

# Unfair judgement

It seems holding the prestigious position of provincial court judge today isn't all it's cracked up to be.

As if being saddled with the burden of ensuring justice for all isn't enough to bear, provincial court judges are now being accused of "dogging it."

The Attorney-General's office has placed much of the blame for a backed-up caseload in the courts on judges, saying they aren't working to peak efficiency.

But provincial court judges are merely a small part of the system that has broken down.

For the last several years, the courts have been bending over backwards to make sure those who face charges are afforded their Constitutional rights. Court cases can drag on for months, and in some instances, years.

Since the drinking and driving laws got tougher, people have been buying time to try and find any technicality that might save them from going an entire year without a driver's licence.

There's a certain absurdity in a person going before the court accused of impaired driving, and telling the judge he intends to plead guilty but would like a few months "to get his affairs in order."

But it happens, and the precious commodity of court time is wasted yet again.

Blaming provincial court judges for the back-up in caseloads is senseless.

The problem lies with the system, as a whole. As long as people continue to find quirks in the Constitution that can get them off the hook, the judicial procedures will continue at a slow rate.

But at some point the "powers that be" will have to take a long, hard look at the picture and find ways of expediting matters in the courts.

The implementation of the Constitution has been a learning process for all those involved in the legal system.

And all must assume some responsibility for the current state of affairs.

# Thanks big buddy

Another summer is fast coming to an end and many people have the people employed with the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department to thank for making it a more enjoyable one.

The young men and ladies who served as program supervisors and counsellors over the course of the summer did an excellent job once again of entertaining children through the many programs that were offered by the department.

Anyone who has visited the playgrounds to see these programs in operation knows that for the people who were running them, this was much more than just a summer job.

As someone for the younger children to look up to, they've served as role model, confidant and "big buddy."

Many of the program supervisors have spent several summers working with the department, which tells you something about how much they enjoy the work.

There's much more to being a summer program supervisor than simply enjoying the outdoors while others are cooped up inside.

Working in this capacity means being able to handle a great deal of pressure and being able to cater to the varied needs of the children they are in charge of. It's not everyone who can handle this kind of responsibility, either.

Children can be very impressionable and it's imperative that they have the right people to look up to through the summer months, when they are away from the regimentation of school.

The summer workers with the Parks and Recreation Department can be pleased with what they have accomplished this past summer.

And many parents can be thankful these opportunities are open for their children.

# The King is dead



## Editor's notebook

By Mike Turner  
Herald Editor

I haven't admitted this too often, but I've always been an Elvis Presley fan.

Not of the "die hard" variety, mind you. But I grew up when Elvis was making a movie every two weeks. I'd be at the local theatre every Saturday afternoon to watch whatever was turned out on that particular week. And quite frankly, I enjoyed it.

Come to think of it, I was probably one of the first Elvis impersonators. I couldn't sing a bar, but I had the loop in the hair and the turned-up upper lip down pat. Back then there was no need for anyone to impersonate the King, because the genuine article was very visible. It wasn't until later, after he dropped out of sight, and after his death, that all these guys started making their living trying to BE Elvis.

But while I'll admit to being an Elvis fan as a pre-10-year-old, you won't see me packing a bag to go down to Graceland and visit the shrine of the King.

Last week, on the 11th anniversary of Elvis' death, I was reminded of how obsessed some people can get. And I also remembered how ridiculous it was on the 10th anniversary of his death.

TV crews must have a field day at Graceland. Just look for some sap crying into a satin scarf, and then run over and ask them what they're feeling.

Some people aren't content being left with the memory. There seem to be more and more people under the

impression that Elvis is still alive somewhere on the planet. Some feel he simply dropped out and may even be walking among us today, without anyone realizing. Others think he was kidnapped by aliens, and once they've finished cutting all the CDs they can handle, they'll release him. And still others think he's working for the government on a secret assignment. But I have my own theory - he's dead.

Hang onto his music, hang onto his movies (well, some of them), and hang onto his memory. Visit his home and the place where he's buried if you want but face facts.

I can't think of anyone that gets this kind of attention, posthumously.

Now there's even an all-Elvis radio station down south. It's gone just a little too far, I think.

