

Opinion Page

Halton's History from our files

30 years ago

Prize winners at the Women's Institute euchre on Saturday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. Sinclair, were Mrs. A. Lawr, Mrs. T. Gibson and Messrs. Archie Lawr and Frank Smith. There were nine tables in all.

Members of the Georgetown Horticultural Society learned "What's New for Flowers in 1959" at their public meeting in Wriglesworth Public School Wednesday evening, Feb. 18. W.R. Hankinson of the Douglas Seed Company of Bratford addressed the group as guest speaker.

The Norval United Church couples club saw life on an Indian reservation in a program of colored slides shown at their meeting in the Sunday School hall on Wednesday evening. Rev. Marshall Jeff of Bolton and Nashville was the guest speaker at the meeting and showed the slides taken during a recent trip to the west. He gave a running commentary on the slides inserting many humorous incidents which had occurred while visiting the reserve.

15 years ago

There will be no overall fire chief for Halton Hills despite a motion passed by council in January that called for applications for the position. That motion was cancelled last night amidst charges that "the authority of the council circumvented" and the implication that advertisements inviting applications for the position had been purposely delayed.

An application from an Acton businessman to establish a cable television service in Acton will be heard by the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) March 26. John Goy said yesterday that if his application is approved by early spring, the service "would probably be in operation by the end of the year." He explained that eight months would be required to erect an antenna and to lay cables both along local hydro poles and underground.

Former Acton mayor, now Councillor, Les Duby, said Monday night he will demand an accounting of progress made and money spent by the new community of Halton Hills.

10 years ago

More than 300 residents of Acton community jammed the Acton High School cafeteria last Wednesday to air their views. They were invited to let the town know how they felt about a proposal to build a shopping centre on Acton's eastern boundary. The crowd, which represented over four per cent of Acton's population reacted with cheers to the news that the 8.7 acre lot plaza would introduce 200 new jobs to the community. But some businessmen greeted the same news with jeers, as they feared for their downtown stores which could be overshadowed by the new development.

Dissatisfaction with working conditions has led to a campaign to unionize workers in Acton's Superior Glove Works Ltd., one of the largest glove factories in Canada. Plant employees, say Bill Rannachan, central regional director for the Canadian Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Softdrink and Distillery Workers, have no lunchroom, poor toilet facilities, no ventilation, improper fire exits and work areas that are too cold or hot. Asbestos pieces and boiling glue pots surround the areas where employees eat their lunches, he said.

5 years ago

It had to be a special event that brought former Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church parish priest Otger Devent across the ocean Thursday. Retired to Holland since September 1980, the Georgetown pastor made a special journey to attend a celebration Saturday at which the church mortgage was burned. Together with Bishop Anthony Tonno, Father Devent helped Fathers David Cote and Con O'Mahony celebrate a 7 p.m. mass after which 300 parishioners stayed for the banquet and program in the Maple Avenue church hall. Built in 1964, the new church and rectory were completed during Father Devent's time at the church. He was one of the last Capuchin friars appointed to the parish.

Acton's Chamber of Commerce hopes market survey and public support will sway VIA rail Canada into rearranging its train schedule to add a stop in Acton. Acton has been without passenger service to and from Toronto for several years. But Chamber members who discussed the issue at a luncheon meeting Thursday said the community of 7,000 has grown enough to warrant the return of "whistle stops."

The Georgetown North Halton Sports Camp pee-wee reps defeated Owen Sound three games straight to advance into the next round of OMHA playoffs. Last year Owen Sound was able to take Georgetown to five games.

WRITE US A LETTER Legislation not the answer

Dear Sir,
Saturday, Feb. 18, 12 environmental citizen groups, representing thousands of members in Southern Ontario, held a joint workshop in Georgetown. They reported and discussed significant developments threatening the Niagara Escarpment and its vicinity.

The Niagara Escarpment is a strip of land with geological and ecological features which are unequalled in Canada. These include aquifers (rock formations providing waters for drinking water wells), streams, forests, rare plants, the oldest trees in Canada, protected fauna, conservation

lands, parks and recreation areas.

The problems reported were astounding and incredible. The area is punctuated by quarry operations (numbering in the hundreds), leaking garbage dumps overlooking populated areas and proposed waste facilities within or bordering environmentally sensitive areas. At the end of the workshop, the groups unanimously agreed to request a meeting with Premier David Peterson to confront him with the situation.

It is not more legislation that is needed. A specific Act was passed in 1960 to protect the Escarpment and a special Commission was established to carry out the intent

of the law. But even after years of plans and "work" by the Commission together with various ministries, the problems did not go away - rather, they multiplied.

The objective of the Act was to "maintain the Niagara Escarpment and its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment." What we see today is a continuous series of environmental disasters. Will our government act according to the law? What do we pay all these levels of bureaucrats for, if they cannot even apply the law?

Giuseppe Gori,
Chairman of EAGLE,
(Ecology Awareness Groups
Landscape and Environment)

Customer can't accept attitude of business

Dear Sir,

I have noticed the very large advertisement in the paper over the last few weeks saying, "It's About Time We Gave Halton Hills The Business." I agree, this is good for everyone. Unfortunately, I tried to do just that.

My husband and I are planning to redo our kitchen - new cupboards, appliances etc. - spending several thousand dollars in the process. I called a local company that advertises they do kitchen renovations. I set up an appointment for a

salesman to come to our home to measure, show us his product and give us a price. The day came and went and he never showed up. He never called, and just didn't bother to come. About four days later my husband called them again to see if possibly anything had happened such as illness or maybe they had lost our address. He spoke to another man who seemed to know of the appointment. He offered no explanation but said he would pass along our call to the other salesman. Well, of course we never

did hear any more and at this point would not have done business with them.

