

Opinion Page

30 years ago

Mrs. Wilfred Brisbois was elected president of the Daughters of the Church at a meeting in the Archdeacon Thompson memorial room at St. George's last Monday. The executive elected to support her included Mrs. Stewart Phillips, Mrs. Alan Thompson, Mrs. Ron Ovendon, Mrs. Stan Finlay, Mrs. Walter Biehn, and Mrs. Charles Renwick. Also elected as leaders were Mrs. William McNally for group 1, Mrs. Stan Finlay for group 2, Mrs. Harold Catling for group 3, and Mrs. Ron Roberts for group 4. Mrs. Thomas Van Sickler held the president's chair for the election before handing her position over to Mrs. Brisbois.

Audrey Eileen Cain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cain, married Douglas Robert Weir, son of Mrs. Harvey Armstrong, in the St. Alban's Church in Glen Williams. Rev. John Rathbone officiated at the wedding in which the bride and groom were piped out of the church by Pipe Major Joe Sellers of the Lorne Pipe Scots Band. Mr. Weir is also a member of the band.

15 years ago

A candlelight service was held at the wedding of Hazel Brenda Vokey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy William Vokey, and Donald Cree Tregenza, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Kenneth Tregenza. The double-ring service took place at St. George's Anglican Church and was officiated by Father R. Callagher.

The Ballinafad Community Centre was the place Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The events started Saturday night with a family dinner party and continued Sunday in the Community Centre. Frank Smith and Winifred Hull were married at the Ashgrove Methodist Church on Oct. 28, 1924.

Halton's History from our files

and Rev. Henry Caldwell officiated. They were the first couple to be married in the church after its construction, and as far as the church trustees could find, the only couple to take their vows in the church.

10 years ago

Georgetown is accepting the Vietnamese families with open arms. Nhuan Trang Tang recently started work at Mold Masters. His father-in-law, Senh Thong Tsan, is working on a local farm and his son, Nghiep Cun Tsan is working as an apprentice mechanic in Brampton. The refugee families are all enrolled in English language courses and all have been able to settle in apartments located close to each other.

5 years ago

Georgetown resident Claudette Smith was recently named as the new executive of the Georgetown and District YMCA. Ms. Smith replaces John Wood who was transferred to the Y's Metro facility.

Georgetown resident Tom Reed was named as the new president of the Georgetown Kiwanis Club. Also named to the new executive were Paul Taylor, second vice president; Tom Reed, president; David Sararas, treasurer; Vic Clark, director; Brian Goodlet, first vice president; Jeff Eason, director; Philip Jones, director; and Charles Forsyth, director.

Blown away by the Windy City



Donna Kell
Kell's Korner

Gawd, I love Meadowvale. Well, I don't love the town, but I appreciate it greatly. I am a changed person after seeing downtown Chicago. In fact, I may never be the same.

Driving back home from beautiful Georgetown and the Herald everyday, I used to think it all literally and figuratively went downhill as I headed south in my Topaz. But nay, folks. It could always be worse.

My guided tour of Chicago, downtown, the south, which is said to be the worst area, was narrated by my brother-in-law, a cop, and my sister, an insurance claims adjuster. Both had stories that could make your toes curl.

Bob said that stabbings were constant. Jean, my sister, said that she has claims where people have their purses stolen while sitting in their car at a red light. The assailant smashes the window and reaches in while the car is stopped.

I walked into a 7-11 store in downtown Chicago where one car was up on blocks. It appeared as if the wheels were stolen.

I gripped my purse tighter than I ever had before. A woman with a scarred upper lip (and it wasn't a hare lip scar) watched furtively from the counter as youths milled around the store.

I got my slippy and left fast.

Ever the photographer and tourist, my camera was loaded as we spun our wheels through uptown, downtown and hardcore USA. I was warned by my seasoned relatives to give the camera a low profile or I could regret aiming the Canon at the wrong person at the wrong time.

There is a district near Comiskey Stadium referred to as the Projects. The Projects are a group of high-rise apartments dotted with bright lights, some of which are said to be smashed out by gun shots or vandalism. When we passed the Projects, Bob's car didn't slow. We hung behind cars at the stoplights, and maneuvered through any yellow lights we could.

This city can't really be that bad, I kept insisting. Just then a fire truck drove into the Projects, where we could see a group of youths surrounding a fire.

Bob, who is a cop in Elgin, outside of Chicago, said firefighters get worse treatment from the Projects residents than police do. That's saying something.

After my tour-de-force of Chicago, we boarded the plane to Toronto. It was after 1 a.m. when I finally got back to my high-rise, multiplex apartment in Meadowvale. I used to think that town was urbanized.

I opened the trunk of my car to get out my suitcases. My hands were full as I turned around and saw four men, in their late twenties, early thirties, standing there, looking at me.

Altered as I was by the fear of the day, and the realization that life really has a seedy side, I was terrified. And I felt pretty helpless.

But they turned out to be nice guys - one of them offered to carry my suitcases. As he offered, he asked if I was scared.

Heck no.

LETTERS

Condoms aren't total protection against AIDS, Christian party says

Dear Sir,

Since there still is no cure for AIDS, and it will likely be years if not decades before one will be found, it stands to reason that prevention is the key to suppressing the spread of the disease. However, the way governments are educating the public leaves a lot to be desired.

Take for example the recent showing of an AIDS information video to students of Georgetown District High School. Called "The New Facts of Life," the video supports the common belief that sexual intercourse is only safe if a condom is used. The tape may become teaching material for the mandatory Grade 9 Health Education course, according to the Herald's

quote of the school nurse.

