

Opinion Page

30 years ago

The 1959 budget, approved by council calls for a 61 mill rate for houses and a 63 rate for industrial and commercial properties. This was a 13 mill rise over last year. In dollars, the owner of an average town house had to pay approximately \$50 more in taxes.

Ken McMillan, vice-president of the Ontario Hockey Association for two years was elected president, succeeding Lorne Cook of Kingston. He was the 29th president since 1903.

In the real estate section, a house was listed for sale. One and a half with large attached garage. Solid brick, prominently located at the corner of Prince Charles and Rexway Drives. This house was selling for \$13,500.

15 years ago

As part of their nursing diploma course, 16 student nurses from Sheridan College School of Nursing were working at the Georgetown hospital. They spent 12 weeks in Georgetown. A few of the student nurses were Lois Taylor, Cathy Lee, Jane O'Neill, Debbie Babock, and Netta Bye.

As a series of joint Holy Week services, Acton residents were told not to blame God or the devil for the problems of society. Guest preacher Rev. Morris N. Griedanus, speaking on "The Christ and the devil," explained that since the movie "The Exorcist" there has been a renewed interest in satanism.

Mrs. Bernice Henderson of 17 Hewson Cres., mother of seven, became a \$1,000 winner in the Olympic lottery and she smiled all the way to the bank after only a 10 dollar investment for the ticket.

10 years ago

A long-time Georgetown resident Alma Sykes was honored for her years of service to Halton County and Region. Mrs. Sykes

Halton's History from our files

was Director of Nursing Services at Halton Centennial Manor, Halton's home for the aged in Milton. In the course of her tenure Alma Sykes had a vital part in the planning of many expansion programs and the introduction of a new care service for the home's residents.

The Halton Regional Police force appointed Staff Insp. Alex Terrell district commander in District 1, which covers Acton, Georgetown, and Milton. Staff Insp. Terrell has taken over the position from Actin Superintendent Roy Taylor who is now in charge of District 2.

5 years ago

An exhibition of paintings by one of the finest wildlife artists in the world, Robert Bateman, was set to open in June at the Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre Gallery. The artist and his wife, Birgit Freybe-Bateman, who reside in Lowville, attended the exhibition opening at the Gallery on June 1.

Paul Brodie, saxophonist, presented a workshop for the students at Georgetown District High School. Mr. Brodie, nicknamed Mr. Saxophone recorded 28 albums which made him the most recorded concert saxophonist in the history of the instrument.

June Baker scored 91 per cent, the top mark, on a new Halton Regional Police basic law and police procedures course. She received her certificate of training, with distinction, from police chief James Harding.

Rural Canada fights post office closings

Kell's Korner

Donna Kell
Herald Staff

People in rural Canada are not losing "the centre of their community" without a fight.

Small rural post offices around Canada have been closed down in the past few years and replaced with larger, less personal services.

The rural post office, described as the centre of the community and the forerunner to the community newspaper, is having its doors shut permanently as "natural opportunities" allow Canada Post, a crown corporation, to fold a post office when a postmaster retires or dies.

In Limehouse, the postmaster retired last year after many years of service. She was replaced by a couple who bought the general store and signed a contract with Canada Post for postal service. The couple quickly found that meagre profits weren't worth the time it took to process mail, money orders and special delivery packages.

Rural Dignity says it's no wonder people opt out of postal services. Members say the Limehouse postmaster made more money than the new couple performing the same services.

Rural Dignity held a demonstration the first day of spring at Queen's Park, to inform the government that there is much to

battle for before the next set of rural post office doors are closed.

Local Rural Dignity representative Liz Armstrong from Erin, said the group had the support of local MPs including Garth Turner who communicates regularly with Ms. Armstrong.

Mr. Turner phoned Liz a short while ago to say the fight to stop Canada Post from closing local post offices during lunch hours had been won.

But Ms. Armstrong, normally a friendly person, grows angry as she discusses the future of rural post offices. She said Canada Post is increasing urban expenses while rural people suffer.

Members of Rural Dignity in western Canada blockaded the entrance to a rural post office recently when Canada Post attempted to shut it down. This natural opportunity was the occasion of a farmer who ran the post office falling off a barn roof to his death.

