are more expensive each year and without the added tax base to pay for them, budget costs above the inflation should be expected.

Fight for a field



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

You sometimes see rugby players with bumper stickers on their cars which say: "support your local hooker." The hooker, of course, is usually a 200-pound hunk of a guy skilled at tapping the ball back in a

Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on which sport you play, rugby players aren't getting much support of any kind.

But in the case of a needed field in Georgetown for rugby players and a touring team from England, it's hard to feel too much sympathy for

the young men. Council debated the issue of playing time on the Cedarvale field at great length two weeks ago. The discussion ended by (you guessed it)

having the recreation director Tom Shepard submit a report. The talk continued last week and ended in a bit of a compromise

although the rugger lads took the brunt of the decision on the chin. A request for regular home games

was denied but Mr. Shepard Will have to report back on the feasibility of a doubleheader Aug. 24. Led by club president Sandy

McKenzie, the North Halton Rugby · Club wants to use the soccer field at Cedarvale Park for its eight home games and a doubleheader against a team from England.

Tom Shepard tried to explain the damage rugby players could do to the fleids and the efforts the town has made to protect the fleids from

The state of the s

For example, the soccer field at Cedarvale is already stretched to its

limit in field time allowed to teams. To increase the use would further damage the field. That's a ridiculous option after hundreds of dollars have been spent to keep the soccer plich in decent condition. Soccer teams are already complaining about the lack of fields for their practices and games. To give the rugby teams the field at this stage would infuriate the soccer people.

But moreover, the rugby players are bound to cause more damage to the field than soccer players. Scrums dictate that players dig their extra long spikes into the ground until earth moves or a player is pushed

The request by the rugby club does underline the need for the town to spend more money on purchasing land for field use. There is an obvious shortage of space for competing sports groups and there just isn't enough to go around.

An argument about not being able to use the Georgetown District High School field because of the broad jump pit seems unreasonable. Surely it would be cheaper to find a way of padding the pit than moving the whole rugby operation from Acton High School to Cedarvale, posts and

Rugby players have some rights and they do deserve equal time with soccer and flag football players and others. It's a good sport for teens

and older adults to play. But the rugby players shouldn't expect to gain a field at the expense of ruining it or pushing aside the minor Georgetown soccer program.

theHERALD Liberals not setting priorities

The consequences of not setting priorities are catching up to the Liberal government. And it is going to cost us all in higher taxes.

The Grits, who've been riding a wave of revenue generated by southern Ontario's economic boom, have adopted a simple approach to most controversial matters. Throw money at them.

This is a government that believes in being close to people, so close it is willing to do everything for them.

Every cent above and beyond what the government expected to raise in tax revenues this fiscal year has been poured out to whichever interest group was protesting the loudest at the time. That wasn't even enough, as the deficit had to be raised as well. The Liberals have spent almost \$500 million more than they budgeted for.

This matches Grit over-spending of more than \$1 billion in their prior two budgets.

But what the Liberals are finding is that dollars can't buy peace. All they do is stimulate the appetite out there for more money.

Look at some of the current and

BEFORE WE CAN RELEASE

MURDERER ON PAROLE,

YOU AS A CONVICTED

YOU MIUST FIRST

answer some

TOUGH QUESTIONS.

...DO YOU WANT A

SOMEONE PICKING

TAXI. OR IS

YOU UP?...

Support for

publication.

separate centre

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following let-

ter was sent to The Herald for

Please refer to these three local

newspaper clippings in understan-

ding and accepting our support of

the gentlemen named in these clipp-

ings: Lew Ward, Al Rye of Moore

Park Crescent and Mr. Taylor who

works in conjunction with Mr. Ward

Please, I beg you Mr. Councillor to

read very carefully the underlined

statements so that you fully com-

prehend and accept my wishes along

with my fellow seniors whose

We are seniors - we've paid our

dues to society et al - have we not the

respect at this stage to merit a little

Our wish is to socialize a little, to

sing, laugh or cry together - to play

bingo, cards, or whatever - or to sit

across from another senior and en-

joy a sandwich, a cookie, a cup of tea

or coffee and see a smile on his or

Do you get the picture Mr. Coun-

in the seniors class. Then and only

cillor? You will be there in the future

then will you know our need! This, I

repeat, is what I and my Golden Cir-

Again, I beg you, handle this letter gently - the "seniors" are speaking -

read my letter carefully - do not roll

it up into a ball and fling it into the

first waste paper basket you see Mr.

This is my last wish I ask of you!

