

Opinion Page

30 years ago

An oil painting by local artist Frank Black will have an honorable place in Georgetown High School in future years. The painting, commissioned by the students, portrays the old portion of the school scheduled for demolition in a construction program presently in progress. John Lenz, president of the student council, presented the painting which was received by school board chairman Murray Coles and unveiled by another student, Joan Cummins, at the high school commencement exercises Friday evening in the Knox Church Hall.

Speaking on "the Importance of the 4-H club organization" Bob Merry of Georgetown placed second in the zone competitions of the Lions Club speaking contest in the Legion Hall March 3. Georgetown representative Carol Kovacs failed to place with the winners but was highly rated by the judges. She spoke about TV commercials and their affect on daily life.

Mrs. James Kirkwood of the Afternoon Auxiliary of St. John's United Church spoke about the West Indies at the group's March meeting. Mrs. Kirkwood spoke of the "tragic" events of revolution in Cuba. She said the "fanatical" leadership of Fidel Castro has young boys of 10 or 12 years bearing arms.

15 years ago

Key political figures from both levels of the regional government painted a grim and bleak portrait of Halton's political profile to Acton residents last week. Regional Chairman Allan Masson again publicly accused his councillors of "foot-dragging" while Acton Coun. Les Duby said of regional government, "it was evident to me at the very beginning that it wasn't going to work."

Flying high and scoring to boot, the Georgetown Raiders romped to an easy three-game win Friday over the Oakville Adanacs to wrap up a best-of-five quarter final in OHA intermediate hockey. The Raiders bounced the Adanacs 11-1, superceding their 10-2 win in the opening game of the series. Wednesday, the Raiders squeaked to an 8-7 overtime win over the Oakville club.

All across Canada and the United States there has been a new popular sport emerging in high schools and colleges. However, this sport has yet to reach GDHS. Everyone is wondering when the first person is going to go streaking in Georgetown High.

10 years ago

Halton Regional Chairman Jack Raftis will meet the mayors of the region's four area municipalities to discuss the feasibility of establishing a United Way that would co-ordinate fund-raising and

Halton's History from our files

administrative effort for all health and social service organizations in the Region. Acting on a suggestion from Burlington Mayor Roly Bird, Regional council last Wednesday endorsed a move aimed at "maximizing fund-raising and fund-allocation efforts" through a single umbrella organization. Mr. Raftis agreed to arrange a meeting with mayors Bird, Harry Barrett of Oakville, Don Gordon of Milton and Pete Pomeroy of Halton Hills.

Varian Associates of Canada Ltd. has won two contracts from federal government departments. Varian will provide the department of consumer and corporate affairs with \$24,689 worth of optical instruments and the Atomic Energy Control Board with \$24,151 worth of optical instruments. The two contracts were among 261 awarded in the week ending Feb. 23 to Canadian companies by the department of supply and service on behalf of federal government departments and agencies.

5 years ago

Halton Hills trustees blasted the Halton Board of Education Thursday night for having no clear policy on cutting off French language programs at its schools. At a special meeting to review the Board's core French, and early and late immersion programs Thursday, trustees demanded the proposed French policy guidelines include information on cancelling French courses. "The thrust of the report is that we will continue to add French immersion at schools, but I don't think there is any machinery for designating (a French immersion school)... if there is such a word," said Trustee Dick Howitt.

Three million dollars has been spent trying to find solutions to Halton's garbage disposal problem. That's the figure being sent to the province's Ministry of the Environment as Halton seeks some provincial money to pay for the bill. Regional councillors blame the Ministry for contributing to the costs when it ordered Halton to carry out its landfill search under the Environmental Protection Act (EAA) in 1981. The bill for the EAA study is already over \$1 million.

There was little chance, according to a Regional report, that the Region's new landfill site would end up in Halton Hills. Three of the candidate sites are in Oakville, Burlington and Milton.

The best is free

Every two minutes, someone, somewhere in Canada needs blood. Life-saving blood and blood products are distributed free of direct charge to almost 900 Canadian hospitals by The Canadian Red Cross Society.

