

# Opinion Page

## Halton's History from our files

### 30 years ago

Georgetown resident Mrs. J. C. Stoddart was in charge of this year's arrangements for the annual Canadian Legion's Women's Auxillary picnic held this week at the Georgetown Park. All children under the age of five were awarded prizes, as well a number of races were held for the children. In the girls race for six and seven-year-olds Kay Ashley and Cathy King took first prizes. Other winners in a whole range of age categories included, Kathy Meugh 7, Paula Hube 8, Frank King 7 and Doug McDonald 8. Pop, ice cream and balloons were handed out to all participants.

Although 27 people were winners at the Kinsmen bingo game held at the Georgetown Arena this week, the grand prize of \$1,000 went unclaimed. The "Monster Bingo" was one of a series put on by the Kinsmen Club. There were a number of specials and 15 regular games during the fun-filled evening. The series' chairman, George Mundy said the sticky and hot weather kept the number of participants under 300. But he expected more people to attend future games.

### 15 years ago

Georgetown resident John Tost joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He left for the RCMP Training Centre in Regina, Saskatchewan this week where he will begin training to become a police officer. Mr. Tost is the son of Mrs. E. L. Caruso and the late

Duncan C. Tost. He is a graduate of Chapel Street Public School and Georgetown and District High School.

The Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) approved Georgetown Cable Television's application to expand its service to Milton and Acton. The station's president and general manager Arthur Jamieson said the necessary construction would start as soon as possible.

### 10 years ago

Acton residents, Arlington and Elimere White celebrated their golden anniversary this week. The reception was held in the basement of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, the same church that they were married in 50 years earlier. Father McCreary married the young couple. Mr. White retired in 1971 after 51 years with Beardmore and Company Ltd. The couple has two children, Joan Tyres of Acton and Jerome White of Sault Ste. Marie, both of whom attended the celebration.

James, Bebrou of Georgetown was a finalist in the Pepsi Cola Bluegrass Festival Five String Banjo, contest held at the concert shell, Blue Mountain Foundations for the Arts, Collingwood, Ontario.

### 5 years ago

The American Legion Post 40 of Plymouth Massachusetts were scheduled to be the invited guests of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 in Georgetown. The visit is to coincide with the Warriors Day Parade at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Mertoland Printing and Publishing Company, one of Acton's largest employers announced it was leaving town by the year's end. The Willow Street press and composing facility and the full time employees are scheduled to be transferred to the company's Mississauga plant. Company president John Baxter assured that all full-time employees would be absorbed into the company.

# LETTERS

## New national sales tax "is the last straw"

Editor's Note: The following letter to Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner was filed with the Herald for publication.

Garth Turner, MP  
27 Main Street South  
Georgetown, Ontario  
L7G 3G2

I want to let you know that I am one of the quiet, hard-working, law-abiding, tax-paying, middle class and am fed up with the way this great country is being run into the ground. Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson's proposed tax grab is the last straw.

When I came to this country 20 years ago I took the first job I could get at \$8,500 a year and could support my wife and myself quite comfortably.

Today I earn over five times that amount and with my wife working at temporary jobs, it's a struggle to make ends meet. We don't live extravagantly; we have two school age children, one five year old car, and a modest semi-detached house with mortgage.

What has happened over the years though is that the percentage of my pay taken in taxes has gone up and up and up.

I see this hard earned money wasted on

-a bloated overpaid underworked expanding federal civil service (a dead weight on the whole economy)

-a bloated overpaid underworked diplomatic corps

-bilingualism (for English speaking Canada but not Quebec)

-multiculturalism (which keeps emphasizing our differences)

-useless crown corporations, Canada Post (open at hours to suit the employees only) and Investment Canada (rubber stamp operators) come to mind immediately

-overpaid MP's and Senators with fat perks including even moer pay for committee work.

-an unnecessary new embassy in Washington

-an unnecessary new Museum of Man

-an unnecessary move of the space program to Montreal

-gifts to third world tin-pot Marxist dictatorships

-keeping sadistic mass murderers in idle comfort

-looking after illegal immigrants and so-called refugees, usually the garbage of the world, while thousands of honest Canadians are homeless and depend on food banks to survive

and I could go on and on and on.

Do you think you can keep increasing taxes. Do you think there's a bottomless pit of money out here in the real world. We're already paying over 53 per cent in direct and indirect taxation. Enough is enough.

And what does your government cut, next to nothing on the above.

instead it cuts

-Defence, submarines that can be used to protect our sovereignty and create productive jobs for Canadians. Compare our military strength now to what it was in 1945 (another indication of how the country has been mismanaged)

-Unemployment Insurance, needed more than ever now that the effects of Free Trade are beginning to be felt.

-Via Rail, ecologically sound, which with the proper investment could lead the world and create productive jobs for Canadians, all this apart from its historical importance.

Again, I could go on and on and on.

Where the hell is your sense of priorities. I get the definite impression that you and your government think that hard-working Canadians are a bunch of sheep just meant to be fleeced. You'd do well to remember that when its back is to the wall even the most docile animal will fight back.

Mr. R. Kathwaroon  
Consort Crescent  
Burlington

## More letters on page 11

# Empty classrooms are partly due to abortion, reader says

Dear Sir,  
School enrolment has decreased dramatically in the past few years, while the total population has remained steady. The headline "Decline in enrolment a mystery" made front page in a local paper last weekend. "In the nine primary schools within Halton Hills, in Kindergarten through Grade 5, there are 2,286 pupils and 1964 empty spaces". The shortage of youngsters, which is now apparent in the schools, will soon have a ripple effect on other services. Fewer children now, means fewer people in the work force in the years to come. Fewer young people will have to support a growing number of pensioners. The cost of labor will increase significantly and its inflationary effect will be felt in all

areas of the economy, from higher deficit and higher taxes to higher health care costs.

