

Opinion Page

30 years ago

Complaints by a ratepayer of frozen ice and dirt blocking his driveway led to a plea by Coun. Fred Harrison at Monday's council meeting for co-operation from residents to do their part in aiding road work during the difficult winter months. Harold Rossiter, 74, of Princess Drive said the town grader piles the ice along the ditch when clearing the road. Coun. Harrison said this has been one of the worst winters on record and has taxed the road committee to capacity.

Mrs. Spencer Wilson of Norval was the first woman ever to speak at the Ontario Plowmen's Association convention and annual meeting held recently in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto. Speaking on a woman's views of the International Plowing Match, Mrs. Wilson was one of four speakers asked to give an opinion on improvements and additions for the match. Mrs. Wilson suggested a fashion show and a "Queen of the Furrows" competition.

15 years ago

A frozen "ice dam" on the Credit River at Glen Williams caused a flood in many yards in the Glen. Four houses were threatened by the flooding waters and one-to-three-foot-thick ice sheets. "We had suitcases packed and I parked my car on the hill, away from the flooding," said Glen resident Ed Green. "Glen residents have told us about the times the ice was left on the road, but this is the worst in the last few years," said homeowner Ivor Allen.

Halton Hills is seeking an municipal crest, but so far has had no luck in an appeal to graphic students at Sheridan College. Instead, a special meeting will be held by local artist Dorothy Stone and with a local student Charles Burgan who has already submitted a logo proposal to Regional Chairman Allan Masson.

The last ladies club curling bonspiel for the season was held on the weekend when the ladies competed for the MacKenzie Trophy. Trophy taker and winner in the second draw was Mary Biehn with Beth Anderson, Ida Mae Woodburn and June Hagerman.

10 years ago

A proposal is currently being considered by downtown Acton merchants to unite two existing grocery stores in an apparent bid to meet the demands of shoppers who offered support last month for Zehr's food chain outlet proposed for construction on Highway 7.

Having already invested \$6,500, town council voted to oppose Ontario Hydro's Bruce-to-Milton

Halton's History from our files

transmission corridor. The town launched appeals before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and a divisional court.

Members of the town's general committee watched a slide presentation last Wednesday that was prepared by the provincial ministry of the Environment following the success of Georgetown's Divide and Conquer garbage program. The program cost the province \$19,000 during its initial nine-month trial period, town engineer Bob Austin said. Some 310 tons of glass, metal and newspapers were collected during specific rounds and response from the public has been almost "unanimously positive," he said.

The Georgetown United Rental Minor Pee-wees bounced back to take a 4-1 victory here Sunday to tie their OMHA playoff series against Richmond Hill at one game apiece. Richmond Hill had romped to an easy victory winning 7-0 in the first game.

5 years ago

An RR1 Georgetown man hit gold when he stopped for his regular cup of coffee at the Moore Park Plaza Mac's Convenience Store Friday morning. Andy Malenfant, 31, is \$10,000 richer thanks to a pre-draw win in the new Ontario lottery game, Shoot to Score. Mr. Malenfant said he had "stopped for a coffee like I normally do."

Stewarttown Senior Public School students came home with plenty of ribbons from the Kiwanis Music Festival recently. Music teacher Katie Kirkup-Ortalan said the school's Grade 7 class entry came in first in their class with a mark of 87 and second out of 19 other schools.

The Georgetown District High School Rebel swimmers continued to build their dynasty Saturday at Brock University in St. Catharines, winning a fourth consecutive OF-SAA championship. It was never a contest as the Rebel team pulverized more than 400 swimmers from 93 other Ontario secondary schools. The Rebels amassed a total 315 team points to win the senior competition, a record 191 points ahead of the second place club.

Appeal is answered

The Red Cross is extremely pleased with the tremendous response to its urgent appeal for blood. Since the appeal began, over 10,000 people in Central Ontario have given blood.

The Toronto Blood Centre of the Red Cross would like to thank all these donors for their unselfish support of the appeal. The Centre also acknowledges the great contribution of the media in making people aware of the shortage and ensuring a good turnout at the clinics.

