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# Remember, but also learn

They're a different sort.

The veterans of the First and Second World Wars, and those who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars are in a class completely by themselves.

While they could carry on about their escapades - both good and bad - they choose to keep the war years to themselves.

This is a demeanor most of us only half understand, yet a privilege we are obliged to respect.

But there also comes a time when we must learn.

The "old-guard" of the Royal Canadian Legion has been decreasing in numbers. And it's with mixed emotions we see this happen.

As the years pass into decades, it puts more time between us and the war years. And that's good.

But at the same time, we say goodbye to those people who have given so much, and could teach us so much more.

It is perhaps better that we see veterans as dashing young men boldly marching off to war.

But war was something they had to do - not something they wanted to do.

"Remembrance Day" is perhaps somewhat of a misnomer. Most of us don't remember the war. We merely live free, because of the sacrifice that was made.

The worst thing we could possibly let happen is to have school children come to see Remembrance Day as merely a few hours away from their studies, to visit a memorial they don't really understand.

Names like Churchill, Montgomery, and Patton have garnered the greatest attention when we recall the war years.

Canada's role in the wars, though no less significant than any other country, is understated, largely because "it was something they had to do - not something they wanted to do."

We owe it to them to remember Canada's contributions to the war efforts, and to learn why it was necessary.

They don't ask for any undue recognition. They gather each year for Remembrance Day ceremonies and shed the odd tear for comrades left behind.

And while the rest of us remember, we must also learn.

It's the way it should be... the way it must be.

## There are stories left to be told



Editor's  
Notebook

Mike Turner  
Herald Editor

History has never been my forte by any stretch of the imagination.

But I guess when we get older, we tend to look at our history with more interest because it's not something we're forced to do.

A few weeks ago, I was leafing through a book that chronicled Canada's involvement in the Second World War. I was astonished to find there was so much I didn't know.

The book went into detail on Canada's involvement in the war, and the people who were key players in the leadership of the war effort.

Even though they may not get the same attention as our neighbors to the south give them, acts of heroism among the Canadians were commonplace.

I was also surprised to learn that I had a Second World War general who rivalled even Patton and MacArthur for notoriety and controversy.

There's a great deal to be found in the history books, and there's good reason to check it out.

Most importantly, it's fact.

There have been hundreds of movies made about the wars, and probably the one to receive the most attention is the Second World War.

But in the United States, where they have the mega-movie bucks, there is always a slant in a particular direction that no one even attempts to hide.

Out of Canada, we see mostly

— WRITE US A LETTER —

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. Be as concise as possible and please sign your name! Send them to The Halton Hills Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 3Z6.

## Why give blood?

A few weeks ago more than 2,700 individuals from across central Ontario donated type O blood, helping to boost supplies to near normal levels, after the Toronto Blood Centre had issued an urgent appeal.

This shortage had occurred because central Ontario has the highest blood usage rate in Canada and one of the lowest donation rates. A spokesman for the Toronto Blood Centre reported that it is necessary to collect 210,000 donations each year to meet demands. However, only an average of 185,000 units per year have been collected over the past 10 years. The Blood Centre supplies blood to 60 hospitals in central Ontario and manages to keep them supplied because of blood shipments received from other provinces.

Blood donor recruitment is an

ongoing priority of the Red Cross due to decreases in the "donor base" caused by age limitations, strict health requirements, commuting to and from work and by people moving away from communities.

Most individuals who are between the ages of 17 and 66 and are in good health, can donate a unit of blood every three months. Giving blood takes approximately 45 minutes of your time (registration at clinic, donation of blood, relaxation and refreshments). That's not a lot of bother to provide the "Gift of Life" for another human being in need. The next public blood donor clinic in Georgetown is Nov. 14, running from 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Church.

Please come and give the gift of life!

—From the Canadian Red Cross

## Canada: the kind and benevolent mother hen

Like people, countries have ideologies. Canada's is of the kind and benevolent mother hen.

Watching the leaders of the three old-line federal parties debate social issues this week was a little like being immersed in a bath of warm milk.

There was no substantive difference in those areas between Progressive Conservative Brian Mulroney, Liberal John Turner, or New Democrat Ed Broadbent.

True, the three clashed heavily over free trade and mildly over tax and defence policies, but on social issues, it was essentially me-tooism.

And this remains one of the more irritating aspects of Canadian politics, at both the federal and provincial levels.

There are genuine choices to be made in social matters, real issues to be fought over.

Yet, all the old-line parties can do is argue about who can provide more day-care spaces, or who can better protect an already faltering medicare system.

It is especially ironic that Turner and Broadbent talked about the risk to "social programs and medicare" from the free-trade deal.

The New Democrat, in particular, seemed unaware that the United States even has social programs such as old-age pensions, unemployment insurance and various types of government medical care.



