

Opinion Page

GMHA doing its best, says VP

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter to Mrs. G. Adams was filed with the Herald for publication.

Dear Mrs. Adams,

First of all, let me thank you for your letter of concern and for your purported 12 years support. However, your comments pertaining to your sons' midget/juvenile house league game on Jan. 21 (Herald page 6, Jan. 24) obviously need to be redressed.

Your keen observation that "it is not easy to be a ref" is most benevolent, but grossly understated. No matter the call, a referee is always 50 per cent right and 50 per cent wrong depending on opposing viewpoints - basically a no-win situation. While I'll agree that the refereeing in any one game can be "frustrating," as you point out, the fact still remains that he controls the game to the best of his/her ability. Pure and simple. No amount of abuse, verbal or otherwise from players or fans will change things. Surprising as it may be to you, if it wasn't for the leniency of most referees, particularly in the midget/juvenile league, parents would witness an endless parade of player suspensions for abusive or profane language which calls for a gross penalty - an automatic two-game suspension. Amazing as it may seem, the vast number of players, at one time or another, could and should be assessed such penalties.

Regarding a referee's pay, suffice to say that payment is not commensurate with the abuse received especially when they could be refereeing industrial hockey at sometimes two and three times what they receive for minor hockey. This is exactly why we lose some of the senior more qualified referees and discourage younger, potential prospects.

Having "supported"

Georgetown Hockey for 12 years, you must obviously be aware of the fact that the GMHA does not control the referees. They are assigned by their own association. We can only report or make recommendations. Perhaps, as an avid "supporter," your suggestions for "change" will be given due consideration by the Georgetown Referees Association.

Your remarks regarding sweaters are not totally unfounded. Yes, we have had problems with sweaters this year, we admit that, but it certainly has not prevented any player from participating. At the end of last season, despite telling coaches and players that sweaters must be returned to the association, more than half the players in the midget/juvenile house league decided to disregard this request. As a result, more of your "hard earned" money had to be spent needlessly to replenish the missing association property.

To further compound the problem, some players in utter defiance, still insist on taking their sweaters home even after being asked repeatedly to return them after each game. This has impeded our ability to have new sponsor patches sewn on some of this year's sweaters.

Regarding ice time. Let me point out that not once this year, has the midget/juvenile house league had to start late due to other teams running overtime (perhaps with the exception of the recent Midget Tournament). If anything, coaches and players arriving late have, on many occasions, caused delays starting games. On this particular Sunday, the second game started right on time and was only delayed by numerous stoppages in play and the senseless activities of some

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LETTERS

Reader angry over proposal to rebuild the Fourth Line

Dear Sir,

Now I'm angry and so should the other taxpayers of Halton be.

For years, citizens have been subsidizing the aggregate industry as they bulldozed trees, blasted rock, drained our water, destroyed our natural and sensitive areas, and created havoc to our roads. For every truck leaving the quarries, it cost us money. In 1986 Halton produced 15.7 million tonnes of aggregate (10.6 million from Halton Hills).

But the bleeding process has just begun as the town of Halton Hills will soon be passing a motion to rebuild the Fourth Line from United Aggregates' gateway to Sideroad 17. The price tag is \$1.5 million with half the cost being assumed by local residents.

The construction is not for the benefit of the residents (in fact one home owner will lose a significant portion of his front yard to the road widening) but to make it easier and supposedly safer, for

the trucks to travel at higher speeds. Quarry owners have complained since the speed limit was dropped to 50 kilometres per hour.

Not one local that I've spoken with wants this "super" highway in the country beside a beautiful section of the Niagara Escarpment. As for safer truck traffic, a Campbellville resident wrote in a letter to the editor last year, that Tremaine Road, due to trucks, had turned from a pleasant road to a series of memorial stones to its victims. It's noteworthy to mention that, in his five years of driving that road, he had seen lots of cars pulled over by the police but never a truck. That's strange, we've had the same experience around here.

Truck drivers can be good or bad. A wider, smoother road can not guarantee a truck travelling 100 kph can stop if brakes fail or if the driver is not properly licensed to drive the vehicle he is operating (last year there was an accident on the Fourth Line - a school bus and a

truck collided).

