

## Opinion Page

### 30 years ago

The creation of a 12-alley bowling club on Mountainview Road is being planned. Mr. Radyk and Mr. Williams are buying 135 feet of frontage and expect to start construction of a two-storey building almost immediately. The pair plan to open the bowling club in September. Purchase of the property is expected to be finalized March 24.

Mrs. Bob Brick, or Mrs. O'Brick as she was called at the annual Lions St. Patrick Day Ball, became the Shamrock Queen amidst a setting of shamrocks, Irish hats, pipes and white and green streamers. This is the club's annual tribute to the patron saint of the Emerald Isle in the arena's Rose Room March 19. Last year's queen, Mrs. Godfrey Collier, handed the title over to Mrs. Brick. With her new title Mrs. Brick became the recipient of numerous gifts from the Lions Club and other donors.

A double-ring ceremony in the Eden United Church in Lisgar united Patricia Jean Elizabeth Hamilton and Kerry Lynn Jenson of Georgetown in marriage. The couple will be setting up their home in Georgetown.

### 20 years ago

March 21, the first full day of spring was also the first full work day for Saunderson's Esso Service on Guelph Street. The official grand opening was the time for Dave Saunderson, owner, and Lorne Macleod to put out a sandwich-board sign in front of the store. Mr. Saunderson has 19 years of experience in the automotive industry. The service station will have opening specials until the end of the month.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilson helped 16 boys and girls from Bethel and Hillcrest stay awake for 36 hours in an effort to raise money for the Hillcrest United Church's overseas development and relief fund. The group raised a total of \$500. In order to stay awake they danced, played games and sang.

John and Ria Wilson of Norval had lead roles in the play "New Moons" which has concluded a week run at the auditorium of the Peel Secondary School. John and Ria played the roles of Phillip and Marianne.

Two Georgetown men learned the hard way that it doesn't pay to swear at a police cadet. The two men were fined \$25 when they appeared before Judge Robert Graham in the county court.

## Halton's History from our files

### 10 years ago

A nine-year-old Acton boy will receive recognition from the Halton Safety Council for his bravery in saving a friend's life - but he'll have to wait a year for the award. Kevin Fabian pulled Robert Jennings, 10, out of Fairy Lake Feb. 13 after Robert fell through the ice. Robert was trying to pet some swans. The ice around the edge of the water hole gave way plunging the boy up to his chest in water. Ezme Johnstone said Kevin will definitely be recognized when the 1990 awards are passed out but that will not happen until next spring.

The combined trombone sections of the Edmonton Thunderbirds and the Acton High School were only a small part of the 80-member band which performed March 20 in Acton at a special concert ending the first week of a long stage of musical exchange programs which spans three provinces. The Thunderbirds played a short concert and were joined by the host band for the last few numbers.

Virg Da Sousa of the town's works crew was spotted making the downtown streets of Acton safe for pedestrians as he spread salt on the pathways by hand.

### 5 years ago

Another award was reaped by Acton resident John Kriticos over the weekend. The Storey Drive man risked his life to pull a baby out of a burning car last January. He was honored by the Halton Region Safety Council. Halton Regional police officer Greg Braun was also honored by the council for his bravery. Constable Braun pulled two boys out of a creek last March while off duty.

When the new traffic lights at Main Street and Maple Avenue are unveiled and operating the Halton Hills fire department will be ready to use its \$7,150 Opticom traffic control system. This new fancy gadget will allow the driver of a fire truck to control the lights and race through a green light instead of slowing at a red. Fire Chief Bill Cunningham explained. The Main Street and Maple Avenue will be the first lights the Opticom system will work on.

## Quebec could survive on its own economy

Cont'd from Page 6

two major financial institutions, Merrill Lynch and Co. and the Bank of Montreal, can conclude objectively that separation would not be economic disaster.

### GROWING COMPANIES

A survey last fall by the magazine Business Week found 28 of Canada's 50 fastest-growing companies were Quebec-based. That included six of the top 10. Thanks to the James Bay hydroelectric project, Quebec is home to several of the world's largest engineering firms.

The \$32-billion Caisse de depot et placement, a provincial agency, is the largest and most powerful shareholder in Canada. Using Quebecers' pension funds for investment, it owns substantial chunks of such firms as Canadian Pacific Ltd., John Labatt Ltd., Alcan Aluminum Ltd. and Domtar. Moreover, the *caisse* has been a

driving force in Quebec's economy since it put up some of the first cash for James Bay.

The innovation has surfaced in other areas. In 1983, for example, the Quebec Federation of Labor set up a venture capital fund to buy shares in promising firms. That Solidarity Fund is now worth about \$200 million.

Lately, there's been a revival of the old "who-gains" arguments which were a feature of the late 1970s, after Rene Levesque's Parti Quebecois government was elected. The Quebec magazine *Les Affaires* says when all federal-Quebec transactions are counted, the province paid out \$1.3 billion more than it received in 1988.

The old anxieties about economic disaster after a breakup seem to be fading. But perhaps that's a good thing. Now, if Canada and Quebec stay together it will be through affection and not through fear.

## LETTERS

# POWER calls for action

Dear Sir,

This is a letter to all residents of Halton Hills. Since 1987, POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources), has led the fight to block the Reclamation Systems Inc., proposal to bring garbage from anywhere in Ontario to the Acton quarry. Many Halton Hills residents have expressed appreciation and thanks to POWER members. POWER was recognized with the 1989 Citizen of the Year Award by the Acton Chamber of Commerce. POWER was even recognized by the woman who fought Love Canal, Lois Gibbs, when her organization had Ralph Nader present us with "a commendation for advancing the movement for environmental justice." Now it is time to do your share.

