

# Opinion Page

## 30 years ago

Mayor Jack Armstrong completed his eighth term as Georgetown's mayor on Monday, Dec. 13 after announcing his retirement at an earlier nomination meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting he spoke briefly of his appreciation of council's efforts and the co-operation of town employees during his years in office.

A Christmas concert presented by the pupils of Wrigglesworth Public School drew in full houses for two days. Those who attended heard solos by Vivian Perry, Jenny May Brownridge, Bobby Alcott, Gary Poot, Bobby McMenemy. They were accompanied by Kenneth R. Harrison, musical director.

## 15 years ago

Members of the Red Cross Youth Branch donated a new child's wheelchair to the Red Cross Loan Cupboard to be used by those requiring a chair. At the presentation were Richard Perrot of the Red Cross, Crystal Thorogood, Youth Chairman and Judge Ken Langdon.

The first Glen Williams Brownie Pack completed their fall project when they delivered booties and little sleighs to the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. Two weeks ago the pack all made little sleighs out of red paper and filled them with candies. Denise Rice, Cynthia Brown, Julie Collier, Renee Vouhoff, Elizabeth Ramsay, Christine Steinfatt, Linda Mayhew, Kirsten O'Reilly, Diana Lawson, Stephanie Schepoglu, and Dawn Payton all made booties.

## 10 years ago

Well-known Acton electrician Earl Van Norman was presented with an honorary life membership by the Wellington County Electrical Contractors' Association at his recent retirement party. Mr. Van Norman grew up in Ospringe and farmed at RR3 Acton for 19

## Halton's History from our files

years before learning his trade from the late Rolly McEachern. He set up his own business as a general electrician more than 36 years ago, and has belonged to the Wellington Association for over 25 years.

Jake's Restaurant and Disco is looking for couples to enter its 29-hour dance marathon. Jake's hopes to have 30 couples participating. Master of ceremonies will be Jake's two disc jockeys, Dwayne Lowe and Brian Wall.

## 5 years ago

Former Halton Hills Public Libraries employee Anne Irvine of Limehouse was appointed to the Halton Hills Library Board. Halton Board of Education trustees approved the appointment at a meeting held earlier. Ms. Irvine is to serve a three-year term. The former programs and publicity co-ordinator for the libraries, Ms. Irvine began working at the library 10 years ago, after a teaching career in home economics. She resigned from the library in October to pursue a career in dress designing.

There are a lot of Good Neighbors at Centennial Public School. Student and teacher representatives met with Good Neighbor co-ordinator Siena Van Hoekelen to deliver a cheque for \$100 to be used to buy food for the needy during Christmas. Students included Anna Toone, Vicki Hughes and Lynne Rogers who raised \$177 at the school's charity rock-a-thon.

# Bowlers across Canada affected by proposed national sales tax

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to Member of Parliament Garth Turner's column in the newspaper on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

I am the "owner and woman from the bowling alley" mentioned in his column. Maybe many of the public are not aware that we are now known as bowling centres and not alleys. We have worked very hard to upgrade the image of our businesses throughout Canada and to truly make them centres of recreation, sport, competition, provincial and national championships, a centre for all regardless of creed or nationality, and a gathering place for socializing and programs for all ages from 3-year-olds to over 90 regardless of handicap or ability.

The implication Mr. Turner took from the newspaper that "he didn't care enough to respond to my letter" was wrong. At the Chamber of Commerce dinner the reporter from the newspaper inquired how the GST would affect our business and I told her. We wanted to make sure Mr. Turner knew our position on the GST and we had, therefore, delivered 400 signed petition cards from our bowlers and a letter from myself to his office. She asked if I had received a reply and said no, not yet. I want to make it clear that I did not wish to infer that he didn't care enough to respond. I am sure he is trying to do his best.

I, also, am trying to do my best when I want him to know how my bowlers feel about the GST. The comments on the cards belong to the bowlers, and as comments go, some are more outspoken and some are more constructive than others. I feel that I owe an obligation to my customers, to our youth bowlers, their families and our senior citizens, to make him aware how the GST is going to affect

them. The GST is going to affect not only them but all the bowlers across Canada, and the Bowling Proprietors Association of Canada has made a representation to the federal government regarding this.

