

Opinion Page

30 years ago

A member of the Liquor Control store staff for five years, Ed Francis, has been appointed vendor. Mr. Francis succeeds Jim Ritchie who was recently promoted to the auditing staff in the Orillia district. Mr. Francis is the third manager since its establishment when Arnot Early held the position. George Sargent has been named assistant vendor and Thomas Warnes joins the staff as a new member.

Rev. W.C. Murdock, who will be 90 this week, was honored at a dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan McFarlane of Market Street. Others at the dinner included R.W. and Mrs. Murdock, Barry, Douglass and Kenneth Murdock of Cenneville, Quebec and C.D. Murdock of Toronto.

The annual business meeting of the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen of St. George's was the setting for the election of Ernie Barnes, of Ballinafad, as the president of the brotherhood. He succeeds Clare Francis who held the office last year. Wilfred Brisbois is the 1st vice president, Thomas Eason is the 2nd vice president and Ernie Trimbell is the secretary-treasurer.

20 years ago

Ivan Crabtree, long time member of the arena board was elected chairman of the newly formed Georgetown Recreation Committee and Board of Parks Management. Other members of the first board are Allan R. Drake, William Fisher, Lyn McLaren, Robert Lane, Donna Denison and Harry Levy.

A new section of the North Halton Golf Club covering winter sports was inaugurated when snowmobiling and skiing were added to the present golfing and curling facilities. The snowmobile club, formerly the Credit Valley Club, has moved to North Halton and elected their officers for the year. The president is Ab Tennant and his vice president is Murt Allison. The secretary is Matt Todd and the directors are Bill Garbutt, Glen Campbell and Gerry Smith.

Mrs. Harry Clarke was elected president of the 1st Georgetown Scouts and Cubs auxiliary at a recent meeting which followed a potluck supper in St. John's United Church hall. She succeeds Mrs. Ben Boyle.

10 years ago

The Acton Agricultural Society members have chosen the weekend of Sept. 19 to Sept. 21 for the 1980 fall fair. They also chose their new executive including Brian Evans as president; Norm Shear and Keith Altken as vice presidents; and John Rowe as

Halton's History from our files

secretary-treasurer. Mr. Evans succeeds Brent Marshall as president.

Students at the Holy Cross School and Stewarttown Senior Public School competed in a contest to design the best anti-smoking poster. The entries at each school were judged by Joe Walterson on behalf of the cancer society, and by Mary Ellen Bridge, chairman of the local society's education committee. The winners at Stewarttown were Nancy Hoodless and Tammy Gower. The winners at Holy Cross were Cindy Buchanan and Jane Papenhuyzen.

Ian Clark came in first in the junior 1,500 metres to gain a berth on the Canadian team headed for Paris in March for the World Cross Country Championships. Mr. Clark is a Grade 13 student at Georgetown District High School and placed fifth in the 1979 world championships in Limerick, Ireland. He also competed in the afternoon section of the Toronto Star Games. The local runner has once again been invited to compete in the Star Games this year.

5 years ago

Hattie Gibbons thinks it's silly to be getting congratulatory letters from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, leader of the federal opposition John Turner and Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid on her 90th birthday. Mrs. Gibbons thinks they should have waited until she turned 100. The Sargent Road senior celebrated her birthday at a surprise party. She has lived in Georgetown community all her life.

The Georgetown District High School girls bowling team avenged a two-pin loss from the year before as they won the provincial bowling championships in Oshawa. The previous year Cornwall beat GDHS by two pins for the title. This year members of the team include Julie McCorry, Debbie Lane, Jane Hicks, Leanne Burt, Dee Dee Haynes and coach Wendy Chaplin.

For the first time ever, the Tri-County's President's Dinner and Honor Award was held in Georgetown. This year's winner was Cliff Martin. On hand for the presentation were NHL referee Bruce Hood, past winner Bob Moulton and president Karen Harrison of Georgetown. The dinner was held at Sacre Coeur Hall.

Who listens when Canada speaks?

Continued from Page 6

in its dues five years ago under the Reagan administration and now owes the organization \$51 million. Only 10 of the 26 member nations are up to date on their dues. The other 16 nations, including the U.S., owe a total of \$63 million.

The Bush administration has promised to pay its dues and the State Department has sought appropriations, but Congress in the past has reduced appropriations below the level requested.

Faced with a deepening financial crisis, the OAS laid off almost one-third of its employees a year ago and obtained a second mortgage on its office building.

CHEERS

When Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark arrived last November to officially apply for membership, he was greeted by

cheers from workers who moments before were loudly protesting their low pay and lack of a significant raise. It was either a reflection of Canada's popularity, or the workers were overjoyed by the fact that a country that intended to pay its dues was joining the OAS.

The OAS shares some of the blame for the U.S. refusal to take it seriously.

The former secretary-general, Argentina's colorful Alejandro Orfila, once left a meeting with experts on Latin American rights on the pretence that he had to attend another urgent meeting. His name turned up the next day in a Washington Post story titled The Playboy Girls of Washington, an account of a wild party in upscale Georgetown. The story circulated for years.

