

# Ostrich minded

It's reassuring to know that parents of high school students in Georgetown have so much faith in the educational system.

Either that, or there are a lot of people going around with their heads stuck in the sand.

At a recent information night hosted by Georgetown District High School, designed to outline the school's AIDS curriculum, a total of seven parents bothered to show up.

This would suggest one of three possibilities: 1. Parents are prepared to leave the education of their children on such a serious topic of AIDS to the people in the schools (accepting that their expertise is completely adequate). This would no doubt mean that all the complaining about teachers' salaries when the Board of Education strikes its budget is merely good-natured ribbing. 2. These people acknowledge there is a problem with AIDS but don't want to have any active part in an AIDS education program. The way of thinking is, "As long as someone is doing something, what do I have to worry about." 3. People honestly believe that AIDS is not a great enough problem for them to forfeit an evening to find out how their children are being protected through education. The same people obviously feel that they, themselves, would have nothing to learn from such an exchange.

If the first possibility is the prevailing attitude, then bury for our education system, and keep up the good work.

If more people adhere to the second possibility, as their honest opinion on the matter then little can be done to change the situation. These people are destined to sit back and watch as the world goes by - good, bad, or indifferent.

But if people are looking at the third option as their feeling towards AIDS education, then it's time they shook the sand out of their ears.

# It's a BIG deal

If some people are getting the feeling they're being BIG-od to death, it's quite understandable.

Who ever it was that came up with the Business In Georgetown idea as a name for large-scale trade show should be commended, because the BIG idea has certainly caught on.

Many business people are looking at the BIG celebration June 3-5 as a means of promoting their products or services, and there's no question that they will have ample opportunity, with over 15,000 people expected to see the exposition.

But the BIG celebration will provide a great deal more than simply a forum for companies to display their wares.

With the proper involvement, BIG will become a true community event. Similar events held in other communities have served to unite people in a BIG way.

Certain people in Georgetown will be welcoming only the close of the BIG celebration, feeling it is an imposition on their regular routine.

But by adopting the right attitude people can have a terrific time, simply by getting caught up in the action that will surround them.

There are enough events being held in conjunction with BIG that the entire family can be entertained. Business can easily mix with pleasure.

So rather than steering clear of the hoopla that will be evident during the celebrations, local residents should look at getting involved in every way possible, whether it's simply going to the Alcott Arena to view the many exhibits, or getting a gang together for what promises to be an "energized" dance to Lowdown at Memorial Arena.

Perhaps in the years to come the BIG celebration will be staged at less lengthy intervals, even if the format must be downscaled to a certain extent.

But for now, the BIG celebration comes just once every several years. So why not enjoy it.

# Farewell to Damnation Alley

## Editor's notebook

By Mike Turner  
Herald Editor

At last, it's finally happened. No more will unsuspecting motorists be put at great peril in the throes of what has affectionately come to be known as Damnation Alley.

If you're still not sure what I'm talking about, I'll explain.

There is, in the community of Georgetown an area bordered by Loblaw's grocery store, the Beer Store, the Canadian Tire parking lot, and the Liquor Store a patch of pavement that up until now has befuddled more than one unsuspecting driver.

I call it Damnation Alley because more than once I've been caught in its grasp. Panic-stricken, I've always managed to survive, but there was no doubt in my mind that this was a major chain of lawsuits just waiting to be unleashed.

Thankfully, proper steps have been taken to improve the situation dramatically. With medians strategically placed to "herd" traffic in an orderly fashion, it appears Damnation Alley will no more wreak its havoc.

More than one hapless motorist owes thanks to the powers that be, who saw fit to put a halt to any further carnage.

When the next federal election rolls around - and it most likely isn't that far off - John McDermid won't be going to bat as Georgetown's choice for the first time in close to 10 years.

