

30 years ago

Doris Edwards of 53 Edith Street in Georgetown married Robert John Walker of Stewarttown in a quiet ceremony at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Norval. The parents were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Edwards and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Walker. Reverend James Maxwell officiated the proceedings. The honeymoon was spent in Niagara Falls and surrounding areas.

Georgetown resident, Donald Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Taylor was selected to represent the Ontario 4-H Agricultural Club at the American Foundation Leadership Training Camp in Stoney Lake Oceana County, Michigan. Mr. Taylor was selected on the basis of his work in Halton County. Other participants included a representative of each state in the U.S. While at the camp Mr. Taylor participated in a series of activities including courses in Christian ideals, personal foundations, personal enrichment, leadership, principals and practices.

15 years ago

By a margin of approximately 2,000 votes the provincial Liberal candidate for Halton, Dr. Frank Philbrook defeated Progressive Conservative incumbent, Terry O'Connor, in the 1974 provincial election. Although two polls have yet to report any results, Dr. Philbrook was declared the race winner having received 23,479 votes compared to Mr. O'Connor's total of 21,556. This result is the reverse of the previous election in 1972. That year, Mr. O'Connor defeated the Liberal incumbent Rud Whiting. Only 2,200 votes separated the winner and loser in this election.

Halton's History from our files**10 years ago**

At the 29th annual Adventure in Citizenship Club dinner, GDHS student Alice Armstrong showed slides of her trip to Ottawa. Ms. Armstrong was one of 264 students from across Canada chosen to see the sights of the nation's capital. Trip highlights included meeting the Governor General's wife, Mrs. Ed Schreyer, tours of a variety of public buildings, the Museum of Man and a lunch at the Chateau Laurier Hotel. The Rotary Club sponsored the trip.

5 years ago

Dave Kentner was re-elected as the president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce for another term. His position along with that of vice president Brian MacAdam, went uncontested. The other elected official was Bruce McIntyre as the Chamber's first vice president. Walter Biehn was appointed to the position of secretary treasurer.

The Halton District Health Council named the 10 leading causes of ill health in Halton. They were ischaemic heart disease, cancer of the digestive system, lung cancer, motor vehicle accidents, suicide, injuries to muscles or to the body's bone structure, falls, alcoholism, pregnancy and abortion complications, congenital anomalies and types of illness following birth.

Colonel kept busy dismantling bases

By GIL HARDY
Ottawa Bureau

Thomson News Service

When politicians and top brass decide to close a military base, Col. Gerry Zypchen is called upon to pick up the pieces and truck them away.

A 32-year veteran of the armed forces, Zypchen is director of infrastructure planning and co-ordination, the nuts and bolts of base openings and closings. These days, most of his time is spent on the latter.

The government's decision to close or scale back 14 bases, part of a \$2.74-billion reduction in defence spending announced in April's budget, will keep Zypchen busy. The day after the budget, he began the paperwork for the orderly dismantling of a military presence.

"My job is to assemble the data from all the special staff: supply people; maintenance, operational, security and communications people. I make sure there's direction for what they have to do," Zypchen said in an interview at Defence Department headquarters.

The 49-year-old combat engineer from Hafford, Sask., has been through it all before. He assumed his current posting two years ago when the department was shutting down some 18 radar bases as part of the modernization of the North American air defence system.

"It's a bit of a science because it's a bureaucratic exercise, but every base has its own unique situations."

What is common to all base closings is the disruption to military personnel and civilian employees. People's feelings are hurt and lifelong careers are ended.

"I'm fully aware that the people stationed there have an emotional involvement and it's going to affect them quite heavily. So, I'm sensitive to that, particularly to the civilian employees," Zypchen said.

Bases are usually shut down between June and August, the active posting period for all military personnel. That avoids dislodging families during winter and allows

children to complete school years.

Civilian employees are offered transfers to new departmental jobs or given retraining or early retirement benefits. Of some 900 civilians employed at the radar stations, almost all were offered new jobs elsewhere. Several hundred chose early retirement instead.