Eventually, Canada Post closed down those facilities.

Rural Dignity argues that Canada Post is signing new contracts that pay less for services than postmasters would receive.

A postmaster who was paid upwards of \$15,000 a year is replaced by workers under contract who make \$8,000 to \$10,000 for the same services.

Ms. Armstrong referred to an article in Canadian Press that said Canada Post is getting lean but its head is getting fatter.

The article said that head office budget for Ottawa is growing while the rural budget shrinks.

Who suffers, asks Rural Dignity. According to the citizen-formed group, it's the people in non-urban areas with the smallest voices.

LETTERS

Reader has "different perspective" on march

Dear Sir,

With reference to Donna Kell's article of April 12, 1989, I feel compelled to write to your paper giving a different perspective on the march to Queen's Park by anti-poverty supporters.

For two years the Social Assistance Review Committee studied the problem related to social assistance benefits. They surprisingly discovered that the largest group of recipients were disabled (43 per cent) and a good portion were single mothers. Benefits had fallen badly behind the cost of living and people caught in the welfare trap were not given the incentives they need to get out from under.

They heard cases where single mothers were better off financially if they stayed on mothers' allowance rather than work for minimum wage - still they could not afford the price it costs to rent an apartment, clothe and feed their children and meet other necessary expenses.

The major obstacle for the millions of homeless has been locating accommodation and getting "an address" before a cheque could be issued - even then, how does one afford first and last month's rent.

Canada may be one of the best countries in the world to live if you can find a job, have adequate shelter and food but try telling that

to someone who must go to food banks or shelters to get a roof over their head and some sustenance with which to survive.

I know "society's" attitude is often that people abuse the system. Grant you, there are some. But there are also working people who do likewise. Justice is an ideal, unfortunately that will never be obtained. The gap between rich and poor becomes greater each year and the burden on middle income earners enormous.

Our democracy cannot be touted as the ideal for this competitive rat race does not offer every one the opportunity to start on an "equal" footing.

Sincerely,
Pat Woode

Reader's home is sound

Dear Sir,

We are concerned that your April 12 article regarding the reduction of taxes on three homes on Gardiner Drive leaves readers with the impression that other homes there are substandard and unmarketable. This is not true.

When someone asks who built our home, we tell them "we" did. We explain that even though Park Lane Estates was officially in charge, we were here at least three times a day, watching and checking. We prevented many of the problems the Kermacks have by keeping in daily contact with Park Lane; communicating with the trades ourselves; calling in inspectors and finally contracting out some of the work ourselves. It was hard work and it was expensive.

We have little respect for Bob Duckworth or Park Lane Estates. However, we love our home.

We have no "holes" in walls or windows, no cracking never mind collapsing walls and in three springs, not a drop of water in our basement or elsewhere. Our house is very sound and we do not plan to move now or in the foreseeable future.

We do agree with Mr. Kermack that Park Lane or any other unprincipled company should not be allowed to build here again and that municipal officials must increase their endeavors to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

Yours truly,
Gail Rutherford,
Dave Rutherford,
22 Gardiner Drive

Water is liquid gold

Dear Sir,

The sideroad looked good this morning. My dog and I paced out past open fields, brown in the sun. Blackbirds commented on the loveliness of the April day. Halton is a beautiful place to be. It lives up to its name in the rolling countryside, rural farmland and good country neighbors. It was one of those days of well being, gladness and joy of living I guess until I looked down at the roadside ditches full of winter's garbage, pop cans and refuse of all sorts. There lay the advertisements of hamburger and coffee shops declaring their existence in town. Occasionally contents of ash trays and garbage bags tossed from passing cars added its ugliness to the scene. If I am classed as a sentimentalist so be it - I am glad there are still some who can and do weep over the wreckage of our landscape and our natural resources.

Living in the country as we do, we have run out of water many many times during dry seasons. We have turned on our taps to have only a roar from the pump and nothing else. Ah yes! We have watched our flower beds, our vegetables and grass wither before our eyes - not because our water was restricted as in town but because THERE WASN'T ANY.