LETTERS

Reader wants big changes in minor hockey program

Dear Sir,

This is in regard to all minor league hockey in Georgetown. Something has to be done. The kids and the parents are getting very frustrated. The kids complain but nothing is getting done. Last night's hockey game in the juvenile league was an utter disgrace to watch. The refereeing, if you could call it that, was almost non-existent and when it was, it was absurd. Now I had a boy on both teams last night so it is not a matter of being prejudiced. Calls were made that left the kids and parents alike bewildered about what was happening.

To make an observation, at one point two lads from the same team collided and one got a penalty for tripping, another one was very heavily boarded and no call was made. These are just a couple of the calls or judgements that were made. It is not easy to be a ref, I know, but they do get paid for the job and they should try at least to do the job. They should be there in body as well as mind for the duration of the whole game.

Now for the administration I pay good, hard earned money to put my kids in hockey. Where are their sweaters for this year and why do the kids have to put up with sharing sweaters every year. This year is almost over. We pay enough to enroll them. Where does all the money go? I ask! And still on about last night's game and it has happened many times before, the last five minutes or so of the last game is always forfeited. Why do the boys have to suffer for games that have run late all day? Even the winning team was annoyed as there was only one point difference. Five minutes can make a big difference in the outcome of the game and in the point standing. If there has to be another flood for the next game, why not cancel the flood between the last two periods of the game, give the kids a five minute rest and continue the game so they can finish on time. They have paid for the full ice time.

No wonder kids are getting frustrated with our hockey and give up and do not continue playing. Should we as parents support this shoddy hockey and let them get away with this. We pay taxes and support the arena. Some things have to be changed. I've supported the GMHA for 12 years and have rarely missed a game, but I feel that someone has to speak up finally, as phone calls and talking does not seem to work. Maybe if all the parents got together maybe this apparent

flagrant disregard for our children's hockey for fun or career and of what good hockey should and can be, (could be changed).

This has been going on for too long. The town needs another arena which has already been approved years ago. Alcott was to be a double rink, then maybe the kids won't need to practise at 5 a.m. or the men won't need to wait until all hours of the night to play.

Signed - a concerned parent, - a tax payer and a supporter of minor hockey up until now Mrs. G. Adams, Ballinafad

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.

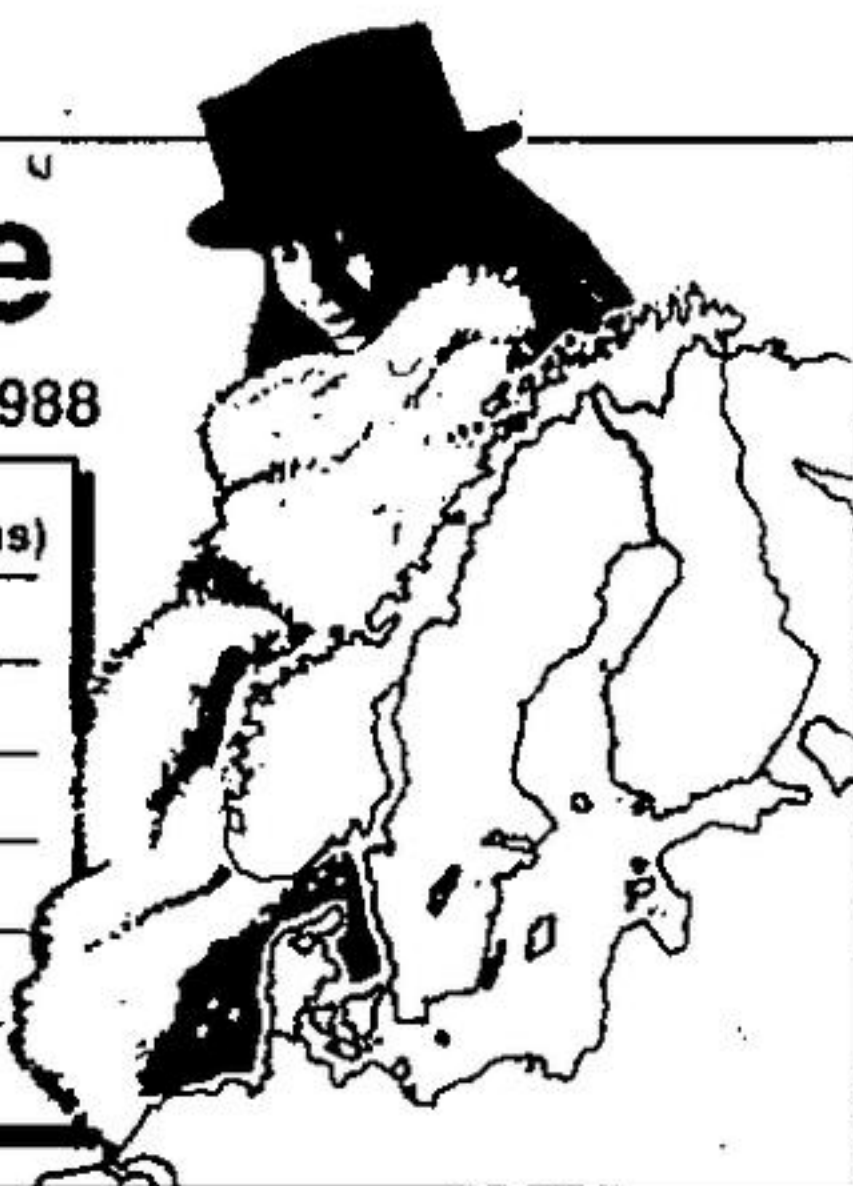
All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

