

Opinion Page

30 years ago

Norval junior farmer, Bill Wilson represented the Halton County in the annual soils and land use tour for junior farmers. During the tour Mr. Wilson visited the counties of Oxford, Huron and Middlesex and took in a variety of farms and other sites. The trip also included a visit to the new soils building at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph.

George Elliot, a Milton lawyer, was the guest speaker at the Terra Cotta Farmers Club and stressed his audience - a group of parents - the importance of education for their children. Entertainment followed the meeting with a humorous reading. The meeting was held at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Thompson.

Joanne Elizabeth Reid, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weir M. Reid of Norval married the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lisle Stevenson of Granton, W. L. Mackenzie Stevenson.

15 years ago

A report released by education minister, Thomas Wells warned that because of the current levelling off of enrollments planning for the future is imperative. This included looking at the need for new schools, more classrooms, additional teachers, a greater number of supplies and extra equipment. Mr. Wells attributed the lack planning for the future to the rapid expansion of "educational enterprises" in the province following World War II.

Georgetown's Varian Company was awarded two federal contracts worth a total of \$57,173 this week. The announcement was made by the federal government's department of services and supplies. The contract stipulated Varian produce \$34,293 worth of electron tubes and \$22,880 worth of spectrometers.

Ontario Tennis teaching professional Brian Barker arrived in Georgetown at the request of the Georgetown Tennis Club to teach for a week at the courts at the Joseph Gibbons Park. During the week he gave lessons throughout the day from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. While in Georgetown Mr. Barker stayed at the home of Mr. George Kelly.

Halton's History from our files

10 years ago

To help alleviate the shortage of blood plasma across central Ontario the Red Cross was prompted to schedule a special blood Donor Clinic. Urgent appeals were made to Georgetown residents to attend the clinic. The Georgetown Clinic was only one of many special clinics organized throughout the province to help out with the shortage. Doreen Duffin, urban coordinator for the Red Cross' southern Ontario division estimated 1,000 units of blood would have to be collected each day in order to meet the demand.

Ian Reid of Norval got the chance to fulfill a dream to work on a New Brunswick potato farm. The youngster was part of a travelling exchange sponsored by the John Deere - 4H Club. He spent a month on a Pickard farm in Bath, New Brunswick where he worked on a 170 acre potato farm. His chores included clearing fields of rocks.

5 years ago

Several Georgetown residents were chosen to participate in the Halton Hills Bi-Centennial Community of Councils sponsored Band Shell Day during the Canadian National exhibition. Those participating included eight-year-old Tamara Hamilton who will sing songs from the movie "Sound of Music", Geoff Tyler who will be one of the members of a break dancing troupe, the Acton's Citizen Band, the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band, Mandy Inglis, George Mitchell, Lisette Smit, Debbie Tilson and Steve Shelton.

Mariko Tatsuguchi, a Japanese exchange student stayed with Georgetown residents Richard and Lynn Chapman during her stay in Canada.

Taxing the cake and the icing

Kell's Korner

Donna Kell
Herald Staff

A month after Michael Wilson, the infamous finance minister graced Halton Hills with a visit and a promise to explain the new nine-per-cent tax, the technical tax paper is about to be released.

The paper was scheduled to be released yesterday (Tuesday).

Mr. Wilson's new budget, acclaimed by local MP Garth Turner, will wreak havoc on the Canadian economy, critics say.

One theory is that the tax could cut into consumer buying power. Wasn't this the same tax that was supposed to promote growth in our economy? Taxing the consumers, those who use goods and services and thereby perpetuate a healthy economy, will only hurt sales of just about everything, and the income of just about everyone.

the finance minister could not deny that the new tax, once levied on all goods and services (including transportation, music lessons and postage stamps, in one account) will mean a jump of three percentage points in the inflation rate.

Some sources say that lower-

income Canadians will be hardest hit by the new tax. And small businesses will be negatively affected when a 13.5 per cent tax, once applied to manufactured goods, is replaced by a catch-all levy on just about everything.

