

Opinion Page

30 years ago

Members of the Esqueving council held their final meeting of 1959 to pay tribute to retiring reeve George Currie and asked him to vacate the chair so the 1960 reeve Campbell Sinclair could take the chair. Mr. Currie was thanked for the impartial and courteous way he presided over council meetings.

The staff of the Georgetown post office enjoyed only their second annual Christmas party at the Paradise Gardens in Guelph. The members who attended included Mr. and Mrs. Harold Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Critchton, Mr. and Mrs. Gord Hallitt, Mr. and Mrs. George Macauley, Mr. and Mrs. Delmar French, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nicholson, Blake Inglis, Donna Bennett, Jean Hancock, Roy Warne and Fannie Weaver.

Jack Armstrong was elected the principal of the Chapter Royal Arch Mason in Halton, heading a list of new officers who will be installed in the new year.

15 years ago

Because of a computer error an 80-year-old man was told he no longer owns his house. Many discussions and legal complications later Tom Nelle managed to prove he did in fact own his home. When he did not receive his tax bill on his property earlier this year, Mr. Nelle approached the municipality's taxation department in Georgetown and was informed, according to records there, that he was not listed as the owner of the property.

About 70 temporary post office staff worked on staggered hours, day and night to get the mail through on time for Christmas. Charlotte Corcoran operated the cancelling machine which stamped Georgetown's outgoing mail almost one million times in the past month. The peak day was on Dec. 12 when 47,050 letters went through their hands.

The Terra Cotta Villagers held their annual Christmas dance and like the past few years it was a complete sell-out. Winners of the 50-50 draw were David Anderson, Larry Landsborough, and Ron Hill.

10 years ago

About 115 senior citizens sang Christmas carols along with the St. Andrew's Choir following a tour of Christmas lights organized by the Kinsmen Club. Five buses were

Halton's History from our files

provided by the Kinsmen Club to take the seniors on a tour of Christmas lights in Georgetown. A number of local businesses supplied coffee, tea, ice cream, doughnuts, cakes and door prizes for the reception in the St. Andrew's Church.

The staff at Park School held a retirement party for janitor Fritz Connie. Mr. Connie has worked at the school for 15 years and said he has no plans for the future, although his wife said he has a number of things to work on including his garden.

Sixteen-month old Cheryl Ann Janknegt was quite happy with the prize her mother won for her in the Beta Sigma Phi Christmas Lottery in Georgetown. Marlene Steckly presented Cheryl Ann with a Mandy Doll, a canopy bed, a wardrobe and 18 handmade doll outfits. The presentation was made at the Langcraft shop in Georgetown with the proceeds going to the Georgetown Cancer and Cerebral Palsy funds.

5 years ago

Kazoo the clown entertained at the Co-op Nursery School in Hornby at their annual Christmas party. Kevin Moller, 4, and Erin Guard, 3, were only two of the children keeping close to the clown as he gave away balloon animals during the parade.

The new 1984-85 Optimists executive celebrated their upcoming year of community projects at a local restaurant. Leaders in the organization are president Sheila Ward, vice president Sharon Maltby, treasurer Grace Martin and secretary Mavis Nicholson.

The Acton Firefighter Bantams and Ed's In and Out Variety midjets took off from Toronto on a trip to Oslo, Norway. The two hockey teams are in Norway to play in a number of exhibition games. The bantam team is scheduled to play five games and the midjets are scheduled to play six. Both teams will be playing outdoor games depending on the weather.

Garth Turner fights to cut feds' spending



Donna Kell
Kell's Korner

Okay Garth, you've convinced me, you're not that bad.

Climbing out of a natural mistrust of politicians, and a normal cynical approach required by journalists, I have to admit that, if nothing else, Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner is making a vigorous effort to clean up government spending on Parliament Hill.

And he is doing it at the request of his constituents and to the detriment of the relationship with some of his Tory colleagues.

I hate the GST, like many Canadians. I despise having to pay an eight per cent sales tax when buying large items. And now to see two taxes on each item you purchase - even a restaurant dinner - will certainly be an outrage.

But I have to respect someone who says, "I will go to Ottawa and bring your message to Michael Wilson" and then actually does it.

This reaction could be because there is a lot of pressure on Mr. Turner. His high profile as a business columnist with the Toronto Sun, his harsh criticisms of the federal tax system as a writer, mean many eyes turned upon the Tory backbencher.

He had a lot to prove. And still has a lot to prove. Michael Wilson said back in June that he feared the former Sun columnist coming to Ottawa last year.

What had once been a critic from the outside then became a critic from the inside, albeit a more cautious, and dare I say, a more conservative one.

Mr. Turner makes every effort to please all of the people all of the time. Of course you can't actually do this, but his surveys on the GST, his public meetings show that he at least invites the input of local constituents.

I would never say trust a politician. And I'm not saying it now. But I guess with all the swings I've taken at our MP maybe I could use the same arm to give him a seemingly-deserved pat on the back.

LETTERS

Special needs recreation group grows by leaps and bounds

Dear Sir,

In June of 1988 a small group of disabled and able bodied adults got together and decided they wanted a recreational drop in program. In September, 1988 with the help of the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department and the Department of Leisure Services for the Town of Milton this small group began a monthly drop in at the Acton Legion. Since that time this group has grown leaps and bounds and now operates weekly and has over 50 members and volunteers.