Queen's  
Park

Derek Nelson  
Thomson News Service

In fact, the Canada Pension Plan was set up (in the 1960s) almost 30 years after its US equivalent, social security.

And US medicare, which covers medical expenses of most people over 65, and medicare, a supplemental program for the poor, began in 1965 - before Canada's, albeit Canada's applies to the whole population, not just the aged and poor.

Because it is a much more open, entrepreneurial and experiment-oriented society, the US tries many different approaches to a subject.

It is a system one might wish we could adopt here.

Take day care, for example. Because it is a shared responsibility with the provinces (who deliver the services), Canada's federal government has spent endless months negotiating a cost-sharing arrangement and eligibility qualifications.

### BUREAUCRATIC

It is all very bureaucratic and skewed towards making day care another universal "right" like medicare, run by high-paid and self-described "early childhood educators."

None of the leaders of three old-line parties objects to the general approach, though they differ on nuances and on how many spaces they can supposedly create over X number of years.

Yet, if ideas were allowed to ferment in Canada as they are in the US, we might have some genuine day-care alternatives to consider.

For instance, what about giving mothers monthly payments equal to the cost of raising a baby for the first three years of its life, with the aim of keeping the child at home during that vital, formative period?

Or, if the mother wanted to pursue her career or had to work, she could use the cash to buy quality day care wherever she wanted, rather than only in government-sponsored and approved spaces.

At the same time, this massive shift in money would be paid for by abolishing the family allowance for the years beyond age three, when it isn't as critical that a mother actually be home with the child. (Or so the experts seem to be saying, although they disagree on exactly how many years are crucial, with estimates ranging from two to five).



## Citizens' forum

### What about the gas prices?

Dear Sir,

I have a concern that has not been addressed by any of the three party candidates in the upcoming federal election.

I want to know what they are going to do about the extravagant prices that we have to pay for gasoline at the pumps.

Four to five years ago, the oil companies continually raised the prices at the pumps, to more than 60 cents

per litre, claiming they had to buy offshore oil at more than \$35 American per barrel, and that there was a shortage of oil.

In the past week the price of offshore oil was less than \$10 per barrel American, and even as low as \$8 yet, the price we pay at the pumps is in the 48-cent per litre range and over 50 cents in Northern Ontario.

We are an oil-producing nation yet

our American neighbors in Buffalo are paying as little as 25 cents American per litre at their pumps.

We are being gouged by these exorbitant prices and it is time that the government started listening to us taxpayers.

Automobiles are not a luxury in this country. They are a necessity.

John MacLean,  
Georgetown

### Differing opinions on abortion

Dear Sir,

After reading the federal candidates' opinions on abortion (Nov. 2), I found that most candidates opposed abortion. I agree with them in general, yet there are some cases in which I think that a woman should have the right to choose whether or not she wants to have an abortion.

Most people will agree that a woman in a life-threatening situation should have an abortion. Why should she continue through her pregnancy if she would have to die?

A woman who has been raped and then resulted in pregnancy should not be forced to go through with her pregnancy if she chooses not to. The child would not have a normal life if his or her mother resented him or her due to her terrifying emotional experience.

Financially or emotionally insecure women also should have the right to make their own decision to have an abortion or to carry through her pregnancy. For example, a woman on welfare will have a serious financial problem if she chooses not to have an abortion. Her child may grow up to commit crime just to have some extra money to pay the bills. A woman who is emotionally insecure may not be capable of raising a child. For example, a young adolescent is hardly capable of becoming a mother when she is still developing emotionally.

I believe that a subject as personal as abortion should be between a doctor and the pregnant woman. After all, she has to carry the child for nine months, she has to feed and clothe the child when it is born, and she has to raise that child until he or she becomes an adult. She is responsible for the child and she is responsible for making her own decisions concerning the child.

If abortion was illegal it would on-

ly cause more problems. Women who are determined to have an abortion will try to perform one themselves, and the situation may become fatal. And who would pay for the upbringing of all these unwanted children, the government? It would make more sense to spend money on teaching people to use contraceptives.

Yours truly,  
Laurie Carnegie

### Thank you for help

Dear Sir,

We would like to thank all the people who helped make a success of the Lois Gibbs talk at the Georgetown High school, on Oct. 14. In particular, we would want to express gratitude to the people who helped set up the evening and made donations, as well as all the people who took the effort to attend. Thanks also to Linda Donais (for her beautiful work of art, which now hangs in Lois' headquarters in Washington, D.C.); and all the people who helped with organizing and selling tickets.

And, of course, a special thanks to those who participated in the program, including Russ Miller and Pam Sheldon; Albert Shames (supervisor of Waste Reduction); Ruth French (POWER); Guiseppa Gori (EAGLE); the unforgettable

children of Limehouse School, led by Miss Oso; the multitalented Jennifer French and Sue, of the Georgetown High Drama Club; and finally, to Lois herself, a special "Thank you!"