The phenomenon is not limited to Halton Hills, but it is of national proportions. The Canadian population is decreasing at a rate of 1.8 per couple (a rate of 2.1 is needed to sustain a steady population), while the number of adults and seniors continues to grow.

Where have all our children gone. Various factors which contribute to the children population decline are related to "sexual lifestyle": high use of anticonceptionals, sterilization, abortion and homosexuality. If we analyze first the abortion figures and if we use, for this area, the national average of 4.17 abortions per thousand peo-

ple per year, we obtain that about 146 children per year are aborted in Halton Hills (population 35,000). By multiplying this figure by seven years (Kindergarten through Grade 5) we obtain 1022, which accounts for more than half of the 1964 empty spaces in those classes.

Add the other factors (e.g.: sterilization, etc...) whose figures are difficult to account for, and the picture is complete. The children are not here; we never let them live. The empty spaces in our classrooms are grim reminders of our selfish lifestyle, whose consequences will come back to haunt us again and again.

Giuseppe Gori  
Family Coalition Party  
Halton North Riding Association

# Taxed to death and after



Ian Weir  
Weir's View  
Thurston News Service

Quite frankly, I'm not sure what my reaction was when I read the week's most remarkable news.

That Internal Revenue Service down in the U.S. has actually drafted a policy stating ... what for it ... that it will continue to collect taxes in the aftermath of a nuclear holocaust.

This is honestly true. I read it in the Globe and Mail - the national newspaper of Toronto.

So let's pause for a moment, just to let this sink in.

My first reaction, I suppose, was amazement - a bunch of government bureaucrats is actually pledging to stay at work after the world has officially ended. This, from a group of people who don't even work on Statutory Holidays.

My second thought was that this might say something wonderfully reassuring about the indomibility of the human spirit - the splendid determination of mankind to soldier on in the face of misfortunes that would cause a lesser species to sigh "oh, heck" and go home to bed.

And my third thought was that the I.R.S. has just chucked out the window the ancient truism about the two inevitabilities of life.

It's official: taxes are now considerably more inevitable than death.

Interestingly enough, this was just one of two recent pieces of fascinating news about life in the aftermath of nuclear war.

In New Brunswick, apparently, there has been a bit of a public uproar over plans to build a \$9.4 million bunker to house 300 political and business leaders in case of nuclear war.

It seems the common folk of New Brunswick feel it's a bit thick to use public money to save the skins of a few politicians and tycoons - which seems a sensible enough reaction.

If you're going to try to save anybody, it should obviously be people who might be of genuine use to the other survivors. This is why

I've always favored building bunkers to preserve the operators of a few neighbourhood pubs, and perhaps a handful of pizza-deliverymen.

But I digress. We were discussing the remarkable pronouncement from the I.R.S. And obviously, this raises two provocative questions.

Number one, have similar plans been laid by Revenue Canada.

As far as I can determine, the answer is no. Apparently, the Tory government can't see the point in trying to keep the nation running after the world has ended - either as a result of a nuclear holocaust, or the re-election of the Liberals.

(Unconfirmed reports indicate that, if the Liberals elect Jean Chretien, the Tory game-plan is to don sackcloth and ashes and shout dire warnings from mountain-tops. If the rumored return of Pierre Trudeau comes true, the Tories will adopt Plan B - which is just to lock themselves in the basement and wait for Gabriel's horn.)

But the second burning question is why the I.R.S. decided to make its announcement in the first place.

Was it in response to employees who foolishly believed a global

Continued on Page 31

# Breathe new life into smoke free rooms



Donna Kell  
Kell's Korner

Everybody knows somebody who has asthma. While you don't think about it much as an adult because playing and running are no longer such a big deal, children notice each other's quirks.

My ex-roommate in university had fairly severe asthma. She was a medical student and had charts up on her bedroom walls. She used to show me how the lungs would close up and breathing would become difficult.

Fine, I thought, asthma. Well, it wouldn't kick in too often, I assured myself. But I underestimated her sensitivity. One night I had a few friends in after a show downtown. One school chum of mine lit up a cigarette, it was about 3 a.m. and Lori would have been fast asleep.

She came charging out of her room, armed with an extinguisher, asking where the smoke was coming from. (My roommate was a little cautious.)

But my best friend through early high school also had asthma. Her condition was not very pronounced, but she used to tell me about it. Asthma, I thought, well, it can't be too serious.

I had noticed her a little short of breath when we ran to catch buses, but I didn't think too much about it.

The key there is not thinking too much about asthma. That can have the effect of being unsympathetic to people with a serious breathing problem. Thoughtlessly smoking in elevators, bus shelters, anywhere else where people are contained in a small area is selfish.

Thoughtlessly allowing someone to smoke in our miniscule downtown Toronto apartment was also selfish.

The school environment, we find increasingly in Halton, needs to be dust-free to accommodate the sensitive.

Pollution, while bad for us all, has a more devastating impact on those with asthma. They can literally stop breathing for a moment. That's pretty alarming.

They say deaths due to asthma are on the increase, either because of the advanced communication methods some call "the global village" which allows us to hear about everyone everywhere or because the environment is just getting plain worse.

But either cause, or both causes, are producing a more serious situation.

Many of us have at least minor allergies to common substances such as ragweed.

Do we know what it feels like to be restricted in our breathing.

The sad thing is when you see someone, as I saw my university roommate, armed with a small suitcase full of medication. And on the other hand, you have people unsympathetic to asthma patients, and unwilling to make small sacrifices.