I'm probably on the way out as well

as my fellow seniors will be after me

when I phase out. I'm all of 67 years

old, but I must say, it seems like 1671

Mayo Clinic! New York's Kettering

Memorial Cancer Research Hospital

- you name it. I've been there! My

health, you ask me? There is no

health left in this body of mine. I'm

portable only with the use of two

canes which gives me four legs like a

horse, or dog, or cow or any four-legged animal. But by golly, I'm por-

In your opinion

cle Seniors ask of you.

Councillor.

roof over our heads of our very own?

signatures I'm including with my

in supporting this issue.

Dear Councillor John McDonald:



Queen's Park.

By Derek Nelson Thomson News

future demands on the treasury: MORE SCHOOLS:

The Association of Large School Boards of Ontario (ALSBO) is seeking \$1.7 billion in capital funding to build new schools to meet increased enrolment.

In addition, there is the demand by Roman Catholic school boards for new high schools with facilities equivalent to public secondary schools. This was implicitly promised them when full funding was extended in 1985, they said. That's billions more.

Then there are the smaller amounts being sought.

At the recent Ontario Good Roads Association conference, various figures in the several hundred million dollar range were talked about as being required just to bring

Citizens' forum

table, moving - just like you, Mr.

So my last wish is to see me on

these four legs to walk at least once

into our own Seniors Community

Centre. Mr. Councillor, will you

I thank you graciously for your

Mary Burak,

Secretary for the

Golden Circle Club

time in reading my humble letter.

"Pure Water may mean increased

We appreciate the careful con-

sideration Mayor Russ Miller, Pam

Sheldon, Chairman of the Municipal-

ly Owned Property Committee, and most Councillors are giving to the

A future, pure water supply is

precious to every resident of

Georgetown. In later years, we do

not want the expense of millions of

dollars to bring contaminated water

from Lake Ontario, or to pipe water

It is heartening to read that most

council members are thinking of

Georgetown's welfare in the years

ahead. The hydrology survey is a

practical decision to ensure that

there is not the slightest possibility

the Princess Anne well can be con-

taminated by runoff or leaking

sewers. We are going to need all our

available water resources for

bonuses. With the discussion of a

nearby waste dump taking place,

hopefully there will be information

in the report about underground

feeder streams which source or pass

by the dump area. When new sub-

divisions are being planned, this in-

formation can also be used. The

councillors will then have facts to

make the right decisions. This will

not be a shelved report, but a useful

be commended for endeavoring to

Our elected representatives are to

document for future planning.

This report may have unexpected

development of our community.

problem of the Princess Anne lots.

please help me get my wish?

Water supply

is precious

Councillor.

Thank you,

Dear Sir.

from Huttonville.

Ontario's existing roads up to scratch, never mind the money needed to build the new ones also reoutred.

"Affordable housing" is a major cause celebre, especially in the Toronto area. More hundreds of millions are said to be required just to get 20,000 homeless off the street, never mind tackle anything else.

Then there are the relatively small amounts sought by special interest groups.

About 40 per cent of Ontario hospitals are running deficits, for instance, and, according to the Ontario Hospital Association, the "total operating funding shortfall is \$55.8 million.

Meanwhile, continual fudging about whether the province will provide a long-promised \$60 million piece of land and \$70 million in cash for an opera house-ballet complex has cost Ontario the talents of this country's premier opera director, Lotfi Mansouri.

CRISIS And then there are the various organizations connected with university education who have said

build a much needed, debt-free Civic

Centre. We cannot find fault with our

council if they subsequently become

aware of new facts that require

them to alter their original position.

Problems will arise for council if the

funds from the sale of the Princess

Anne lots are not available. One

alternative would be to debenture.

We are willing to accept increased

taxes to cover this shortfall. It is a

small price to pay to ensure that our

most important natural resource,

Council must have conclusive pro-

of from a hydrological specialist,

that there is no possibility of the

slightest contamination, in the

foreseeable future, to Georgetown's

be the only alternative and we will

Otherwise, a debenture appears to

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of

Canada will be holding its 11th An-

nual Carnation Campaign during the

month of May, 1968 in order to raise

Multiple Sclerosis is the most com-

mon neurological disease affecting

young adults in Canada. It is

estimated 50,000 Canadian men and

women have the disease. Multiple

Sclerosis attacks the central ner-

vous system - i.e. the brain and

spinal cord. Scientists do not know.

what causes this breakdown in the

central nervous system but they do

know the symptoms - problems with

vision and speech, weakness and

fatigue, tremors, loss of co-

ordination, and paralysis. The

symptoms are devastating and

usually strike men and women bel-

Your assistance would significant-

Carnation Campaign Co-ordinator,

Sincerely,

Laurie Stonehouse,

Ontario Division

ly belp to make our 1988 Carnation

Question: How do you celebrate

Easter and what does it mean to

ween the ages of 20 and 40.

