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1988 IN REVIEW

The people and stories of 1988

In the years to come, the people of Halton Hills will look back on 1988 as a year of transition.

As a community, Halton Hills has had its share of headline-making news stories in the past year - some joyous, some sad.

It seems somehow appropriate that a parallel exists with Halton Hills and the rest of the world.

Time Magazine has named the planet Earth as its "Man" of the Year for news. The people of the world have come to realize that the rainforests of South America are "the lungs of the planet" and are therefore important to the wellbeing of the planet.

Meanwhile, in Halton Hills another environmental issue came to light through hearings for a proposed landfill site "in our own backyard" as it were. The people's group POWER took up the fight against the proposal and as the year progressed, was successful in opening more eyes to what the proposal could mean.

The issue remains unresolved, as more data is compiled. But is was in 1988 that people stood up to be counted on an issue that could have grave consequences for the community's future. The mark of their success will be measured in the years to come.

Other stories of 1988 were equally controversial and emotional, if not on a higher level.

Following months of testimony, that began in 1987, it was learned that Dr. Jack Ford would have his privileges revoked at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

Some of the evidence given during the hearings could only be termed shocking, as witnesses were lined up to call the doctor's methods and expertise into questions, and others lined up in his defence.

Politically, it was quite an exciting year for Halton Hills, with not one but two major elections on both the federal and municipal fronts.

Locally, incumbent Mayor Russ Miller faced a challenge from within the ranks, as Coun. Pam Sheldon announced she would make a bid for coucil's top spot.

Debates between the two, at times grew heated. But in the end, the support for Mayor Miller showed itself, and he was returned for another term.

In the other political arena, the seat for Halton-Peel riding's first Member of Parliament was up for grabs, and the free trade issue helped spice up election campaigns.

Garth Turi er was definitely the favorite going into the election. But the results showing well above the challengers came as somewhat of a surprise to some people.

But there can be no mistaking the fact that the PCs wanted to take the newly-formed riding. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney himself visited Georgetown, just a few short days after he announced the date for the election.

The year 1988 was also a time for change in some circles. The Georgetown entry in the Junior B hockey circuit went from being the Gemini to the Raiders, a name many feel is synonymous with hockey in Georgetown.

Whether the name and uniform change has had anything to do with it or not, the team is doing considerably better this year.

The big story of the summer was hot, steamy weather that sent many scurrying for relief, and left farmers wondering about their future.

And in the latter stages of 1988, we heard a story of team work that helped save a man trapped in a truck for over four hours, after a spectacular accident near Glen Williams.

Several different departments worked in tandem to free the trucker, which speaks well of the spirit of co-operation in Halton Hills - a spirit we would all do well to carry over with us in1989.