

Opinion Page

THIRTY YEARS AGO-

The Business and Professional Womans Club handed Betty Avery a \$100 scholarship. She was given the business and professional scholarship on the recommendation of Miss Florence Luke and Mr. J. L. Lambert. Also Mrs. W. Gwizdala was appointed as alternative delegate to attend the provincial Conference in North Bay. The delegate Mrs. Win Wallace is unable to attend.

Four North Halton Golf and Country Club members are making a whirlwind tour of some of the better golf courses in Canada and the United States. Dan Rand, Stu Young, Harv Chappel and Dr. John Kerby went on a six day tour to courses in Buffalo, Syracuse, Cooperstown, Lachute, Quebec, Ottawa and Peterborough.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO-

Special safety citations were awarded to the Town of Halton Hills Councillor Garnet McKenzie and OPP safety officer Larry Scott at the Hamilton Automobile Club's Annual Safety Banquet. For four years of fatality free pedestrian accidents Georgetown received a special citation. Julia Bowen, 13, was named Miss School Safety 1974 for Acton and the Georgetown title went to Aline Perren.

Dave Thomas and his wife Shirley became \$23,000 richer thanks to a third place finisher in the Irish Sweeps Cambridgeshire handicapped run.

TEN YEARS AGO-

Frank and Olive Ruddell of Georgetown marked their 50th wedding anniversary with a gathering in Hillcrest United Church. They were married on Oct. 5, 1929. Halton Burlington MPP Julian Reed presented the couple with a scroll on behalf of the province and Mayor Pete Pomeroy made a presentation on behalf of the town of Halton.

Isabelle Weaver, Norman Bourassa, Davine Barber, and

Halton's History from our files

Mary Lamon are the members of the Baha'i Faith in Halton Hills spoke with representatives on the local, provincial and federal levels of government on the persecution of the Baha'i community in Iran. Their discussions led to government intervention that stopped the destruction of a house in Iran the Baha'is hold sacred.

The Meteor "B" team became inter-city soccer champions when they won the final game in a shoot-out against the Guelph Crusaders.

FIVE YEARS AGO-

Sergeant Ted Waller was promoted to staff sergeant and transferred to 11 division (Georgetown and Acton) to assume the duties of platoon commander. He started his career in 1964 as a civilian clerk, became a uniformed policeman three years later and gradually worked his way to his new position.

Constable Ron Welsh has been promoted to sergeant with the Halton regional police force's Criminal Investigation Bureau. He worked the regional bureau investigating a wide number of crimes before receiving his promotion.

Amateur performers, Jeannie Johnston, Amanda DeForest, and Park Public School teacher Louise Hurley and 16 of his students were only some of the people celebrating the third anniversary of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre.

Hushing pleas for VIA



Donna Kell
Kell's Korner

Canadians recently faced price increases in air fare when Wardair was purchased by Canadian. More increases would make it likely that travelling inside the country would be much more costly than going to Florida or even Cuba.

To stabilize our economy, the federal Tories under Brian Mulroney are cutting a service many Canadians still want.

Mr. Bouchard refused to meet with over 20 mayors from municipalities across Canada last week. Mayor Hazel McCallion of Mississauga, respected for her unrestrained opinions, said this country is being run like a communist government when Canadians can have no input into the system.

The transport minister said in parliament that he met with mayors in the summer. At that time he heard their opinions, he said.

But apparently Mr. Bouchard didn't hear the opinions of many local politicians, including those in Halton Region. Regional councillors voted recently to support a motion asking for public meetings to make the feds accountable to the public before cuts were made to VIA rail.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette has certainly grown tired of fighting for VIA over the past while.

Canadians have been struggling with an identity crisis for a number of years, 122 years to be exact. And now something that has meant an identity for Canadians is going to get the axe without public consultation.

And MP's are shouting - and being ignored - by Benoit Bouchard in Canada's House of Commons.

The latest move by the federal government to act without consulting Canadians begs the question 'where is the democracy?'

