

Halloween reminders

There will be three types of revellers making the rounds in the next few days as the annual rites of Halloween are observed.

And there are several things members of each group should keep in mind.

The youngsters will be making their rounds trick-or-treating Monday night and parents should make sure all the young ghouls and goblins are well supervised.

Try not to let the young ones wander too far from home and make sure they have a predetermined route before sending them on their way.

It's been several years since we heard the Halloween horror stories about razor blades and straight pins being found in candy and fruits. But it still is advisable for the parents to check their children's haul after they return for any irregularities. And if anything suspicious is found, the police should be notified immediately.

The second group to address is the older crowd who will be taking in the Halloween parties this weekend.

Halloween provides us with a time to lower our inhibitions and let our hair down. But let's not get carried away.

Show good judgement when attending these parties and bare in mind that not everyone will be in the Halloween spirit. Don't infringe on the rights of others.

Regardless of how members of your group are dressing up, make sure one of them is suitably attired as a designated driver if you're driving to your party destination.

The police will undoubtedly be on the lookout for people who think they can get around the law simply because it's the Halloween season, so don't drink and drive.

The third group to address is the one we hear the most about each year after Halloween.

They're the ones who get a big kick out of waxing windows, throwing eggs and creating other forms of mayhem wherever they go.

To them, a brief message: Take a break this year, and give the rest of us a break.

All in the mind



Editor's Notebook
Mike Turner
Herald Editor

Another Halloween is upon us and Monday night children in all sorts of get-ups will be scurrying around the streets collecting treats from generous neighbors.

Those of us who have grown too old to join in with the kids can still remember the high points of Halloween's past.

For me, it was an annual walk up a long laneway, dark and mysterious, with only glimmers of the moon piercing through the tangle of overhead trees to guide us.

This was the Heimbecker Estate of Hanover, and as kids, we knew very little about the two elderly ladies who lived there. The estate itself was quite majestic during the day, and very spooky at night.

It was surrounded by a seven-ft. high iron fence and you would have sworn the points of each stake had been sharpened to a point.

During the day, there was never very much activity on the grounds of the estate. The odd time, on the way home from school, we'd see the groundskeeper going about his work.

But other than on Halloween, we would never see the actual residents of the house.

Each Halloween, it was the same. We'd make the rounds at the houses in the immediate neighborhood. But we were always thinking ahead to the walk down the long lane to the Heimbecker Estate. There was something about Halloween and the Heimbecker Estate that seemed to create more excitement than diving into the bags of candy we'd collected.

The only entrance to the estate

were openings in the fence where a horseshoe-shaped laneway entered to the left of the house and exited to the right.

The actual distance from the entranceway to the rear of the house was only about 80 yards. But when you're young, it seems like eight miles.

A group of five or six of us would always be together when we entered the estate. Even brash youngsters had limits to how far they'd go to impress their peers.

I'd like to go on and say how we'd encountered a ghost who couldn't find rest, or how we'd driven away a vampire who'd accosted us. But the simple truth is, there was nothing other-than-worldly about visiting the estate.

Each year we'd make our way down the laneway without incident, other than the things our minds would conjure up when we heard a strange noise, or someone thought they'd be smart and scare the rest of us.

And each year, these ladies would come to the door, fuss over how cute we were, and then drop a little something into our goody bags. They were oblivious to the trepidation we'd gone through to reach their back door, but I suppose that was understandable. To them, there was nothing in the least bit spooky about their home.

I guess that's what makes Halloween such a fun time of the year.

Incidentally, the "little something" these ladies dropped in our goody bags each year was, without fail, money. As kids, this of course told us they were rich, and left us in awe. Usually, it was a dime, or a few nickels, the odd time a quarter.

Thinking back, I probably would have paid a quarter just for the thrill of walking down that long driveway every Halloween.

I guess that's what makes Halloween such a fun time of the year.

It's all in the mind.

Letter

Dismayed by dropping of prayer

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an open letter submitted for publication in the Herald.

