

Opinion Page

30 years ago

The Rotary Anns of Georgetown adopted a seven-year-old Korean boy as a foster child. The adoption of Pak Soon Suk was arranged through Foster Parents of Canada. Soon Suk is living in a Korean orphanage. He lost his father shortly following the Korean War. A fever took the life of his mother two years ago. Besides providing the boy with material aid, the Rotary Anns write him and send him books and toys. Soon Suk aspires to be a teacher.

The YMCA dedicated a plaque in memory of John Morden Neilson at the official opening of the West End YMCA's Camp Norval. Mr. Neilson was the grandson of the late Morden Neilson who donated property for the camp in 1927. A scroll was also presented to Gordon Shipp, who completed the dining hall in time for the opening.

15 years ago

About 50 Norval residents showed up at the Halton Board of Education meeting with placards in hand to fight the board's decision to close Norval Public School. The placards had logos saying, "We pay tax, don't use the axe," and "This is Canada - Russian dictatorship not welcome here." Residents have been trying to prevent the school's closing for the past six months.

G.U.A.R.D. accused that the Ministry of Environment was operating the landfill site in Georgetown below the ministry's own standards. William Johnson, the chairman of Group United Against Rural Dumping was quoted as saying "Ministry standards are set down to protect the environment. Operation below these guidelines can cause irreversible damage." Mr. Johnson explained that six inches of fill are required to cover the daily load but this is rarely met. The site was unpopular with many because of its proximity to Credit Valley River.

10 years ago

Approximately 70 people showed up at the Alcott Memorial Arena in support of the Vietnamese boat people. The meeting was organized by the Georgetown chapter of the Toronto-based "Save the Boat People." During the meeting dozens of



people offered their assistance. People offered accommodations, furnishings, clothing, jobs and even meals at both restaurants and private homes.

Rockwood resident David Lasby, won the overall trophy at the Halton livestock judging competition held at the Halton Hills farms of Ernie Wilson and Jeff Nurse. Mr. Lasby was one of three Halton Hills residents who took home prizes during the competition. Others were Georgetown residents Bill Robinson, who won the Champion Dairy Judge Trophy, and Amanda Kuncia, who won the Champion Swine Judge Trophy. Wendy Chaplin, also of Georgetown, was chosen as one of the 150 delegates selected from across the province to attend the Provincial Homemaking Conference held at the University of Guelph. Delegates were to focus their discussions on the theme "The International Year of the Child."

5 years ago

Georgetown residents Peter and Betty Bot and their 16-year-old son Jack participated in a 300-mile round-robin motorcycle drive during which they hoped to help raise \$1,000 for the Georgetown Cancer Society. The ride started and ended in Welland, Ontario. Mr. and Mrs. Bot are part of the Retreads Motorcycle Club - a motorcycle club where the only prerequisite besides having a motorcycle is that members have to be at least 40 years old. The Bots hoped that the club's involvement in the round robin would among other things improve people's perception of motorcyclists.

Kevin Flynn was acclaimed as the Halton New Democratic Party federal candidate. The nomination meeting was held at the Chemicals Workers Hall in Oakville.

LETTERS

"Bad commission members" stick blindly to NEC plan

Dear Sir,
We are responding to the two articles in your July 19, 1989 edition entitled: "Hewitt under fire at NEC from environmentalist group" and "Eight members 'oppose plan'." We believe these articles are based on four assumptions that are incorrect:

- 1) development is not permitted under the Niagara Escarpment Plan;
- 2) the way to protect the escarpment is to have no development;
- 3) any member of the Niagara Escarpment Commission who votes in favor of any form of development is opposed to the Plan; and
- 4) Commission members who reject any form of development are "good" and those who vote in favor of development are "bad."

First of all, the Niagara Escarpment Plan describes the type of development permitted on the escarpment. It does not prohibit development.

The 725 kilometres of land that make up the escarpment corridor have been divided into seven land-use designations - each with its own specified level of permitted development. For example, land which falls into the "protection" or the "natural" designations can only be developed in very limited ways whereas land with the designations of "rural" or of "urban" can have more development.

