

Opinion Page

30 years ago

The familiar "click" sound of rock colliding against rock, a sound long absent from the ears of local curlers, was finally returned as the North Halton Golf and Country Club opened to curlers.

John A. Gunn, president of the board of directors of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital announced the launching of a fundraiser expected to raise up to \$1 million. Thomas A. Dillon, president of the Thomas A. Dillon Co. of Toronto, and a resident of Glen Williams, is the chairman of the campaign.

Allen Francis, Halton's agricultural representative was assisted by Earl Whitelock whom he succeeded in office, when a new building to house this government service was officially opened in Milton. Mr. Whitelock, now associated with Halton and Peel Trust and Savings Co., in Burlington, cut the ribbon to open the building. The building is the Halton extension office of the Department of Agriculture at the Centre building on Main Street, Milton.

20 years ago

Members of L'Association Canadienne Francaise elected Roger Primeau as president when they held their annual meeting in Sacre Coeur Parish Hall. Serving on the 1970 executive are Francis Landry, first vice president, Mrs. A. Lachance, second vice president, Miss Therese St. Jean, secretary, Andre Trudelle, treasurer, and the committee convenors are Mrs. A. Parent, Ed Hayes, Bernard Jacques, Adalbert Albert and Jacques Trudelle.

The stork bypassed Georgetown for the first five days of the new year. On Jan. 5 at 5:20 in the afternoon Donna Rodgers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Rodgers weighed in at seven pounds even. Mom and daughter went home on Jan. 11.

Ed Van Alphen of Park Motors, in Georgetown, won a trip to Japan and Expo '70 for selling cars. Park Motors was second in the Ontario Toyota contest which started early last year, and won a 10-day all-expense paid trip to Japan for Mr. Alphen and his wife.

10 years ago

Spring-like weather conditions forced the postponement of the Halton Hills first annual Winterfest. Publicity Director

Halton's History from our files

Tony Evers of the Jaycees said the postponement will leave only a week before the winner of the 1979 snow sculpture contest goes to Quebec.

We all have the power of self-hypnosis, Dr. Boyd Hoddinott told his audience at the University Women's Club and he decided to try to prove his statement by demonstrating the techniques used to provide the relaxation leading to a hypnotic trance.

Joshua Markus was the winner of a McDonald's watch for the month of December in the Herald coloring contest. Robin Switzer presented the watch to Joshua on behalf of McDonald's Restaurant.

Optimist Erik Peterson, vice president of the Acton club, was one of the Optimists who manned the phones in Acton for the cerebral palsy telethon over the weekend. The Optimist took calls from Guelph, Milton, Georgetown and Acton.

5 years ago

Students at Centennial Public School have adopted a Humpback Whale named Olympia who regularly haunts the waters near Yarmouth, Massachusetts. Sarah Geh, Diana Morrow and Sara-Lynn Wray are part of a Grade 6 class that adopted the whale with the assistance of Judy Luker-Clark, a teacher involved in gifted education classes.

An after-hours book drop became available at the Georgetown branch of the Halton Hills Libraries. Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwell said the drop box was installed because of the public demand for it, largely attributed to the reintroduction of fines during 1983.

Georgetown's Richard Sowers is playing in the Globe Production of "Mame" and he's loving it. He plays the central character, called Patrick, and said all the adults are being very helpful to him. Richard is 14 and is in Grade 8 at Georgetown's Centennial Public School.

Consequences severe if Meech Lake fails

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rest of Canada reject its political will to rejoin the Canadian federation."

Meanwhile, the Montreal Chamber of Commerce is putting out the message that the accord is "the most important, the most fundamental issue facing the country today."

On top of this, the prime minister assures Quebecers that the accord is "moderate and reasonable" and if it is rejected, the province will have to reconsider many things.

STRONG MESSAGE

To put it mildly, it's not helpful to be spreading this type of message. The accord, still to be ratified by New Brunswick and Manitoba, faces an uphill battle. And one would think political leaders would want to create a constructive climate for possible, if not probable, failure.

There is no reason why the country can't survive without the Meech Lake accord - just as it would survive with it. Why turn it into the most monumental issue in

our history?

Undoubtedly, part of the strategy is to apply more pressure on the hold-out provinces, making them feel like nation-wreckers if they don't get the accord through their legislatures.

But this doesn't have to be done on political platforms and through Christmas and year-end messages. There are telephones.

And there is absolutely no need for the prime minister to keep hammering on the shortcomings in the 1982 Constitution - even if he is trying to convince us of the need to fix them. What's the point, at this stage, in telling Quebecers they were betrayed and humiliated by the 1982 agreement?

The major federal players of 1982, including the prime minister, were all Quebecers.

If, after due consideration, the Meech Lake proponents still insist on telling us that the accord was the greatest invention since the wheel, let's at least try and spread the same message in every part of the country. Word travels fast these days.

LETTERS

Homosexuals are the only source of AIDS in Canada, Family Coalition member says

Dear Sir,

After a letter of mine regarding AIDS and homosexuality was published as "The letter of the day" on the Toronto Sun, I was called by CFRB Radio for a phone-in show last Thursday. The show, hosted by Wayne MacLean lasted two hours. The other guest was Jack Layton, chairman of the Toronto Board of Health.

My main contention was that the source of AIDS, in Canada, is only homosexual, although the virus is transmitted through a number of means from homosexuals, to bisexuals, to heterosexuals and finally to children. The time to act is now, before AIDS becomes a plague of much larger proportions, such as it is in certain parts of Africa where it has spread to all of the population.

