

Opinion Page

LETTER

Question of abandonment

Dear Sir,
In an article in your Jan. 28, 1989 Herald Outlook, I believe you gave the wrong impression of "abandoned".

Your written statement "to take over postal services abandoned by the Gatskill-Cadwalladers of Limehouse General Store" hardly seems correct and implies the Gatskill-Cadwalladers have done something less than professional.

I feel the Gatskill-Cadwalladers should be commended for trying to

operate the Post Office from their store and maintain 130 years of service. The fact that changes made by Canada Post do not offer compensation enough to make the Post Office "pay" is reason enough to terminate the contract.

I am sure the Gatskill-Cadwalladers gave it their best shot and labored long over their decision to "terminate".

If anyone abandoned, it was Canada Post.

Don McQueen
RR 1 Limehouse

Halton's History from our files

30 years ago

A special service was held by the Anglican parish of St. Alban's, Glen Williams, Jan. 29 to bless the new rectory. Evensong was sung in the church by the St. Alban's choir, assisted by the third year divinity students of Trinity College, Toronto. The lessons were read by Mr. Tom Beaumont, lay reader of the parish and Michael Peers of Trinity College. Rev. B.C. Gifford, assistant curate of St. John's Church, Ancaster, preached the sermon.

A dozen Sunkist oranges were selling for 39 cents at the local IGA store. A 16-ounce jug of table syrup was 21 cents, and Grade A turkeys were selling for 53 cents a pound in February, 1959.

Members of the Anglers and Hunters Club held their annual meeting at their club house on Jan. 8. President for the coming year is Gordon Spence Sr. Don Hancock will be vice-president, Don Powers, treasurer, and George Hoare will be secretary.

Mrs. Ross Duncan's first place Chop Chops were the victims of a surprising upset by Mrs. Len Ward's last place Squibs at the Lucky Strike bowling alleys on Monday when the Squibs exercised their new-found pin bouncing ability to take seven points from the top team.

15 years ago

The initiation of three new members highlighted the January meeting of the Kinette Club. Members enjoyed a pot luck supper at the home of Marilyn Cook. New Kinettes Carol Beatty, Brenda Novar and Alma Turner had to pose as babies for the informal part of the evening. They were diapered, bibbed, given baby bottles and permitted to use only spoons as cutlery during dinner.

Rev. Peter Barrow was the guest speaker at the Hospital Auxiliary annual meeting. At the Jan. 22 meeting of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Rev. Barrow spoke of the North Halton Contact Centre. Rev. Barrow, a rector at Knox Presbyterian Church, was introduced to members of the Auxiliary by Mrs. Jean MacDonald, first vice-president, and thanked by past-president Mrs. Ann Gray, who presented a token of appreciation to the Centre.

Tom Ramautarsingh was appointed to the executive of the Ontario Research Council Board of Directors. There are 10 members on the executive representing the Ministry of Education, Colleges of Education, Universities of Ontario, the Ontario Teachers Federation, and other education groups. The

OERC spring conference was to be held April 26 and 27 in Burlington.

10 years ago

The Georgetown Business Improvement Area (BIA) would like the merchants in the BIA to become more involved in decisions made by the Board, communications co-ordinator Betty Monchamp said last week. Mrs. Monchamp, owner of the Lingerie Boutique in the Old Bank Building said the new board of management is looking for more active participation in the decision-making process from the merchants in the BIA. The new board includes Lynn Barnard of Penniesworth, Bill Crawford of Union Gas, Bob Gougeon of Gougeon's Furniture, Monty Hyde and Betty Monchamp.

Two months after Halton Regional employees and councillors moved into their brand new \$2 million headquarters on Highway 25 in Oakville, extensive structural defects remain that are posing problems with varying temperatures, ceiling leaks and toilets that don't flush. Chief administrative officer Ernie Reid, the architect who designed the sprawling lime-green headquarters as a permanent replacement for Halton's third floor home in a Burlington office building, has prepared an extensive list of minor defects in the new structure that were left unattended by the general contractor.

With Stewarttown already identified as a hamlet on signs erected recently at the village's two entrances on Trafalgar Road, the town's budget committee has been directed to report on getting signs installed for Norval and Glen Williams.

5 years ago

Kindergarten pupils make up only one per cent of the population in Halton Region. In 1970, they made up 1.91 per cent. In 1988, it's expected they'll make up only .78 per cent of the school population. The figures come from a Halton Board of Education study released this week projecting school enrolments for the next five years. The elementary schools hold ten per cent of the Region's population. In 1970, it was 8.67 per cent. In 1988, it's expected to be 5.52 per cent.

There's no reason VIA rail should ignore Acton now that the community's population has grown with commuters, Acton's Coun. Rick Bonnette said Monday night. He successfully encouraged councillors to urge VIA rail to add Acton as a stop for trains travelling between Kitchener and Toronto. To catch any of the VIA trains heading into Toronto, Acton residents must first commute to Guelph or Georgetown. In the early 1970s when Acton was dropped as a stop, there might not have been a great deal of train use from the community, Mr. Bonnette said.

A new apartment project has been proposed for the Georgetown Moore Park area and residents have been invited to find out more about it. The proposal for 40 rental units was presented to the town's general committee Monday night by the planning department.

Where to draw the line?

'News release' draws ire

By REV. DR. THOMAS BANDY
St. Andrew's United Church



CLERGY COMMENT

Misunderstanding seems to be the rule today. No one seems willing to take the time or trouble to ascertain what another person is really saying. A good example of this happened last week.

