

Opinion Page

30 years ago

Georgetown's Kinsmen Club will furnish a room in the proposed Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

The young service club, founded in Hamilton in 1920, became the latest to ease the high cost problem facing hospital fundraisers. The decision to furnish a room complies with the Kinsmen dedication of service to "The Community's Greatest Need."

The February meeting of the Countess of Strathmore Chapter was held Monday, Feb. 8 at the home of Mrs. Leslie M. Clark, Main Street South, with 28 members present.

The meeting commenced with the annual meeting and reports from the secretary and treasurer and the various convenors. Nominating committee Mrs. Edwin Wilson, Mrs. Charles Renwick and Miss Margery MacKenzie presented the new slate of officers for the coming year. Mrs. Hilda Erwin is the new regent.

20 years ago

For a second year, Mayor Wheldon Emmerson has accepted an invitation from North Bay's Mayor to compete in a snowmobile race, one of the features of the City's Fur Trapper carnival. Council voted on Monday to have the mayor represent Georgetown in the festival.

Albert Guguay, of Chapel Street West, has been engaged to issue dog licenses in Georgetown this year. Mr. Duguay was appointed by council on Monday night and will receive 25 per cent of the license fees.

George Herrington was re-appointed to be in charge of animal control at the council meeting.

The Norval L.S. for Guides and Brownies held a successful Valentine Tea and bake sale on Saturday, Feb. 14 in the Norval United Church. Mrs. D. Hetherington opened the tea and bake sale with Mrs. R.W. Ridley in charge of the bake table. Mrs. Peter Pomeroy and Mrs. K. Ewen were in charge of the tea room and the Rangers served the tea. A draw held for a hand-made quilt donated by Mrs. Marg Helson was won by Mrs. T. Ewart.

10 years ago

A long evening of contradictory tallies and confusing reports ended early Tuesday morning with re-elected Progressive Conservative MP John McDermid crediting Georgetown voters - including two Halton Hills politicians he singled out - for his return to office by a scant 300-vote margin.

North Halton District Cubs held their annual Kub Kar Rally Feb. 9 in the Acton Scout Hall. The event was organized by the 1st Acton "A" and "B" Packs, with Ross

Halton's History from our files

Walsh and Bill Ingles in charge. In all 187 Cubs from Acton, Georgetown, Glen Williams, Limehouse and Norval took part and many parents came out to cheer on their boys.

Eighteen years after contributing to the first art exhibition at Georgetown's newly-opened Gallery House Sol, artist Frank Black, 86, has lined the gallery walls once again for a three-week, one-man retrospective. Internationally renowned as a contemporary of the Group of Seven and much respected locally as a dynamic catalyst to the Georgetown art scene, Mr. Black was greeted with a warm round of applause at the opening of his new show in the Charles Street gallery Saturday.

5 years ago

With a sudden bang, 8,000 square feet of roofing collapsed at Alumina Products, injuring seven employees and causing over \$1 million in damage. Wednesday morning as 12 of the 15 day shift employees began work at 7 a.m., the entire roof of the wooden and concrete block machine shop gave way in seconds. Investigators from the Ministry of Labor and Halton Regional Police are looking into the cause of the accident.

Thirteen-year-old Bob Donker was awarded the trophy as this year's Herald Athlete of the Year. Donker set three records in the Ontario minor track and field circuit. He was also undefeated this year in the elementary school cross country scene, winning all nine of his races including the North Halton and Halton championships.

Owner Murray Brownridge and breeder Ward Brownridge of Georgetown were the recipients of a superior production certificate recently. Holstein Canada rated dairy cow Ridgebrook Fond Anita as "very good." She yielded as a seven year old, in 305 days, on twice a day milking 12,649 kg milk, 452 fat, and tested with a 3.6 per cent butterfat.

Pinegrove Community Club met at the home of Prairie Bessey and Marg Tost on Monday night. President Keith Webb conducted a short meeting and Gertrude McGee read the minutes. Chester Early thanked the group for the flowers he received while he was in the hospital.