Base artifacts and memorabilia must be transferred. Unit colors may be laid up in local churches or returned to Ottawa for storage or display in the National War Museum.

Altar cloths and other ecclesiastical effects from the chapel are moved to another base or stored.

There is also a web of agreements that bind a base to its community. Hydro and water easements, leases and grants-in-lieu of taxes must all be rescinded or redrawn.

Environmental concerns play a much larger role in base closings than in the 1950s and '60s, bases were simply abandoned with no concern for the pollution left behind.

Now, a full-scale engineering study is done to identify fuel and oil spills, garbage dumps and buried storage tanks. Contaminated soil is dug up and replaced, tanks are excavated and backfilled and all PCB-tainted material is taken from the site.

The department also removes all loose asbestos. If an asbestos-wrapped pipe has been cut into, the break is sealed to prevent fibres escaping.

"I think we have a fairly good record at the sites. When we leave, they are environmentally clean," Zypchen said.

Base equipment must also be disposed of. Large appliances that are wired in, such as dishwashers, usually remain; more portable items are removed.

What is left behind often depends on whether another use has been found for the base. The department will transfer equipment, including vehicles, if it will help make the base economically viable in its new role.

LETTERS**Power cars with methane gas**

Dear Sir,

When are we going to switch to methane natural gas as fuel for our cars? Are we waiting for the next oil crisis? By then it will be too late for setting up a distribution network.

While here hardly anybody uses it as car fuel, in Europe it is one of the most used combustibles, for cars as well as for home heating. In my recent trip to Italy I discovered that all my relatives used either methane or propane gas as the primary fuel. I drove two different "converted" cars myself, and the only draw-back is less space in your trunk. In exchange you get much more autonomy. And it's cheap. For a full load of

methane (costing approximately \$4.50) I could drive a Volvo 456 for 320 km. In addition you can still use gasoline if a methane distributor is not handy.

Most importantly, methane is non-polluting (while propane is only less polluting than gasoline). If methane was used, the Exxon Valdez disaster would not have happened.

Canada is a producer of methane and we could be energy self-sufficient. A few years ago I found only about eight methane distributors in the Toronto area, and I do not believe the situation is improved.

The government should incentivate car conversions to natural

gas as it did for home heating furnaces. I would not mind anticipating a few hundred dollars to help reduce the main cause of air pollution, contribute to reducing the national debt and save my own money in the long run.

Perhaps the solution is too obvious, or perhaps this plan goes against the interests of the biggest multinationals, growing on the exploitation of oil resources. However, our government should promote what is good for the people, not what is good for the interests of the ever growing multinationals.

Giuseppe Gori,
Acton

Cancer Society tops \$100,000 mark in 1989 campaign

Dear Sir,

A sincere thank you from the Georgetown Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The campaign objective for 1989 was \$100,000. We are pleased to report that at the end of June over \$95,000 has been received and the proceeds from two special events are yet to be finalized. It is very apparent that our final figure will be

well in excess of the objective.

To you, the residents, companies, businesses and organizations, a sincere thank you for your generosity at campaign time. A special thanks to Neil Young (Classics Against Cancer) and Bill Smith (Invitational Golf Tournament).

You are well aware that the results of this very successful cam-

aign could not have been achieved without the super volunteer help of the various chairpersons, captains and canvassers.

Again, many thanks to each and everyone!

Sincerely yours,
E.H. (Ted) Gorth,
Campaign Chairman,
Halton Hills Unit

Government is squandering millions

Dear Sir,

Do your readers know that Prime Minister Mulroney's government is squandering millions upon millions of our tax dollars every year?

For instance, the federal government doled out \$619,000 for a banana newsletter in the French Riviera! The federal government also spent \$13,500 to study the "social value of lawn ornaments" and \$24,540 to study the "fool as a transitional figure in Western Civilization."

