

## Opinion Page

### 30 years ago

Members of the North Halton High School district board meeting in Acton approved a 1959 budget up 2.1 mills and finalized a much discussed four classification salary schedule for teachers with a minimum of \$4,500. "I think we're unduly afraid of future pressure," trustee E.S. Force, Acton, commented to the suggested increase in the minimum.

Halton Manor Board officials have obtained permission from Hon. Louis P. Cecile, Minister of Welfare for Ontario to proceed with the construction of a 139-bed addition to the county home for aged residents. Last week county officials signed the construction contract with Dell Construction. Total price of the contract was \$802,467.

Halton Homes were unable to contain the powerful Glen machine Sunday afternoon as they relinquished the industrial hockey league title to Glen Williams in a best of five series, three games to none.

### 15 years ago

At the annual awards dinner of the Central Ontario Drama League's festival held at the Toronto Downtown Holiday Inn, Saturday evening, Derek Joyner, president of Georgetown Little Theatre, was one of the three persons nominated for best director. The nomination was in recognition of Derek's work in GLT's production of Plaza Suite by Neil Simon.

In a spectacular display of talent and color, Acton Figure Skating Club wound up the season with its annual ice revue at Acton arena. Trophies were awarded to four skaters for achievement through their own hard work, co-operation and attitude towards skating and the teachers. The winners were Carol McKenzie, David McGilloway, Karen McEachern, and Heather Mickey.

## Halton's History from our files

### 10 years ago

The Halton Board of Education approved a \$7,500 study of the middle school concept to determine if it is more effective than other school systems.

Brampton-Georgetown Conservative hopeful John McDermid burst from the starting gate in the young federal election campaign as he was the only local candidate involved in any "main streeting" campaign work. Mr. McDermid visited with local merchants last week and also shook a few hands and kissed a few babies on Main and Guelph Streets.

Halton Regional Police will be tendering for 34 new police cruisers in 1979. The force intends to stick with the full-sized vehicles, and there have been few changes from the 1978 specifications.

### 5 years ago

The Georgetown Optimist Club is planning to have a parade to kick off their eight annual Bang-O-Rama, Entitled "Our Heritage," the parade is in celebration of Ontario's 200th birthday and Georgetown's 120th birthday.

It was a teenager's dream come true. Nicki Fraser won her weight in rock. The 16-year-old Georgetown woman's name was drawn from a ballot box at the Shopper's World, Brampton, Music World store. Nicki was invited to pick 120 records and cassettes off the store shelves.

## LETTERS

# Mulroney's on a "power trip"

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following letter to Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner was filed with the Herald for publication.

Dear Mr. Turner,

I read with interest and anxiety your column in the March 29 edition of the Georgetown Herald. You tell us we are bankrupt and that your government feels "it's cheating the future to run deficits and build up debt." Why then has our Prime Minister delayed our opening of Parliament until April 3? The last House of Commons was dissolved on October 1st - SIX

MONTHS AGO! The government has spent \$40 million or more on a Commons that was given nothing to do. There will come a day, I'm sure, when your government complains about the opposition obstruction and the shortage of time to get approval for legislation and whose fault will that be?

Has Brian Mulroney moved our capital to Meech Lake for private meetings with his inner cabinet? What kind of a democratic process does Canada have with Mr. Mulroney? Perhaps his government just isn't ready to face the

Commons after six months of reorganization.

You say that Canada should be operated as a business. How many businesses take a six month holiday and still remain solvent? I do not wish to criticize your efforts thus far but I have some very real concerns for the direction our government is taking. Our P.M., I feel, is on a personal power trip and our members must always keep in mind what is really best for our country.

Yours truly,  
Eileen Weldon

## Come join the Artisans

Dear Sir,

I wonder if people find the Credit Valley Artisans' name intimidating. They shouldn't! I remember when first moving to Halton Hills, flipping through a parks and recreation book and seeing the C.V.A. advertisement. I had little confidence that the C.V.A. would be impressed with the speed at which I could tie a macramé knot. Now, I had been doing Arts and Crafts since I could remember and family members had been long suffering recipients of my self-proclaimed masterpieces. Yet somewhere deep inside, I knew that the Group of Seven would never change their name to Sections of Eight to accommodate me.

The thirst of knowledge, creativity and friendship won out over self-doubt and I went to sign-up. Still, I approached the cottage with grave trepidation. Once I met the members, all my doubts were

waived aside. Here were everyday people who were enjoying painting, weaving, pottery and stain glass and wanted to promote the visual arts in Halton Hills. To encourage the novice, they offered artisans courses. For the accomplished artisans, they provide a strong support system by providing a work area, art and craft sales and encouragement. The C.V.A. has always participated at community events. This helps to attract new members and keeps us in the public eye. Our membership consists of a good cross-section of the surrounding community, including nurses, teachers, bus drivers, housewives, laborers, sales agents, engineers, accountants, professional artisans, and office people. Many talented and successful members started as novices with the C.V.A.

If you want to join the C.V.A. then put aside your doubts and come and meet us. The annual

membership fees are low cost and you will obtain your money's worth. We need you to help to continue promoting the visual arts. We are also interested in hearing from people who would like to have their art guild join the C.V.A. or would like to start a new guild. For further information, please contact our Registrar, Joanna Dobbin at 877-3532.

We invite everyone to come out to our open house on Sunday, April 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Cedarvale Cottage in Cedarvale Park, Georgetown. Not only will we have members demonstrating and ready to answer any questions you may have, we will also be serving coffee and refreshments. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and see artisans at work in their home!