The hospital blood banks have been restocked and the Red Cross has been able to build up its own reserves of blood. But the real beneficiaries of the appeal are all the hospital patients whose lives depend on a continuous supply of blood and blood products.

These recipients include burn victims, leukemia patients, transplant recipients, premature babies and accident victims.

But while an appeal succeeds in restoring the blood supply, it unfortunately gives people the mistaken impression that blood is

only needed when there is a critical shortage.

This is not the case. Eight hundred people must give blood every weekday in Central Ontario to meet patient needs in 60 area hospitals. Many of the hospitals in Metro Toronto have specialized units - like organ transplant centres and trauma units - in which patients undergo advanced treatment procedures. These treatments often involve substantial transfusions of blood.

The Red Cross is struggling to keep up with this hospital demand in the face of reduced collections over the past several years. In order to maintain adequate reserves of blood, it is important that people donate regularly. Most healthy people between the ages of 17 and 66 can give blood four times a year.

If all those who responded to this and past appeals were to become regular blood donors, the threat of critical shortages could be eliminated.

—From THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

LETTERS

Concerns raised over issue

Dear Sir,

Nuclear Awareness Project, our citizens' group based in Oshawa, joins with the people of Quebec who have successfully worked for the cancellation of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's plan to install a Slowpoke nuclear reactor at the University of Sherbrooke teaching hospital. Late in December, the Hospital's Board of Directors decided to refuse this unpopular project. The campaign against the reactor was led by Coalition CHUS (Continue Hydro - not Uranium for our Safety), and supported by environmental and peace groups, as well as a local hospital employees union.

The proposed 10-megawatt Slowpoke was to come with a seven-million dollar price tag. The environmental cost would have been the creation of one tonne of high-level radioactive waste every six years! Why would AECL be allowed by our government - in a hospital (of all places!) - to pro-

duce hazardous nuclear waste for which there is no satisfactory method of storage or disposal? And why would AECL be permitted - by an atomic "regulatory" agency - to expose pregnant women, children, and sick people to the inherent risks of a nuclear reactor, when AECL forbids pregnant women and children from touring its nuclear research facility at Pinawa, Manitoba?

In 1979, Physicians for Social Responsibility called for a moratorium on the construction of nuclear power plants, in an announcement in the New England Journal of Medicine. Part of their message reads, "This is not just another form of pollution, but one which will cause cancer and birth defects for our children and our children's children."

Although the nuclear reactor cancellation is good news for the people of Sherbrooke, all is not well for those in Peterborough, Ontario, who are concerned about nuclear

proliferation. An AECL official is reported to have said that the next community on their try-out list is Peterborough, where it could be housed at the General Electric plant.

Why does the government subsidize to the tune of \$400 million a year an industry which has not sold a nuclear reactor in the past 10 years? AECL is pushing Slowpoke reactors and food irradiators for the good of their own health - not ours. It needs a full-sized operating prototype to show off to potential foreign buyers.

We would strongly encourage people who are opposed to the creation of more nuclear waste, to join citizens' groups such as ours, or their own local ones. These hazardous nuclear projects are everybody's business: They are supported with tax dollars by a crown corporation that is supposedly answerable to the public.

Yours truly,
Irene Kock,
Anne Hansen

Questioning a sense of fairness

Dear Sir,

On March 2, the current Ontario government closed its first session. According to Bob Rae (and probably not far from the truth, as the House sat for only 157 days in 16 months), it was the most unproductive session in Ontario's history. It was most improper that

just before the end of the day Ontario Members of Parliament voted themselves another pay raise.

Whether Ontario MPPs should earn \$52,401 to \$81,143 a year (and \$100,767 for the Premier) is debatable. Whether this particular government deserved a salary in-

crease is doubtful. But the fact that their new increase is retroactive to April 1, 1988, is simply disgusting.

Have our MPPs lost any sense of fairness?