My main criticism in this matter, towards the media and the government, is that homosexuals in particular, and society in general, are not told the whole truth:

1. That AIDS can be eradicated only by asking anybody who engages in homosexual acts to abstain from such acts (e.g. anal sex and other unhealthy or perverse sex practices involving excrements);

2. That condoms easily break when used for anal sex (as published in a report from the US Public Health Service) and may be completely ineffective to contain the virus even if they were not breaking (as the HIV virus that causes

AIDS is much smaller than the smallest pores of condoms);

3. That homosexuals are highly at risk, as the virus is present mostly in the homosexual population and because the average "number of partners per month" figures are so high to virtually guarantee frequent encounters with infected persons;

4. That condoms offer a false sense of safety: they are only five to 15 per cent effective (according to the Canadian Consumer's Report) in normal vaginal use (for a period of one year), and that the probability of infection increases when condoms are used for periods longer than one year.

About this last point, I was bewildered by the reaction of both the host of CFRB and Councillor Layton: they would refuse to understand how the probability of infection would increase when condoms are used for longer periods of time. Is it not just common sense? Mr. Layton, who claims to understand statistics and has a university degree, would refuse to admit that probabilities of independent events multiply when those events are combined.

Let us assume a failure rate of condoms of 10 per cent per year, without considering other unfavorable factors (e.g. that these were tested on women by measuring resulting pregnancies, which may occur only in a few days of the month). Let us consider the years 1990 to 1996. It is true that in 1996 the failure rate is still the same (10

per cent for that year, independently from other years), but what is the use of not getting infected in 1996 if I had already been infected in 1994?

The important question is: "What is the probability that I will not get infected during the next seven years of regular condom use while engaging in homosexual acts with an infected partner?"

Simple calculations show that by the end of 1996 a homosexual person will more likely have been infected than not. That is, the probability of infection for seven years is over 52 per cent! (I had hoped that for such a trivial calculation I did not need to exhibit the fact that I have a degree in Computer Science, that I am a computer consultant and that I teach a computer subject to graduate university students).

So much for condoms! While for a woman to have one pregnancy during a period of seven years is not tragic, getting infected once within seven years is deadly. Can we claim to be caring for homosexuals (and the rest of society) if we will not disclose to them the whole truth? What we should tell homosexuals and bisexuals, is that they must refrain from homosexual acts altogether. In this case condoms are the worst option.

Giuseppe Gori,
Vice President,

Family Coalition Party of Ontario
EDITOR'S NOTE: For a copy of the calculations, write the Family Coalition Party at 56 Hewson Cr., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 2N9.

Reader agrees that there's no GO transit

Dear Sir,

I want to offer my thanks to Mr. Keith Wilcox for his letter published in the Herald on Jan. 3. Under the heading "No GO Transit" he outlined many of the problems of the North West GO line. I endorse his letter.

My last conversation with someone in the GO office was to complain bitterly about the poor operational decisions which resulted in

delay, specifically the decision to stop the GO train in order to allow a freight to overtake and pass. A trainload of people were at least 30 minutes late for work!

Let us hope that other letters from frustrated GO users will pour in to the newspapers and into the Minister's office. Improvement IS possible.

J.H. McMulkin,
Georgetown

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.

U.S. slow to discover free trade

Kevin Bell

Washington Bureau

Thomson News Service



In Canada, only a hermit could have escaped hearing about the Canada-U.S. free-trade agreement. But many U.S. businessmen have been slow to discover that the two countries are reducing trade barriers.

While Canadians were assaulted with a barrage of publicity as the free-trade talks became the focal point of the hotly contested 1988 federal election, few Americans knew much - if anything - about the pact. Many are finding out about the deal only now.

Almost one year after the deal went into effect, the U.S. Department of Commerce reports that inquiries from small businesses are starting to flood in. The department has fielded more than 18,000 inquiries about the agreement, but officials admit that a large percentage of businessmen still don't know anything about the deal.

"I don't think that the American

business community has paid a lot of attention to it," says George Washington University economics professor Robert M. Dunn Jr., who specializes in Canada-U.S. relations.

Even though the United States has more trade with Canada than any other country, the American business community has been distracted by other events, Dunn says. The threat from the economic powerhouse in Japan, the movement towards an economically united European Community in 1992 and the dramatic events in Eastern Europe have occupied U.S. businesses' attention.

PUSHED OFF

"In the first year of a phase-in, there would normally be a lot of attention paid to it," Dunn says. "It got pushed off the business pages. It isn't where the big trade flows are, it's where the trade troubles are" that attract attention.

Many American businesses are wary about international trade. Faced with a blizzard of forms that businessmen have to fill in when selling goods to government departments and complicated tax rules that tend to discourage investment abroad, many businesses have not been eager to look for business opportunities outside U.S. borders.

However, some firms have seen an opportunity to drum up business by explaining to small companies

that trade with Canada is now less complicated than it once was. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that the accounting firm KPMG Peat Marwick has been encouraging small companies through seminars and newsletters to take a chance on Canada.

"If you're a small business and you never thought of shipping (to other countries), maybe you should think about Canada," one of the firm's partners told the newspaper. "It's now just as easy as shipping to somewhere down the street."

If more U.S. firms are trying to take advantage of the simpler rules for shipping to Canada, they can't be blamed for a steady decline in Canada's trade surplus since the pact came into effect, Dunn asserts.

The steady rise in the Canadian dollar in relation to the U.S. buck is probably more responsible for the decline in the trade surplus than the free-trade deal, he says.

Besides, the agreement is geared to benefit Canada more than the United States, he says. The gains of such deals usually go to the smaller countries. Canada has more opportunities to export to the huge U.S. markets, "but it isn't adding much to the U.S. market size."

Under the agreement, tariffs on about 16,000 goods will be phased out by 1998.