We are being led to believe that sex with a condom is "safe." Although there is much evidence suggesting that the spread of AIDS can be slowed by condom use, everyone must realize that sometimes condoms do fail. There can be no truly safe sex apart from abstinence, chastity until marriage, and fidelity within marriage.

The Herald reported that some students who had viewed the tape said they believed abstinence is an unreal solution. They really cannot be blamed for this feeling because no one is encouraging them to try that solution. What strikes me is that these same students reported-

ly said they feared becoming pregnant more than getting AIDS.

More than ever, our youth need direction and values so that they may not fear the future. Government must immediately act to emphasize prevention through morally-sound living. Currently Canada's educators and media are convincing us that since teenagers lack self-control and only self-gratification matters, the means must be made available to have sex "safely." Instead youths must be convinced that they indeed can control themselves. Wouldn't you feel insulted if someone told you you lacked self-control?

Jeffrey Streutker,
Christian Heritage Party of
Canada, Halton-Peel
Riding Association

Chamber supports GST 'concept'

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

Dear Garth,

On behalf of the Issues Committee of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with us.

At our recent board of directors meeting I had the opportunity of reporting to my fellow directors some of what was discussed. Many were unaware that any extra income generated by the GST (Goods and Services Tax) in its first year would not be applied against the deficit but rather distributed back to the taxpayers. Concerns were also raised as to the number of exceptions that are being proposed and the number of groups that are now appearing before the parliamentary committee asking for exceptions from the GST.

While we do not like the idea of more taxes, the Halton Hills

Chamber of Commerce realizes that the present manufacturing tax is unfair to Canadian companies and needs to be changed. With this in mind the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce supports the concept of the GST, however we believe that the rate should be lower and that no exceptions be allowed. The chamber is also concerned with the complexity of the proposed tax and the fact that a unified tax collection system must be put in place for the GST and the provincial sales tax. Many small retailers will find the proposed system difficult to deal with and the small amount they will get for acting as tax collectors will not recompense them for their time and efforts.

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce also feels that any "extra" income from this tax be applied against the deficit which is threatening our economy. In conjunction we ask that the federal government not rely solely on increasing revenue but cut spending as well and that each area of government spending be closely scrutinized.

The attitude towards spending cuts must be at all levels of government. It will not help the country and the taxpayers if the federal government cuts spending only to have other levels of government increase their spending and expand their services. Accordingly we will be sending a copy of this letter to all other levels of government as well.

As per your suggestion we will meet on a regular basis so that we may establish clear lines of communication about issues that affect the businesses located in Halton Hills.

Yours truly,
John McNally, Chairman

More Letters
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WRITE US A LETTER

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations or libel.

We don't want to see!



Ian Weir
Weir's View
Theobald News Service

The problem with so many news items is that they just don't give you the really crucial information. And this was certainly the case with an unsettling little report out of Ottawa, the other day.

According to the report, House Speaker John Fraser wants to revamp the rules governing TV coverage of Parliamentary proceedings, since the current method gives "less than an accurate portrayal of what goes on in the House."

The Canadian people, Mr. Fraser continues, "should be able to see what I see."

And that's where the report ended. Right there. With no regard whatever to the burning question that is now uppermost in our minds: why, precisely, does Mr. Fraser want us to see what really goes on in the House of Commons?

Does he honestly believe this information is important? Or does he just hate us?

Let's be blunt. Most Canadians are slightly cynical about the political process. As such, most regard the House of Commons in

much the same way that they regard, say, an SPCA spay-neuter clinic.

They know it exists. They know that what goes on inside is important and even essential. But they'd rather not have to watch.

Surely, this is the rationale behind the current rules for TV coverage, which stipulate that the camera must remain focussed exclusively on whichever Honorable Member happens to be speaking at any given moment.

This way, the camera can give us a controlled glimpse of what's being said and done, without the risk of showing anything that might frighten the cat.

If the gentlemen on the opposite benches are making faces and flying paper airplanes, we don't have to see it. If the Hon. Member from Codswallop is mooning the Sergeant-at-Arms, the nation remains gratefully ignorant.

As you'll remember, there wasn't even partial TV coverage of the House until the 1970s. And at the time, there were still people who argued against any coverage at all. The House, they maintained, should continue to operate on the principles of those tasteful, 1940s movies - which held that anything even mildly shocking should take place behind closed doors.

Never mind about the audience's right to know. Just encourage them to avert their eyes and think pure thoughts.

At this point, actually, I should stop and make a confession. A few years back, I did a stint as a parliamentary correspondent - and so I've actually seen what goes on

in the House.

If you'd like to send the children from the room, please take this opportunity.

As a reporter, quite frankly, I was heartily in favor of the decision to televise Question Period. This way, you could cover it from the bar across the street.

But this begs the issue of whether the cameras should show what's really going on.

To be honest, I found my own exposure to the House disillusioning. Just for starters, the debates didn't unfold quite the way they were recorded in Hansard.

Hansard has a wonderfully quaint formula for recording spirited exchanges. "An Hon. Member: 'The minister is misleading the House!' Other Hon. Members: 'Oh, oh!'"

I'd always wondered about this "oh, oh!" business. Then I discovered it's actually Hansard's coy translation for "So's yer mother!" and "Liar, liar, pants on fire!"

On the other hand, let's not stoop to exaggeration. Generally speaking, the House stops well short of resembling a bar-room full of inebriated sailors on shore leave.

It's more like a junior high school slumber party that's gotten slightly out of hand. It's unpleasant, but nothing you couldn't put a stop to by phoning the ringleaders' parents.

As such, I really don't think 25 million Canadians need the opportunity to witness precisely what John Fraser sees in the House.

Now, you can certainly sympathize with Mr. Fraser.