

Opinion Page

30 years ago

A record was set when over 1,400 people attended the 1960 Rotary Show Boat at Georgetown District High School in two weekends. Logan MacDonald, who was in charge of ticket sales, reported the record sales. The largest audience ever to watch the show in one night, 600 people, took in the final performance April 30. The cast celebrated the shows success later at a party held by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ursel. Mr. Ursel was the director of the show and Mrs. Ursel was a member of the chorus.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Armstrong celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary when they were honored at a family dinner, May 1. Mr. Armstrong is one of Georgetown's veteran garage owners. His sons, John and Arthur, work at the highway garage location. About 18 people attended the family gathering including the Armstrong's grandchildren, Ronald and Douglas.

Mr. A.W. Benton was honored by the town for 25 years of work. Mr. Benton was commended by Deputy Reeve Wilfred Bird and was presented with a ring by councillor Wilfred Leslie on behalf of the Esquering council. Mrs. Benton was cited for her cooperation in allowing her husband to spend many hours at his work and was presented a bouquet of flowers by councillor Geoff Leslie. Reeve C. Sinclair presided for the evening and added his thanks to the assessor.

20 years ago

An estimated 7,300 people started and 3,500 people finished the Halton and Peel Miles for Millions raising \$110,000 May 2. It was estimated that 3,000 of the marchers were from Georgetown and the surrounding area. Mrs. Helen Van Sickler, a Georgetown Y official on the walk, said close to 2,500 forms were pre-registered April 29. The first walkers to finish were a threesome who started from the Brampton Fairgrounds at 6:40 a.m. and completed the route exactly six hours later. They averaged five miles an hour. The last walkers across the finish line staggered over at 9 p.m.

Special services at the First Baptist Church April 5 marked the 100th anniversary of that church's Sunday School. Brief histories of the Sunday School were read out by Mrs. Mary Livingstone. A three-tiered cake was displayed on the communion table and was cut by Miss Norma Thompson. Miss Thompson has been teaching Sunday School classes for 28 consecutive years.

Halton's History from our files

10 years ago

Erma Van Reeth celebrated one of those rare milestones when she reached 100-years-old. Her family held an open house to celebrate the occasion. Friends and family dropped by to extend their good wishes in person. Five generations of family dropped in including: Rosen Ionson, Joyce Snider, Denise Welch, Roy Ionson and Ms. Van Reeth's great-great-grandchildren Morgan and Stacey Welch.

Herald publisher Bill Evdokimoff invited Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy to start the presses to run the first papers off the new presses. For the first time in many years the Herald was being printed in Georgetown. The Herald recently moved into its new building on Guelph Street. Mr. Evdokimoff was hoping to hold a complete open house later in the year.

Don Boufford, a research technician with the Ministry of Natural Resources at the Ontario Forestry Research Centre, and Mike Hall from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority were helping plant some of the 1,000 hybrid poplars comprising an experimental tree plantation on CVCA land south of Sideroad 27. Seven types of Aspen and Cottonwood clones were being used in the plantation to test disease and insect resistance.

5 years ago

Halton Plowman crowned a new Queen of the Furrow at the Boyne Community Centre April 23. Debbie Deenik, 20, is the daughter of Bill and Rita Deenik of Norval. She has just finished her second year at university. She is enrolled in the University of Guelph for four years, majoring in horticulture.

The Kinsmen Club obtained a new film on Cystic Fibrosis. The group planned to show the film, a 30-minute feature, on Halton Cable 4. The show is about Kinsmen involvement in Cystic Fibrosis and Michelle Breakwell, an energetic young teenager who died of the disease. The narration is provided by Bill Robinson, formerly of CKEY, Toronto.

Canada's debts to foreigners increasing

Continued from Page 6

blem is serious or very serious. The result is lost jobs, lost exports and cancelled investment.

The exporters' association complains there has been a "massive deterioration" of Canadian competitiveness compared with the United States. We are now in the worst position in 30 years.

