

# Opinion Page

## 30 years ago

A donation of \$400 was given to the Organ Fund of St. George's by the Daughters of the Church when they held their first meeting of the new year. A further \$100 was put towards refurbishing church kitchen equipment.

The first chairman of the new Georgetown District High School board is Fred Masterman. He was chosen when the board held its inaugural meeting. He will head an executive comprising Esquering appointee Clarence Anderson as vice chairman and Lt. Col. G.O. Brown as secretary treasurer.

Retiring as Georgetown's mayor, Jack Armstrong was honored by town employees the day before Christmas. Clerk treasurer C.G. Benham acted for office employees in presenting a gift from them to the mayor, while William Walker performed the same function on behalf of the works staff of the town.

## 20 years ago

Chief Constable Harley Lowe said the police department will have its own breathalyzer in a little over a month. He expects to have the department ready to make breath checks for alcohol consumption in the first half of February. Penalties for offenders who either refuse the test or have a level greater than .08 are a fine of up to \$1,000 or up to six months in jail. In addition offenders may be prohibited from driving anywhere in Canada for up to three years.

## Halton's History from our files

### 10 years ago

Four volunteer firefighters with a combined total of 110 years service in the Acton area have tendered their resignation to Halton Hills Fire Chief Mick Holmes. Sam Tennant, Don Van Fleet, Doug Mason and Harry Otterbein resigned. Mr. Tennant explained, "After 35 years with the department, I think it's time to throw in the sponge." All four men agreed, it was time to leave the firefighting up to the younger members of the force.

### 5 years ago

After 10 years of planning the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital's Bennett Health Care Centre officially opened. Chairman of the hospital board, Judge Ken Langdon, praised the administrator's, Fred Morris, efforts calling him the driving force behind the project. Also instrumental in the construction of the centre was Ab Tennant.

## Kell's last korner



Donna Kell  
Kell's Korner

Antique marble fireplaces lay cracked on the wooden floors of the house where Georgetown's founders lived.

My involvement with this crime was to be at the right place at the right time. I had interviewed a Brampton woman who was capturing the house on canvas before it was to meet the wrecking ball for condominium development. I came back to see Linden Cowan over a week later and saw a mysterious cube van on the premises. There was a note on the door.

Being curious as I am, I read that note.

Before I knew it, I was a witness. My favorite detective at the time told me I had to fill in a police witness statement before he would give the crime report for a story in the Herald.

So, I went to court in July of this year, and I will go again in 1990.

While I worked at the Herald, I had a couple of run-ins with people who still maintain they were right, while I maintain that I was right.

Councillor Joe Hewitt and I locked horns on several occasions. He maintains that I misquoted him in connection with the Highland Games. I maintain that I did not. Joe and I discussed the issue at a Regional function recently, talking town politics over a glass of wine. But when the misquoting issue comes up, neither of us budge.

As the saying goes, change the things you can, accept what you can't change.

But I wouldn't change my time at the Herald.

The Herald has been a fabulous place to work. Brian MacLeod's enthusiasm for the news made it exciting to run into the office and share the details of a hot story.

The people here have been like a family - those relationships will be hard to replace.

But as I move east across Highway 7 to the bustling city of Brampton, I hope to bring some of the spirit of Halton Hills - the friendliness, the openness and the time to stop and say hello.

I spent some long nights churning out the news for Halton Hills. I always tried to look at things from a people perspective and not just in ink and paper. The news, I believe, is the people.

I hope I've done you justice, Halton Hills.

The chisel's coming out, the mortar is being hacked to bits, and the plaster is coming off the wall that once housed Kell's Korner.

The name of this column, given to me by someone close, is now being retired.

This last Kell's Korner finds me looking forward to a new position as a news reporter at one of our sister papers, the Brampton Times, but it also finds me reflecting on what have been two wonderful years in Halton Hills.

I began with the Herald as a student in 1987. The urge to get out of the city persuaded me to tell my Sheridan College teacher to send me to "Milton or Georgetown."

Fate working the magical path it often does, I ended up here in a place I used to play soccer when I was 13.

I hung out with the police while I was a police beat reporter and chatted with politicians when Brian MacLeod traded in his steno pad for Roloids and became editor.

As a student I watched with fascination as people argued over ethics, word definitions and gossip.

My first day as a student at the Herald, I told then editor Dave Rowney that I didn't want to print the address of local resident Keith Barber, my first Herald interview, because his wife was on life-support, he was nearly deaf and his house was filled with antiques. Dave, the fair man that he is, listened to my argument and allowed me to just put Georgetown-area resident.

While I was a police beat reporter, I got a little too close to the action in summer 1988 when the Old Barber House was broken into and its contents were stolen. Police caught several suspects taking a chain saw to the over 100-year-old stairs.

## LETTERS

### Churches protest foreign aid cuts

The following letter to finance minister Michael Wilson was submitted to the Herald for publication.

Dear Sir,  
Our committee represents 10 local churches with congregations totalling well over 3000 people in Halton Hills.

We wish to express our deep concern with announced cuts to Canada's foreign aid budget.

Some years ago, the government set a target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for aid to needy countries. Sadly,

this goal seems to be moving farther and farther away as we try to solve financial problems at home.

Canadians, however, are coming to see that their "home" is not just Canada, but the entire planet. The lifestyle we lead, the foods we put on our tables, do affect millions of people in developing countries.

In recent years, people in those countries have been plunged into deeper poverty than ever before, as they provide cash crops for our tables, to pay off debts to us that grow larger each year, at the ex-

pense of their own hungry children's lives (Unicef report).

At the same time, they are having to destroy resources and environments that the world cannot afford to lose, if all of us wish to survive.

Foreign aid is an investment in the world's future, and a reflection of Canada's integrity and reputation as a caring world leader. We cannot afford to reduce it.