Since 1947, volunteer donors have been providing the lifeline for Red Cross blood services. The Red Cross now operates 17 blood centres that collect, test, process and distribute more than 20 different blood products across Canada.

These products are used to treat people undergoing surgery, hemophiliacs, pregnant mothers and new born babies, cancer and burn victims.

The Red Cross makes the most efficient use of each donation. Five per cent of all units collected is stored and distributed as whole blood; the other 95 per cent is

separated into red cells, white cells, platelets and plasma. Each part can then be transfused separately according to a patient's specific needs.

The whole donation process (registration, drawing of blood, rest) takes only about 45 minutes, yet one donated unit of blood (450 ml) can help up to three or four people. You can give blood every three months. That's how long it takes your body to completely replenish the blood given.

March is Red Cross Month. The Canadian Red Cross Society depends on your help to continue its life-saving service. Become a blood donor and experience the greatest gift you can give: "the gift of life."

For more information on how you can help the Red Cross, call your local branch.

Moral principles are key

Dear Sir,

One year ago, Canada's Supreme Court decided that the arbitrary nature of the old abortion law violated a woman's constitutional right to life, liberty and security of the person. The same court, last week, was not satisfied that the Charter of Rights clearly implies the right to life of every human being. Note that Section 7 of the Charter says exactly that "everyone has a right to life." That apparently is not clear enough. The court will not pronounce itself until the government will pass a new law regulating abortion. The judges did not cast any doubt on the "humanity" of the unborn (perhaps enlightened by the enormous amount of evidence presented by Mr. Borowsky). Rather, they indicated that acknowledging the rights of the unborn would force doctors and hospitals to choose between the

constitutional rights of the unborn and those of the pregnant woman. So, they unanimously decided to bury their heads under the sand!

The matter is now in the hands of our elected representatives. There are indications that a motion such as the one defeated by only a few votes last July, would be supported by the majority of the newly-elected MPs. Such a motion would allow abortion only in those cases where the mother's life is in danger. In addition, the results of a Gallup poll published by the Toronto Star on Feb. 27, show that the majority of Canadians (59 per cent) believe that abortion should be legal only under certain circumstances. Among the "acceptable circumstances" the one that scored the highest percentage (89 per cent) was "If the woman's health is endangered by pregnancy." In contrast, only five per cent

believe that abortions should be allowed up to 22 weeks of pregnancy. (Remarkably, the alternative "Only if the woman's life is in danger" was not on Gallup's list). In addition, another 13 per cent believe abortion should be illegal under any circumstances.

I would like to emphasize that questions of life and death cannot be resolved on the basis of a majority opinion, but rather should be decided according to moral principles. My analysis only shows that the government has more than one option for formulating a constitutional but more restrictive abortion law than the one that was struck down last year. The polls also show that the majority of Canadians would be happy with such a law.

Giuseppe Gori,
Family Coalition Party,
Halton North Riding Association

Lining up in solidarity

Dear Sir,

In British Columbia, 104 Pro-Life people were jailed overnight on Feb. 7, and 44 were held from Feb. 7 to Feb. 23.

These people blocked the entrance to an abortion clinic by passively sitting on the steps and sidewalk to the abortuary.

Studies show that 20 to 25 per cent of women who have to reschedule an abortion find a different solution to their problem

and allow their child to live. Therefore, rescuers believe they save one in five babies on the day of the rescues, simply by occupying the entrances.

Judge McKenzie dismissed the defence of necessity. "Righteousness is no defence," he said (and added), "There are no moral standards in abortion."

Judge Wood, also dealing with the rescuers, said the defence of necessity doesn't work because the

rescuers speak only for themselves and not for a larger segment of society.

Members of North Halton Pro-Life hereby pledge solidarity with the rescuers in their efforts to save lives. May we help all women find alternatives to abortion when faced with problem pregnancies.

Grace Miedema,
President,
North Halton Pro-Life

The last of the clan to leave

Dear Sir,

On March 31 when I move from Georgetown to Pickering, I will be the last one of a Peters family to leave. They moved here over 45 years ago.