The next meeting for C.V.A. members will be held May 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Kath Peace

## Thanks for support from service groups

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two local service clubs in our community who provided a valuable service. The Acton Rotary Club and the Georgetown Optimist Club sponsored Free Skating at the three arenas in the Town of Halton Hills. In total 4,757 residents took advantage of this generous opportunity.

On behalf of the residents of Halton Hills, and the Recreation and Parks Department, thank you for your continuous support and for the contributions you make to our community.

Sincerely,  
Joanne Wilson,  
Supervisor of Special Events

## 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.

## Church group won't let sleeping dogs lie

"I don't discuss in public what my wife and I do," said Rev. Lockhart.

He wondered what would make a practising homosexual any different.

But while the media focussed on the meaty issue of homosexuality it ignored a crucial element of the United Church's stand. According to a document released last year, Chris was no longer to be the central figure of the church.

Ministers in Bowmanville discussed their disappointment with the paper published by the United Church internal government. This paper was up for approval at last year's annual conference in British Columbia.

The United Church officials modified this document following the protest of the Community of Concern. This large, reactionary group is opposed to what they say is an upstart trend in the church to strengthen inner government and weaken the church's base.

So it's much more than a fight to stop gays from preaching in the pulpit.

Speaking with United Church ministers in Halton Hills last summer, I got the impression that danger to the church was not as imminent here as it was east and west of Toronto.

Ministers here felt the decision ultimately rests within each parish.

But whether or not fears are apparent, the two sides of the United Church have been set adrift from one another.

A radical core floats toward a new definition of the United Church of Canada while a reactionary Community of Concern clings to the premises of the past.

And the principles of individuality and union that brought United Church followers together are slipping away.



Kell's Korner

Donna Kell  
Herald Staff

United Church Ministers opposed to ordaining homosexuals will not let sleeping dogs lie.

The Community of Concern - 1,200 ministers and 30,000 lay people strong - is continuing its fight in Ontario to set the record straight. The group, opposed to any move by the United Church governmental body to ordain self-declared, practising homosexuals, is warming up for the annual spring meeting of the church's general council.

Members of the Community of Concern met locally last Friday in Etobicoke.

The battle, according to Rev. Frank Lockhart of the Community's strategy committee, is to ensure that the United Church is not promoting homosexuality.

When I spoke with Rev. Lockhart last year in Bowmanville, he highlighted some of the concerns of the Community.

The Community of Concern isn't a radical, right-wing group that has stagnated in the 1950s. It's a group of ministers and congregation members aiming to preserve the dignity of their church.

When I interviewed three ministers while I was working for the Canadian Statesman newspaper in Bowmanville, last spring Rev. Lockhart, a down-to-earth man with an honest face and a humble home and office backing the United Church, said the local ministers found the whole sexuality issue to be an outrage.

## It's hard to be romantic about today's sports heroes



Weir's View

By Ian Weir

Thomson News Service

It was such a joy to open up the newspaper the other day and be reminded that there is still one Canadian sports hero who can serve as a genuine role-model to us all.

The sad fact is the woods are no longer particularly full of sports stars we can look up to. Over the past decade, a lot of them seem to have left the woods and moved to drug-rehabilitation clinics.

It was different, of course, in the old days. (Everything always was.) Back then, we had all kinds of legitimate sports heroes - sturdy, decent men with crew-cuts and no teeth.

Now, it's certainly possible we may have over-estimated these guys. It's conceivable that at least some of them weren't quite as sturdy and decent as they seemed when we were six.

But at least the crew-cuts were real and the teeth were false, which has to tell you something.

Nowadays, it's obviously a little harder to be so romantic about sports heroes.

Here in 1989, the sports pages chronicle the activities of baseball

players who stalk off in a huff and refuse to play if their salary dips below the Gross National Product of Luxembourg.

There's the Dubin Commission, which has helped us answer the knotty question of whether Olympic athletes can truly be considered amateurs. And it turns out the answer is "yes and no" - they may be professional athletes, but at least they're amateur pharmacologists.

In short - give or take a Gretzky or two - professional sports offers nobody a kid can truly look up to. Especially us kids in our thirties and onwards.

And that's when we open the paper and read that Canada's greatest-ever athletic role-model - a paragon of decency and integrity whom we should have had the wisdom to elect prime minister - is still alive and well and living in happy retirement in Kentucky.

I refer, of course, to Northern Dancer.

It's possible my wild admiration for the Dancer arises in part from mere nostalgia, since he ran during the brief Golden Age of horse racing.

This Golden Age began around 1963, when I grew old enough to watch the Kentucky Derby on TV. It ended around 1972, when I grew old enough to go to the track and bet.

It was Groucho Marx who commented on the thrill of visiting the wealthy race tracks - which were considerably wealthier when he left.

Still, just consider the pertinent facts about Northern Dancer's career.

Here was an undersized horse who won both the Derby and the Preakness without performance-enhancing chemicals. When other world-class athletes were already on the verge of the era of chemical experimentation, the Dancer was resolutely saying neigh to drugs.

Here was also an athlete who retired in the very core of his prime - at the age of three.

I've always found this particularly inspiring, since it stresses a truth so often denied in our unhappy society - that three is an excellent age at which to give up strenuous physical exercise.

It's a biological fact that human energy reaches its peak at the age of two. Physical exercise can (in certain cases) be safely attempted until the age of seven or eight. After that, it's madness.

But most inspiring of all is the way the Dancer adjusted to retirement. Where so many athletes have fallen apart after their playing days were over, the Dancer simply got on with the business of providing stud services for fees of up to \$1 million an appointment.

Let's be perfectly honest. A guy could learn to live on that.

In short, we're not just talking about a role-model - we're talking about a shining beacon to all Canadians.

Northern Dancer. Sigh.

If this weren't such a rotten and unfair world, you too might be able to have a son just like him.