Other government grants go to political pressure groups who should be funding themselves through voluntary contributions. The Mulroney government, for instance, funds anti-defence groups, big unions and radical feminist organizations. Business - big and not so big - also gets government hand outs.

Most of these hand outs are unnecessary and represent an outrageous waste of our tax dollars at a time when deficit reduction has become a top priority.

Canadian taxpayers shouldn't be forced into funding banana newsletters, studies on lawn ornaments or political pressure groups.

If the government cut these grants it could save millions of dollars, reduce the pressure for bigger government and help lessen the deficit.

Yours truly,
David Somerville,
President,
National Citizens' Coalition

Shouldn't we be smarter?**Weir's View**

By Ian Weir
Thomson News Service

It was pretty depressing to receive scientific confirmation of the fact that I am getting dumber by the day.

Granted, the notion that I am getting steadily stupider is not a new one. Dear Heart assures me she has held this theory for years.

She maintains she was convinced I had reached my limit the day I tried to clean a pile of cigarette ashes off the rug with a wet sponge, and has been repeatedly astonished by my ability to top this.

But now, there's actual scientific proof. Environment Canada has just confirmed that IQ levels have been generally reduced by all the lead spewed into the atmosphere by automobile exhaust.

According to a spokesman, one Grace Wood: "Presumably, we're not as smart as we would have been."

Well. Doesn't this just make your day?

Actually, Ms. Wood makes it sound as if she's only mildly dismayed by the discovery. Possibly, this is because she was quite intelligent to begin with.

Losing a bit of intelligence probably doesn't matter much to those who started out with plenty of

marbles to rattle. It's a substantially bigger concern for those of us who are already down to the occasional "clink."

The irony, of course, is that ours is not the first society to run afoul of lead. Historians insist that the decline of the Roman Empire was hastened by mental impairment caused by leaden drinking vessels.

Just think about that one - the world's mightiest empire, brought to its knees by lead cups. If the Romans had only had Tupperware, we might all be speaking Latin today.

Indeed, historians go so far as to blame lead poisoning for the madness which afflicted so many of the later Roman emperors - witness Nero, who fiddled while Rome burned, and Caligula, who once appointed his horse to the Senate.

Now granted, there's no indication that lead emissions in Canada have caused problems of this magnitude.

Nero's fiddling while the city burned is only loosely analogous to Michael Wilson's fiddling with tax rates while the rest of us smoulder.

And no prime minister has ever gone so far as to appoint a horse to the Senate - not both ends of one, anyway.

But it's still pretty depressing - particularly considering there's another theory which holds that human intelligence has been steadily declining since the Renaissance, even without the help of lead.

This theory is supported by the prodigious feats of memory that were common during the Renaissance - for instance, rival theatre companies pirated Shakespeare's plays by sending

out spies who could memorize performances word for word. A few decades later, the poet Milton memorized the entire Bible and most of the Classical epics before going blind.

Compare this to our own society, in which a mere handful of the best and the brightest can remember their Social Insurance Number.

Another, lesser-known theory holds that the human IQ peaked just before the invention of TV, and has since been dropping two points with each re-run of Three's Company. But anyway...

It's all particularly depressing considering that ours is a society which clings to the myth that we are getting steadily smarter.

If the opposite is true, we're going to have to re-examine the great scientific advancements of our era. Do Black Holes really exist, for instance, or are today's astronomers just forgetting to take the lens-cap off the telescope?

The one tiny consolation is that we're all getting dumber together. As such, we don't need to worry about being taken advantage of as our IQ continues to drop.

Even the most lead-deadened consumer should be able to hold his own against a formerly-slick car salesman who assures him that the little blue two-door will have 25,000 original kilometres just as soon as the odometer is rolled back.

So here we are, facing the gloomy truth - thanks to lead, we live in a society in which potentials will never be reached, in which we are doomed to grow more sluggish and less efficient with each passing day.

Well. Kind of explains the post office, doesn't it?