

Take advantage

There weren't too many sparks flying at the municipal all-candidates meeting hosted last Tuesday by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.

But that's understandable, certainly. In fact, there was only one candidate at the forum who really showed much color (verbally, at least). Those who were there will know who this is in reference to.

The candidates said what most of us expected they would say. Rather than attacking their opponents, they chose to make themselves out as crusaders, and exactly what the community needs.

It was quite apparent judging by the questions asked during the feedback portion of the evening that certain candidates had brought along bandwagon supporters.

But again, that's understandable. It's difficult to say how many people came away from the meeting more enlightened than when they went in.

But the most important thing is, all the residents of Halton Hills were given the opportunity to see and hear their municipal candidates as they are.

The format of the meeting was well-organized and ran smoothly, aside from a few microphone problems.

The next such forum will be Nov. 8 at Georgetown District High School, when the Chamber hosts an all-candidates meeting for those running in the Nov. 21 federal elections.

But remember one thing. These forums aren't for the people who are running in the elections. They're primarily for the voters and presents them with a convenient opportunity to draw conclusions on candidates.

Take advantage.

As the door opens...



Editor's Notebook
Mike Turner
Herald Editor

The newspaper business is sometimes a series of opening and closing doors.

Take this past week for instance. Here at the Herald, we said goodbye to publisher Don Brander and hello to publisher Dave Beattie.

Don has headed off down east (from whence he came, as it were) and we wish him the very best in his new position as publisher of the Evening News of New Glasgow.

And to Dave, we're happy to say welcome aboard.

In the same vein, there were several other fairly subtle changes with the Herald over the course of the last several weeks.

Those from Ballinafad will notice our correspondent from the community has changed.

Betty Solka, who has handled the job of getting the village news to us for quite some time, has decided to step aside and let Nancy Berg take the reins.

In the time I've been editor, and of course, long before that, Betty has done an excellent job of reporting the news of Ballinafad, a sometimes difficult and often thankless job.

But she has carried out her duties in excellent fashion and the people of

Ballinafad owe her a debt of gratitude for the work she has done in promoting the community.

We wish her the best of luck, and hope she'll continue to make the most of her writing talents and keep maintaining her sense of pride for the community that showed through in her work.

The first offering of Nancy appears in today's Herald, and judging by what we see so far, Betty has left the task in capable hands.

We're sure Nancy will continue with the good work and we're pleased Betty found such an excellent replacement.

There is another face that will be seen regularly in the community for the next several months, representing the Herald. Rich Flaherty, a co-op education student from the journalism program at Sheridan College began his regular work program with the Herald a few weeks ago.

Rich finds himself in good company at the newspaper here, with other Sheridan alumni. Reporters Brian MacLeod and Donna Kell, and sports editor Paul Svoboda are all graduates of the same Sheridan journalism program.

In fact, both Brian and Donna were co-op students on work terms with the Herald themselves, before eventually becoming full time staff members.

That has to be some sort of testament to the fact that co-op education really does work.

Rich has already made himself at home in the newsroom and will be getting a good workout, learning the rigors of a reporter's life

LETTER

Free trade debate needed

Dear Sir,
Recently I have read a document on Free Trade distributed to voters in our riding by the Conservative candidate, Garth Turner.

As one of many who has studied the Free Trade Pact in its entirety and has debated the effect of "Free Trade" on Canadians with Federal and Provincial Members of Parliament including government officials for the past 15 months, I am shocked at Garth's own statement, and I quote from his document, "Read this Free Trade Agreement, for two whole days, now I know what I am talking about."

Those who have been involved in discussing and debating the overall effects of the Free Trade Pact on Canadians for over 15 months, regardless of their politics, will clearly admit that anyone who purports to have a clear understanding of the Free Trade Pact after reading the Free Trade document over a period of two days is either dreaming or has that miracle of a computerized brain!

I state unequivocally to all voters in our riding that Mr. Turner's booklet on Free Trade is misleading in many areas and can only further confuse voters seeking knowledge of the Agreement.

The Canada/US Free Trade Agreement is not just about trading. There are at least 11 items in the Pact that have nothing to do with trading, such as, control of our banks, service industry and natural resources, i.e. water, hydro, natural gas and other petroleum products. Worse still, it is the end of Provincial and Federal Marketing Boards and subsidies, that have historically assisted the farmers, industry and provinces throughout Canada to overcome regional disparities.

Right at our own back door we have seen the effects of experimental Free Trade or have we all forgotten so soon. I am sure the workers from Beardmore Tannery have not forgotten.

In the fall of 1986, the Federal Conservative Government announced

the removal of import quotas on men's footwear. Within one year, Beardmore Tannery, Acton, Ontario (commonly called Leather Town) closed its doors with the loss of over 300 jobs.

Beardmore was the only manufacturer of sole leather in Canada - a community industry that had operated successfully for 142 years. The largest employer in historical "Leather Town" went belly-up when import quotas were removed and Canadian footwear manufacturers found they could not compete with the cheap goods that flooded the Canadian market.

