

Opinion Page

30 years ago

Mary Evans was the valedictorian for the graduating class of Chapel Street Public School on June 9 when the class, members of the Home and School Association and teaching staff attended the graduation banquet in the Legion Hall.

A draw partly held on behalf of Holy Cross Church in Georgetown, was won by Miss Catherine Sedge of Scarborough. The draw was organized by Our Lady of Fatima Church in Scarborough with a grand prize of \$3,600. Tickets were sold locally by the garden party committee of Holy Cross Church.

The Georgetown Lions closed their year on June 16, 1959 with a combined induction of officers ceremony and ladies' night at the Legion Hall, it was announced June 2 when the club held their regular dinner meeting. Named co-chairman of the upcoming affair were Clarence Heslop and Dick Miller.

15 years ago

A strike by 50 outside workers was averted when the Halton Hills town council agreed to a proposed contract agreement offering the workers 45 cents per hour over the next year. Coun. G.W. McKenzie noted that in the agreement, the town would increase the wages of a laborer 40 cents per hour from April 1 to October 1 when another five cents would be added.

Halton Board of Education trustees described certain books from a suggested textbook list for the 25 elementary and secondary schools as "trash," "controversial," and "disgusting." The board agreed last Thursday to withhold their final decision on the 19th for two weeks to allow each trustee a chance to study the list for problem books. One of the books listed was "Catcher in the Rye."

The Ontario School for the Deaf hosted the North Halton track and field meet last Thursday. Competitors from seven public schools in the area battled for team points as well as individual prizes; and at the end of the day, Centennial Public School in Georgetown came out the overall winners.

Halton's History from our files

10 years ago

The Esqueving Historical Society was in the process of having a book published on turn-of-the-century rural living in the Halton area. The author, octogenarian Violet Brownridge, started out to write down a few things about her childhood on a farm for a friend who wanted to read it to her children. The project grew a bit and she completed fifty pages of manuscript.

Ian Clark only led the 1,500 and 3,000 metres events for short spans of time in the OFSAA track and field championships, but they were at the right times as he ended up winning two gold medals.

Members of the Communications Workers of Canada union who are employed by Bell Canada, were on rotation strikes for higher wages. Union members were out picketing the Bell office in Georgetown early in the morning but union representative Walter Short said the largest group of picketers would be outside the plant in Brampton.

5 years ago

Fourteen local men left Pearson International Airport in Toronto to represent Georgetown in the world-famous "Jasper-to-Banff" relay race in Alberta. The 14 locals will join three friends in Calgary completing the 17-man team that will tackle the 182-mile race route beginning at noon on Saturday.

Thanks to the generosity of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, Dave Power was a sponsored member of a Canadian wrestling team that toured in the United States. Thursday, Dave met with Legion members Lloyd Housel and Norm Ward to accept a cheque for \$350 to cover his expenses.

Roads need review

Kell's Korner

Donna Kell
Herald Staff

I can see why a roads committee was formed by Halton Regional councillors to review what seem to be haphazard speed limits on Regional roads.

Driving across the countryside on the weekend, I found that the speed limit ultimately has little to do with how quickly people travel. Sharp whips and curves are taken at 80-km-h while neat stretches of clean road are given a plodding 60-km-h limit.

This makes no sense. Coun. Alf Spence argued last week that a tract of road on Ninth Line near Glen Williams should get the speed reduction suggested by Halton Hills engineering staff, but he asked that a wider stretch be considered. The road, said Coun. Spence, is in poor shape.

I will attest to this. The road is cracked, bumpy, and narrow. It does not have any shoulders. But nonetheless, town councillors say it should remain at 80-km-h.

There is another dimension to this story. A man living in the Ninth Line area who wanted a severance for his property, was recently refused the severance because his entrance would be put in too dangerous a location. If any

element of the severance application is altered, the application must begin the approval process again.

