

## The people's choice

The people have spoken - and in no uncertain terms. Halton Hills has entered a new era in political history with the election of Garth Turner as the Halton-Peel riding's first federal member of parliament. Monday's election was the culmination of a month-and-a-half campaign that stirred the interest of voters in a very big way. At the centre of all issues was the question of free trade. And the results in Halton-Peel must be construed as a resounding pro-free trade statement.

The local election battle was fought in an energetic manner by all the candidates, again heightening interest among the voters.

All-candidates meetings have become the rage in the election process and attendances at local forums suggest people are appreciative of the opportunity to see their candidates in head-to-head confrontation.

Part of the success the Progressive Conservatives enjoyed Monday in Halton-Peel must be attributed to the man who has served the people of Georgetown for many years.

John McDermid's obligations to this portion of the riding will soon be finished. But there can be no doubt the ties he has made here will never be broken.

However the time has come for him to pass the torch along, in a manner of speaking.

And it falls upon Garth Turner to take up that torch and provide solid leadership and representation in Ottawa for his constituents, who have given him a strong vote of confidence.

## Musical mayhem



### Editor's Notebook

Mike Turner  
Herald Editor

We've got a real problem here folks.

The "moral majority" aside, there is a distinct problem, and I don't think it's something that has irked me simply because I'm heading over the proverbial hill.

Sure, there are people who think they can hear Satanic messages when they play episodes of the Flintstones backwards but realistically there's nothing much there to take exception to.

And I hate like heck to pick on a medium other than the one I'm currently involved with. After all, I'm not supposed to know anything about radio, television, telegraph, Indian smoke signals or any medium other than the one I make my living at - namely the newspaper.

Far be it from me to suggest that we of the "black-and-white-and-read-all-over" set are above the rest in any way, shape or form.

However, I would like to point out that if you saw the movie Switching Channels, you will have noticed that when the TV people were at odds over how many "terrorists" had rescued Henry Gibson from his engagement with the "lazy-boy deep-frier" they turned to the print man for confirmation.

(He got it wrong, but that's beside the point.)

At any rate, to get back to the matter at hand, recently I was subjecting my ears and mind to the offerings of a well-listened-to radio station of the rock and roll persuasion.

So it was Friday night and after 11 p.m. but prior to the midnight witching hour, when what to my wondering ears should I hear...

Well I can't tell you that. Because in print there are certain limitations we have to observe.

Let's just say the song playing on the radio could be considered to be in questionable taste, at best.

First there was a suggestion in the song's lyrics to perform an un-

natural act - and one that I'm pretty sure is pretty impossible, unless things have changed in a major way.

"Nah," I thought, "you couldn't have heard right."

So I went and had a look at the clock...

"Nah," I thought, "not this time of night."

So I went back about my business.

And darned if I didn't hear more of the same - lots more of the same.

Now this song - and I'm sure there are others like it - goes long past the point of being "suggestive."

Growing up, you were always told of songs that were "suggestive." (Usually, it was by the girls, because as we all know by now, they mature faster.) But you still needed someone to spell it out for you, lyric by lyric, and even then you weren't altogether sure they knew what they were talking about.

But times have obviously changed and as far as I'm concerned it's not for the better, if this is any indication.

Sure there are television stations that broadcast movies with "ripe" language. But parents at least have some chance of heading their children off from watching these shows.

How can any parent expect to stop their child from listening to the radio. Given the number of television stations there are per household, you can probably count on there being about four or five times as many radios as televisions.

I've always considered myself a fairly liberal kind of person.

But this tends to gnaw at me for some reason, maybe because it came right out of left field. For all I know, it may have been a mistake but no one came across as apologetic if it was some sort of blunder.

It almost makes you wonder who's in control. Maybe the machines have begun programming music on their own. But it's hard to even imagine a machine with that kind of taste.

I came that close to picking up the phone and calling to what in the world was going on. Is this a sampling of what we can expect for the future? And for that matter, could this be merely a mild sampling?

If so, color me tuned out.

And one other thing. That song wasn't even danceable. Now they've really gone too far.

## A wild premonition?



### Your Business

Diane Maley  
Thomson News Service

Remember Alice's Restaurant? Well, the long, amusing song by Arlo Guthrie in the 1960s foreshadowed the crisis of the 1980s: where to dump the garbage.

