

Home newspaper of Halton Hills originated in 1866

CONTINUOUS CHANGES AT THE HERALD

The Herald was founded in 1866 by Isaac Hunter.

In the early days, it was known as the Halton Herald, and local agents sold advertising as far away as Oakville and Burlington.

The second owner of The Herald was Joseph Craig, who ran the newspaper side of the business, while his brother, Richard, ran the printing side. Printing often helped cover the losses on the newspaper side until the paper was financially stable.

MINISTER

The Craigs sold The Herald to Nelson Burns, a Methodist Minister who ran a private school while he was in Georgetown to help make ends meet.

Mr. Burns sold the paper to Thomas J. Starret, who stayed in Georgetown for about four years before moving to Milton and taking over publishing a paper there.

By 1885 the paper was edited by David Edgar Bastedo, who began his newspaper career at the age of 12 with the Northern Advocate in Bracebridge.

Robert Douglas Warren became the editor of The Herald and proprietor of the "Herald Steam Printing House" in 1888.

An Acton native, Mr. Warren ran for the Liberal seat in Halton in 1908 and lost, but unlike many publishers of that era he didn't allow his political leanings to influence the contents of the paper.

Mr. Warren was active in politics and served as Reeve of Georgetown and Warden of Halton County.

Mr. Warren employed Joseph Matheson Moore to run The Herald until Mr. Moore was able to buy the paper.

Mr. Moore was a native of

Acton and later served as a reeve of Georgetown.

Mr. Moore left school at the age of 12 and became a printer's devil at the Acton Free Press before coming to The Herald as a foreman in the print shop in 1891.

FIRE

The Herald office was upstairs in the Herald's Main St. building, with a big press at the back. When fire gutted the building around the time of the First World War, the press plunged right through to the basement. Most of the back issues to that date were destroyed.

Mr. Moore operated The Herald until his death in 1939. He advised his family in his will to sell the business because he felt the day of the independently owned small town newspaper was over.

Garfield "Mac" McGilvray ran the newspaper between Mr. Moore's death

and the purchase of the paper by Walter Biehn.

The printing trade was always changing, as in 1928, when The Herald bought a linotype machine, which eliminated the need to set type by hand.

It took three hours in those days to print the 600 to 800 copies of The Herald on the hand-fed flat-bed press. Back then the population of the town was about 2,500.

Walter Biehn ran the paper as an independent for almost 20 years. While in the army during the Second World War, his wife, Mary, ran the business.

OWN OFFICE

The Herald purchased its own office on Main St. in 1952 where it remained until 1980, when a new building was purchased at the corner of Mill and Guelph Streets. The larger structure facilitated the operation of printing presses in the basement.

In the late 1950s the paper was purchased by the Thomson newspaper chain. The Herald and the Orangeville Banner were among the first weeklies in Ontario to be purchased by the chain.

Walter remained with The Herald until 1973, when he retired.



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