On July 1, 1943 our family of eight, including Grandpa Brock, moved to Georgetown from New Toronto. We lived on a 10-acre

place on River Road, across from the Alliance and Provincial Paper mills. We did some market garden farming and enjoyed our new home. After World War II we made concrete blocks for the Normandy Blvd. housing project, and other construction sites. For several years after that I worked for Smith and Stone.

In 1956, Dad, Mom and I moved

into the present house at 31 Byron Street. For over 23 years I worked for the Town of Georgetown, later Halton Hills, retiring late in 1988.

Now I am off on a new adventure, and wish all my friends in the Georgetown area good health and the best of luck.

Sincerely,
Robert "Bob" Peters

A deranged sense of priorities

It's amazing how a guy can wake up one morning and discover that he has his priorities completely mixed up.

If I hadn't read the newspaper the other day, for instance, I would never have known that the true essentials in life are the microwave oven and the telephone answering machine, closely followed by the home computer and the VCR.

It's true. A survey of 600 Americans whose households bring in more than \$100,000 a year shows that microwaves rank as the "most important lifestyle necessity," with 79 per cent of those polled stating they could not live without one.

Forty-nine per cent could not live without an answering machine, 42 per cent could not survive without a computer, and 36 per cent could not continue to exist in this vale of tears without a VCR.

Just imagine what these people would do if the toaster broke down.

Now, it's certainly tempting to dismiss this survey on the grounds that it deals only with wealthy people. But this would be unfair, since people who make \$100,000 are constantly telling us they're not rich at all.

My own upper-income friends are adamant on this point. A hundred grand isn't wealth. Here in 1989, it's barely subsistence.

Apparently, earning \$100,000 means little more than being able to drive a nice car to the street corner where you sell pencils from a little tin cup.

Granted, it's easy to be skeptical about this if you're nowhere near the hundred grand mark yourself - if you're a little below the income level at which life without a Jacuzzi



Weir's View

By Ian Weir

Thomson News Service

can't be envisioned, and are in fact closer to the level at which you're just grateful for indoor plumbing. But we must take people at their word.

Now, no one would argue that the true essentials of modern life go no further than those ancient basics: clothing, shelter and food. Let's be realistic - at the very least, you need a few pairs of Levis, an apartment with a balcony, and a decent pizza restaurant that delivers.

And it's certainly possible that my amazement at this survey arises from my failure to keep up with modern technological gadgetry.

There are those of us who feel a little out of step in a society in which everyone under 21 regards a black and white TV as a medieval artifact, and assumes that, prior to the invention of the automatic dishwasher, humankind had to eat off paper plates.

Even so, I have some basic problems with that survey.

For starters, I violently disagree that the home computer is an essential for life, given my conviction that the computer is merely an overgrown pocket calculator with

delusions of grandeur.

Ditto the microwave. I've never felt the slightest need for one. Dear Heart manages just fine with the stove.

The VCR, to be fair, has more to recommend it. A VCR is pretty important, especially if you have kids.

Without a VCR, you'd have to spend Saturday evening watching the hockey game, instead of helping the little ones view The Reluctant Dragon for the seventy-third time.

And the plain truth is that a telephone answering machine is darned near essential. I've had mine for a year, and it's wonderful.

Presumably, people in the hundred-grand category find it guarantees they never miss crucial business calls. I find mine indispensable for ducking creditors.

In fact, I no longer answer my phone at all. If it's someone I want to talk to, I phone back five seconds later, generally making the excuse that I was just stepping out of the shower.

Sooner or later, it's possible my friends will get together, compare notes, and conclude that I'm kind of weird but awfully clean.

But even so, the answering machine and the VCR constitute just 50 per cent of life's essentials. It's kind of shocking, isn't it?

If you're like me, then there you are - muddling along, telling yourself that you're on the trail that leads to happiness and fulfillment, and then suddenly discovering that you lack at least half of the basic necessities for human existence.

Do you ever wonder how you survive in this century at all?