Yours truly,  
Janet Duval,  
For the Committee,  
10 Days For World Development

### Trains rolling slowly

Dear Sir,

My nephew was visiting us from Conson, England over the Christmas period and due to the flu and workload we were unable to show him much of the sites. This didn't deter him any as there was public transit.

The 10:20 train from Georgetown didn't arrive until 10:45. No waiting room and sub zero temperatures.

The 7:50 p.m. train at Oakville didn't arrive until 9 p.m.

The 5:30 p.m. train at Georgetown didn't arrive until 6:15 p.m.

One more trip to Toronto, waiting for the 10:20 a.m. didn't arrive until 10:50. Again no waiting room open and freezing conditions.

Last but not least his departure to Edmonton on the 1 p.m. train after umpteenth delays, finally left at 4 p.m.

All this hassle and would you believe not one explanation.

If my timekeeping was anything like this I'd be out of a job.

Yours,  
Bill Innes

### Seniors say thanks for salute

Dear Sir,

The Georgetown and District Seniors Association wish to thank Club 2000 for the wonderful "Salute to the Golden Ages" event on Sunday, Dec. 17.

To the sponsors for their kind contributions, attending public figures, and to the enthusiastic staff members, performers and Miss Canada who made this an occasion for seniors to remember, we send our best wishes for the coming year.

Once again, thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
Les Mellish, President

### School is non-returnable Christmas gift

Dear Sir,

Without Ministry of Education approval to build a new Oakville High School, the Board of Education's trustees voted to spend \$400,000 for sketches of a new Oakville H.S. to be located south of the Q.E.W.

This past June, one of Oakville's modern high schools, located south of the Q.E.W. was closed because of declining enrolment in this 1,007 student capacity high school. Now the trustees have voted over the objection of two thirds of Oakville trustees to request funding for a 25 million dollar high school that would be located a few kilometres east of the "mothballed" high school and again south of the Q.E.W.

Ignoring the stated intent by the ministry of education to announce approval to build the next 100 days what funding, if any, would be available to build this 1500 student capacity high school, the trustees have voted to commit the taxpayers' money to finance Oakville's unwanted Christmas gift costing \$400,000 without ministry assistance. Will they vote for millions of dollars for Oakville in the next 100 days?

Unfortunately, along with double digit percentage increase in school taxes, this \$400,000 Christmas gift is non-returnable on "Boxing Day!"

George Pickios,  
Oakville

### 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.

## Who's sexy now?



Ian Weir  
Weir's View  
Thomson News Service

It has, of course, been a couple of weeks since People Magazine proclaimed Sean Connery the Sexiest Man Alive.

A couple of weeks since actress Shelley Winters uttered her famous assessment: "Sean was sexy at 26, and at 60 even more so."

Ever since, I've been trying to persuade myself not to be too shattered by Mr. Connery's selection.

But the time has come to take a stand. As someone who has not even turned 35, I would like to point out that People Magazine has just stooped to age-ism of the very worst kind.

Granted, it's possible I'm overreacting, a little. For starters, it could be argued that no one should get his knickers in too many knots over any proclamation issued by People Magazine.

After all, this is the journal that still thinks we want to read about Sean Penn.

Besides, it's always important to look on the bright side of things.

If People Magazine was determined to select an older man as the World's Sexiest, then Mr. Connery was a pretty good pick. After all, they could have chosen Harold

Ballard.

Indeed, let me hasten to add that I intend no criticism of Mr. Connery. The guy has always been one of my favorite movie stars.

I'm one of the world's most devoted James Bond fans. I've seen The Man Who Would Be King about eight times, and still get all sniffling when Sean gets hacked off that bridge.

A couple of years ago, in fact, I even had a personal experience which confirmed my belief that Mr. Connery is one of the finest gentlemen of our era.

I actually received a phone call from his Los Angeles agent, informing me that Mr. Connery might possibly be interested in buying the film rights to one of my stage plays. Naturally, this saintly gesture left him just one stop short of deserving official beatification by the Pope - that step being a subsequent phone call which would inform me that the deal was actually going through.

But in this fallen world, so many have stumbled with sainthood almost in their grasp. So I harbor no bitterness.

And since we're still trying to look on the bright side, it should also be conceded that Mr. Connery's selection has come as a dazzling ray of hope to men in their forties and fifties.

We're talking about a lot of guys who had more or less given up on the fantasy that it's possible to get older and better simultaneously, and had pretty well settled for clinging to the hope that you can get older without having the wheels fall off entirely.

And now, a major magazine has

proclaimed that men don't become truly sexy until they've almost reached retirement age.

Well, this is all very nice. But what about us slightly-younger guys? We're the ones who keep wondering when we're going to reach our prime - only to discover that people keep moving the date back.

Guys my age have been waiting for years for our prime to arrive. And frankly, a lot of us are starting to lose hope.

As children, we looked ahead to 16 as a magical age of vibrant maturity. Then we got there, and discovered acne.

With our twenty-first birthday came the depressing realization that 21-year-old women were much more impressed by guys in their thirties.

Then we make it into our thirties, and what happens? We're told to wait until we're 60.

Well, let's be blunt. There's a pattern emerging, here, and only the most pathetic optimist could fail to spot it.

Someone or other - I point no fingers, but the perpetrators of the plot know who they are - has decided that I am going to be denied my prime entirely.

When guys my age turn 60, we know perfectly well what's going to happen. People Magazine is going to run a cover photo of a 114-year-old with a pencil-thin moustache and a come-hither wink.

Some actress will be quoted as saying: "Wally was sexy at 87, but now he's irresistible. He's just so much more mature than the kids in their seventies."

Thanks, Sean. Thanks a bunch.