As Mr. Turner is our representative in Parliament, he is the proper person to be made aware of our bowlers' problems in Georgetown, and ours, and this is what we have attempted to do.

I am sure Mr. Turner has a dif-

ficult job to perform, but he says he "welcomes our comments and our guidance" and that is what we are endeavoring to give.

Mr. Turner mentions that he got into politics to influence the government in the direction the people want it to go, to work for spending restraint, an end to deficit, and ultimate lower taxes. These are admirable goals for him to pursue, and we wish him every success.

(Mrs.) Rosalie Radyk

# Education system is "undemocratic"

The following letter to the Halton Board of Education was filed with the Herald.

Dear Sir,

On December 7, the Halton trustees voted to proceed "on schedule" with the hiring of an architect for the proposed Oakville Trafalgar High School facility in an area of declining enrolment. No public addresses were allowed on this issue.

Oakville trustees C. Reid, L. Clark and J. Watson did not support the \$400,000 proposal as the Ministry of Education has neither approved the building of this proposed facility, nor committed further funding (\$11 million).

The projected budget of approximately 11.8 per cent for education in Halton for 1990 was not mentioned in this issue. The lack of funds for W.O.S.S. and the overcrowding at this facility was not an issue, as Janice Millman stated publicly, that even with 20 portables, students and staff at W.O.S.S. could manage.

Halton trustees persist in blaming the province, Bill 30, Bill 64 and

65 for lack of funding, yet continue to approve over-budget facilities and facilities with unknown budgets and programs. Flowery speeches at budget time and references to "it's for the children" fail to impress the tax-paying public.

The vast majority of tax-payers without school-age children are demanding accountability for educational services. Continuing education programs or recreational facilities will not pacify them as user-pay is being implemented on a large scale.

The demise of accessibility to equitable educational services for all our young people is well underway. Regrettably, some Halton trustees insist on contributing to, in fact promoting, such an undemocratic system of formal public education.

Undoubtedly, these trustees will propit they were elected by their constituents who knew, when they elected them, that they supported such a system.

Yours truly,  
Marianne Hawthorne

## Thanks for Christmas ball

Dear Sir,

I once again, on behalf of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, would like to say thanks to all who attended our 31st annual Christmas ball held Friday, Dec. 1 at Holy Cross Auditorium.

Your presence makes this event much looked for each year.

Thanks to all volunteers who worked very hard and gave a lot of time.

Thanks to all. Wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas Season.

God Bless.

Vi Haines,  
Hospital Auxiliary  
Fundraising Chairperson

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# Women and men should feel outraged



Donna Kell  
Kell's Komer

adding in his lyrics that "things are changing, for sure," in the sexual revolution.

I grew up in a traditional home, many of my female friends grew up in homes where the woman, the young lady, was encouraged to work hard but was always expected to find a man to support her.

Some people don't want this to change.

While on the one level we have a consciousness, like that of Ivan, where he knows he's "got a woman inside" - has a mix of male and female qualities - we have the other side of the spectrum where men are scared to death of being sensitive, hugging another man, or doing something traditionally done by their mothers.

The move to emancipate women from years of oppression - of not being able to vote, of staying home with the kids and ironing and cooking - is grinding to a halt. With that comes a new freedom for men - a freedom that allows them to cry if they get upset, makes them feel free to shop or use a vacuum without teasing from their male (or female) friends.

I recently interviewed a woman who was illiterate. Her first reaction to me was that it was a surprise that a woman was interviewing her.

I bit my tongue and considered that her ignorance of the 1980's was due to her lack of reading material.

But changes will happen, despite opposition from people whose personal security is threatened by the idea that all people are created equal.

And some day no one will be able to use "feminism" as an excuse to perpetrate a bloody massacre.

Women, and men, everywhere should feel outraged that equality for men and women has been slapped in the face by a young man from Montreal.