Dear Members of the Halton Board of Education,

As a parent of five school age children (four in the schools of Acton) and as the pastor of one of the churches in our community of Acton (Acton Evangelical Tabernacle) I was dismayed at the news that the Lord's Prayer had been dropped by the schools within your jurisdiction.

I would urge you to reconsider your decision in light of the following observations:

1. The Nation of Canada and the Province of Ontario's Judicial and Educational systems are still based on Judeo-Christian principles.
2. For those people who cannot agree with the Lord's Prayer there is still the provision of having their children exempted from any "religious" exercises. (The Ontario Educational Act, section 50, and sections 28 and 29 of Regulation 282).
3. The present changing of long entrenched standards is done to accommodate a very small minority of extremely vocal groups. As a parent, belonging to the majority, who wants the Lord's Prayer to remain in the opening exercises, I am forced to accept a position imposed by this smaller minority. Yet under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms I am entitled to Public Education for my children, without infringement

upon the expression of our beliefs. Historically and traditionally the public school system in Ontario was the "Protestant" System as compared to the "Separate" (Roman Catholic) System. Therefore it is a basic injustice to all people of Protestant persuasion, to now change the system to accommodate those who do not wish to align themselves with the existing structure.

4. If the Halton Board of Education persists in banning the Lord's Prayer and goes ahead with replacing it with whatever else they would decide on, then I would like to receive your assurance that my children's rights are protected and respected. Consequently I would like to be advised in advance of those opening exercises that will be used (I would like to be advised about the time and the dates) that are not based on Judeo-Christian principles, in order for me to take steps that my children are excused at such times from the influence of these "non-Christian" sources. If my interpretation of the Education Act is correct then even I as a member of the majority can appeal to the same rights, as the small minority has, to which you are now bowing with your present decision.

I would greatly appreciate your response to my observations.

Yours truly,
Henk Frijters (Rev.),
Father, Pastor

British heritage lost in the shuffle



Queen's Park
Derek Nelson
Thomson News Service

Since we are all ethnics now, why are there no heritage courses or classes in the schools for Ontarians of British origin?

Part of the answer came during a meeting of the legislative committee that is looking into the philosophy of education.

It can be summarized in two words: political hostility.

At least two MPPs on the committee made it plain that while they think heritage classes are great for other ethnic groups, the British are an exception.

New Democrat Dave Cooke, for example, was blunt. "I think there should be a course of Canadian history; I do not think there should necessarily be a course of British studies."

And, to a delegation from the British Heritage Institute that suggested there should be, he said: "I am not sure you express a concern that is shared by a large number of people in our province; at least I hope it is not shared by a large number of people in the province."

But how widely the Institute's concern is shared is problematic. As Institute director Jack Blyth had already noted, most parents of British origin are unaware of how little their children learn in school about their British roots.

Liberal Doug Reynolds thought it just fine that while children of other ethnic origins attend heritage classes, those of British descent go to the library.

"That is not such a terrible sentence, I would suggest. I know of many parents who wish their children had more time to spend in the library than they do now."

FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

But that really didn't answer the point made by another Institute spokesman that "rightly, Canada's forgotten children ask their teachers and parents - 'do we not have a heritage, too?'"

The Institute thought it reasonable that if, as seems likely, the Liberals make heritage-language classes compulsory, those of British origin who want to attend British studies should be able to do so.

"Different but equally appropriate and relevant learning experiences must be afforded (other) students while their classmates are attending heritage-language classes," the Institute quoted from the Liberal policy statement on heritage classes.

In 1987, there were 72 boards offering 4,000 classes in 50 languages to

more than 90,000 students. Some classes, as in Toronto, are actually part of the regular school day, during which students of British origin are segregated from the others - but not given any instruction in their heritage.

Reynolds suggested that there is a different principle involved. "The principal purpose of the (heritage-language) program is language. The heritage aspect of the program is strictly supplementary; it is a side effect."

But that isn't true, of course. What language do black students learn in their black-heritage classes?

One teacher of my acquaintance has made it a point to pursue with his students what they learn in "heritage-language" classes.