LETTERS

Water, growth, pollution are top three issues, rural councillor's survey shows

Dear Sir,

In early December, I mailed a newsletter/survey to 3100 households in Ward 2 to provide information on what was taking place in our town. As part of this survey, I included a questionnaire to which I received a great response. I would like to thank all of those that took the time to mail back the questionnaire and the constituents' input will help me to formulate my opinion on important issues.

The questionnaire covered five topics:

1. In regard to rural garbage pickup, and whether people would be willing to pay for this service through increased taxes, 63 per cent responded "No" while 37 per cent were willing to pay for this service. Many of the respondents to my survey expressed concern that rural garbage pickup would be counter-productive and would erode a long-standing rural attitude of keeping garbage to a minimum. The rural garbage issue will be discussed in our town budget deliberations which began Feb. 13. At this time, it is proposed that rural garbage pickup and blue box recycling be provided in the hamlets of Norval, Stewarttown and Glen Williams.

2. The second question asked, "If a blue box were provided to you with rural garbage pickup, would you use the blue box to recycle?" The response was 86 per cent "Yes," and 14 per cent "No." There is a clearly demonstrated need to provide some form of recycling system for the rural area. In the event that the blue box program is not extended beyond the hamlets, it is my intention to make Regional "igloo" recycling containers accessible and convenient to all rural residents.

3. I also asked, "Do you feel that recycling should be made mandatory for all those who receive garbage pickup?" A significant 91 per cent responded "Yes." This type of mandatory program is in

place in some communities in Ontario and may be considered by town council in the future.

4. I am pleased to report that on my question of snow removal, 92 per cent of the respondents said that they were satisfied with our level of service. Our municipal crews work hard to meet the challenge of salting, sanding and plowing the 118 miles of roads within our municipality. Their efforts are recognized by this response, and my note of thanks for all their long hours behind a wheel will be passed on.

5. I asked what three matters should be the highest priorities for Halton Hills. Of 12 categories, the top five responses were: water quality, future growth, pollution, garbage pickup, and taxes.

As to water quality, I can assure you that this matter is being monitored at all times with the ministry of environment and Regional staff. I will be meeting this month with ministry staff to address some local, isolated problems. Some of the problems have been the result of the cumulative effect of a lack of rain and snow over the last few years.

Regarding future growth, the town and Region are both undertaking Official Plan reviews. This is the public's opportunity to ensure that you have a say in the planning process of our community. Public meetings will be held, and I encourage you to attend and offer your input.

Pollution has not been a problem in Halton Hills, and concerns about maintaining a high standard of water and air quality are para-

mount to me. Any future development in Halton Hills must take the environment into account. The Environmental Assessment Act and the Environmental Protection Act along with government policies and agencies will ensure that applications like the RSI Acton Quarry landfill proposal will not be successful.

Garbage pickup is addressed in questions 1, 2 and 3 above, and I invite further input through letters or submissions to town council.

There is little good news with respect to town taxes because of the impact of upper tier governments' (provincial and federal) policies and legislation. The cost of services to the municipal ratepayer will be increased by approximately four to five per cent this year simply by new tax measures imposed on local governments. In my opinion, we must face a new reality in the '90s - that being a reduction in the demands placed on all levels of government and a reduction in the bureaucratic layering that drives all costs "sky-high."

Only with the public's help can we tackle the serious financial crisis that is facing Canada, Ontario and Halton Hills if our governments' spending is not reduced. Our ability to compete, to create jobs, and to attract good business to Halton Hills depends on a recognition of this new reality of the '90s, and to ensure a future for our children.

Yours truly,

Joe Hewitt,
Regional Councillor, Ward 2

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Science is humbug!



Ian Weir
Weir's View
Thames News Service

I've always detested science, and have never believed that any good would come of it.

I liked science well enough back in kindergarten, when it was a matter of pouring food dye into glasses of water and watching it turn neat-o colors. After that, it was straight downhill.

Shortly after we started dissecting frogs, I was hiding out in the library. By the time we were learning the elementary principles of physics, I had transferred to Boys' Cooking.