Both Georgetown newspapers printed a supposed "news release" about the annual meeting of St. Andrew's United Church, and referred to a vote to be taken regarding agreement with our denomination's recent policy on sexuality and ordination. The supposed "news release" appeared in the office of the Herald and the Independent, apparently left in the middle of the night. One newspaper printed the supposed "news release" on the front page. Yet neither paper took the trouble to verify the story! Neither paper questioned an unsigned news release! As a result, an unauthorized news release was printed, with inaccurate information, that caused needless consternation to many in the community.

No doubt both papers are embarrassed by this mistake, and we in the church try to be sympathetic. Yet an issue emerges once again: Why are there so many documented media errors in reporting religious affairs across Canada? It is not just the United Church. Every denomination is complaining about press coverage. Why do clergy have to write countless letters to the editor of protest or clarification? Why have religious bodies sought legal help, or the advocacy of professional or government ombudsmen to complain about the media?

About ten days ago the highly respected CBC-TV Journal aired a story on the United Church in Orangeville. Yet the United Church there refused utterly to participate in the story or to grant a single interview! Nevertheless the CBC did the story, relying solely on the biased interviews of a small break-away group from that church. Is this accurate, objective reporting? Or does it merely foster more misunderstanding?

The issue of misunderstanding, of course, is larger than a media problem. It runs through our society, and through our Georgetown community. Perhaps it is gossip around somebody's marriage problems or family problems; or perhaps it is premature judgement about someone's legal problems or personal problems; or perhaps it is

opinions about groups or organizations based on a single conversation or experience. People rarely take the time and trouble to really understand another point of view.

It is a lesson the media in particular should learn, but it is a lesson every one of us should learn. Verify the story! Check out the facts. Listen to both sides. Try to understand all perspectives. Don't assume you know something when you don't. Avoid hasty conclusions. Take the time and trouble to find out the truth. As any gossip knows, sensationalism attracts an audience. But as any Christian knows, sensitivity builds community.



It wasn't uncommon to see fine automobiles like this one chugging around the countryside back in the early 1900s. The photo was provided by a member of the Esqueving Historical Society, which

meets the second Wednesday of each month. The Society's next meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Knox Church, where John McDonald will show slides of old Georgetown and area.

Cardboard cops coming next?

Good old British Columbia has done it again.

Already famous across Canada for its brilliant and innovative political notions, B.C. is poised to introduce a breathtaking new concept to the world - the cardboard police officer.

Talk about a vision and imagination. Elect a premier who lives in a castle, and there's no stopping a province.

Apparently, the proposal is the brainchild of Solicitor-General Angus Ree. Placing cardboard policemen on the side of the road, Mr. Ree has suggested, might be a cheap and effective way to scare speeding drivers into slowing down.

Well. To begin with, it's reassuring to know that Mr. Ree believes cardboard policemen should restrict their activities to deterring speeders. There'd be cause for concern if he believed cardboard policemen could also be sent out to investigate crimes.

I mean, you'd have to mail them, and this could take weeks.

("Dear suspected malefactor: Please give full details of all your recent activities on the form stapled to the officer's forehead, and then mail him back to us. Affixing insufficient postage will be regarded as a sign of probable guilt.")

And it's certainly likely that drivers will be - in the main - strong supporters of Mr. Ree's idea.

If you've ever been clocked at 70 in a 50 kilometre zone, then you've undoubtedly voiced that time-honored lament: "Wherein hell's a cardboard policeman when you need one..."



Weir's View

By Ian Weir

Thomson News Service

Still, Mr. Ree's proposal requires some cautious analysis. Just for starters, there are ways to scare speeding drivers that might be even cheaper and easier.

You could, for instance, post roadside signs saying "Caution: highway designed by engineers with drinking problems," or perhaps "Don't look now, but your right front wheel is about to fall off."

It's also possible that crafty drivers could spot the difference between a real policeman and a cardboard cut-out, even at a distance. There are, after all, a couple of telltale differences.

Real policemen are sturdy and muscular, which means a gust of wind seldom leaves them leaning upside down against a fence. And you only rarely see a real policeman with a pigeon on his head.

Besides, cardboard policemen would face an additional hazard in B.C.

Much of B.C.'s population is concentrated in and around Vancouver. And, as we know, it has been known to rain there.

Mr. Ree's whole scheme is based on the premise that any driver will be startled into slowing down by the sudden cry, "Look out, Dear - there's a policeman on the roadside just ahead!" Comparatively fewer drivers would be daunted by the exclamation, "Look at that - a soggy lump of cardboard in the ditch."

As such, Mr. Ree might consider whether he should opt for plastic policemen instead. Perhaps even deluxe-model plastic policemen, with noses that light up and eyeballs that go "bing-bing-bing" when someone zooms by them at 130.

And this, of course, raises a further issue. Cardboard policemen are, to be sure, wonderfully inexpensive. They'll work non-stop for weeks on end with never a word of complaint. But all the same, are they really likely to enhance the image of the police force...

What does it say about a profession if its function can be performed by cardboard cutouts... What would then separate policemen from senators, or weekend news anchormen...

No. All things considered, it's probably best if B.C. sticks with live policemen. Cardboard cops are a fascinating concept, but there are just too many logistical problems.

On the other hand, you wonder if Mr. Ree has ever given any thought to plastic firemen.

They're inexpensive and they look great, although you have to be careful to keep them away from heat if you don't want them to melt...