Many, many groups have donated supplies, equipment, money and their time to help this program and it would be impossible to thank them all. However, there are several key people that we feel should be recognized: Ted Tyler and his helpful drivers, Marj and the fine staff of Village Manor, Jim Phillip and the Legion crew,

Jeff Bitton and the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department bunch and of course Barb Robb and Bonnie Ward from Milton. Other key people from our program include our Chairperson and Leader Shirley Raszewski ("Miss Everything"), the crafty Eve Dexter, Christine Czuhnicki and Dave Markham, photo genic Irene Pegg, cheerful Mary Burak and Jean Kirkwood and the cool and efficient Jane Adshead. Last but certainly not least is the glue who holds us together, Heather Thompson. To these and all the other wonderful helpers we thank you for making our 1989 wish come true.

Our dream for 1990 is to see our family grow and prosper. We have over 50 members yet we know that hundreds of you out there would enjoy and benefit from our weekly activities and camaraderie. Give Shirley a call (875-1531) or better yet, drop by the Acton Legion some

Wednesday afternoon and share in a cup of coffee and a game of bingo with us.

From all of us at the Recreation Drop-In For Special Needs, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hope to see you at the Legion on Wednesdays.

Shirley Raszewski, Chairperson,
Recreation Committee for
Special Needs

16 per cent of waste diverted from landfills

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Halton Hills Public Works I would like to congratulate all residents for their enthusiastic and very beneficial response to the Blue Box Recycling Program.

The Blue Boxes were introduced in January, 1989. In that time we have collected over 1,400 tonnes of glass, metal and newsprint. Combined with our corrugated cardboard collection, we have diverted almost 16 per cent of waste from landfill. Environment Minister Jim Bradley has set out goals for Ontario residents which he feels are attainable. One such goal is 25 per cent reduction of waste by 1995. His ultimate end goal is 50 per cent by the year 2000.

As you can see, Halton Hills is well on its way to achieving this lofty position. With increased awareness and education and with the introduction of apartments and townhouses and increased commercial participation in recycling in the near future, the prospects of our recycling program are bright.

In order to ensure a healthy continuation of our Divide and Conquer Program, we need everyone's support. So if you recycle, thank you. If you don't, please start. Remember mandatory recycling is coming. Isn't it easier to start now than be forced to later?

Yours truly,
Paul Sargent,
Recycling Co-Ordinator
Town of Halton Hills

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.

Optimist club members were great Santas

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to make a special thank you to the members of the Optimist Club of Georgetown. They assisted Santa in making calls to over 690 households in Halton Hills in just two evenings. This represents 61 per cent of all the children in Kindergarten and Grade 1.

The program was organized through our department. All Halton Hills schools in the Halton public school board and Halton separate school board participated. All children in Kindergarten and Grade 1 who returned an information sheet

received a personal call from Santa.

Many Optimists provided Santa with the necessary enthusiasm and dedication to make every call a success. This group was a definite pleasure to work with and I look forward to next Christmas when we can once again work together on this worthwhile and enjoyable project.

Thank you Optimists! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Yours truly,
Debbie Miethig,
Supervisor of Youth Services,
Halton Hills Recreation
and Parks Department

For the love of . . . vegetables?



Ian Weir
Weir's View
The Sun News Service

In this instance, it's a clear case of loving the diner while hating the dinner.

Now, it's undeniable that my reaction against vegetarianism is extreme and largely illogical. It comes of having grown up in Kamloops, B.C. where there are four basic food groups - baked potatoes, mashed potatoes, french-fried potatoes and beef.

And just imagine growing up in such an atmosphere and then starting to suspect that, deep down inside, you're actually a vegetarian yourself.

Naturally, you struggle desperately against this knowledge, and advance all sorts of arguments in an attempt to justify your carnivorous behavior.

It is, for instance, undeniable that ancient man in his natural state was a carnivore. The world is full of cave-paintings depicting Neanderthal man clubbing woolly mammoths. Not a single one depicts him clubbing a soy-bean.

Our ancestors spent millennia roasting meat on spits over open fires. Stir-fried vegetables did not appear until the wok was invented, thousands of years later.

And yet I'm left with this nagging problem. The fact is, there are few kinds of meat that I actually enjoy eating.

Fish is out, for starters. This isn't a question of principle - I just hate fish. This is why I'm such a jolly companion at seafood restaurants.

Veal is certainly out. No one with the slightest tendency toward squishiness can eat veal.

Lamb is almost as problematic, if you happen to be the sort of person who can't look at a lamb-chop without envisioning a fluffy, white, wide-eyed thing hip-hopping over the hillsides.

I can stand the fluffy whiteness. The wide eyes are bearable. But the hip-hopping gets me every time.

I'm developing a similar problem with chicken, owing to the fact that chickens are packaged whole.

A beef-steak, by contrast, bears absolutely no resemblance to a cow. When you buy a steak, you can cling to the comforting illusion that it was born and bred on the supermarket meat-rack. But the drumsticks of that chicken were clearly perambulating across a barnyard in the fairly recent past.

Then there's pork. Or rather, then there isn't pork.

My taste for pork was ruined forever by a childhood spent reading Freddy the Pig books. I can't look at a pork-chop without hearing a tragic sigh from my boyhood chum. It would be like biting a Bobbsey-Twin cutlet.

All of which leaves me with beef. Beef can be justified.

In the first place - as we've agreed - the modern beefsteak was raised by supermarket employees.

In the second place, I'm from Kamloops. I have met cows. I never liked any of them.

And yet... oh, lord, Freddy the Pig had a cow for a friend. Her name was Mrs. Wiggins. She was wise and kind, and she had a wonderful sense of humor...

Help.