VIA Rail cuts are scheduled to be announced today. Reports say that such cuts could mean a loss of 3,000 jobs and a loss of the oldest public transportation service in the country - a service that bound Canada from coast to coast in the early days.

Last week when the House of Commons met after summer recess, Benoit Bouchard, Minister of Transport, was on the hot seat. Mr. Bouchard said in broken English that he refused to comment on VIA rail cuts that had not been officially announced. He was attacked by a barrage of questions and accusations. Nova Scotia, sources say, will be one of the provinces hardest hit by rail cuts. Some towns in western Canada will be virtually inaccessible, MP's said last week. Amtrak, the American rail system that connects with VIA could take over some of the Canadian system's routes.

Sentimental reasoning aside, some current reports say the VIA rail cuts will mean less choice for Canadians in how they travel and higher prices for airlines and bus services.

LETTERS

GST should be five per cent

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter, written to Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner was filed with the Herald for publication.

Dear Mr. Turner:

Re: Goods and Services Tax

First, I want to congratulate you on the Taxpayer's Guide to the Proposed Tax. It certainly cleared up a lot of questions that I had concerning this proposed tax and why it was introduced in the first place.

Second, I think that the Conservatives have done a much better job of reining in spending when compared to the Liberals. However, I see a dangerous precedent being set by attempting to reduce the deficit by increasing the tax base further.

Lower taxes and free market forces are the major reasons for the worldwide increase in growth rates. However, by choosing higher taxes, we are collectively

choosing a lower growth rate. In the short run, the increased revenue will make it appear that the fiscal battle is being won. But as the economy slows and the revenue take decreases, the budget deficit will again increase. Canadian residents, both private and corporate, are already burdened with far higher tax rates than those in most other industrialized nations.

So what would I suggest? During an economic expansion of the magnitude that has occurred in Canada it still amazes me that all the additional revenue has made little impact in getting the overall deficit down. The solution it seems to me is not increasing revenues but decreasing expenses.

One of the key promises that Prime Minister Mulroney made, which helped him to win the 1984 election, was to cut the size of the

federal civil service which, along with taxes is also considerably larger than in most other nations. From what you've indicated in your booklet, the proposed new GST will require a whole new bureaucracy to administer, with no reductions elsewhere. In addition, because of the complexity of the new tax, additional administration will also be required on the part of business.

In conclusion, I suggest that the following steps be taken.

1. Eliminate the manufacturing sales tax and replace it with a fairer goods and services tax at a rate of no more than 5 per cent.

2. Eliminate all exemptions so that everyone is treated equally.

3. Reduce the size of the federal civil service thereby reducing expenses.

Sincerely
Victor Estevan

Terry Fox run raised \$26,000

Dear Sir,

On Sunday, Sept. 17, the Ninth Annual Terry Fox Run was held in Acton at the High School track, where volunteers and participants gathered to raise over \$26,000 for Cancer Research. This total was achieved with the help and dedication of so many people, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to them.

Thanks to Acton IGA, Foodland, Freezer Frenzy and Al and Al's Meats for donating supplies for our food booth. Thanks to McDonalds for providing juice and containers, and to Acton Home Hardware, Jack Tanner's Table, McLeod's Hardware, Hearth House, Toronto Blue Jays, Gord McCutcheon, Vito's Fruit Market, and Tuitman's Mini-Golf for donating draw prizes. Thanks to Harold Townsley for providing his R.V. and to Bud Kentner for transferring VCR tapes for use in the schools. Thanks to Lakeview Centre and Tyler Transport for the use of their roadside signs and to all residents who

showed their support with lawn signs.

We would especially like to express our gratitude to Rick Glugosh and the staff of Jack Tanner's Table for donating and hosting the beautiful luncheon during the visit to Acton by Betty Fox and to Blue Springs Flower Shop for providing corsages.

And last but not least, our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped throughout the day, to all who participated in the run, and to the many people who sponsored participants.

The outstanding pledge totals are a direct result of the above mentioned people, and their continued support and dedication to Terry's dream. Thanks again Acton!