MONEY OUTFLOW

Meanwhile, the strong dollar discourages foreign travellers from coming here and tempts Canadians into cheaper vacations outside the country, causing another outflow of funds.

And high interest rates are attracting more foreign investors. They have bought scads of Canadian bonds and snapped up domestic firms. (There are recent signs some bond money is now fleeing the country because of constitutional uncertainty. That outflow will tend to keep the rates up.)

The cumulative effect is an in-

crease in what we owe foreigners, especially as a share of our national debt. A decade ago, about 90 per cent of the debt was "owed to ourselves" in the form of savings bonds and other instruments. Now, close to half of a much-larger debt is owned for foreigners who are less likely to roll over their investments year after year.

Is this increased foreign share a problem for the future? Perhaps. A Library of Parliament study on balance of payments says if foreign capital is simply used to finance current spending with no return, it could put an undue burden on future generations.

If, however, it's invested in long-lived assets - hospitals, schools, highways and industrial plants - it could yield benefits greater than the costs, the study argues.

Clearly, we've become more reliant on foreign cash. But how much of a burden this will be depends on how politicians decide to spend the money.

LETTERS

Family opposes widening Guelph Street to five lanes

Dear Sir:

My parents and I are adamantly opposed to the proposed widening of Guelph Street to five lanes between Maple Avenue and Main Street.

The amount of traffic passing our home is already considered congested. How can engineers profess that widening the road would solve congestion problems when it would only encourage more truck drivers to use the expanded road?

Also, the road was not built to accommodate the excess amount of motor vehicles passing by. In the traffic survey conducted by the Town of Halton Hills, did they ever consider tabulating how many of the trucks NEED to drive through Georgetown? Why was a proposed by-pass (which would keep out those trucks having no purpose in town) rejected in 1970?

Presently students going to and from school at Sacre Coeur and Georgetown District High School have very little room to walk on either side of the highway. If the existing road were expanded both schools would be physically closer to the highway and increased traffic, as a result of expansion, would put students in greater jeopardy of being hit. If new school crossings were included in the proposal, would an 18-wheeler be able to stop in enough time to avoid hitting a child? Also, who in their right mind would tackle jumping out in front of 18-wheelers on a highly congested five lane highway every day as a crossing guard? A crossing guard is only present approximately three hours each day, therefore, what happens when a crossing guard is not present and a child needs to cross the highway? Presently senior citizens also use the same crosswalk as the high school students. Consequently, they would face the same problems.

My parents and I moved to Georgetown in 1983 from Mississauga. At the time Mississauga was becoming a highly congested cultural, suburban wasteland. The clone-like atmosphere of cities such as Mississauga made them devoid of personality, while we found Georgetown to be unique in their

efforts to main individuality yet welcoming hospitality to newcomers. However, under the guise of progress and pseudo-development, Georgetown will lose that once sought for uniqueness. We have spent the last seven years of our lives restoring our 135-year-old home to support the historical heritage of (should such progress continue) a fast-dying Georgetown.

The intent of this letter is not only to voice our opposition to the widening of Guelph St., and conse-

quent destruction of our home, but also to propose an alternative. We propose that a by-pass be constructed from Trafalgar Rd. North along Sideroad 10 (Ashgrove) going east; otherwise what happens to the historical value of this town when five lane highways are constructed through unique features which have drawn people to Georgetown in the first place?

Sincerely, a very concerned citizen,
Marion C. Keater

Bonnette wants GO in Acton

Editor's note: The following letter to Transport Minister Bill Wrye was filed with The Herald for publication.

Dear Mr. Minister:

I was elated to learn of your decision to extend the GO train service from Georgetown to Guelph. The purpose of this letter is to request confirmation that Acton will indeed be a stop along the route and to offer my assistance in this regard.

In 1984 the local Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey which concluded 35-55 people would regularly use a commuter rail service to Toronto. There is every reason to believe that a similar survey conducted today would show a considerably higher demand level. In fact, the '84 survey did not include the rural community and hamlets surrounding Acton. Also, Acton's population will be increasing by almost 35% (to 10,000) over the next few years: commuter-based families will constitute most of the in-

crease.

