

Opinion Page

30 years ago

Three teachers from Harrison Public School in Georgetown returned from touring Britain and the continent this week. The lucky ones were Marion Scarlette, June Ruddell and Mrs. Thomas Campbell. The three travelled Europe the entire summer. While they were receiving one form of education other staff members from Harrison were getting another one. Principal Harold Henry spent his summer at the University of Toronto enrolled in a post graduate course in education, Logan MacDonald was pursuing an arts course at the University of Western Ontario while Bruce Mackison was studying an art supervisor course in Toronto. Sandra Fox was also in Toronto taking a departmental head summer course.

15 years ago

Janice MacDonald was one of the local girls who signed up for the Air Cadet program in Georgetown after girls became eligible to sign up only this year under full government sanction. Recent legislation permits the girls to make full use of the courses that until now have been only available to boys.

Sherry Weatherall, Allan Krusa, Rob Hayes and Chris Greggie were the four organizers of the Muscular Dystrophy Carnival held this week at Silver Creek. The carnival raised \$85.25. Two draws were held during the festivities and Mrs. Ina Coull of Islington and Mrs. Henry Burns were the lucky winners. Mrs. Coull won a big doll and Mrs. Burns won a jar of mints.

10 years ago

The German company A. Berger Precision Ltd. was given permission by the federal government's Foreign Investments Review Agency to establish a firm in Georgetown this week. The manufacturing company specializes in the manufacturing of precision metal parts for the automobile industry. FIRA said the new company would lead to increased employment, new investment, increased resource process-

Halton's History from our files

ing more exports, enhanced technological development, improved product variety and innovation and compatible industrial and economic potential.

The Glen Williams peewee boys ball team lost their bid to take the championship when they lost a series with the Hamilton team Oneida at the Glen Williams ball park this week. However coach Brent Hall was pleased with the team's performance saying, "it was a very close game with very few errors." But they didn't capitalize on the other team's errors, he said. They didn't win the championship "but coming second isn't bad," he added.

5 years ago

Georgetown and District High School showed off their math skills when it placed second in Peel-Halton and 11th in Canada in the Decartes Math Contest. Ten GDHS students participated in the contest and Paul Long achieved the team's highest mark with a score of 74 placing him second in Halton and 24th overall. There were 4,468 students from across Canada competing. GDHS student Tim Hancock also made the Canada honor roll with a score of 63. The two, along with GDHS students Peter Carson, Jeff Streuker, and Shawn Mau, were also named to the Halton Peel honor roll.

Recently arrived Georgetown residents Bob and Lorraine Tadman started up Open Door, a youth program sponsored by Anglicans in Mission that will be run out of St. George's Anglican Church. The centre is open to all teenagers and is to act as a place where friendships can be made. Mr. Tadman said.

Who's California dreaming now?



Donna Kell
Kell's Corner

The leaves are showing tiny patches of red, and the air is getting cooler. But everyone looks like that just got off the plane from California.

Fashions are a big part of going back to school. The big thing when I trotted to the brick building in elementary school was blue jeans - particularly Levi's. The worst assault an enemy could launch was to pull off the tab on your right corner pocket.

But today's kids have much higher aspirations. Tie-dyed shirts make them look like the hippies we used to see walking down the streets. We were afraid of them then. The associations with what those tie-dyed shirts concealed (were they really human?) were frightening.

But today the shirts are no fashion statement. Like any other piece of trendy clothing, they are a rite-of-passage into social acceptance.

Masses of children waited at buses Tuesday morning, their hair

looking similar, their clothes all likely purchased from the same shopping mall.

And I flashed back to 1970-something, where all the girls in my Catholic school strived to be carbon-copies of the best-dressed.

Today's best-dressed has rips in her or his jeans - not rips but massive holes - and pants that slide off their hips but are propped up by leather or leather-like belts. They wear colors that were pool-pooched as garish a few years ago, and they say that everything they wear is "way radical."

They wear surfing T-shirts with double-entendre statements that can be taken (gulp) sexually, and they wear shorts that used to be the exclusive domain of the tourist.

And like any good kids who go to school and want to go with the fashion flow, they cost their parents money.

I returned to my old high school a few years ago to see a play and found that everyone was wearing plaid skirts and cardigans. I thought maybe they had imposed a uniform regulation. But it was only teenage children trying to look like they thought their parents looked.

And now it's teenage children trying to look like unemployed people on the beach look, professional students look, or hard-core hippy looked.

My only problem is this: How do we know when someone's really from California?

And do you close your eyes when you rip \$50 jeans?

LETTERS 'SS GTA' seeks 'garbageberg'

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter to John Sweeney, housing and municipal affairs minister, was filed with the Herald for publication.

Mr. Sweeney,
As the minister now responsible for GTA we would like to welcome you aboard. Your newest fleet of ships is ready for inspection. The "SS GTA" is one of your smallest ships but it's the pride and joy of Mr. Peterson and Mr. Muzzo and is guaranteed not to sink if it hits a garbageberg. Beware of that statement: after all the "SS GTA" was launched during the Ides of March.

We should warn you that the "SS GTA" has sprung a few leaks and

is running a little erratic. The captain, Captain Herrema, a direct descendant of Bluebeard himself, shows no compassion for his passengers at all. Our captain is not sure what ocean his ship should be sailing on (garbage, transportation, housing), but sails on anyway, breaking hearts in every port.