It seemed for so long that the revolution to bring women to the level where they could get equal pay for equal work, could have opportunities for traditionally male-dominated professions and be termed the 'breadwinner' has been quietly moving along.

But like any revolution, there are reactionaries, those who don't want to see change - even beneficial change - take place.

Marc LaPine's massacre of 14 women at the University of Montreal was a reaction to what he calls "feminism" but it was also an inadequate explanation for what a demented individual did to mar the lives of more than just 14 people and himself, but all Canadians.

Ironic to some, undoubtedly, is that one of the mainstream pop stars of Montreal, Ivan, from Men Without Hats, just sang a song about how great it is to be emancipated as a man.

"Got everything even though I'm a guy, feel so good I got a woman inside," Ivan sings over the radio,

# Winter is vastly over-rated



Ian Weir  
Weir's View  
Thomson News Service

At the risk of sounding subversive and un-Canadian, I would like to offer the following observation: in my own considered opinion, winter is vastly over-rated.

Admittedly, to criticize winter comes very close to slandering the cultural fabric of this nation. It's a lot like sneering at Hockey Night in Canada, or suggesting Fred Davis wears a hairpiece.

The problem is that an appalling number of Canadians cling to the myth that winter is actually fun.

These are the people who speak joyfully of tobogganing, and who describe a temperature of minus-20 as "brisk" and a temperature of minus-40 as "bracing" - which is of course ridiculous.

The truth is that any temperature below 50, degrees Fahrenheit is reprehensible, and should go away and stop bothering decent people.

As someone who spent a number of years on the west coast, I've had plenty of run-ins with the propagators of the winter myth. Mention where you're from, and it's amazing how often someone will curl a lip and exclaim: "But you

don't even have winter there!"

Naturally, there's just one logical response to this. "True, madam. And we don't have killer bees or rabid wolverines, either."

But this never fazes the winter-lovers. They just proclaim they could never live in a place that doesn't have four distinct seasons.

Perhaps they have a point. But there's still a gaping hole in the argument.

A city like, say, Ottawa does indeed have four seasons. And of the four, spring and fall are admittedly gorgeous. The problem is that they both last for a day and a half.

When all else fails, of course, the winter-lovers will insist that they prefer any amount of cold and snow to the incessant west coast rain.

They can believe this if they like - but let's face facts. The universe is four billion years old. And in all that time, no one has ever had to shovel rain.

You may, possibly, have begun to detect a note of bitterness. This is the bitterness of a confirmed winter-hater who is stuck in frigid climes with someone who professes to be enjoying herself immensely.

The Love of My Life spent all last Sunday laughing gaily as she dragged me out tobogganing. (I hate tobogganing. As a child, I once tobogganed head-first into a boulder. This may explain my aversion to the pastime - as well as a host of my other problems.)

But it was interesting to see what happened a couple of mornings later, when two feet of snow turned up in the driveway.

I had cleverly prepared for this by slipping on icy steps the previous afternoon and spraining my wrist. When you fear there may soon be snow to be shovelled, spraining a wrist is an excellent precaution.

I strode gamely out into the cold, promising to help her dig her car out as best I could with one hand. She nodded appreciatively, started the car, then trotted back to the house for a second shovel as I commenced work.

This is the point at which she inexplicably disappeared inside, returning just in time to exclaim: "Oh, good - I think I can get the car out, now!"

A less simple and trusting soul might get suspicious. He might begin to suspect that people who profess to love the cold and the snow are in fact fibbing through their chattering little teeth.

But I won't stoop to this. Instead, I'll just spend the rest of the winter musing darkly on the fact that little good has ever come of living in a frigid climate.

Consider, for instance, that the equatorial zones have produced the mai-tai and Mahatma Gandhi, while the nordic climes have produced boiled cabbage and Attila the Hun. There may be a lesson to be drawn from this.

And on Jan. 1, I'll participate in the time-honored New Year's day ritual of ice-bound wretches.

There I'll be. Nursing a hangover, gazing bleakly out the window at the wind-driven snow - and bursting into tears as the Rose Bowl broadcast comes on from Pasadena.