But this same stretch of road considered too dangerous to allow safe access onto the man's property is safe enough to travel at 80-km-h, a speed limit reserved for areas where there are no, or few, residential dwellings and where there is safe travel in most weather conditions.

There have been too many serious accidents on roads in North Halton. Most of the fatal collisions in Halton Region this year took place in Halton Hills and Milton. But speed limits are not to blame, according to most accounts.

If the money isn't there to make amends on roadways that have speeds of 80-km-h but get people travelling over the allotted speed limits, then reviewing the roads is a fine idea.

And though it may seem a Regional councillor from each municipality does not have the experience to make engineering decisions, Halton police Regional traffic sergeant Ken Bonham will be there with the roads review committee to offer his expert input. The group will also be joined by Regional engineering staff.

It may seem like taking the situation into one's own hands for politicians to expect changes in the speed limits where they deem fit, but it is an interest that those who cruise around the roads in this Region - and there are many who do - will appreciate in the months and years to come.

LETTERS

John McCauley will be missed

Dear Sir,

Anyone who came in contact with the late John McCauley feels a great sense of loss. His untimely passing away has impacted on those who knew him or those who heard of him.

He was a person of great character. Who can forget his dynamic smile which disarmed many a disgruntled hockey player and his quiet tone of decisive words?

Georgetown and indeed all of Canada and the United States, have been fortunate and richer for knowing John, because he has touched the hearts and souls of many through his integrity, honesty and helpfulness. He was not a

person to shy away from a problem.

His invaluable contributions to hockey and lacrosse have been written about in the media, but enough can never be written on John McCauley - the man of principle, the man of decision-making, the man of wit, the caring man, and the man who went out of his way to help others in his quiet inimitable way.

He was a friend to many people on the North American continent. He was approachable, never hesitant in hearing what others had to say, or in making a contribution to some worthwhile cause. I remember, on one occasion, we were raising funds for the Holy

Cross School creative playground. John and Ron Finn brought back a specially autographed hockey stick by Buffalo Sabres' prolific goal scorer Gilbert Perreault. The stick and hockey pucks from several NHL teams were auctioned off and thus helped the Parents' Association to attain its goal.

John will be sadly missed by his family and many friends. He has blazed a trail for all to follow. We must accept this challenge and accept the torch which he has passed to each and everyone. We mourn the loss of a great and wonderful friend. We extend our deepest sympathy to Irene, his family, his relatives and his friends.

Tom Ramautarsingh,
Founding President of the
Holy Cross Parents' Association

Support annual shrub sale

Dear Sir,

On May 20, 1989 the Glen Williams Town Hall (G.W.T.H.) held its annual shrub sale - thanks to Sheridan Nurseries. This sale has been held every year since 1975 when the hall went through a badly needed renovation. Since then the hall has promoted various annual functions in the Glen, e.g. Canada Day and the Children's Christmas Party. As well, the hall has been able to support various other ventures such as the group committee, obtaining equipment for the children's playground and the ice rink in the Glen Williams Ball Park.

The hall has played a very important part in village life since its inception back in 1871 to the present day. While there have been changes in format for uses of the hall, the need for it has always been there.

Were it not for people like Sheridan Nurseries the hall would not be able to function at all. Why? Because the cost of maintenance on an old building is enormous to begin with. Part of the proceeds from the shrub sale go toward maintenance of the town hall. The town hall is used by many groups for a variety of different reasons. The rest of the proceeds, together with other fundraising efforts, is put toward functions that are either given or supported by the G.W.T.H.

Thus, I think it behooves us to remember what a good corporate citizen - Sheridan Nurseries has

been to the village all these years. Not only do they support the fundraising efforts of the G.W.T.H. but, in the process, they have beautified the Glen with quality

products. Thank you Sheridan Nurseries!

