

Opinion Page

30 years ago

Members of Group three W.A. of St. John's United Church held quite a successful auction sale at their meeting on Wednesday which was held at the home of Mrs. Ian Ritchie, 7 Orchard Blvd. Mrs. J. Kirkwood presided and opened the meeting with the use of Hymn 96 and responsive reading in Psalm 72. Mrs. M.G. McFarlane was in charge of the devotions and stated that at Easter we celebrate the triumph of love and rejoice in the abiding Presence of Christ.

Spry and cheerful, Georgetown's oldest citizen and veteran entertainer, Joe Martin, turned 93 years old on Wednesday, April 1, 1959.

Pupils of Wrigglesworth public school provided an evening of music for their parents on Friday when various choirs were directed by their teachers. The evening was planned by music teacher Kenneth R. Harrison and included vocal solos by Andrea Chaplin, David Farnell, Jenny May Brownridge and Mary Rowson.

If you would have liked to try some Chinese food at the Wellington Cafe, 124 Guelph St., each Egg Roll was 15 cents, Chinese Vegetable Soup was 30 cents and an order of Chicken Fried Rice was 90 cents.

15 years ago

The winning crew of the 1974 Crazy Boat Race also won last year's event. The course, which was complete with sandbars, rapids, portages and shallow water was completed by Paul Girard, Wayne Bingham, Steve Kaczowski and Richard Harris. They used the same styrofoam boat in which they paddled to victory in 1973.

Three men dressed in underwear and football helmets made a dash through a crowd at an Optimists Club dance at Holy Cross Church Hall in Georgetown, March 30, 1974.

More than 600 persons crowded into the gym of Milton high school were told that it was time to change Ontario's education system. The persons including teachers, administrators and parents were at a meeting organized by the Halton Renaissance Committee to hear special guest speaker Larry Henderson, radio broadcaster and editor. He told the group that it was time for parents to fight to control the future of Ontario's education system. Most of the innovations of the school system, he claimed, had failed and gave a number of examples including open classes, sex education, new math, the "slip stream" education, techniques, and political science courses.

10 years ago

With all proceeds pledged to a

Halton's History from our files

local charity, Miracle Foodmart and the Beta Sigma Phi Soroty sponsored an informative and entertaining evening at St. Andrew's United Church on Mountainview Road Wednesday. New Miracle Foodmart manager Bob Gudgeon and other company representatives hosted a meat-cutting demonstration, showed slides of the new store, offered baked goods fresh from the bakery and outlined the operation of a new scanner take-out system.

An explanatory appeal on behalf of the proprietors of Mr. Donut, a take-out restaurant which is soon to open on Highway 7 in Georgetown, failed to sway the opinion of the town's general committee Monday night about a pylon sign requested for the site. Despite the assurance of an official of Marport Corporation Ltd. that Mr. Donut's sign would be much smaller and not as flashy as the sign for Frank Vetere's Pizzeria next door in the Delrex Market Centre lot, the committee voted 6-6 on a recommendation by Coun. Mike Armstrong that would have overturned an earlier resolution rejecting the Mr. Donut application.

5 years ago

John McDermid (PC-Brampton-Georgetown) has been appointed to the National Youth Bowling Council. As a member of the Board of Governors he replaced Judge Ross H. Fair. The group meets annually at the YBC championships to review the program, objectives and rules for the 70,000 member organization.

Georgetown Optimist Club oratorical winners Richard Sowery and Lisa Carter competed in the zone finals in Orangeville, Saturday, March 24, 1984. Contestants represented Orangeville, Hillsburgh, Erin and Georgetown Optimist Clubs. Richard Sowery of Centennial Public School was declared the winner of the boys' oratorical contest and he will proceed to the district final.

GDHS students had the chance to visit with the internationally famous saxophonist Paul Brodie. Besides conducting the workshop on saxophone techniques, Mr. Brodie performed two numbers accompanied by band conductor Harry Hamilton and the concert band.