In the past, the Town of Halton Hills has indicated a willingness to participate financially in the provision of a rail shelter. Also, the Town, Canadian National and the Olde Hide House are currently discussing changes to Acton's rail and siding configuration.

Mr. Minister, as you must be aware, many benefits will accrue from this much needed stop in Acton. One important, albeit indirect, example will be the relief factor on the Georgetown GO parking lot. Already over its capacity, this lot must serve a significant increase in Georgetown's population in the very near future. Currently, several dozen Acton residents park in the Georgetown GO lot.

I look forward to working with Mr. Walt Elliot M.P.P., Chairman Peter Pomeroy, Mayor Russ Miller and your Ministry on this most exciting endeavor.

Sincerely,
Rick Bonnette
Regional Councillor
Acton (Halton Hills)

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.

You can sleep through the Bomb



Ian Weir
Weir's View
Thompson News Service

I hate to depress you on a nice day like this, but I've just heard some truly ghastly news.

If Canada comes under nuclear attack tonight, your clock radio is not going to beep.

It's yet another in a long line of revelations that point straight to an insidious conclusion - if the nuclear holocaust ever arrives, it may not have much of a bright side to it at all.

Granted, we haven't spent a lot of time worrying about nuclear war in the past few months, not with the Soviet Bloc collapsing faster than the Meech Lake Accord.

Mainly, we've been wrestling with an even more distressing problem - how on earth are we suppose to cope with a world in which evil empires aren't out to get us after all?

For nearly 50 years, the western world-view has been based on the premise that those satanic comies were plotting to blow us all up. All of a sudden, there's no one to be paranoid about - which is terribly unsettling.

Thank goodness for the Iraqis. If they weren't scheming to build The Bomb, we might all have to relax and sleep at nights.

But I digress. We were discussing radio-clocks, and the way they fit into Canada's overall civil defence strategy.

According to a story that appeared in the papers the other day, this strategy is in an utter shambles.

Apparently, the government has never come up with the money to implement a scheme drafted five or six years ago, by which a high-pitched beep would be broadcast over radio and TV to warn us of an impending nuclear onslaught.

In one of those marvellous strokes of bureaucratic whimsy, this system was named the Crisis Home Alerting Technique - or CHAT, for short. It has such a reassuring ring. Much more reassuring than something like the Danger Alert, Nuclear War Guaranteed - or DANG, for short.

Still, you can see that the absence of this system leaves us facing a dire and dismal prospect. If the end of the world arrives tonight, we're liable to sleep right through it.

Now granted, Canada still has its network of air-raid sirens, installed back in the 1950s. But it seems the Department of National Defence isn't sure whether the system will really work or not.

In the first place, it has never been properly tested - for obvious enough reasons. You could hardly turn on every air-raid siren in the nation and then cry "Ha, ha - just kidding."

Moreover, the system has fallen into disrepair. According to the news story, it is known "that bees make honey in some sirens, and squirrels find them an excellent, dry place to store nuts."

There's actually something curiously reassuring in this, when you stop to think about it. It's nice to know those nasty air-raid sirens are serving some purpose.

We haven't exactly followed the Biblical injunction to beat our swords into ploughshares. But at least all these years of military spending have created some nice condominiums for woodland rodents.

And this leads right down to the heart of the issue. In the nuclear age, where's the point in a civil defence system in the first place?

Why bother trying to survive a nuclear holocaust? It's not as if you're going to step back out into a world that has breathable air or drinkable water - let alone a decent pizza restaurant that delivers.

Indeed, if human beings are actually dim enough to get themselves involved in nuclear war, then surely the only valid reaction is the NGN Response - which stands, of course, for Nice Going, Numbskulls.

This is why I've always believed that civil defence initiatives should be restricted to a taped message, to be broadcast over loudspeakers around the world if the missiles get launched:

"Attention, ladies and gentlemen. The human race has just decided to blow itself up.

"Funny old things, humans. Have a nice day."