And by that, he didn't mean just the formal agenda, but what attitudes they imbibed along with language lessons and ethnic history.

His conclusion is that heritage-language classes are essentially laboratories for transmitting culture (old hats, in his view).

Cooke declared that if Greeks or Serbs, for example, "did not have their heritage-language programs, if they did not have history programs that they offered right in their community centres to the children and to the adults, their heritage would die very quickly because it is simply not available in the elementary-school system. I think British and French history are

very much available."

He noted the history of the exploration and settlement of Canada, a compulsory subject in Grades 7 and 8, is "all British and French history."

But that isn't true, either.

NEGATIVE WAY

British history is taught only to the degree to which it impinged on Canadian development, and, moreover, is taught in a negative way - that is, the Canadian struggle for independence from the British Empire.

Cultural pride is stroked in heritage classes but ignored in history classes.

Mind you, a heritage British studies course wouldn't really be an ethnic course.

The term "British" is a definition of nationality and culture rather than ethnicity.

Scotsmen, Gibraltarians, Irish Protestants, Falkland Islanders and others to this day all think of themselves as British, as well as whatever their ethnic origin may be.

Unfortunately, judging by the comments of Cooke and Reynolds, the chances of Ontario children with British roots learning about that shared heritage is nil. "British" will continue to be a four-letter word in the school system.

Halton's History from our files

30 years ago

The third Georgetown Cub Pack and Scout Troop held a parents' night in Knox Church Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 21 when the Cub Pack under Akela June Gunn officiated in a going-up ceremony in which three cubs were promoted from Wolf Cubs to Scouts. The three making the jump were Randy Hibbert, Bill Cunningham and Wayne Densmore. Randy Hibbert's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Swainson of Fergus and their good friend Mrs. James Brown were on hand to see him leave the pack as a full-fledged two star Cub, and the Scout troop under leadership of Scouter Vic Gunn receive the new Scouts. The boy's father assisted Scouter Gunn and Scouter Whitson in the Scout Investiture service after which Akela June Gunn presented the Leaping Wolf badge to Randy Hibbert.

15 years ago

On Oct. 18, the Local Council of Women met for its regular meeting in the committee room of the Canada Trust building with the president Mrs. Zetta Hayes, in the chair. The meeting opened with a moment of silent prayer, followed by an inspirational poem and the regular order of business, minutes, and financial statements. Mrs. A. Pritchard spoke about the proposed bake sale to be held in the gas office Nov. 30.

Georgetown residents support the recycling of rubbish, according to Pollution Probe July 23, a brief was presented to the works committee of the Georgetown Pollution Probe. The brief urged the establishment of a recycling depot at the Georgetown Market to which people could bring bottles, cans, newspapers, and magazines.

Sunday saw Georgetown Minor Atoms under coach Terry Lane and assistant Max Korzack playing their first game of the schedule in Kinook Arena, Oakville. The team played a steady but aggressive game, winning by an 8-1 score. Goal scorers for Georgetown were Bobbie Morrow with three, Kevin Frank with a pair and singles going to Peter Haller, Gordie Adams and Keir Kennedy.

10 years ago

Despite the opinions of its Halton Hills members, Halton regional council has rejected a public works staff recommendation by which no further consideration would be given to using abandoned quarries as dump sites for Halton's garbage. Council voted 11-10 to reject the suggestion, instead endorsing a request for additional information on the feasibility of using quarry sites for dry, inert or liquid wastes. In a report to council, public works director Bob Moore pointed out that Halton's waste consultants, M.M. Dillon Ltd., have already investigated the use of abandoned quarries and identified only three locations where it was felt waste could be dumped.

5 years ago

An Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) panel has sided with Halton Hills and against the Region by approving a proposed amendment to the old official plan for Esquewaug - a move which could pave the way for a rural estate development on the southeast corner of the Highway 7 - Fifth Line intersection. The decision, handed down by OMB members K.D. Bindhart and A.B. Ball, had some conditions attached: Almond Developments Ltd., the owners of an approximately 100-acre site may have to draw a new plan of subdivision to preserve as much agricultural land as possible.