And I can't stand to think of what the 20th anniversary of Elvis' death will be like. There's something weird in all this.

I think it's time to let sleeping hounddogs lie.

## Write us

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 name, address and phone number 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 for you to do is pick up the pen! Address your mail to Letter to the Editor, 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

# The question remains the same on schools

When you cut through, all the rhetoric and side issues, you get to a fundamental question about schools. What are they for?

In various ways, the legislative committee examining the goals and philosophy of education touched on that query over the past few weeks. Unfortunately, there's no consensus.

But it is clear what the two general viewpoints in dispute are. And, frankly, they haven't changed much since I was in school 20-odd years ago.

One side views education as a means to measurable ends: can Johnny spell? Does he know how to add? Does the name Mackenzie King draw a blank look from him?

The aim is to produce a graduate self-confident in basic skills who will be a useful working citizen of the country.

The other attitude sees education as personal development, where what is learned is less important than the process of learning.

A skill such as skiing might have more weight than spelling for some students because it is a subject that would have more impact on what is sometimes known as "human growth."

At the same time, this group believes children are blank slates and it is important certain social at-



Queen's Park  
Derek Nelson  
Thomson News Service

titudes be formally imprinted on their impressionable minds - attitudes that require course time and teacher effort that once would have been available for the more mundane subjects such as English grammar and history.

Hank Hultink, executive director of the Christian Teachers' Association, made a valid point while being lectured by New Democrat David Cooke about his school system's "societal accountability" in regards to AIDS education.

### OUT OF TIME

"We are all going to have to agree sooner or later that the public school, as we know it, cannot be a surrogate father or mother and take care of any and all needs and ills in society. We are just going to run out of time," he suggested.

This was a reference to the 5 1/2 hours of daily instruction today that many feel is actually loaded down

with material (such as AIDS education or skiing instruction) that has little to do with traditional schooling.

"Once we get AIDS education straightened out, there will be something else society will want the school to undertake..." Hultink suggested.

Thunder Bay trustee Evelyn Dodds made similar observations in her brief to the committee:

Modern teaching "does not place the highest priority on knowledge, but rather emphasizes social development and personality traits," she said.

"This attitude does not place the highest importance on work, accuracy, literacy and skill. There is even an alarming tendency to judge the effectiveness of methods by how well the children enjoyed them."

"Too many teachers believe that simply by doing something, anything, the children are learning all they are capable of learning."

"Too many people believe that the purpose of education is to shape personality and restructure society towards their personal vision of perfection."

"This notion is fostered by the description of behavior present on every report card, in the social engineering experiments that are routinely carried out in the

classroom, such as the feminist propaganda plays, the sex education, the "let's discuss how you get along with your parents" sessions, and pressure put on all children to conform to group expectations even if they would rather be solitary in their pursuits," she wrote.

Her comments reminded me of a column by a colleague here that praised how an elementary school had dealt with the "emotional trauma" of the death of one of the students by holding meetings, writing letters, visiting the parents of the dead youth and so on.

"That's what school should be all about, he wrote.

Yeah. But can they spell?



### 30 years ago

Thomas J. Fitzmaurice will commence his duties Tuesday as the first principal of the new Holy Cross Separate School. A graduate of Ottawa Teachers' Training College, he holds a first class certificate and an Ontario Public School men teachers federation principal's certificate.

"You might get a Javex smell from your hot water, but there's no taste," said Town Engineer W.R. Carr. Questioned at a recent council meeting by Mayor Armstrong, a strong critic of the local water supply since chlorination was introduced, Mr. Carr rebutted by saying that the water's chlorine content was dropped to one part chlorine for a million parts water following recent complaints.

The Swanek subdivision is one step closer to building storm sewers following a council decision Monday night. Clerk CG Benham explained that storm sewers for Swanek, Guelph Street and John Street are consolidated into one bylaw as advised by the OMIC lending commission, which issues debentures. Now that money is available, Ian Cass, a representative from the Valley Hill Ratepayers Association said necessary road improvements in the Swanek subdivision were held up because of the lack of storm sewers. Mr. Cass is now calling for immediate action on the sewer installation.