In the song, Guthrie and his friends are picked up by Officer Obble and thrown in jail for littering. They unloaded their garbage in a convenient spot by the roadside rather than haul it to the dump.

It seemed silly at the time, but today, we would want Officer Obble to nab more unscrupulous dumpers. So great is the garbage problem that companies in the waste-disposal business have reaped handsome profits from hauling it away. Ladlaw comes to mind, but there are others.

The affair of the New York garbage barge, which piled the waters of the Atlantic and the Caribbean and seemed destined to sail the seven seas with its load of unwanted garbage, drove home to us what polluters we have become. All of a sudden, everyone is interested in recycling again.

**RECYCLING CRAZE**  
We're bundling up our newspapers, separating our bottles and cans. But the biggest problem

comes with industrial wastes - chemicals and other deadly things - that flow into our rivers and lakes.

Economics seem to suggest that industrial pollution is a problem that defies solution. So any little step in the direction of pollution control on the part of industry is met with gratitude by politicians and interested citizens.

But if the solution to large-scale pollution is complicated and expensive, the problem of household garbage is less so. Less packaging would help. Before we spend too much money looking for ways of disposing of plastic containers and plastic-foam packaging, let's look back at how we packaged things a few decades ago.

Who wouldn't welcome a return of the days when you could buy hooks, tacks, screws or nails at the hardware store and not have to struggle to free them from their sealed plastic wrap? We spend more time struggling to peel off plastic than it takes to install whatever it is we've bought.

And what about those plastic bleach bottles? Why not reusable glass? Why does broccoli have to come wrapped in plastic and laid on a plastic-foam tray?

#### PAPER BAGS

In retrospect, perhaps the invention of the green garbage bag was not such a good thing. The same holds for the plastic bags that we carry our groceries home in; paper bags may have been more difficult to carry, but they did the job.

# Illegal drug use goes deeper than thought

To get some idea of the magnitude of the use of illegal drugs in Ontario, one quote might suffice.

"The task force was informed that approximately 70 per cent of all crimes against property have a basis in drug use."

The task force was backbench Liberal MPP Ken Black's one-man inquiry into illegal drug use.

The numbers came from police forces, whose data chronicles upwardly spiralling statistics for drug-related crime and drug-related homicide.

Black, a former director of education in his home riding of Muskoka, said there's been some change in his thinking about drugs since his days as an education official.

Having spent two months travelling the province and talking to people, he feels use is more widespread than he had believed or, for that matter, what most surveys reveal.

Addiction Research Foundation statistics for 1987 suggest one in five youths used illegal drugs. Another study broke down users by type, and found that while two in 10 Grade 11 students reported smoking marijuana, and three in 10 post-



### Queen's Park

Derek Nelson  
Thomson News Service

secondary students, almost eight out of 10 "street youths" did so.

Black believes curtailing demand is the solution rather than trying to cut off supply, but, in the interim, he has several recommendations for raising the ante for dope pedlars.

One is more effective implementation of the law that allows governments to seize the proceeds of illegal-drug activity.

Another would roll back some of the nonsense that has become law in past years: privacy provisions in the Young Offenders Act that prevent police discussing a youth's drug use with teachers, for instance, or the ability of pushers to use 10-year-old children as "spotters" because police can not charge children under

12 years of age with any offence.

**DEMAND**  
But all this begs the question of demand, and here, Black relies heavily on education to stem the flood, calling for expanded and enhanced programs, starting in the lowest grades and being inserted throughout the curriculum.

The experts are split over whether this is a good idea. Regardless, it doesn't touch the two distressing attitudes that underlie the existence of drug use.

The first is a kind of general permissiveness that simultaneously allows society to come down hard on drug traffickers but which argues for leniency towards users.

It allows multitudes of people in Ontario to know drug users and to quietly turn their heads the other way. It makes drug use respectable.

The second is a failure to look at what New Democrat David Reville calls the "despair that causes people to abuse drugs."

True, he and fellow New Democrats believe (to quote NDP Leader Bob Rae) "fundamental problems" such as poverty and poor

housing are the "real cause of the unhappiness that is producing the turn to drugs."