Sheila M. Willis,
Shrub Sale Co-ordinator,
Glen Williams Town Hall

BIA helps Acton flower

Dear Sir,

Folks passing through downtown Acton will notice some changes this week. Summer flowers are often taken for granted in towns, but with support from the BIA (Business In Acton) and assistance from Frizzell Electric, the Acton Horticultural Society has been working very hard to provide a nice showing of flowers to brighten up Acton this year. Power poles and planters will be sporting an attractive selection of annuals for everyone to enjoy.

Though the Horticultural Society has hardy volunteers who planted the planters and most importantly, will be maintaining them through

the summer, residents are encouraged to help protect the planters from vandals and garbage. Everyone's efforts will keep Acton looking great for residents and our tourists.

And please remember the Garden Contest - anyone from Acton can enter. Forms are available at the library, and anywhere you see the posters.

The June meeting of the Acton Horticultural Society features roses. The guest speaker will be Jim Koegler, from the Rose Garden at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Come one, come all, Tuesday, June 20, 8 p.m. at Acton Knox Presbyterian Church.

Theilma Kessel

We want to hear from you

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations or libel.

Avoid those beaches in summer



Weir's View

By Ian Weir
Thomson News Service

The wonderful thing about summer is that it's the only time of year when I can feel truly smug and virtuous about leading such a healthy lifestyle.

The thought came to mind the other afternoon as I sat in the shade of the ol' local, nursing my third pint and reading a newspaper article about the perils of overexposure to sun.

"Look at that," I murmured, showing the article to Al the Bartender. "The doctors warn us and warn us, and yet there are still people out there sunbathing."

Al shook his head mournfully. "Madness," he agreed, helping himself to one of my cigarettes. "Don't they care about their health?"

Okay, granted, I should try not to be too self-righteous about condemning people who spend the summer at the beach, since I've been known to indulge in one or two unhealthy habits myself.

I occasionally start political arguments with people who are bigger than I am, and I used to get

up much too early in the morning.

Still, I've always known instinctively that sitting on beaches is a terrible misguided activity - even in the innocent old days before doctors started warning about the dangers of skin cancer.

Admittedly, part of my aversion to beaches arises from strictly private reasons.

Studies indicate that 50 per cent of the average person's total lifetime exposure to ultraviolet radiation occurs before the age of 18. In my own case, the percentages are a little different - about 99 per cent of my total lifetime exposure to sunlight had occurred by the age of 11.

This was the age at which my best friend Richard McDonald shamed and betrayed me by developing muscles.

Loss of innocence is a terrible thing - particularly when it involves the sudden realization that you are the "before" picture in the Charles Atlas ads.

In short, this was the age at which I first understood the fundamental pros and cons of going to the beach.

The basic pro is that you get to look at young women in bathing suits. The primary con is that they get to look back.

In any case, I like to think this early experience helped me gain a clear-eyed and objective view of beach-going - which is that going to the beach is a singularly silly activity, ranking right up there with power-lunching and javelin-

catching.

Let's be blunt. Lying motionless for hours on end under extreme heat is not really normal and productive behavior, unless you are either a French Legionnaire awaiting orders to proceed with the ambush, or a Big Mac awaiting purchase.

There are also the logistics of the thing. Sun-bathing involves packing the car, driving to the beach, finding a parking space, unpacking the car, and finally hunting for an unoccupied piece of ground - an awful lot of time and effort just for the pleasure of getting sand down your shorts.

And on top of it all, there are the environmental considerations.

Put it this way: a fortunate few can enhance the natural beauty of a beach by lying on it in a bathing suit. Most of the rest of us have much the same esthetic effect as a small oil-spill.

In short, you can understand why I'm always delighted to come across newspaper articles which warn me to stay away from beaches for the sake of my health.

Ah, summertime.

The season to knock out work early, slide quickly down to the pub to avoid those late-afternoon ultraviolet rays, and then head home in the cool safety of the evening to barbecue large quantities of fatty red meat...

A guy just can't be too careful.