### 15 years ago

The Georgetown Falcons, playing their best game of the season, defeated a much higher placed Willowdale Park 4-0 in senior soccer in Toronto, Friday. The victory moved the Falcons up two places in the league standings.

Magneson Insurance lost to the Cable Jets Aug. 4 by a score of 25-19. Home runs came from Cathy Givens, Suzie Fournier, Theresa Callaghan and Brenda Stark. Young's beat the Blue Giants 20-18, with homers from Carol Russell, Donna Peacock and Giant, Linda George.

After a four-year battle to build a motel and apartment complex at the eastern end of town, Al Pliutti cleared the last hurdle Monday night when council gave their final approval to the signing of a site plan agreement and the rezoning of the land. The seven-storey apartment building and the motel containing a restaurant and cocktail lounge, will be built on an 8.6 acre site, almost opposite Delrex Boulevard on Guelph Street.

### 10 years ago

Town council voted Monday night to reject a decision to form a LACAC, Local Architectural Control Advisory Committee in Halton Hills. Local historian John MacDonald outlined a LACAC proposal on behalf of the Esqueving Historical Society. Coun. Peter Morris, Coun. Pat Patterson and committee chairman Russ Miller disagreed with the municipality expropriating someone's home because it is considered historically or architecturally valuable.

A dilapidated concrete bridge on Regional Road 15 west of Trafalgar Road will be replaced with a new \$90,000 structure if a recommendation by the regional public works committee is endorsed by regional council. RR4 Acton resident Jack Pemberton expressed concern that a new bridge might attract gravel truck traffic from nearby quarries.

A Toronto film production company has asked Halton Hills town council for permission to close several streets for the filming of a feature length film. The movie will be called "Running" and will star Michael Douglas and Susan Anspach. Keith Large, location manager for the film, appeared at a Halton Hills works committee meeting Monday to ask council to close several downtown streets Sept. 8 for Buena Vista's shooting of scenes from the movie.

### 5 years ago

If a proposal for 18 estate homes at the southeast corner of Highway 7 and Fifth Line goes through, a nearby farmer says he's willing to buy most of the property's top class agricultural land, saving it from development. Frank Anthony, who lives south of the 100-acre property owned by Almond Developments Ltd., already rents about 15 acres per year to raise hay and other forage crops on the property. Testifying before an Ontario Municipal Board hearing reviewing an application to build large estate-type homes at the site, Mr. Anthony commented that anyone wanting to begin full-scale farming on the land would have to start from scratch. Not only is part of the property covered with poorer class soil and suffers from too many rocks, but the existing barn is too dilapidated to be of much use. If the price is right, Mr. Anthony said, he will pay a 45.6 acre L-shaped slice of the property containing, he says, 80 to 90 per cent of the prime farmland.



I TELL YOU... WE'RE COMING INTO A REAL HOT, DRY SPELL...

# Citizens' forum

## United public voice needed

Dear Sir,

Over the past year, I have become concerned about the various issues surrounding the proposed garbage dump in the Acton Quarry. The additional 1,400 trucks on the road each day will increase my commuting time. A scenic rural setting will become irreparably altered. A pristine fishing stream could become polluted. And, the source of most of Halton Hills water could possibly become contaminated.

Speaking of water, although I am no expert, I do understand that water runs down hill. Lying down hill of this site are the communities of Limehouse and Georgetown. Yet, outside of the people of Limehouse and Acton, there seems to be very little concern about this potential crisis situation.

Last night's (Wednesday) study group meeting, held at the Gordon

Alcott Arena, was evidence of this apparent lack of concern. The purpose of holding some of these meetings in Georgetown was to bring about a greater public awareness of the issues. All it succeeded in doing was forcing people to drive a little farther.

Surely, the people of Georgetown are concerned about the future of

their community. A united public voice can have a say in these matters. Our children depend on us to make the right decisions now! Let us hope that there will be a larger turnout for the next meeting on the topic of hydrology (water), Wednesday, Aug. 31, 1988.