We again have taken our business out of the area. I'm sure there are others in Georgetown who would have gladly come but this just put us off.

If they want people to buy in Halton, they are going to have to treat potential customers better than this.

Mrs. G. Kirkland,
Acton

Mixing medicine and humor

News item number one: On March 10, Britain will celebrate Comic Relief Day, on which a predicted seven million people will don red noses to raise money for charity.

News item number two: A registered nurse and professional "humor consultant" from California wants nurses to encourage hospital patients to laugh, possibly by wearing a clown nose while taking vital signs or writing with a pen shaped like an eggplant.

Do you sometimes get the feeling there's entirely too much humor in this world?

Obviously, you don't want to go through life as a hopeless old sobersides. It's important to see the lighter side of things, and even to laugh aloud when certain misfortunes strike.

Like, say, when your neighbor's furnace explodes in the middle of a



Weir's View

By Ian Weir
Thomson News Service

coldsnap. Or when his battery dies at 42 below.

But even so...

Granted, there's probably little harm in Britain's Comic Relief Day, particularly when the sale of those red noses is expected to raise \$30 million for charity.

Those seven million Brits will doubtless have great fun in their crimson honkers, and they may even be inspired to dream up even more exciting fundraising events - like Lampshade Day, or even Whoopee-Cushion Week.

Who knows? If Britain can raise \$30 million with a few red noses, it could conceivably eliminate its entire deficit if someone had enough imagination to put little propellers on top of the Queen's hats, and perhaps tie Prince Phillip's shoelaces together.

But I'm not quite so keen on the other laughter-inspiring scheme - the one which involves nurses filling in my chart with eggplant pens.

The registered nurse behind this scheme, one Fran Solomon of Berkeley, believes both patients and staff need more laughter in the hospital.

Laughter helps employees enjoy their work, she points out. And it's also therapeutic for hospital patients, since research shows laughter releases endorphins, natural painkillers that help the body handle stress.

Well, I don't doubt laughter helps nurses enjoy their work. And if I was lying in a hospital bed, I'd certainly be delighted to have a nurse

who saw the funny side of the situation.

In fact, to help her appreciate the humor to its fullest, I'd urge hospital authorities to take her straight to the operating room and remove her appendix. When they wheeled her back to the ward, I'd be happy to tell her knock-knock jokes.

Perhaps I simply lack an adequate sense of humor, but my experience has been that there's precisely one thing a doctor or nurse can do to help me chortle loose some of those good ol' endorphins. This is to tell me there's nothing wrong with me.

A doctor who tells me this can get me to laugh at anything. Even the 1957 issues of Reader's Digest in the waiting room.

The terrible danger, of course, is that Nurse Solomon's theories may actually catch on, convincing an entire generation of medical professionals that they must try to help us laugh ourselves back to health.

"Well, Mr. Schwartz, your test results have come in. I've got some good news, and some bad news. The good news is that my new clubs are just dandy, and my handicap's down to 14.

"The fact is that you've got quite an amusing assortment of dangerous illnesses, so we're sending you straight to hospital and putting you on a strict diet of pizza and pancakes. No, they won't help, but they're the only things we can slip under the door.

"Anyway, I'm referring you to a specialist. Dr. Higgins is an excellent man - doesn't know a lot about medicine, but they've just asked him to guest-host the Carson Show.

"In the meantime... Mr. Schwartz? What's the problem, Mr. Schwartz? You're not laughing.

"Good lord, man - do you want to make yourself sick?"

Let's let the smoke clear



CLERGY COMMENT

By The Rev. Tom Kingston, Rector

St. George's Anglican Church
Parents in Georgetown who are involved in minor hockey perform a good service for the children in our community.

As coaches, referees, time keepers, drivers, spectators and managers, they provide our children with a wonderful opportunity for fun and fitness.

Last week the coach of my son's team, Eric Ridout, organized a father and son game at the Memorial Arena. The fathers complained of a lack of supply of oxygen masks and the sons were heard mumbling about "dirty play." It was, nevertheless, a great evening of family fun and I

am most grateful for having the opportunity to have been part of it and to have had the chance to "lace on the skates."

As I am confident in the commitment of parents to their children, as witnessed in the organization of minor hockey here in Georgetown, I want to raise one issue of concern.

In the Georgetown arenas there is smoking permitted in all public areas of the rink. Smoking is, however, very harmful to children. Children who grow up in homes where there is smoking develop respiratory problems. Public service announcements are now appearing on television warning parents about the health hazards of second-hand smoke on their children.

Smoking causes anxiety in children as they fear for their parents' health and safety. Just one year ago I took part in a funeral of a superb athlete who had died of lung cancer at the age of 34.

He had smoked since he was 16 and at his funeral, his young son, who was three years old, cried, "Where's Daddy?" "Where's Daddy?" Our children's fear of the effect of smoking on their parents is justified.

Since parents are role models to their children, these children may receive the impression that smoking is a safe habit. One child in a Georgetown league smokes, dressed in full equipment during intermission. Smoking kills 35,000 Canadians a year. Parents have a tremendous opportunity to teach their children by rules and example the dangers of this addiction.

It is now time that the community administration, with the support of Georgetown parents, take action to clean up the environment in our rinks. Parents have done an outstanding job organizing minor hockey here in Georgetown. Let's continue the good work by creating a smoke-free environment for children in our arenas.