And please, remember Lois Gibbs' message: We are in for a long, public and political battle in fighting the proposed Acton Quarry dump.

We must start dealing with our garbage more responsibly (including recycling, and a wise selection of disposal sites).

Otherwise, our children, including those little ones from Limehouse, will have a lot of interesting questions for us in the years ahead.

Keep waiting for future events, and join POWER.

Regards,  
The Landry Family

It may not be the perfect answer towards helping families raise children when both parents or the single-parent must work. But, at least, it is an alternative for those who believe the mother must be given flexibility rather than be forced along the single path of government day care.

Too bad none of the three old-line parties ever become a "new-line" party, offering choices that don't take the old road of "let the government do it!"



### 30 years ago

If Monday's last meeting was any indication, the next few weeks are going to be busy ones for the Rotary Club of Georgetown. Their meeting was held as usual at the North Halton Golf and Country Club, with president Bill Hamilton presiding. Ralph Ursel, education chairman, gave an interesting and informative talk of the work carried on by the Rotary Foundation.

The second Georgetown Scout Troop had a weekend trip to the Niagara Park Commission Camp at Queenston under the leadership of Scoutmaster Wilfred Brisbois assisted by Alex MacGillivray, Harrison Wood, Jim Schofield and Roy Cook.

The group left St. George's Church early Saturday, arriving at Queenston at 10 a.m. where the camp was quickly set up. A meal was prepared and games set up. After the evening meal, the scouts were taken to see the falls illuminated, and a camp singalong followed.

According to information released by J. Allen Francis, associate agricultural representative for Halton and Peel counties, no less than 19 4-H members from Halton will be exhibiting their steers in the Queen's Guinea Class at the 1988 Royal. The judging of the Queen's Guineas in recent years has been packed with more glamour and thrills than any other livestock class at the Royal.

### 15 years ago

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Presswood have just returned from a three-week tour of Europe. The Glen Williams couple compiled this record of their trip.

We left Halton by CP Air Sept. 22, for London and the Royal Scot Hotel where we spent two days and nights sightseeing. Here we met the rest of the people who would travel with us to the continent. There were 14 from Ontario, four from the Maritimes and the remainder of the 45 were from Vancouver, Victoria and other towns on the West Coast.

Glenn V. Magnuson, a Georgetown insurance agent and a member of the Georgetown Police Commission for the past two years has been appointed to the Halton Regional Police Commission. Solicitor General John Yaremko announced Mr. Magnuson's appointment was announced Oct. 31.

St. John's Guild held its annual bazaar on the first Saturday in November. It has been held for the past 25 years. Rev. Cannon J.E. Maxwell welcomed the women and gentlemen who attended, led the prayer, and declared the bazaar open.

### 10 years ago

Seven girls from the two field hockey teams at Georgetown District High School have been chosen to try out for the provincial junior team. Linda Donais, Bonnie Lea Beckett and Maureen McGowan were chosen from the senior team and Janet Porier, Deneen Jones, Jacky Wickens and Susan Wild are the juniors who will be trying out. The two coaches of the high school teams are ecstatic about seven players being chosen. Ruth Armstrong coaches the juniors and Sheena Kewley handles the seniors.

With the assistance of a hand-picked team of councillors and town staff members, Mayor Tom Hill says he will emerge from negotiations with Focal Properties Ltd. with "one of the best development agreements" Halton Hills council has ever had the chance to sign. Halton Hills' first and still incumbent mayor made the commitment at Thursday's Meet the Candidates Night, which was sponsored by the Georgetown Jaycees.

### 5 years ago

Paul Campbell's products rarely get stolen.

Eight years ago, the Georgetown businessman designed and patented a fire nozzle for industrial and forestry firefighting equipment, and simultaneously started up two companies to manufacture and assemble them. "The old fire nozzles were big, heavy and brass," Mr. Campbell, 44, said. "But brass became expensive and the theft problem got out of hand, so that schools and apartment buildings were left with fire equipment that was no good, because the nozzle had been stolen."

The Georgetown District High School cross-country Rebels ran to glory at the London Ski Club this weekend, claiming a pair of provincial titles. The Rebels came out of the 32-school OFSAA championship ranked number two in the province. The Rebels were one of the three schools in the province to qualify for all six divisional finals at the OFSAA meet. They capped off what has been a banner year by sweeping both boys and girls midget titles.

It was just two weeks ago that Lois Patrick was casually flipping through the ads in the paper, when the idea hit her. The Georgetown mother of four is now the owner of The Boutique, a gift shop at 99 Main St. S. in Georgetown. She quit her job working at a waterbed shop in Erin to become her own boss, after 20 years of being an employee at various businesses.



Georgetown High School - Class of '21