C. Rumley,  
Acton

## Expresses gratitude

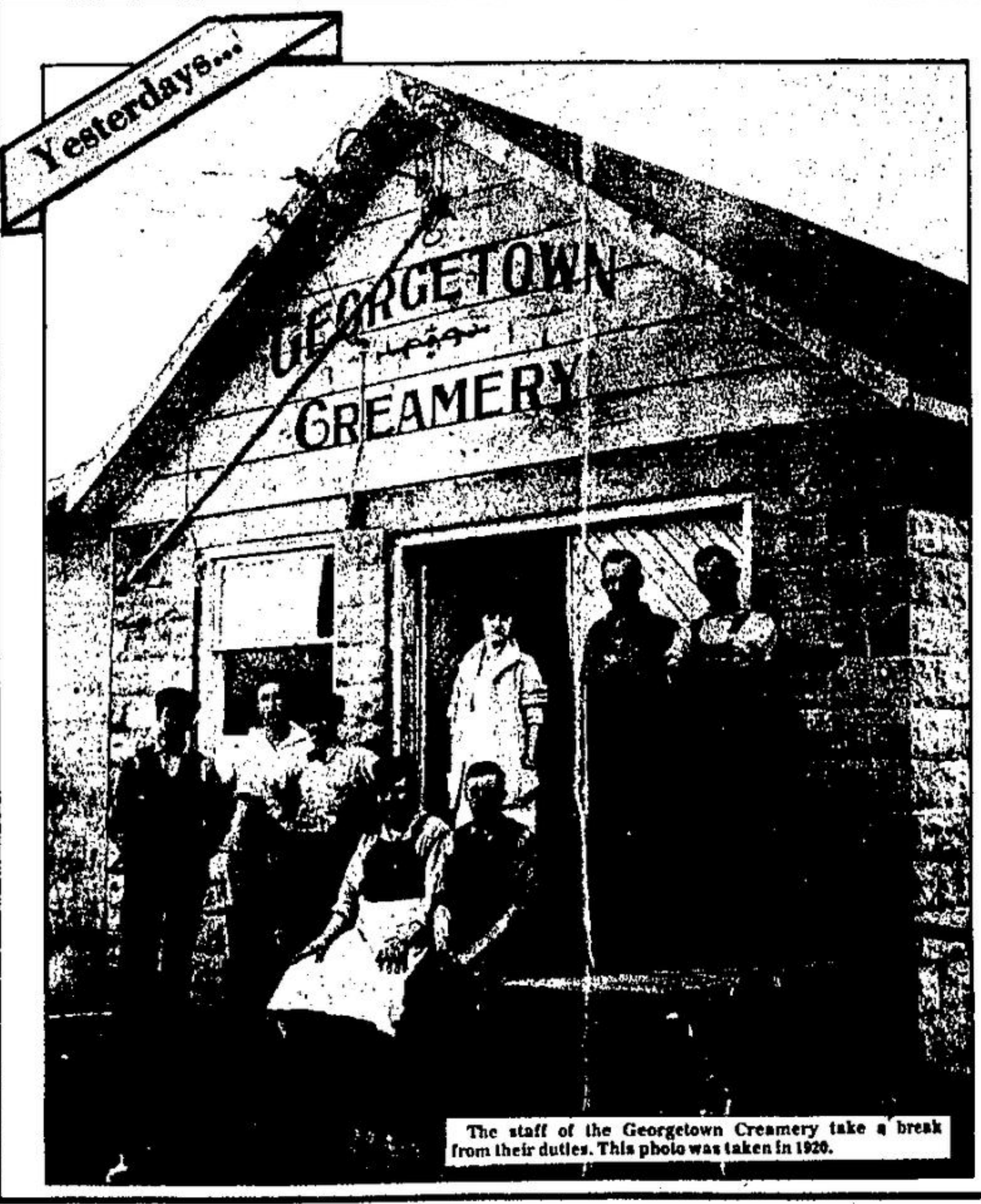
Dear Sir,

The Halton Region Lung Association would like to express its gratitude to The Halton Hills Herald for advertising "The Family Asthma" public service releases over the past months.

We were successful in receiving nearly \$30,000 as a result of this cam-

paign, \$5,000 over our goal. The support of our local media is essential to the success of any of our programs and we are delighted with your ongoing co-operation.

Yours truly,  
Elizabeth Margnall,  
The Lung Association  
Halton Region



The staff of the Georgetown Creamery take a break from their duties. This photo was taken in 1928.