The most galling part for workers who lost their livelihood is the reports from the industry that raw cattle hides are now being exported to countries that are protecting their tanneries like Brazil and Argentina. The hides return to Canada via South Korea or Taiwan in the form of finished shoes.

Shoe manufacturers such as Savage Shoes, Cambridge, and tanneries such as A.R. Clarke, Toronto and Collis Leather, Aurora, to name a few, either closed their doors or continued production on a short work week displacing and laying off hundreds of workers.

These once thriving Canadian industries have suffered serious setbacks and in the past two years have faced stiff competition from low wage countries in Europe, Asia and South America. The industry now understands that the Free Trade experiment was not free and any extension of Free Trade can only mean the death knell to hundreds of small companies, who together, employ thousands of workers.

I bring this information to the attention of your readers and constituent voters, for I personally feel it is time all candidates in this Federal election hold a public debate on Free Trade so that all voters seeking knowledge of the Agreement can freely discuss its impact on Canadians.

Yours truly,
Bill Ramnochan,
Georgetown

The minister doth protest too much?

It is easy to tell here when an opposition member's question bothers a government minister.

The question isn't answered. Take Housing Minister Chiviva Hosok's response to queries about her ministry's refusal to reappoint John Sewell as chairman of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority.

First, Conservative House Leader Mike Harris quoted from the statement made when the Liberals hired Sewell two years ago.

The announcement said he would bring a "new sensitivity to the day-to-day management of public housing in Toronto."

Harris then asked, "Given that this is what the government wanted - a hands-on, full-time chairman involved in the day-to-day management, could the minister tell us why Mr. Sewell was fired for doing exactly what he was asked to do?"

Hosok replied this way: "The choice of the chair (the authority) is extremely important to us, because we want to make sure that the agenda for reform which was begun in 1985 will continue. That is the reason we chose Jean Augustine, a truly outstanding individual, as the new chair beginning in November."



Queen's Park
Derek Nelson
Thomson News Service

She continued, for another 150 words, praising Augustine's qualifications (school principal, community work and so on) for the job, although without mentioning one key factor. Augustine is a good Liberal.

Finally, Harris got a chance to pose a supplementary question.

"Given that the question had nothing to do with Ms. Augustine, I sense a great deal of concern on the minister's part over the appointment and I will have to look a little closer," he said.

"She is defensive," New Democrat David Reville interjected.

Harris agreed. "She is very defensive. Perhaps the minister doth protest too much."

And she does.

Why won't the Liberals detail their objections to keeping Sewell on in the job - a post he wanted very much to keep (in pursuit of which, formidable media support was marshalled)?

OPERATIONAL-TYPE

The chairman's post on most government boards and commissions is usually a part-time position, mainly because the chairman's function is that of an overseer, someone involved in policy matters rather than day-to-day management.

Sewell apparently attempted to convert his appointment into an operational-type job.

Was his firing simply a result of his refusal to obey the chain-of-command?

Hosok won't say, and the Liberals continue to look bad for having gotten rid of a man that the "trendy left" considered to be one of Toronto's living icons.

In the broader sense, Sewell is only a symbol, of course.

NDP leader Bob Rae noted Sewell had made proposals for three redevelopments of public housing sites that just don't really work very well right now.

Knowing the need for this redevelopment, how could the government "fire" Sewell, he wanted to know?

Premier David Peterson didn't want to comment on specific proposals, but did point out that the government had taken a "number of very significant initiatives" on housing.

And that's true.

But the trend line is against the government.

Rae said that since the Liberals came to power, the province-wide public housing waiting list has grown to 38,000 people from 27,000. In Toronto alone, the number of families on hold has jumped to 10,000 from 4,600.

Peterson agreed, but added, "It is somewhat understandable that there is an enormous pressure on housing now with the massive net immigration into Ontario in the last year. This year we are anticipating another 120,000 or so."

Why then, are you sitting on the Sewell proposals, Rae asked?

"We're not necessarily, Peterson answered.

"We are using the limited resources we have in a creative way and going ahead. No sensible proposal that is affordable is turned down. They are all prioritized."

And that is where the matter rests at the moment.



Halton's History
from our files

30 years ago

A large tract of land in the park district, purchased from Harold Cleave, will be the site of the new Georgetown District Hospital. The hospital board has recently completed negotiations with Mr. Cleave for part of his farm at the end of Princess Anne Drive, a new street created by erection of the Park Public School. The land is in Esquesing Township, bordering town limits. A sign has been erected indicating the future site.

Perhaps the town has found an added source of water in the parks district, is the opinion of Coun. Fred Harrison. Speaking at Monday's council meeting, Coun. Harrison said a million gallons a day is being pumped from a source in the park district, discovered while water and sewer lines were being laid to the new public school. The source is 14 feet below the ground and can hardly be classified as surface water, he said. Pumping for 96 hours with two six-inch pumps, the water table has been lowered only half an inch, he said.

15 years ago

Three Halton county residents were among the persons appointed to the Niagara Escarpment Commission which held its inaugural meeting at Queen's Park Tuesday.