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

The Fur Side

World production of mink pelts, 1988

Country	Percent	Pelts (in millions)
Scandinavia	45%	18
U.S.S.R.	31%	12
United States	11%	4.5
China	7%	3
Canada	3%	1.5
Holland	3%	1.4



Source: Fur Farm Animal Welfare Coalition, Ltd.

NEA GRAPHICS

The countries of Scandinavia produce nearly half of the world's mink pelts - 18 million in 1988. The Soviet Union is the No. 2 producer.

Rats! Snuffy got saved



Ian Weir

Weir's View
Thomson News Service

As you undoubtedly know by now, Snuffy the Rat has not been snuffed.

Snuffy, of course, is the rodent who achieved national fame when a West Coast "artist" named Rick Gibson proposed to turn him into an objet d'art by squashing him onto a canvas with a 25-kilogram weight outside the Vancouver Public Library. Animal-rights activists vowed to save him, and a nation waited breathlessly for the result.

As it turned out, Snuffy was saved by an irate mob which forced Mr. Gibson to flee for shelter. I first learned of this from Dear Heart, who rushed in shaking a newspaper in wild-eyed indignation.

"Look what they've done!" she cried. "Those idiots have saved a rat!"

Dear Heart may not know art, but she knows what she doesn't like, and what she doesn't like are rodents.

In any case, it's time to assess the philosophical implications of Mr. Gibson's artistic endeavor - or, as he subsequently explained, his brilliant exercise in media-manipulation.

Just for starters, of course, this episode raises some provocative

questions about the nature of art.

As someone who has never studied art history, I'm naturally unqualified to judge whether a squashed rat on a canvas constitutes a work of art. Still, I have a layman's opinion on whether I'd like to hang this over the mantelpiece.

Given a choice, most of us would prefer a nice watercolor sunset.

The issue also raises questions about what constitutes an artist - as Mr. Gibson was invariably described in the media reports.

A skilled rat-squasher is certainly free to call himself an artist, just as you would be perfectly free to call yourself Napoleon Bonaparte. But whether this would get you into the throne-room at the Palace of Versailles is another question.

You and I both own toothbrushes, but cynics might dispute whether this qualifies us as dental hygienists.

There's actually a serious point at stake here, since people like Mr. Gibson do a dandy job of handing ammunition to the growing list of politicians who'd love any excuse to slash government funding to the arts.

Tory MP Felix Holtzman, the hog-farmer who is now chairman of the House of Commons' Culture and Communications Committee, has dismissed the arts - about which he admits to knowing relatively little - as "airy-fairy." In fairness, it might be pointed out that artists do not dismiss hog-farming - about which they know relatively little - as "piggy-wiggy."

But I digress. Besides, it turns out that art wasn't the object of Mr. Gibson's exercise in the first place.

Apparently, he was more interested in manipulating the media

and whipping people into a self-righteous frenzy which would reveal their foolishness and hypocrisy.

For starters, Mr. Gibson informed us that Snuffy had been purchased from a pet store which sells its other rats as live food for exotic snakes. As such, squashing Snuffy would be doing him a favor.

This undeniably gives one pause. Personally, I don't favor feeding live rats to snakes.

I don't favor feeding anything to snakes. Given a choice, I'd favor squashing the whole reptilian lot of them with 25-kilogram weights.

But even more importantly, according to one of Mr. Gibson's supporters, the event exposed the hypocrisy of people who will do more to save a rat than to save the human victims of brutal governments abroad.

Well. There is a technical term for this sort of argument. It is familiar to those of us who must clean up after male bovines.

Unfortunately, it's terribly difficult for the average citizen to save someone halfway across the world. But it's entirely possible to stop assinine little displays in front of the public library.

Anyway, let's hope Mr. Gibson has learned his lesson. Perhaps he has seen the artistic light, and will henceforth restrict himself to painting black-velvet sailing ships, or perhaps acrylic Elvises.

He's welcome to squash these under 25-kilogram weights. Or even feed them to boa constrictors.

Meanwhile, I'd just like to pass on my best wishes to Snuffy. Now that his brush with artistic immortality is over, let's hope he enjoys a long and blissfully mundane existence.

Just don't tell Dear Heart I said so.