It is, therefore, incorrect to assume that the Niagara Escarpment Plan prohibits development. It is designed to provide a balance between development and preservation of this important resource. Indeed, a blanket prohibition would be the equivalent of expropriation without compensation and a level of government intervention that is not in our democratic tradition.

The second incorrect assumption is that the way to protect the escarpment is to have no development.

The plan is the result of the input from many different groups representing many different points of view across the development/preservation spectrum. This diversified input reflects On-

tario's growing population of people with increasingly varied backgrounds and land-use interests. To suggest that a 725 kilometre corridor running up the centre of Ontario should be entirely unavailable for normal uses, invites wholesale rejection of the plan. A full-scale prohibition on development in the escarpment corridor would be overturned and put the escarpment lands at greater risk than the current policy of controlled development.

The third assumption is that any member of the NEC who votes in favor of development is opposed to the plan.

As discussed earlier, the plan permits certain types of development depending on the land's classification and the proposal's merits within the plan. Some proposals will comply with the plan, some will be borderline, and some will not comply at all. Accordingly, every proposal must be judged on its own merit. It is important for commission members to know the plan and be able to apply it in a fair and objective fashion and not be influenced by pressure groups or personal biases. Clearly, a member who votes in favor of a development proposal can not be assumed to be opposed to the plan.

The fourth incorrect assumption is that commission members who reject any form of development

are "good" and those who vote in favor of development are "bad."

If the members of the commission were to look at every application for development within the 725 kilometre corridor and simply say "No!", they would be in conflict with what the Niagara Escarpment Plan says. They would also be in conflict with the right of every citizen to have an impartial hearing.

How can anyone suggest that blanket rejection of all development in the Niagara Escarpment corridor is the "spirit" or policy of the Niagara Escarpment Plan? If it were, why have a Niagara Escarpment Commission at all? Why not save the taxpayers money by having a part-time employee periodically stamp all applications for development with the word "Rejected," and leave it at that?

Surely, good commission members are those who know the plan and apply it objectively to each development proposal. Bad commission members are those who are captive to the agenda of any single-interest lobby group.

The Niagara Escarpment Plan is a major step on the road to sustainable development. It is a shield against both "cut and slash" developers and "let's turn back the clock" romanticists.

Yours truly,
Kent and Lois McClure

Nuclear power is no bargain

Continued from Page 6

the nuclear industry is good for us. Couple this with \$1.2 billion federal subsidies over the past five years to an enterprise that hasn't sold a reactor for over a decade - and can't even give one away. This is clearly a welfare case masquerading as a business.

Nuclear power is poorly understood by the public, they say in the advertisements.

The benefit of the doubt must go to the people who are forced to pay for the risks of nuclear power with their health, i.e. taxpayers, and not to paid "experts" in the nuclear business. The nuclear ads also

don't mention the first tally from cancer studies, which shows an increase in leukemia rates among children living near Ontario reactors. Premier Peterson is still bound to his election promise to cancel Darlington. So what is he waiting for - more flaky cost estimates, more cheap and nasty health studies courtesy of Canada's nuclear "protectorate," and more leukemia in the playground?

Future generations, who will be forced to wade through our mess of radioactive waste, will decide whether our nuclear power program has been a bargain.

Yours truly,
Anne Hansen

Chipping away at the food



Kell's Korner

Donna Kell
Herald Staff

sound, a whacking sound (as 'something' hit the ground) and the sound of noses sniffing around the blue nylon tent propped a little too closely, perhaps, to the water's edge.

I poked my head out of the tent (I'm so brave) and saw clearly, in the moonlight, two creatures with brown ping pong paddles for tails. They were ransacking our campsite, knocking over metal cups (paw marks were discovered in the cups the next morning). They didn't seem too fearful of humans.