The premature release of the budget in April, the controversial budget leak to a Global news reporter, was all just icing on a very large cake.

The real story will unfold when the tax hits, when consumers have to reach deeper into their pockets to scrounge for fast-disappearing loons.

The deficit that we keep hearing about, that our government has vaingloriously promised to solve for us, is a problem we are supposed to share. But who shared in the decision-making when the government sent funds to Beijing, in the heart of a country that balks at democracy.

Under the new tax, we might decide which cake we want to buy, but after that the tax process snowballs. We pay for tax on the cake's ingredients, the sale of the cake (it it's not considered a grocery item) and if we're in a restaurant, we pay tax on the act on someone putting that cake down in front of us on a table.

Under the new tax, we can have our cake, and eat it too. But we're going to pay through the nose for it. And a lot of people will be left hungry for reform.

LETTERS

Reader wants a abortion law soon

Dear Sir,

On July 25, Doug Lewis, Minister of Justice, commenting on the abortion issue was quoted as saying: "If we bring a law to the floor of the House of Commons, which is a consensus of our caucus and a consensus of our Cabinet, and it doesn't pass for some reason, then we have done our job".

One week later, the same minister applied to the Supreme Court of Canada, on our behalf, arguing that the Quebec courts should not decide to hear the Chantal Daigle case, as abortion is a federal government responsibility.

The message is clear. He does not want the issue solved, neither by the government, nor by the courts and he intends to pay lip service to the issue. The minister has been granted a very powerful role regarding this issue by the prime minister, and he intends to use his post exactly to favor his pro-choice views.

So much for the position of Brian Mulroney: "I am personally pro-life, but I cannot impose my views on others". By replacing Jake Epp (a pro-lifer) with Doug Lewis, he has shifted the balance towards those who want to maintain the status quo: Hospitals and clinics which are modern, aseptic and convenient death camps for the

most vulnerable. In the same hospitals the morality of our society is buried deeper and deeper, 500 times per working day, with each Canadian baby whose heart is stopped, while we wait for the Government to act.

Giuseppe Gori
Family Coalition Party
Halton North Riding Association

Thanks from Open Door

Dear Sir,

In recognition of Open Door's many volunteers and supporters, the participants, staff and board, I would like to thank all those individuals, businesses and organizations who have assisted our group throughout the past year.

Your donations of time, money

and services have greatly contributed to the successful operation of our programs.

We look forward to working closely with the community for even more growth and success in the future.

Yours truly,
Star McGuire,

Executive Director, Open Door

Governments want to clean up garbage in the Arctic

By GIL HARDY

Ottawa Bureau
Thomson News Service

When it comes to cleaning up the Canadian Arctic, one man's eyesore can mean another's survival.

The federal and territorial governments want to remove, for environmental reasons, man-made debris scattered across the Arctic. That could be anything from a few rusting drums of fuel at a lonely helicopter pad to buildings and antennas left behind at long-abandoned military and research stations.

The Department of National Defence has begun sifting through old files to determine the location of former bases north of the 60th parallel that were closed as far back as the 1950s. Some were opened and operated by the U.S. air force during the Second World War.

Says Col. Dave Lett, one of the officers co-ordinating the search: "We're looking at the whole thing, anything that was military, whether it was ours or something the Germans put up on our coastal shores."

Lett said that while protecting

the Arctic's delicate environment is important, safety concerns also play a role in deciding what is removed and what stays.

"A barrel of kerosene fuel could be looked at as a cache of life-saving proportions if someone needed that fuel to make a fire. Similarly, some of the buildings may not be all that pretty, but if they are the only windbreak for hundreds of miles, they can be important for survival."

SERVE PILOTS

The same could hold true for large "billboard" antennas that have been idle for decades but serve as navigational aids for Arctic pilots.

"These really involve a lot of thought on what's important to be left up there," said Lett. "Carting materials north to build shelters is extremely expensive, so if you have shelters up there in reasonably good condition, maybe we want to move them to communities where they will be useful."