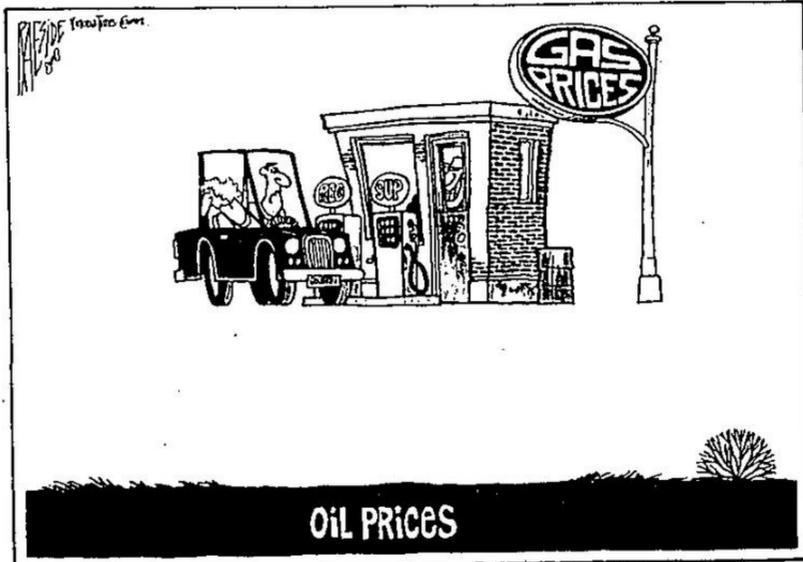
Yet, that's foolish. Only wealth allows widespread use of drugs. Their abuse wasn't big in the Depression. The greater the prosperity, the greater their use.

Black is closer to the mark when he spoke in his report of "the distaste for any kind of discomfort and the desire for instant gratification" that are modern traits.

But even that ducks conclusions. Illegal drug use, and, for that matter, abuse of legal chemicals such as alcohol, has much deeper personal causes than abstractions such as "poverty." All the poor don't do dope, too many rich people can and do.

The "unhappiness" or "despair" that comes from personal encounters with life's slings and arrows, perhaps exacerbated by lonely self-awareness, are likely far more important than any abstract social forces.

At best, Black's recommendations would have marginal impact on such people.



## Citizens' forum

### The rewards can be great

Dear Sir,  
I am writing in response to the letter printed in the Herald from Debra Newell (Nov. 16).

I agree with her 110 per cent about the despicable treatment of dogs, not only in Georgetown and surrounding areas, but many other places, also.

So many times I have been heart-broken and very angry, seeing dogs in the bitter cold of winter or the terrible heat of summer with no shelter or at most a few pieces of wood thrown together, supposedly to protect these pitiful creatures.

Yes, many dogs are confined in a pen or enclosure of some kind. That is supposed to be good enough for them to get sufficient exercise? No way.

Every dog needs to be given the proper exercise twice a day, not just hitched to a kennel or clothesline 24 hours a day.

Debra's questions could not be more stirring, asking "How much companionship do you get from your dogs?" and "Would you treat a human this way?"

The answers are simple. If you can't give love, trust, warmth and companionship, then you can't receive it.

But with dogs this is not necessarily true.

You can leave your dog outside, you can beat it, but you will always get a wagging tail and love although you most certainly do not deserve it.

Have you ever experienced the joy of having a dog lie at your feet, looking up into your face with those beautiful brown eyes, telling you that no matter what, he will always be your friend, your buddy through thick and thin and he'll always love you.

It is my honored pleasure and privilege to receive this love every single day from my Great Dane, German Shepherd and my Yorkshire Terrier. They are with me when I'm feeling blue or if it seems that today is not my day.

They have their shots regularly, they are fed properly and they sleep

in the house, no kennels for them, no confining areas, they get plenty of exercise, lots of love and devotion. I have never hurt any animal in any way.

My dogs are teddy bears, but if they feel that they are needed in any way to protect my family and me, they would fight to the death, and I consider that to be pure and simple love and trust in return for the love they receive, always.

Another thing that makes me furious is seeing dogs left in cars in the hot weather.

Surely all of you who treat your dogs in the aforementioned manner

must have hearts of stone.

I also see dogs in the backs of open trucks, they are terrified, I fear that one day I will see one fall out of a truck and get killed because of the utter lack of feeling for the poor animal.

Please, I beg of you, learn to love your dog. Believe me you will get much from your so-called dumb friend, your reward will be far more than you ever expected.

Meanwhile, I will be observing as usual and I too will be making reports to the Humane Society.