This was the second occasion one of these eager beavers had showed its aggression. When I saw the animal pilfering my lunch and snacks for the next day, I tried to scare him off. He just made some strange sound and looked ready to make a nosedive for the food bag.

You expect this never-say-die reaction from squirrels and raccoons, you might anticipate this reaction from a bear (if you had the guts to challenge one) but to see this behavior in a beaver, the symbol of Canada, the little guy on our nickel, is a bit dismaying.

(At this point I should add that tying the food up in a tree would have solved the problem. No food - no animals looking for food.)

So, the beaver, like any good Canadian, potting on an open invitation, had some bagels, cheese and trail mix for supper.

But gosh, aggression from a beaver?

Kids see court in courtship



Weir's View

By Ian Weir
Thomson News Service

It's just astounding, how much more sophisticated today's kids are than we used to be.

By the age of 13 (as we know) today's kids are hard-headed little computer whizzes who know that the key to future happiness lies partly in self-fulfillment but mainly in leveraged takeovers.

And now, it seems, they're discovering the joys of litigation.

According to the newspaper, a West Palm Beach 15-year-old named Tomontra Mangum has successfully sued a 17-year-old boy who stood her up on a date to the junior prom.

Apparently, young Marlon Shadd phoned Tomontra four days before the prom to announce he'd broken his ankle. But she maintains she still expected him to show up - and when he didn't she successfully sued for \$81.28, to cover the cost of new shoes, a hairdo and flowers.

Said Tomontra: "People don't know what I went through. It was my first date." And she added: "Always be truthful, especially with people my age."

Well, Tomontra certainly has a valid point. It's important to be truthful, and to keep your word.

And no doubt this episode will be

a valuable lesson for Marlon, the lad who foolishly believed a broken ankle would get him off the hook with a young woman. Next time, he'll know enough to break both legs, instead.

In any case, my first response to this article was - quite frankly - dismay. If young women have discovered they can successfully sue their dates for letting them down, then being a young male is about to become an awfully expensive proposition.

And then, suddenly, the truth dawned. I am still a sort of youngish male - and I have never stood up a woman in my life.

Quite the contrary: as a teenager, I was left standing more often than many coat-racks.

(Oh, granted. Dear Heart flintly maintains that I am utterly unreliable, that my word is useless, and that I'm invariably an hour late for everything. But this is different. We're in a relationship.)

No, the plain fact is that Tomontra's lawsuit made me realize how appallingly stupid I was as a teenager. All those years I spent delivering newspapers to make pocket money - instead of just suing the girls who didn't want to go out with me.

There were a few of my friends who couldn't have made much money this way. Others could have realized a modest but regular income.

I could have quit school, bought a golf and country club, and retired.

I was 13 when I first worked up the nerve to ask a girl out to a movie. Her name was Lynn Miller, and she blushed engagingly when I told her I'd drop by her house at six

o'clock on Friday.

In my boyish exuberance, I actually arrived 15 minutes early. But fortunately, this didn't cause any awkwardness for Lynn - since she'd already left for volleyball practice.

It took me two years to recover sufficiently to ask someone else out. But I did. And I vividly remember my first date - since, as it turns out, I wasn't even on it.

I had asked an apparently charming redhead named Karen to accompany me to the school play. When we arrived, I discovered we were sitting next to my old and valued friend Rocky Hudson.

I should, of course, have known what to expect from someone named Rocky Hudson.

By the time the lights went down, they were chatting animatedly. By the second act, they were sitting in the balcony. And by the time the final curtain came down, they'd already been at the Dairy Queen for half an hour.

My feeble effort at retribution was to spread the rumor that Rocky's childhood nickname had been Stinky, and that Karen had been observed kissing the chubbier of the Watson twins.

If only I'd known enough to phone a lawyer, Karen would have learned a terrible lesson - and Rocky's wages would still be garnished today.

As it stands, I can't do anything but sigh enviously at the example set by young Tomontra Mangum. There's a girl who understands how to cope with the agonies of courtship.

Just drop the last syllable, and you're away to the races.