Mr. McDermid announced Satur-

day he will be running for a riding nomination for the next election, but it will be in Brampton. This is one of

three new ridings brought about when a redistribution was implemented last July. Mr. McDermid had a choice of any one of the three ridings to run in - Halton-Peel, Brampton-Milton, and Brampton - and it was understandable that he choose the latter, his home.

This will bring about considerable change for the constituents of Georgetown, and will certainly create a renewed interest in the upcoming election, since there will be no incumbent member of parliament.

To Mr. McDermid's credit, most would agree he did a fair and equitable job for Georgetown. He admits, himself, that when he was first elected there were those who stated outright that they expected he would turn his back on Georgetown and focus on the larger urban area.

But this has not been the case, and many of the Georgetown constituents appreciate this.

As a parting thought, have you ever been planned in by traffic when attempting to get into the flow of highway traffic. Motorists along Highway 7 always seem to be in a hurry to get to a stop at a red light.

When you finally see a break in traffic farther up the road, and wait with anticipation for a chance to break out, something inevitably happens.

The last motorist in that long line-up will stop and allow you to enter the roadway.

But I guess it just makes sense that all the considerate people would be at the end of the line.

# Hard work was trademark of Swart

There's an incident about Mel Swart I recall from the 1981 provincial election campaign. He's the New Democrat MPP from Welland-Thorold who's retiring from the legislature for health reasons.

I was with reporters covering Progressive Conservative premier Bill Davis' campaign tour as we went through a manufacturing plant of some kind or other. The Tories had targeted Welland as one of their best hopes for knocking off opposition party incumbents.

Somehow, I got talking to an employee who was watching it all from a distance with a smile on his face.

"They'll never beat him," he said categorically.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson  
Thomson News Service

I didn't really have to ask who "him" was. It was Swart. He'd taken the riding six years before, at the height of anti-Davis sentiment, in his eighth try at (federal and provincial) higher office.

Technically, now that Davis was popular, the Conservatives had a good shot at regaining the seat. In practice, they didn't have a hope.

Swart had converted the seat into a personal fiefdom. Even as the New Democrats sank slowly toward oblivion elsewhere (they now have 19 seats in a 130-seat legislature compared to 38 out of 125 when Swart first arrived here), Swart was able to produce reactions such as the one I encountered at that plant in 1981.

It was plain from talking to that worker that he didn't see it as a Tory-NDP fight, but as an anybody versus Mel struggle. It wasn't party that saved Swart. It was himself.

Swart was famous here for hard work. A visitor would be far more likely to encounter him than any other MPP at the coffee shop in the hour after it opened.

One of the two or three best people

in the legislature when it came to taking care of a constituency, I think Swart's appeal went deeper. His electors sensed he was a thoroughly decent man, the kind you could be proud represented you, even if you didn't always agree with his party or his position.

I never knew anyone with a harsh word for him. The emotion this place felt when he announced his retirement was genuine and came from all political sides. NDP Leader Bob Rae shed tears and his voice choked as he spoke.

While Swart had no ego problem (unlike so many politicians), it didn't prevent him being a great showman. His fervor - outstretched arm, pointing finger, rage-tinged voice - is currently deployed on behalf of government auto insurance, but that is only a variation on the theme he has pursued his whole time here - price gouging, and the duty of government to prevent it.

As I once wrote, "Swart is always comparing the price of toilet tissue or corn flakes in U.S. border cities with what they are in Canada, and I remember walking into his Queen's Park office thinking I'd entered a supermarket, he had so many goods piled up against the wall."

PROPS He used those goods effectively as props, bringing them into the assembly to illustrate his points.

There was a Don Quixote touch to some of Mel's crusades, as in his belief MPPs (Members of the Provincial Parliament) should actually be called MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly), which is what they are.

But MPP supposedly has higher status, so he never had a chance on that one with his fellow politicians.

Nor did he do well in warning his fellow legislators that they should remember from whence they came and not let their salaries get too far out of line from that of ordinary people.

That was another tilt at a windmill.