Campalim a success.

Yours truly,

Reg Swaln,

Margaret Swain,

Harold Street, Georgetown

our water supply, is protected.

give council our full support.

Carnation

campaign

vital research funds.

Dear Sir,

Princess Anne well.

"under-funding has reached crisis proportions."

Frankly, if there are any limits to the demands upon the public purse, it is hard to see where.

Worse, the dollar figures continue. to escalate. The result is that the Liberals open-door policy on the treasury just

isn't sustainable in the long run. Mind you, if the province has an ideological commitment to something, it goes ahead and damn

the cost. All one has to do is look at the millions being poured into making an essentially unilingual province

look and act bilingual.

Or the \$7 million AIDS education program directed at everybody except those most at risk.

But that just complicates the over-

all problem of trying to match rising expectations to public revenues. The Liberals' basic problem is that they can't say no. They lack any

sense of priorities (except for their pet ideological programs). And that's the real reason why taxes are going up in the budget

later this spring.



30 years ago

Halton's Sandy Best scored his own personal triumph in Halton. Mr. Best, elected for the first time in 1957, had a whopping 7,500 majority over his combined opposition during a federal bld for office.

The Raiders did some whitewashing in Windsor Riverside when they laid it on thick trouncing the Riversides 12-1 in their first encounter and 11-1 in their second. Mrs. James Roe entertained for

her aunt when Mrs. J. Bennett celebrated her 91st birthday. Mrs. Bennett, who was born in England, moved to Canada when she was 61. She was active in the Salvation Army for 75 years.

Gall Livingstone starred in the fantasy Snow White while Peter Gibbons of Acton was her fairy prince during the Georgetown Figure Skating Club's rendition of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

15 years ago

David B. Cole of Georgetown was named the Cancer Campaign chairman for 1973. Mr. Cole said the objective for the year was \$14,500 towards the Ontario objective of \$4,000,000.

Three goals in three minutes and 22 seconds produced two Ontario championships in two seasons for Georgetown's North Halton Raiders. The fantastic feat also produced disbellef in the 1,200 spectators who had resigned themselves to a Port Colborne Sailors victory and at least a sixth game in the Niagara District and Ontario Intermediate A finals. Over 100 people fammed the

hospital cafeteria and spilled out into the halls to witness the election of four members to the Hospital Board of Directors. One new face James A. Montgomery of Georgetown was added to the board while the other three, Ted Brown, Thomas Beer and Ed Hall, were sitting members. The newest club spawned by the

Georgetown Y was a men's volleyball club which got underway at the Georgetown High School.

10 years ago

The Halton Adult Badminton team ventured to Erin where it took 22 of 24 matches from the host team. The team has dominated all its matches so far this season:

Spring madness swept through Terra Cotta and Glen Williams when the annual Georgetown Jaycees Crazy Boat Race was held on the cold, fast-running waters of the Credit River. More than 5,000 people jammed both villages to take a look at the more than 300 people "crazy" enough to take to the waters.

S.B. McLaughlin Associates filed suit against the Town of Halton Hills and Halton Region for \$27 million in damages for breach of contract and improper obstruction of development of the company's land.

Five-year-old Jason Turner of Georgetown was the March winner in the McDonald coloring contest held each week in the Herald. Jason attends kindergarten at George Kennedy and feels he can learn to tell time now that he won his very own watch to help him.

5 years ago

How do you celebrate Easter?



ESTHE COPLAND: celebrate Easter we go to church and we eat chocolate from the Easter bunny. We make Easter cream eggs. Easter means that Jesus

died on the cross to

save our sins."



SHAR McRONALD: "I go to church at Easter, It means that Jesus dled for our sins."



BETHANY BOOKER: "We celebrate for Jesus, And we sometimes go out and find easter died for you."



ALAN CHARIS COPLAND: "You get candies and it means you celebrate when Jesus



CAUGHTRY: 'Easter means to me that Jesus died for me - and the Easter Bunny and I go to church."

Acton regional councillor Dave Whiting was appointed to the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Coun, Whiting replaced former Georgetown Ward 3 regional coun. Roy Booth as Halton's representative on the commission.

Former Georgetown resident Gordon Smallwood led his Niagara Falls high school bands to three individual category championships in the Canadian Stage Band (estival.

Three Georgetown District High School math students were nominated to participate in the Canadian Mathematical Olympiad. They included Richard Belshaw, Sandra Lovegrove and Gregg Simmons, who were chosen on the basis of their high school math contest results over the past few years.

Adrian Smith entertained a small gathering at the Georgetown Public Library, talking about old photographs. He brought with him a wide variety of cameras used throughout the ages.