The Acton Terry Fox Run Committee
George McPhail, Jan Penick,
Nan Hurst,
Jenny Murr, Jon Hurst

Letter took the long way

To The Editor:

With all the jokes and complaints concerning the post office's slow service, I have one to include.

Last week, I mailed a letter, neatly typed, to Concord, Ontario. It was returned because they moved.

I happened to notice the post mark. It showed my letter was stamped, "Edmonton, Alberta".

Tell me, does all our mail go across four provinces before we receive it?? Just curious.

Sincerely,
Margaret Chiasson
Acton, Ont.

"Thank You" from Pro-Life

To The Editor, Readers and Area Residents who attended the Georgetown Fall Fair:

North Halton Pro-Life says "Thank you" for the understanding manner, the questions and suggestions, with respect to our booth's display.

North Halton Pro-Life
Tony Smyth, Vice President

Airing those travel complaints



Ian Weir
Weir's View
Theater News Service

I was 30,000 feet or so above Medicine Hat the other day when it struck me - one of those dismal philosophical truths.

It is impossible both to love humankind, and to travel by airplane. You do one or the other.

If you have any sense, you stay on the ground and practise loving your neighbor. If you're rash and foolish, you climb aboard an airborne cigartube and quickly learn to loathe the poor guy sitting beside you.

As I may have mentioned, flying and I don't particularly agree with each other. I tend to take the traditionalist's view - if God had meant us to fly, He'd have created more seat-sales.

As such, I was in a pretty gloomy mood for a good week before taking a cross-country flight. And then, when I actually climbed aboard...

Well, you know the scenario.

You arrive early at the airport, so as to get an aisle seat. There's no point in getting a window seat, of course. You end up scrunched in a corner, and the only conceivable advantage is that you may get to be the first one to notice that the starboard engine is falling off.

No, you seat yourself on the aisle, so you can stretch your legs out. This way, you'll arrive with your legs in good shape or, at the very least, in much better shape than your feet, which the stewardess will keep running over with the drinks-trolley.

That's when the fellow with the middle seat arrives. Your heart sinks. He is smiling pleasantly. But he is large.

He wedges himself down in his seat, sighing happily. And then he does the unforgivable: he hogs the whole armrest with his elbow.

Now, it's possible that you are such an absurdly good-hearted person that you can tolerate this sort of intrusion into your personal seat-space without descending into black fury. But I doubt it.

At such times, one thought is foremost in your mind: you paid several hundred bucks for your half of that armrest. And you're agonna have your half of that armrest.

You place your elbow against his, and press firmly. He smiles. You press harder. He beams, assuming you're just being friendly.

Temporarily defeated, you withdraw - silently fuming, and harboring malicious hopes that he had to pay full-fare, and that his wife will forget to pick him up at the airport.

Some while later, the meal arrives. You peer underneath a small and wilted piece of lettuce, and there it is - your steak.

At this point, you learn an even more terrible truth about the wretch on your left. Not only does he steal any armrest he can lay his grubby great elbow on - he holds

his fork in his right hand.

Naturally, you hold your fork in your left hand, as your mother taught you to do. Which leaves you with two options.

You can shamefully capitulate, and switch your fork to the other hand. Or you can stand on principle, and endure a series of collisions which will deposit most of the meal in your lap.

Once the meal is over, there's just one course of action. You commence drinking heavily, while thinking truly dire thoughts about the man on your left.

You gloatingly wish that the airline has already shipped his bags to Poland. That his connecting flight has already left, and that legions of travel agents are working in concert to foul up his hotel reservations.

Four beers later, of course, you have to go to the washroom. And that's when you discover that your fellow human beings have stooped to truly appalling depths.

There are 15 scurvy villains lined up ahead of you - all smiling benignly, and all ignoring the fact that they have no right to be there in the first place.

They did not consume four beer in a row. They have absolutely no excuse for going to that washroom. They're doing it out of sheer spite.

And finally, hopping cross-legged in taht aisle, you begin to realize...

Well, you begin to realize why the federal cabinet is plotting to dismantle VIA rail.

They're not doing it to save money. No, they're people who have spent too much time on airplanes.

And now they just hate everyone.