During a road-side check, the OPP last year found that 40 per cent of trucks needed mechanical repairs (mostly involving brake systems) and more than one in four trucks were overloaded. Poor brake adjustments, according to the vice president of maintenance at Kingsway Transport Ltd., may mean an extra 30 to 40 feet to come to a full stop at top speed. What about wet roads or other factors?

I must also mention that the minister of transportation, Bill Wryes' farsightedness in allowing longer truck lengths will only compound the problem.

I guess our politicians are paving the way for potential garbage or, at least, more quarrying in the area. Too bad we'll all bleed financially as a result.

What I fear most, however, is that due to more trucks and higher speeds, someone will pay with their life.

Pat Woode

School shouldn't lease for \$1

Dear Sir,

The Halton Board of Education's slogan, "Teaching is Hot in Halton" should include that "Hot school property is available for \$1"

Is a landscaped 15.3 acre site located off Lakeshore Rd. in Old Oakville, with a modern 1200 student capacity high school building on it worth only \$1 to the board of education? Apparently so, as the trustees voted Thursday, Jan. 25 instead of waiting 60 days for the expected ministry of education's announcement as to what capital funding will be available to Halton's requests.

Last June, 1989, G.E. Perdue high school was closed because of declining enrolment in southeast Oakville. By October, the majority of trustees from the towns of Burlington, Milton, and Georgetown voted over the objections of two-thirds of Oakville's trustees to build another \$25 million high school in southeast Oakville, just a few kilometres east of the recently closed high school.

Perhaps it is "old fashion" to

consider utilizing the presently owned and valued \$20 million high school property instead of committing the taxpayers to provide perhaps \$20 million. The ministry of education has only allocated for 1992 about \$15 million for their contribution. In November, the board had requested an additional \$11 million from the ministry to build the new 1,500 student capacity high school in the same declining enrol-

ment area of southeast Oakville.

Isn't it time for Halton's trustees to "cool it" for the next 60 days, and just await the ministry announcement? Then, and only then can there be valued judgement presented by each of the trustees for or against selling or leasing G.E. Perdue high school for \$1. Recalling the old adage, "A Bird in the hand is worth two in the bush!"

George Pickios,
Oakville

Thanks from Open Door

Dear Sir,

The Open Door Youth Centre in Georgetown wishes to thank the many organizations that have donated most generously this year. Your contributions have enabled us to operate a three-day program providing young people with a place to meet with their friends, a counselling service, and many activities leading to personal growth and problem solving.

A very appreciative thank you to:

The Region of Halton, the United

Way, the Kinettes, the Arts and Crafts Group, the Kiwanis, the Chamber of Commerce, St. John's United Church, St. John's Tri-S, Holy Cross Parish, St. Alban's, St. George's, Artcast, Blackbox Controls, and DRG Stationery.

Your generosity has given us the opportunity to play a very important role in the lives of many teens in our area and we are deeply grateful.

Appreciatively,
Vanessa Bell-Smith,
Executive Director,

The Open Door Youth Centre

30 years ago

Rev. Pinkerton, B.A., has been appointed as extension minister by the Extension Board of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec. He has just recently completed an extension period of work in the Oliver Baptist Church in Sarnia. He will be starting his ministry with St. Paul's Baptist congregation Feb. 7 in the George Kennedy School.

Andy Crichton, of Edith Street, is "the courteous driver of the month." Mr. Crichton is the first to be named with this honor by the Radical Car Club. The club is a group of young car enthusiasts who sponsor the contest with the accompanying prize of 10 gallons of gas. A courteous driver will be chosen each month by local police.

20 years ago

The Law Society of Upper Canada, which administers the Legal Aid Plan for the province, has appointed Paul Armstrong of Georgetown's Main Street, as a member of the Legal Aid Area Committee for the county of Halton. The area committee and the legal area director are responsible for the operation and administration of the Legal Aid Plan within the county of Halton.

A former Georgetown minister, Lloyd Whan, will return to conduct the morning service at First Baptist Church, Jan. 8. Mr. Whan left First Baptist Church three and a half years ago after serving several years to become a chaplain with the Ontario Department of Correctional Services. The First Baptist services have been taken by guest ministers since Rev. Leslie Wilton moved to Tiverton at the end of 1969.