LETTERS

Division of duties unworkable

Dear Sir,

Recently the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs have jointly passed a program called "Conservation Land Tax Reduction." Under this program the land owners of certain types of highly significant lands (conservation lands, significant wetlands, natural Escarpment areas and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest) will receive a 100-per-cent tax rebate. The reason for such a program, according to the Ministries, is "to support those owners who are willing to commit themselves to the long-term stewardship of conservation and natural heritage lands."

To qualify, owners must sign a form which includes the following condition: "The owner, at the time it ceases to be a conservation land, must repay the rebates received for that property" including 10 per cent interest per annum. The program has generally been welcomed by environmental groups as long overdue. However, two problems are worth mentioning. The first is that even a good law, if applied inconsistently, can become useless. The second is that the Ministry of the Environment is not involved with this program.

It is very easy for me to give you an example of these problems: The land I own on the back of my house is on the Escarpment Natural Area (south part of Lot 21) and is mostly a wetland. I have been notified that, if I sign the declaration of "stewardship," I will receive full tax rebate. The problems are as

follows:

1. The north part of the same lot (Lot 21), although exactly the same as far as geological features, is designated, for no good reason, as "Mineral extraction" in the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Nobody has ever looked at the land when quarrying licences were issued many years ago, nor has any Assessment of the land been conducted since. United Aggregates (owner of the Acton quarry/proposed dump) can start digging on Lot 21 (north half) a 150-ft. deep quarry any time they want. When they do so, not only will they destroy a valuable conservation land, but all the surrounding area will be adversely affected, including the land I own. How am I supposed to be the steward of a wetland destined for drainage because of activities outside my control and even contrary to my will? (In the end, I may even be asked to repay the rebate plus interest).

2. When I tried to point out the environmental problems which would be derived from the expansion of the United Aggregates quarry, I discovered that the Commission in charge of the protection of the Escarpment (the NEC) is not under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment (this Ministry has not even any knowledge of the NEC Plan). In fact, it is the Ministry of Natural Resources which, according to the new Bill 170, is supposed to control the damage to the environment caused by quarries. This is obviously a conflict of interest situation: How can the same Minister

be responsible for both, the development of pits and quarries and the protection of the environment? Undoubtedly he will be inclined to listen to the more powerful lobby group.

Similar problems are bound to arise with a new policy statement on Wetlands which has been circulated recently for public review. Again, this is issued by the same provincial Ministries, Natural Resources and Municipal Affairs. Why is James Bradley, Minister of the Environment, not even signing policy statements on matters of great environmental significance? It seems to me that the current division of responsibility between the Ministries is, to say the least, unworkable. A clear and intuitive principle for the division of responsibility between the two Ministries is the following:

-The Ministry of the Environment should be in charge of planning for the protection of the environment from any adverse effect (caused usually by human activities and including the damages which are often caused by the use of natural resources).

-The Ministry of Natural Resources should be in charge of planning for the use of natural resources in accordance with the law.

In addition, the government should issue precise directives so that the protection of the Environment would be primary. If we are going to destroy our habitat, we will not be given a second chance.

Giuseppe Gori,
Chairman of EAGLE

Let's "circle the wagon" to protect rural service

Dear Sir,

So Canada Post is in rural Canada to stay. Isn't that remarkable. Before we get all choked up over their benevolence let's ask them which part of rural Canada they plan to stay in.

I guess it's not Alice Arm, Coal-mont, Monte Lake, Birch Island or Farmington. They, along with a dozen others in British Columbia, have already been closed completely (no private outlet either).

Maybe they are referring to their "under review" list which includes places like Lak la Hache, Bridge Lake and 35 others.

The fact remains that the Canadian postal system has been in rural Canada for over a hundred years and is now gradually sneaking out the back door while they are telling us it isn't.

All their high-sounding phrases won't alter the fact that a total of 59

rural post offices in British Columbia are already on their hit list and more to come. So far the score is 17

closed, five "privatized" and 37 "under review."