And it should be recorded, in the same Quixote vein, that 68-year-old grandfather Mel, long-time member of the stodgy New Democrats, was and is a stock car buff, a well-known fan of dirt-track racing.

He'll be missed.



# Citizens' forum

## Concerns not addressed

Dear Sir,  
Your front page article in the May 11, 1988 edition entitled "Drinking Water Not In Jeopardy" omits some legitimate concerns about the risk to Georgetown's drinking water supply.

At the Proposed Acton Quarry Landfill Study group meeting in question, we were reassured that the poisonous leachate could not escape because the engineered containment wall and leachate collection structures would keep it separate from the groundwater. What the engineers say is true, provided that these structures work as designed. The concerns expressed were about the reliability of the design over the 20-25 year active life of the landfill and over the further 20 years or so after closure during which leachate is still being produced.

What they are trying to tell us is that they can put a system in place and guarantee it will work for the next 40-50 years.

Not all of the engineering features lend themselves to repair or replacement once they are buried tens of metres deep in garbage. It does not matter whether the cutoff wall fails from the pressure of groundwater acting inwards, or from leachate acting outwards, or from shock waves from quarry blasting or from another Hurricane Hazel. If it ever does break, there is a situation analogous to meltdown in a nuclear reactor - the containment system has failed, with disastrous consequences. If a leachate discharge pipe breaks at a point outside the perimeter wall, remedial action would be required on a massive scale. A major outbreak of contaminants beyond the capacity of the collection and treatment system to handle flows directly towards Georgetown. Since the quarry is situated on an underground and surface watershed, it may go to other, unexpected places as well.

Nobody doubts the integrity of the project managers involved, or their engineering talent. It must be obvious though that there comes a point in any enterprise at which it is not possible to say "Let's take the best available engineering technology and go ahead."

This proposal to put a landfill below the natural water table in highly porous limestone is beyond this limit.

Yours truly,  
Terry A. Kirk, B.Sc.  
for P.O.W.E.R.

## A friend of the arts

Dear Sir,  
I was sorry to read that Dave Rowney has moved on to another job, although I wish him much success. The Herald has done an outstanding job in reporting news in the theatrical community and Dave, in particular, has been very cooperative.

He was a regular visitor at our rehearsal facility, reviewing plays or taking photos during evening rehearsal. We often fail to recognize the extra hours our local newspapers put in to bring us the news. Non-profit organizations depend on a newspaper's cooperation in publicizing their events and the public appreciates being informed.

In a town where sports coverage is plentiful, it is gratifying to note that The Herald gives equal emphasis to reporting news of artistic events. I'm sure Mike Turner will join Dave, Chris Angard, and Ani Pedersen by proving to be a valued friend of the arts and theatrical communities in Georgetown.

Best wishes to you Dave and thanks for everything!

Sincerely,  
Lois Fraser,  
on behalf of  
Georgetown Little Theatre

## Thank you to donors

Dear Sir,  
Red Cross officials reported 292 donors attended the Blood Clinic Monday, May 9, and donated 272 units of blood. This clinic was sponsored by the Kinsmen; their help with distribution of posters, setting up clinic, loading equipment and general assistance at the clinic is appreciated.

Thanks to Dr. Ashenurst who was on call, volunteers, staff, nursery help and drivers, the clergy, John Ollivier of Halton Cable Systems, Halton Hills Hydro for displaying promotional banners, Dairy Queen for donation of juice and cups, Pizza Hut for tea and serviettes, Miracle Mart for coffee, Loblaw's for donuts, Mr. L. Ferguson of Mac's Milk and Coco-Cola Ltd. for soft drinks, C.W.L. for kitchen help and Mr. C. Domingos for use of Holy Cross Auditorium.

Special thanks to Betty Milton and her telephone committee, to Shirley Chaplin for publicity and promotion and to Eileen Fortney and Noreen Miehrt, convenors of this clinic.