10 years ago

The first Winterfest in what the Jaycees hope will become an an-

Halton's History from our files

nual affair was held Feb. 1 at the Fairgrounds. Although Mother Nature did not provide enough snow for some scheduled events things proceeded without her help. Events like the children's doughnut eating contest carried on, much to the delight of the youngsters. The winner of the grand prize, a trip to the Quebec Winter Carnival, was Al Duggan.

Members of Georgetown's British Club were entertained at their recent Burns Supper in the Lions Hall by highland dancer Katrina Patterson. George Creig piped in the haggis and John Patterson addressed the haggis with his dirk.

5 years ago

Barry Whitworth has won the Business Award for 1984, picked by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. The former football and hockey player believes in building a solid core staff that work together like a team.

The Lions Club of Georgetown made a surprise phone call to Wheldon (Steamer) Emmerson last week to inform the 59-year-old of his Citizen of the Year status. Steamer said he was flabbergasted by the news. Al Watt called him with the good news. Steamer, originally nicknamed steamboat which was shortened later, said he had been given the name well over 50 years ago. Steamer said the name came from an old radio serial he and his family would listen to.

Men are covering up



Ian Weir
Weir's View
Thomson News Service

In a world in which there are so many important things to despair about, I'm not quite sure why I was so distressed by a little news item reporting booming sales of male cosmetics.

It's possible my psyche had been weakened by an earlier news item reporting another fashion trend which seems almost as dismaying.

According to this earlier report, the depletion of the ozone layer is having consequences more hideous than hitherto imagined. Apparently, the resultant increase in ultraviolet radiation is causing a surge in the number of people suffering from sun-blindness, prompting some scientists to speculate that we may eventually have to wear sunglasses year-round.

This, of course, is an absolutely gruesome prospect. You know perfectly well what happens when large numbers of people get together wearing sunglasses.

They start calling each other "babe," and setting dates to do the lunch-thing.

If these scientists are correct, then the greenhouse effect is not

going to result in an entire world that resembles a tropical jungle. It's going to result in an entire world that resembles Los Angeles.

But I digress. We were discussing (wince) male cosmetics.

According to this dire news item, aging male baby-boomers have turned to cosmetics "to help them look better and feel better about themselves." As such, the industry now racks up annual sales of \$75 million in North America.

Well, in this enlightened and liberal age, one naturally hesitates to object to men wearing make-up. Still, the nagging thought remains:

'Tain't natural. Your Daddy didn't never wear mascara, 'cause your Grandpappy woulda whupped him iffen he did.

Admitting to such a sentiment, of course, leaves you open to the obvious counter-charge - which is that a man who gets the heebie-jeebies at the thought of male make-up is clearly a man who is uncertain about his own masculinity.

This is probably true. It comes with the territory. Most of us spend our first 14 or 15 years hoping forlornly that someone will nickname us "Spike." When this doesn't happen, we just cope as best we can.

This explains why so many men hate going shopping with women. It's not that we begrudge the time - it's the ghastly prospect of being asked to hold her purse while she nips off to try something on.

Most men have experienced the horror of standing in a shopping mall with a purse. Passers-by avert their eyes and stifle their

snickers, but you know perfectly well what they're thinking - and there's only one thing you can do, in a desperate attempt to salvage the last shreds of your tattered machismo.

Slink villainously behind the nearest pillar, and try to look like a purse-snatcher.

I suppose it could also be argued that an aversion to male make-up is a sure sign of rampaging male chauvinist piggery.

After all, women have worn make-up for millennia. And if women wear make-up to beautify themselves, then surely men should be willing to return the favor.

But I'm not sure about this. For starters, I don't believe women put on make-up to please men in the first place. I sometimes suspect it's just a wickedly clever plot to tie up the bathroom every morning.

In any case, I'd just like to issue a plea to all those aging male baby-boomers who are spending \$75 million a year in order to look and feel young again.

Please, fellows - just stop and think what that money could buy instead.

With \$75 million, you could buy seven million cases of beer. Or 30 million golf balls. Or even several hundred thousand color television sets, just in time for the Super Bowl.

And above all else, remember the principle of the thing. It isn't how young you look that counts - it's how young you act.

So forget the make-up, guys. Be men. Behave childishly instead.