Why not write a letter to the Right Honorable Brian Mulroney, House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6, telling him you object to the erosion of our rural communities. Send a copy to your local Member of Parliament, same address, no stamps required.

Once our rural amenities are gone (all the ones our parents and grandparents fought so hard to get) we won't get them back. Once we are into the green box thing and are a rural route number of a larger community, the names of our small communities will fall into disuse.

Come on folks - let's "circle the wagons" - someone is trying to steal our way of life.

Yours truly,
Aline Journeay

Write us a letter

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make on something you read in the Herald, send us a letter or drop by the office with your signed letter to the editor at 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown. The mailing address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 3Z6. We're waiting to hear from you.

Ten per cent of Canadians think Elvis is alive

Well, so much for all those reassuring promises that free trade would never lead right-thinking Canadians down the garden path of adopting American attitudes.

Just three months the deal has been in effect, and suddenly there's proof positive that Canadians have begun to embrace the quintessential American belief of the 1960s: a Gallup Poll has just shown that fully 10 per cent of Canadians doubt that Elvis Presley is dead.

Good grief. What next? A widespread conviction that Donald Trump is an authentic Canadian hero?

Obviously, the poll raises a host of questions. For starters, why on earth should Gallup spend money to find out whether Canadians think Elvis is really dead?

Was it just a slow day at the office? Or is someone thinking of running him for leader of the NDP?

In any case, it's all very unsettl-



Weir's View

By Ian Weir

Thomson News Service

ing.

Since it's such a controversial issue, I should come straight out and make a confession: I am one of those who believe that Elvis is dead, has been dead for years, and is likely to remain dead for the foreseeable future.

On the other hand, I am also one of those who believed the Toronto Maple Leafs would win their division. So take my beliefs with a grain of salt.

Now, it's certainly possible that my views are prejudiced by the fact that I was never a great Elvis

fan in the first place.

It's just that I was a little too young to have been swept away when he burst onto the scene in the last 1950s. At that point, I was still listening to The Little Engine That Could.

My all-time musical heroes are the ones who emerged a few years later. To put it another way: Elvis was okay, but he sure wasn't Herman Hermits.

Granted, I gained more respect for Elvis in later years. I was particularly impressed by the story that he would sit in his mansion behind a two-way mirror while his assistants ushered adoring young female fans into his viewing-room in groups of 30.

This struck me as a wonderful way to meet girls - infinitely better than the usual strategy of arranging accidental meetings in the frozen-food section. ("Hi, I'm Ian. How 'bout that Lean Cuisine, eh?")

It's also possible that my belief in Elvis' death is based on ig-

norance and insufficient research, since I haven't (to be honest) been keeping a very close eye on the supermarket tabloids.

Apparently, these diligent investigative journals have reported that Elvis has been seen working at assorted car-washes and greasy spoons in small American towns.

One magazine ran a story about a fan who saw Elvis' image in a bowl of oatmeal - raising the possibility that he has gone from King of Rock 'n Roll to patron saint of breakfast.

Another claimed he had been seen in Vicksburg, Mich., buying a fuse at a supermarket. (Which raises the question: whose fuse was blown, here?)

Still, I'm skeptical. And that's why it's so unnerving to read that 2.5 million Canadians believe Elvis may still be alive.

It's fine for Americans to have this belief. Americans love to

believe in all sorts of unusual things - which explains their theory that the best way to keep the streets safe is to sell lots and lots of semi-automatic weapons.

But Canadians have always been a much more cautious people. Before we believe in anything, we ask two questions. One: is this possible? Two: even if it's possible, would we be happier if we ignored it?

This is why at least half of us remain unconvinced that the deficit exists. It may simply be the mischievous invention of Michael Wilson - who, come to think of it, most of us have never actually seen, either.

And now, all of a sudden, we're half-expecting to meet Elvis Presley at the car-wash?

Rats. Mr. Turner told us and told us that no good would come of free trade.

We were just too darned Canadian to believe him.