Clinic organizers would like to thank all people who took time out to give the gift of life.

The next regular clinic for Georgetown will be Monday, August 8.

Yours sincerely,  
Erica Thompson, Flo Street,  
Nancy Schultheis, Chairman,  
Blood Donor Service  
Georgetown Red Cross

## Limehouse reunion

Dear Sir,  
This year Limehouse School is celebrating its 25th anniversary. On Sunday, June 5, a special celebration will be held at the school. Previous staff and students are invited to come and share the memories. The program will take place from 1 to 5 p.m., with official ceremonies at 3 p.m. Students and community members are welcome at the celebration.

Cathy Lindsay Brown,  
Limehouse School  
25th Anniversary Committee

## WRITE US A LETTER

Question: Why do you think that there should be a designated area (for skateboarders?)

## In your opinion

# What's a skateboarder to do?



JASON REANEY: "They would have their own place to go and they wouldn't be bothering other people by skating on the sidewalk."



DAVE PRESS: "I feel that they should be out of our way in their own little area like a zoo."



JOHN WALKEY (skater): "Because everywhere that we go we get harassed or kicked out and threatened by the police. Skateboarding is not a crime."



MIKE PADILLO (skater): "So that people don't get annoyed with us and feel like we're a menace to society."



KOREY ROOTH (skater): "Because if we don't have a designated area we will be forced to skate in areas that are restricted to us."



30 years ago  
Sandra Bradley, daughter of Mrs. Aileen Bradley, of Georgetown, graduated from the diploma course in home economics at Macdonald Institute in Guelph, receiving top honors in her course.

The Terra Cotta Playground area, forming part of a 310 acre recreation area was purchased by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for \$110,000.

Margaret Woodyard of Georgetown and Albert Selfridge of Georgetown were married. After a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Peavoy, the couple left for a motor trip to Montreal.

Celebrating her 75th birthday, Mrs. E. Milne of Toronto was a guest of her daughter Mrs. Kenneth Richardson of Georgetown. The party, attended by her three other daughters, and friends, was held at the St. George's rectory.

15 years ago  
A radiant Connie Allen beamed and clutched her bouquet, after being crowned "Queen of the Prom" at the Georgetown High School prom.

Terry Newman and Karen Fallow of 2nd Norval Brownies separated the bottles, collected during a bottle drive, for recycling.

Georgetown and area schools walked off with four first places in the North Halton Music Festival at M.Z. Bennett School in Acton. Centennial School entered two events and won them both, the Glen Williams school took a top honor and the Limehouse school won an event.

The bike was a little big, but four-year-old Corrie McIlwrick was delighted to be the winner in a draw held by the Georgetown Market Merchants Association.

10 years ago  
Steve Saxon, 13, of Acton, was a runner-up in the provincial finals of the Optimists' Oratorical Contest held at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Malton.

Essay contest winners on "Why Education is Important Today" were Frances Streuter, 13, and Kathryn Shields, 10. The essay contest was part of education week in Georgetown and sponsored by The Herald and World Book Encyclopedia.

The Optimist Club made presentations of plaques to deserving citizens at their annual Respect For Law Week Awards. Recipients included Const. Alex Fishben, Const. Barry Holland, and Ken Chappel.

Acton High School principal Dean Fink was named area superintendent for the east area by the Halton Board of Education.

5 years ago  
David Kentner, who was well-known in hockey circles, was chosen to lead the Chamber of Commerce for 1985-88. Mr. Kentner operates Kentner's Dairy Bar and Kentner's Social Catering.

The annual Optimist respect for law awards were handed out to the recipients: Wayne Clause, Stan Nolan, Reg Landrault, Frank Moretti, Const. Gavin Hayes and Bill Cunningham.

Beryl Mason's beer stein held 24 beers and a ribbon for honorable mention in the underglaze category. The Bramalea woman took three ribbons at the annual Toronto Ceramic Show.