So smarten up.  
Elizabeth Jones

## Danger is evident

Dear Sir,  
I'm writing this letter in hopes of drawing attention to a problem some parents living in the vicinity of Mountainview Road North and King Street, are trying to solve. The problem is regarding the safety of our children crossing both Mountainview Road and King Street at Mountainview, where the children's buses stop. Since Mountainview Road has been expanded (from two lanes to five) signals have been installed at Maple, the town has seen fit to remove the crossing guard. This has resulted in a dangerous situation for our children.

There has been a crossing guard at this location for at least 12 years. Considering that the road was only two lanes over most of this period, removing the guard now, appears to me to be a completely irresponsible decision, and is a compromise to our children's safety in the name of controlling cost. If any changes were required to the crossing guard duty here it should have been to increase the number of guards to two, not to eliminate the service altogether.

In my opinion the safest way in which our children can cross such busy streets, is under the supervision of an experienced adult, properly equipped for the responsibility

(i.e. a sign and luminescent vest), regardless of whether there are traffic signals in the vicinity or not.

As human beings our strongest most primitive instinct is to protect our young. Surely we should be striving to increase the safety with which our children travel to and from school, not to reduce it because of cost.  
Kevin Dooley  
Georgetown

## Grateful parents

Dear Sir,

We would like to convey our sincerest thanks and appreciation to all our good friends for their help, support and concern during and after the accident last Friday of our daughter Tanya and her horse Wind-song. We are so lucky to have such wonderful friends.

The care and compassion shown by all those good folks, in coping with both of the injured, leaves us very much in their debt.  
Pam and John Mitchell,  
Georgetown

## 15 years ago

The North Halton Contact Centre celebrated its open house last Thursday evening. When Rev. Walter Ridley, chairman, received the first official call from Ron Patterson of the Contact Centre in Brampton, he gave his congratulations. He also offered good wishes on the opening of the new service in Georgetown. The Centre opened for service Friday morning.

Georgetown Minor Midgets hosted the visiting Guelph team and after four starts hit pay dirt, coming up with a team effort and a win of 3-1.

Doug Tate powered the Raiders 5-4 to a win in the intermediate hockey action at the Georgetown Arena, Friday when he scored the winning goal in overtime to help his club down the Adnacs from Oakville. The match was a seesaw battle that offered fast action, plenty of bodychecks, and some of the best hockey the Raiders had displayed this season. The Raiders had the edge going into the dying minutes of the third period, but 23 seconds from the end of the game, Bob Williams snared a pass from Dave Beatty and Charlie Burton and dumped the rubber behind netmaster Bruce Jackson.

## 10 years ago

Halton Region's newly-completed headquarters on Oakway 25 just north of the QEW in Oakville provided a spacious setting for the final meeting of the 1977-78 regional council last Wednesday, at which departing members including Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill and Councillor Pat McKenzie, received token gifts from their chairman, Regional Chairman Ric Morrow of Georgetown, who is leaving the post he has occupied for the past two years, presented 11 council members with rings bearing the Region's coat of arms and invited each to say a few words about achievements and future ambitions.

Jennifer Linton, a native of Georgetown, has been appointed to the position of recreation coordinator for Acton and Esquesing. Miss Linton has replaced Karen King, who has taken a position with the Ontario government.

## 5 years ago

Interim moderator of Norval and Union Presbyterian Churches, Rev. Grame Duncan of Brampton, conducted the service of induction Sunday evening for Rev. Angus Sutherland, the new minister for both Norval and Union Churches. Organist Gerry Murphy directed the combined choirs in the anthems "Canticle of Praise" and "To Show by Touch and Word."

Amanda Kunica of Georgetown placed third in the Ladies Lead and Wool Class at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Wednesday. Described as the showpiece of the sheep show, the competition has women wearing tailored wool outfits leading a lamb on a halter.

Marty Weaven scored his second of the game with 1:45 remaining to play to give the Riviera Raiders a 5-4 upset victory over the front-runners, M and M Pro Sports in the Georgetown Industrial Hockey League action last Sunday at Gordon Alcott Arena. The teams entered the third period tied at 3-3, when Jim Peardon scored to make it 4-3, Raiders. Brian McKenzie pulled Pro Sports even once more, setting the stage for Weaven's game winner.



Remember the old trout pond?