The clean-up of the Arctic is occurring now because environmental standards have changed drastically. When sites were closed

in the '50s and '60s, little thought was given to removing material.

Federal departments, oil and surveying companies and the U.S. air force simply packed up and left.

"We're not looking at the North now the way we looked at it even 15 years ago," said Lett. "It's not satisfactory to take 120 barrels of turbine fuel up there, use 85 and leave the rest lying around. We don't do that anymore."

The department removed contaminants, such as PCBs, from abandoned DEW (Distant Early Warning) sites years ago. Lett said this new round of cleaning up will remove eyesores that could harm the tourism potential of the Arctic.

Once the military sites have been catalogued, the department will know how big the problem is. It also will know which sites are accessible in winter or summer conditions.

But such a massive job will take money - and that's where the problems start. Former U.S. air force sites, for instance, were transferred via DND to territorial governments or to the Indian and Northern Affairs Department.

Goddess to the rescue



Weir's View

By Ian Weir
Thomson News Service

Naturally, I'd never try to pass myself off as any kind of expert on Japanese politics.

Generally speaking, politics in foreign cultures work on principles that seem mysterious and baffling to the average Canadian - as well as to those of us who are marginally below-average.

As such, Japanese politics can seem about as bewildering as Albanian politics, Saudi Arabian politics, or British Columbian politics.

(Ah, those vast, unanswerable questions. How did they build the Great Pyramids... How do they get the caramel into the Caramilk Bar... And is Bill Vander Zalm really serious...)

In any case, you can imagine how intrigued I was to read a newspaper article assessing the probability that socialist leader Takaka Doi will become Japan's next prime minister.

Despite heading a party which is so rigorously socialist that it only recently dropped its call for one-party rule, the consensus seems to be that Ms. Doi will win purely and simply because she is a woman.

And the explanation for this, according to one analyst in Japan, "There is a long history in Japan, that whenever the country fell into chaos, a woman god would appear to save the day."

This is, you will admit, remarkable. And quite foreign to any tradition which exists in Canada.

The closest we have is a tradition which states that, whenever Canada is in dire trouble, we send out Lemieux and Gretzky.

This works wonderfully well against the Soviet hockey team, although experts are unsure whether it would work quite as well against an economic collapse.

On the political front, we just don't have any tradition of saviours descending from the skies. We've admittedly had Pierre Trudeau looking down his nose at us from a great height, but this isn't quite the same thing.

This is not, of course, to say that Canadians have no traditional response to economic and governmental crisis. Of course we do.

Generally speaking, we just reelect the government that got us into the mess in the first place.

Closely related is the time honored tradition by which Canadian prime ministers, when faced with a crisis, take a deep breath, muster their steellest resolve, and blame their predecessor.

That's why Japan's tradition is so wonderfully appealing. Just imagine being able to count on a wise and god-like female to appear in times of despair.

Imagine a female deity descending from the heavens to rewrite the Meech Lake Accord. Or failing that, even imagine Michael Wilson's mother marching into Ottawa to seize him fiercely by the ear and demand that remove that sales tax fight this instant.

Interestingly enough, there are loud murmurings in Canada that it's high time for at least one of the major parties to elect a woman leader. The problem, of course, is that none of the candidates really qualifies as a goddess.

It's the same problem that has been confronted by other nations that have tried to elect a female saviour - although Britain managed to reach a compromise of sorts by electing Margaret Thatcher.

Mrs. Thatcher's opponents are unanimously agreed that she is merely mortal. Mrs. Thatcher, on the other hand, remains profoundly unconvinced.

In any case, this Japanese tradition is fascinating. And it provides such a ray of hope for those of us who have begun to despair of the possibility that governments can solve anything at all - the hope that we might yet be able to rely on wise and loving female figures to redeem us.

When the nation's woes grow too dire to contemplate, just close your eyes and wait for a goddess to descend from the clouds.

Or failing that, holler loudly and plaintively for Mom.

A little unorthodox, maybe. But it'd probably work at least as well as anything we've tried so far.