Reported crimes are down nine per cent according to major crime statistics for 1983 released Thursday at the Halton regional police commission meeting. Major crime statistics to date show there were 13,135 crimes reported this year of which 4,790 or 36.5 per cent were solved. This compares with 14,434 offences reported in 1982 of which 5,148 or 35.7 per cent were cleared.

The Georgetown Cancer Society has surpassed its 1982-83 fundraising objective of \$37,000 by \$21,677 and landed the distinction of raising the third highest funds of all the cancer units in the province.

Citizens' forum

Connections '88 unite community

Dear Sir,

The organizing committee for Connections '88, the Community Open House held Saturday, Oct. 15, would like to thank the 65 groups and exhibitors who provided 71 very professional booths showing the residents of Halton Hills the many opportunities available in our community and the workshop leaders and organizers for their worthwhile efforts. A special thank you to those exhibitors and local businesses that donated articles for the grab-bags of goodies as well as free draws.

We are especially grateful to the principal and staff of the Acton High School for the use of the facilities and equipment and in particular, the time and effort put into this event by Marlene Bogart on behalf of the high school.

We appreciate the support and coverage given in your newspaper in the weeks prior to the event and on the day itself. The TV coverage of Cable 4 through the Seniors Magazine was a great help in bringing this event to the public's attention. (Our thanks also to those businesses who spread the news via their signboards).

The Recreation and Parks Department of Halton Hills should be congratulated for supporting another successful Community Open House and our special thanks to Jeff Bitton for his leadership and energy in seeing that this committee fulfilled its mission.

Frank J. Anthony,
for Connections '88
Organizing Committee

To all league participants, players, coaches, officials and sponsors you can take a great deal of pride and satisfaction knowing that you have aided a youngster, less fortunate than most in our community.

Your year of playing ball and having fun in the Georgetown Ladies Powderpuff League will also enable someone else to have fun.

Those of us directly involved with Make a Wish of Halton Hills offer a very sincere "Thank You" to all participants in the Georgetown Ladies Powderpuff League.

Yours in good health,
Bryan Lewis, Chairman,
Make a Wish of Halton Hills

Further community support is essential to ensure smooth implementation and operation of these desperately needed services.

Yours sincerely,
S.L. Hyde,
Chairperson, North Halton
Child and Adolescent
Services Task Force

Good news

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an open letter submitted to the Herald for publication.

Dear Readers of Halton Hills,

Have you heard the good news? Canadian Cancer Society volunteers across Ontario have exceeded their campaign goal of \$18.1 million for 1988, by over \$700,000! The Canadian Cancer Society depends on the generosity and good will of the media, and people like yourself, to make our campaign a success.

On behalf of Halton Hills Unit, many thanks for making our hopes of achieving our target a reality.

Sincerely yours,
Barbara Johnson,
Public Relations

Grateful for funding

Dear Sir,

With regard to the recent announcement of new funding for children's mental health services in north Halton, we are very thankful to the Ministry of Community and Social Services for this major decision in recognition of the special needs of the north.

This funding is a positive sign that the Ministry has responded to calls from the community for desperately needed mental health services for our children.

Thanks to all

Dear Sir,

The Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary wish to thank, through your weekly newspaper, the Georgetown Little Theatre players for the benefit performance of Angels in Love, presented Thursday, Oct. 20 at the John Elliott Theatre. Thanks to Dorothy Hunt for all her help and thanks to all who attended or helped in any way to make this an enjoyable and successful evening for the Auxiliary.

Your support is appreciated.
Thanks to all.

Vi Haines,
Fund Raising Chairperson

Powderpuffers can take pride

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an open letter to all participants in the Georgetown Ladies Powderpuff League.

Mrs. Sharon Hale, President:

Make a Wish of Halton Hills is very pleased to have been the recipient of your generosity at your recently held banquet.

Your donation of \$500 will go a long way in offering a "Wish" to an unfortunate youngster within the boundaries of Halton Hills



Horse judging competition in Halton - 1915