Why should you become involved? If you worry that your property value will drop, if you worry that trucks will clog our roads, if you worry that seagulls and the odor of garbage will reach your home, if you worry that fish could die when Black Creek is unable to assimilate treated leachate, if you worry that the excellent well water we now enjoy, could be permanently contaminated, then you must become involved.

POWER needs ordinary citizens, to clip newspaper stories, to organize clippings and to write letters requesting information. We need people with expertise in the following areas: geology, hydrogeology, chemistry, biology, blasting, environmental studies, socio-economic impacts and public relations.

Please show that you care about the environment and the community that we will have in the future.

You can make a difference. If you could fill one of these jobs or if you know someone who could please contact Barbara Halsall 873-0344, Fraser Robin 877-7745, or Rita Landry 878-7817.

POWER holds general meetings every month. Next meeting is March 28, 8 p.m., Limehouse School. We're counting on you.

Yours truly,  
Barbara Halsall,  
Member POWER Executive

## Man feels slighted

Dear Sir,

I recently read your article on Mr. Neil Brookbanks and the remarks made by Councillor (Joe) Hewitt at the meeting which he attended. I thought that the dinosaurs were extinct, apparently not in Halton Hills! The year of the disabled was almost 10 years ago, how far has the Halton Region come. If we were to use the attitudes of the current mayor and his councillors as a measure, it would be a regression.

As a disabled person living in Halton Hills, I do not have access to the handicapped transit because my disability is not considered a mobility impairment. I personally

think that blindness affects your mobility. (Especially when you can not see the snow banks on the street corners, or the ice on the sidewalks). Currently, I am attending college in Toronto to further my education. However, I am at greater risk of injury on my own street in town, than on Yonge Street in Toronto.

I would like to suggest to Mayor Russ Miller and his councillors that the disabled can vote, and unlike the general public we do not forget the slights thrown at us.

Sincerely,  
One of the people that  
pays your salary!  
Donald R.J. Anderson

762. Main Street, Georgetown, Canada.



This picture of Main Street in Georgetown around the turn of the century was supplied by Jean Ruddell of the Esquesing Historical Society.

## Dynamic duel disputed

Either Uruguay is an alarming land where Medieval beliefs still flourish, or it's a country which bears an absolutely chilling resemblance to the National Hockey League.

In any case, it was all set to proceed: a duel to the death between a police inspector (described in the press as "strapping") and a newspaper editor (described in the press as "pudgy").

Among other things, there is a journalistic lesson to be drawn from this. Apparently, Uruguay is not a great place to be a journalist.

Any journalist will assure you that he's fearless dedicated to telling the truth, no matter how much this antagonizes powerful enemies. But it's easier to be fearless when you can be pretty sure these enemies will restrict themselves to writing sternly-worded letters to the editor.

Being challenged to a duel ups the stakes, a little - not to mention exploding that old myth about the pen being mightier than the sword.

It may well be true that the written word has the power to topple governments and shape the course of history. But try telling this to someone who's about to run you through.

Anyways, it turns out that the duel was called off on a technicality - the editor wrecked things by making public statements about it, thus violating the code of conduct.

This was presumably a relief to him. It was also a heartening reminder of the best course of action a man can take when he's faced with deadly peril - bleat loudly.

In short, it's all been resolved satisfactorily. And yet...

This may seem a barbaric thing to say, but I've always been fascinated by the concept of duelling.

I've never been in one, of course. But this probably explains my fascination - in much the same way that so many innocent young people are fascinated by the concept of marriage.

There's something wonderfully romantic about duelling. Besides, it's a remarkably efficient and final way to settle a dispute.

This is certainly not to suggest that we should encourage duelling between ordinary Canadians. But what if duelling were brought back in the case of truly major disputes - like, say, the ones politicians get into?

Anyone who follows the Meech Lake controversy knows what happens when politicians decide to resolve issues of grave national concern. They divide into warring camps, and devise brilliant strategies for making things worse.

As such, perhaps there comes a time to call an end to the rhetoric, and just lead them all down to the banks of the Rideau Canal at dawn.

Imagine fog shrouding the Field of Honor as the referee - top-hatted, and clad all in black - steps forward to issue his dire instructions:

"Gentlemen, the time for debate is long past. Stand back-to-back. Now draw your pistols, and walk 10 paces in opposite directions.

"Once you've done this, keep walking until you find a large body of water.

"Then please soak your heads in it while the rest of us solve the problem."



Ian Weir

Weir's View  
Theuron News Service

It goes without saying that devotees of traditional manly virtue have been terribly disappointed by the news out of Uruguay.

Apparently, the duel has been cancelled.

As you've probably read, there was great excitement in Uruguay recently when a police inspector challenged a newspaper editor to a duel over a news story linking him to a smuggling case. There was even greater excitement when the government announced it would officially sanction the duel.

Naturally, it was a bit mind-boggling to discover that duels to the death are still legal in Uruguay, right here in 1990.

It's been quite awhile since many Canadians believed disputes between gentlemen of spirit should be resolved on the Field of Honor. Lately, we've learned to appreciate the significant advantages of Small Claims Court.

Indeed, it's pretty hard for most of us to comprehend a society in which duels are still legal. As far as I can see, there are two possible perspectives to take.