Now, it isn't easy to exist in this particular century if you're someone who knows next to nothing about science and is determined to avoid tampering with natural ignorance.

(It was Lady Bracknell who observed that "ignorance is a delicate flower - touch it, and the bloom is gone.")

It's no fun, for instance, having conversations with five-year-old nephews who want to show you how to program a computer. I console myself by reflecting that such unnatural precocity almost always leads to Reform School.

Fortunately, those of us who feel this way have an admirable role-model.

In one of the Sherlock Holmes stories, Watson is flabbergasted to learn that the great detective assumes the sun revolves around the earth. Upon being set straight, Holmes proclaims that he will endeavor to forget this new information at once, on the grounds that it is of no use to his work and he doesn't want it hogging valuable brain-space.

This shows wonderful perspective. Let it be an inspiration to anyone who is ever tempted to ponder why, say, a jet stays airborne.

The plain fact is that jets do not stay airborne. Logic dictates that they can't possibly fly, so some sort of mass-hypnotic experience is involved. The same applies to the rest of technology.

There is, of course, a benefit to this sort of scientific skepticism. It means you can approach the world in a nearly constant state of religious wonderment.

If you haven't got a clue how bank machines really function, then receiving money from one seems like manna from Above. That's why I approach them with head bowed humbly, uncertain whether to enter my Instabank number or just sacrifice a fatted calf.

Now that science has been debunked, we're left with an obvious - and delightful - conclusion. Technology is just good, old-fashioned magic.

In short, everything we really need to know about so-called technology is contained in the Walt Disney version of Sleeping Beauty.

Nasty things like hydrogen bombs are explained by Malificent and her wicked spells. Nice things like pain-free dentistry are explained by the Three Good Fairies and their benevolent spells.

The world being what it is, the Three Good Fairies are a bit outgunned, just at the moment. But don't despair.

Some day, your prince will come. And he won't be bearing a white lab-coat, bless him.

Workers will seek big wage gains

Continued from Page 6

these service employees work reduced hours by choice. Many are students with part-time jobs or spouses earning a second income for the family. There are about two million part-timers in the economy.

But even full-timers in the service sector are, on average, not making a fortune. Try to get by on \$23,000 a year, Mr. Wilson.

Proponents of the tough-guy approach to wages argue that recent pay hikes have been running ahead of inflation of about five per cent.

Wage settlements for the country's largest unionized groups, Finance's quarterly review says, averaged 5.9 per cent higher in the third quarter of 1989, the largest rise in six years. October's year-over-year rise in earnings was six per cent, according to Statistics Canada.

On the other hand, the Finance Department's own numbers show that personal disposable income - that's take-home pay after income taxes and pension and unemployment insurance deductions - fell in the second quarter of last year and recovered only modestly in the third. And wage settlements in the private sector in the third quarter stood at only 4.3 per cent. It was hefty provincial government pay hikes that pulled up the average.

Most workers have had no real wage increases (after inflation is removed) since 1981, say economists for the Conference Board, a private research agency.

There have been signs that workers will be out after big gains this year to make up for past losses due to the erosive effects of inflation.

But it's clear Messrs. Wilson and Crow will have little sympathy for their demands.

You can't imagine my joy when I opened the newspaper the other day and discovered that science has been unmasked as a fraud.

Well, this may be a slight overstatement. The paper didn't quite debunk the entire accumulated scientific knowledge of mankind.

Perhaps it didn't feel it had the authority to do so, since it wasn't The Globe and Mail.

It did, however, print a story revealing that Johannes Kepler, the father of modern astronomy, fabricated data in presenting his theory of how the planets move around the sun.

Apparently, Kepler adjusted a few crucial figures to provide more striking proof that his theories were beyond question - thus marking himself as a man who might have been a brilliant defender of the GST, had he only been born 400 years later.

The story went on to reveal that other great scientists engaged in similar creativity, including Galileo and Sir Isaac Newton.

Well. This is proof enough for me. Science is humbug.

This comes as a wonderful relief.