Giuseppe Gori,
Family Coalition Party of Ontario
Riding of Halton North

Clock ticking on national debt



Your Business
Diane Maley
Thomson News Service

Business leaders who think we don't worry enough about the national debt could learn from Seymour Durst.

Frustrated by the public's lackadaisical attitude toward debt, Mr. Durst decided to drive the message home to his fellow New Yorkers. The frail, 75-year-old real estate developer mounted a giant-sized digital clock at one of the city's busiest intersections to measure the country's debt: \$2.7 trillion (U.S.) and rising by \$8,000 a second.

Each and every family in the country owes roughly \$42,000 - more than the average American household's net worth.

Mr. Durst says he is worried about the future of his family and his city because debt problems could end in economic collapse.

"What we're doing is totally irrational," he says. "If the federal indebtedness begins to bring down the whole nation, the cities will be affected more than any other area."

TIME BOMB

The clock dominates the wall of an abandoned apartment building at 42nd Street and Avenue of the Americas. The last time the nation's debt got out of hand was in the late 1920s and early 1930s, the period that led up to the Great Depression.

As time goes by, the clock will keep on ticking; its capacity will run out at \$10 trillion. "I think there's a longer time for the clock than there is for the country," Mr. Durst says.

In Canada, we prefer to think that debt is not so big a problem. To rationalize our indebtedness, we measure it as a percentage of national income, measured by gross domestic product. The country's \$293 billion in total debt comes to about 53 per cent of GDP - not all that high by historical standards, in the opinion of William Forward and Frank Longo, two

debt defenders from Toronto.

Mr. Forward is a political scientist and Mr. Longo is an economist.

In 1947, after the Second World War, we owed 107 per cent of our national income, the two men argue in a recent article in The Globe and Mail. "The current alarmism over the debt is really a stalking horse for the goal of cutting back Canada's social programs," they say.

Perhaps. But this line of thinking seems to depend on there being no growth in Canada's annual budget deficit, currently adding about \$29 billion a year to the national debt. Messrs. Forward and Longo note that the deficit may come in higher than that because of rising interest rates on the national debt.

FLAWED THINKING

If this is so, they argue, John

Crow, governor of the Bank of Canada, ought to lower interest rates rather than force the government to cut the deficit. But to think Ottawa can act independently on interest rates is a faulty premise.

Interest rates are surging worldwide, and Canada has no choice but to follow. Our financial markets are integrated globally; if they wobble, we would starve financially.

The two men follow their line of reasoning further, saying that even if Canada were to fall into recession, this would not add appreciably to the annual deficit. I wouldn't be so sure. In the end, Messrs. Forward and Longo conclude that moderate deficit reduction is all that is needed. I hope they're right, because that's all we're going to get.

CRIME STOPPERS

Police hunting daring robbers of elderly couple

Halton police in the Georgetown area are still actively seeking two suspects in the daylight armed robbery of senior citizens which took place in their home on Carole Street, Georgetown.

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, 1988 at 7:30 a.m. a man knocked on the door of the victim's house and gained entry by stating that he was an employee with the Town of Halton Hills. The suspect was allowed into the home on the pretence that he wanted to use the phone. Once inside, he produced a large bronze-colored revolver and threatened to "Blow your head off," if he did not do as he was told.

A second suspect, who was masked, then entered the residence and removed the victim's wife from her bedroom. She was taken downstairs, handcuffed, gagged and blindfolded. Her feet were tied with yellow nylon rope and heavy green duct tape was used to cover her eyes.

The victim was then forced to open a safe located in the base-



ment of the home. He was then bound in the same manner as his wife. The suspects then fled with a large amount of cash, stocks and bonds.

The suspects are described as follows: One is male, white, in his 30s, 5-ft. 8-in. to 5-ft. 9-in., stocky build, dark brown or black hair, medium length, neatly-trimmed beard and moustache, and he spoke with an accent. He was wearing a dark jacket and possibly jeans.

The other is a male, who was wearing a black balaclava mask to hide his identity.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest in this case of any other case. Callers are not required to reveal their identities or testify in court. The Crime Stoppers toll free number is 1-800-668-5151.