His crew is a rather motley bunch. First mate Bean, hasn't really signed on, I guess you could say he was shanghaied. Then there's first mate King and first mate Pomeroy who have signed on but can't make up their mind on which direction to go. Then we have first mate Tonks, who doesn't

care which direction the ship goes as long as it's away from Metro. Lastly we have the brig master, Church, whose job it is to toe the line and keep everyone from jumping overboard.

Oh, by the way don't ask the captain to see the ship's log, they didn't keep one, but if you pressure them they may come up with something.

The ship has no accountable port and as such it flies the pirate's flag. The only suggestion that I can give you before the crew mutiny is to scuttle the ship and save the rest of your fleet.

Happy Sailing,
Lloyd Thomas,
Resident of Whitevale

Main Street needs new life

Dear Sir,

After several unsuccessful attempts to locate an address for the downtown business association, I am sending this letter to you with a suggestion for them.

It is apparent that our "Old Georgetown" Main Street is in dire need of some new life, and the recent loss of Whimseys is a sad one. The addition of the Campbell House Gallery above McCarthy's Tea Room is a positive step, and the suggestion by Raimond Rickvicius of a Farmer's Market

on the main street is a great one. I trust the local council will do everything in their power to assist in the fulfillment of this idea.

I would like to make a suggestion, on behalf of many people who feel as I do, and this is to make the downtown area a parking meter free zone. The efficiency of the local meter maids, while perhaps adding dollars to the coffers of the town, is doing irreparable damage to the downtown area. The number of tickets being handed out for short term violations (i.e. minutes

overtime) is making for extremely poor public relations. Many local people now just won't even take the chance of parking downtown anymore, and are taking their business to the plazas.

There must come a time when we must place people values ahead of money values, and perhaps that time has come for the unique Main Street area of our town. Could we not all pull together to keep it alive and vibrant, and a "people place"?

Yours sincerely,
(Mrs.) Dawn Livingstone

Electricity shouldn't be taxed electric association chief says

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter from Carl Anderson, chairman of the Municipal Electric Association to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was filed with the Herald for publication.

Dear Prime Minister,
I am writing an open letter to you on a matter of significant social and economic policy.

As currently defined, the Goods and Services Tax will apply to electricity. In today's society, electricity has become a necessity like water, food, and medical services, all of which are to be excluded.

Low cost electricity has played a major role in this country's economic development. As trade barriers are lowered we need to retain our advantages.

As an elected Commissioner in North York, I am concerned for the customers I am elected to serve, and for the businesses which make our community healthy. As Chairman of the Municipal Electric Association, I know that over 1,000 other local utility commissioners in Ontario are equally concerned.

Electricity should not be taxed.

Parents have the stockade blues

public stockade. It's the sort of thing that could establish a useful precedent.

I've always believed, for instance, that something particularly dire ought to be done to drivers who sit in front of you at an intersection and wait for the light to turn green before signalling a left turn. But I never knew the rack might be an option.

Still, I have my doubts about Dermott's bright idea.

To begin with, it seems just a tad unfair to chuck a parent in the stocks just because his kid is a little swine.

Granted, it's undeniably true that the kid's parents were responsible for bringing him into the world. But surely, everyone's allowed one mistake.

You also have to wonder if chucking parents in the stocks would really reduce juvenile delinquency. It's possible that it might even have the opposite effect.

Show me a child whose parents are in the stocks because he set fire to the Dairy Queen, and I'll show you a child who has oddies of free time in which to blow up the 7-Eleven.

Still, you can't deny that the threat of being chucked into the stockade would inspire parents to do their best to control their kids. Close your eyes, and it's easy to imagine the responsible parental discussions that must be taking

place down in Dermott this very minute.

"Walter - that boy's done it again! This time, he hot-wired Billy Jo Jimbob's new pick-up and drove straight down Main Street at 70 miles an hour."

"Dang! So what do you want me to do about it, Emmie?"

"Seems pretty obvious to me, Walter. You're just going to have to shoot him."

This, of course, serves to illustrate an entirely different sort of problem.

Let's face it - if this sort of law had existed in the town where we grew up, very few of us would have happy, unstrained relationships with our parents today. In fact, a number of us would not be here today at all.

All in all, then, I don't think I'd favor a widespread initiative by city councils to follow Dermott's lead.

At least, not unless it's accompanied by a widespread decision by parents to embrace George Bernard Shaw's theory concerning the ideal way to raise children.

Which is to leave them in a test-tube until they're 18, and then break them open.

Or perhaps 21, instead. Parenthood is a solemn responsibility, and it's always best to remain on the safe side.



Ian Weir
Weir's View
Thomson News Service

Boy, you've got to admire the determination of the good people of Dermott, Arkansas. When it comes to coping with the problem of juvenile crime, these folks don't mess around.

According to the newspaper, the town has just come up with a fascinating new way to persuade kids to obey the law: town council has adopted an ordinance making it possible to place the parents of lawbreaking minors in a public stockade.

Well. Sounds like just one beckuva place to raise your kids, doesn't it?

Every adult knows that having kids will reduce his freedom a little - but Dermott town council has just opened up a whole new dimension.

Here at home, it's common to hear parents lament that they haven't had a proper night on the town since their eldest was born. Down in Dermott, apparently, there are parents who haven't been out of the stocks since the kid discovered matches.

Naturally, though, it's best to be open-minded about these things. And perhaps Dermott's new law merits some close consideration.

Just for starters, it's fascinating to see someone bring back a Medieval punishment like the