Mrs. Anne MacArthur, county warden and mayor-elect of Milton in the newly-formed Halton Region, was appointed with seven others among recommendation of the municipalities in the Escarpment area. Eight other members were chosen by the provincial government.

The Ontario Association for Curriculum Development is meeting in Toronto this weekend and Tom Ramnautarsingh, past president of District 9, Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation, has a featured role.

Mr. Ramnautarsingh is chairing Section D, one of the major sections dealing with Schooling and Its Alternatives. Later in the conference, he will be the group leader and chairman for the seminar which will look at the topic: "What If There Were No Schools?"

10 years ago

The Herald supplied both candidates for mayor in Halton Hills with a list of 20 questions relating to the current election campaign. Both incumbent Mayor Tom Hill and challenger Pete Pomeroy were invited to elaborate freely in their replies to the questions.

In their replies, the two men dealt with what they consider the major issues facing Halton Hills, including the hydro corridor, regional government, and others.

Debbie Danard and Bill Pickells of the North Karate Club both did very well at the United States Championships held in Florida last week.

Pickells finished second in the Black Belt Kata Division to his old friend Sonny Onowa. It was in the Okinawan Style.

In the Japanese-style Kata, Pickells finished a very respectable fourth. Hidy Ochai took first in that competition, and Onowa was fifth.

The five members of the Georgetown and District Red Cross who have volunteered their time in order to be members of a Red Cross Corps for their area have enabled Georgetown to set up the first corps in Region 18.

5 years ago

The Lung Association will launch its major campaign Nov. 1 with this year's goal of \$3.5 million. The Christmas Seal campaign target for the Halton Lung Association is \$130,000.

The latest invention of a Georgetown company, the gyro whip, is being manufactured for use in silos, bins, and hoppers, to get materials moving again, or to clear build-ups of materials on the walls of storage buildings.

It took Northern Vibrator Manufacturing Limited of 82 Todd Rd. nearly three years and approximately \$400,000 to come up with this new machine.

The 1983 Georgetown District High School musical, Grease, is now in production. Said publicist Carl Johnston: "This musical will set Halton Hills on its heels!"

Citizens' forum

School mourns student's death

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was submitted to the Herald for publication.

In a short description of Shawn McNeil, one could not say enough about this dear friend and former student.

I remember him as a remarkable person. He was a most friendly student with a dynamic, warm smile and a penchant for knowledge. He

liked to express his views and insights on present day topics. As a student, he displayed a deep desire to learn as much as he could. It was a great pleasure to have him in class.

After Shawn took my history course he would come by my classroom to engage in discussions in history, politics, law and what was happening in Ballinafad. I used to refer to Shawn as the "Mayor of

Ballinafad" and he liked that appellation.

It was only a few weeks ago I was visiting GDHS and Shawn saw me and he came over to say "Hello" and to tell me about his computer class and to enquire about what projects I was doing.

We will all miss Shawn. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the McNeils.

Tom Ramnautarsingh

We're proud of team members

Dear Sir,
Last week, our Public Board of Education honored Jack Peckitt, Principal of Park School, for his work in developing and leading the Tragic Events Response Team (TERT), an organization that provides immediate support and guidance to principals and school staffs upon the death of a student or employee. TERT has come to stand as a model for other Boards of Education and other large institutions.

Jack stepped down as leader but will remain active on the North Area Team. Barb Singleton, Georgetown and District High School (GDHS) Principal, now has the role of TERT team co-ordinator for the North area. Team members from Georgetown schools include: Liz Gaillie - Harrison; Bill Oon - North Education Centre; Pauline Leslie - Stewarttown; Mavis O'Neill - GDHS; George Robbins - Centennial; and Jack Peckitt - Park.

We are not always aware of the many extra activities and projects our school staff engage in outside of our schools. We can be proud of all our TERT members - busy educators whose efforts and voluntary dedication to this important resource group deserve our thanks and recognition.

Sincerely,
Lyn Appar,
Georgetown

Voice your opinion publicly

Dear Sir,
We are grateful that we have in Canada, especially in Georgetown, a free press to voice our opinions. Those of us who profess to be Christian must use it or, as in the parable of the lost talent, it will be taken from us (Mt 25: 15-28).

Where are the dissenting voices against such issues as the removal of our Lord's Prayer in the schools? We must stand up for our faith, to face even death if necessary, as did our founding fathers. Otherwise, we will continue to take the path of least resistance, and willingly accept the

coming evil world ruler and his "666." (Rev 13: 16-18)

Let us voice our opinions publicly to encourage one another while we still have that freedom.

Neville Palmer
and Doreen Palmer,
Georgetown



The Esquesing Historical Society provided these photos showing the early Congregational Church of Georgetown, and how it stands today as the Cultural Centre Gallery. The Society meets the second Wednesday of each month, and for their Nov. 9 meeting at Knox Presbyterian Church, the speaker will discuss the restoration of Elgan and Winter Gardens Theatre in Toronto, a project of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.



Congregational Church
Georgetown