Last summer, I hear tell, is a sample of what is to come in the years ahead. 1988 was a little different than any years I remember before. There was a trace of fear as week after week our dry well produced not a drop of its precious former treasure.

Perhaps those in town have never been without water. Could it be that our mayor and others over us have given no thought to what it would be like, for not just our family, but ALL of Georgetown to turn on their taps and have not a drop to drink. Dreadful, unheard of, preposterous you say. Wait a minute now. Perhaps in a drought the water may force its way out in a dribble and fill our raised glasses but it is unfit to drink. Impossible, you say! Not for about 10 years or so I hear, for the water won't be poisoned by the "proposed" Acton dump until that time down here. Oh good, that means then all the creeks, rivers, trees, songbirds,

wildlife and their young, the wildflowers and crops... not to mention me and my family will be okay 'til then. Small comfort to Halton residents. Small comfort to Acton folks who will live within the environs of the dump. They will be poisoned first. I wonder where their water will come from.

Years ago I recall reading a sad story of a little town in the States. A young woman in a doctor's office struck up a conversation with another. Both of them had brought their little sons aged six and seven to the doctor's office and were diagnosed as having leukemia. Discovering they were neighbors their suspicions were aroused and both they, their doctor and a lawyer of the town researched considerably and discovered at least 12 children with leukemia within a four to five block radius. The outcome was this. A dump had been covered over by fill years ago and a playground of all things had been constructed over it. The rot and seepage of the gasses was full of carcinogens as well as the sand in the sandbox. These little ones were the recipients of ill planned refuse.

While we travel in England there is a mountain pass called the "Honister." You open a gate across the road - enter your car - close the gate again and come across a sign which simply reads "You have been warned" - nothing more and nothing less. The sign says it all as you perch on the top of the pass and look ahead at the winding road and one in four gradients and sliding rocks that tumble across the road. Need I say more.

Politicians, people of Halton - write your letters, support Garth Turner and POWER. Fight this dump or we will all experience the turning on of our taps - not to find sparkling life giving thirst quenching water, but maybe undrinkable bilge or no water at all.

Those who don't speak up cannot complain later. Wake up before it's too late. Sleep and pay no attention at your own peril.

Water is liquid gold - ask my family and I - we know. Oh how we know.

Sincerely,
Shirley Deaville,
Professional Artist

Homeowners happy with construction

Dear Sir,

Regarding last week's article "Taxes reduced on three homes after faulty construction," clarification is needed from contented homeowners lest anyone believe these difficulties exist with all the other homes on Gardiner Drive.

We are thrilled with our home on Gardiner Drive, so much so, that we plan to reside here for a very long time. Our home is well planned, well finished and most importantly, is soundly constructed.

Mr. Kermack and two other homeowners have had their share of difficulties and we are pleased, as neighbors, that these problems have or will be rectified.

Perhaps they can now enjoy living here on Gardiner Drive, as we do, and relax and take in the beauty and tranquility that surrounds us in this subdivision.

Yours truly,
Jim and Betty Fisher,
10 Gardiner Drive

Thanks for the party

Dear Sir,

Our Golden Wedding Anniversary at the Elks Hall, Norval, on April 8, was a very happy and a very memorable day. We appreciate immensely the renewed fellowship of so many long-time friends, neighbors, and family members. Your kind thoughts, cards, gifts, and most of all your visit with us, made the day thrilling. Special thanks to our son Greg, and his wife Angela, for an unbelievable achievement in arranging an exciting afternoon, and the dinner and dance which followed in the evening at the Hall.

Thanks to all of you.
Joe and Marie Harris

Celebrating 100 years

Dear Sir,

The Manitoba Developmental Centre previously known as the Manitoba School, will be celebrating 100 years of service to the community July 12-15, 1990. All former residents and staff are invited back to Portage la Prairie for the celebration. Events will include a banquet and dance, fashion show, street dance, guided tours, picnic, tea, and many reunions.

Please send your name and current address to Brian Tully and we will be happy to mail you further information.

Address: Box 1190, Portage la Prairie, Man. R1N 3C8.

Yours truly,
Linda Rennie,
Co-chair, Centenary Comm.,
Doreen M. Buchanan,
Co-chair, Centenary Comm.