

LETTERS

Leave Old Stone School alone

Dear Editor;
For over 40 years I have been an Acton resident. I have grandchildren going to Robert Little School. When I read that our council would even consider any type of housing at the Old Stone School site, I was shocked!

I wonder what the mentality of the majority of Halton Hills Council might be? Not 10 years ago when Acton asked Council for money to help restore the old Town Hall, they refused. Not long after council paid \$60,000.00 for that Stone School because they said it was prime property and a historic site and that they hoped to restore it in the future. Now this same council is considering selling this beautiful park site for non-profit housing! To destroy any of those lovely old trees is shocking! I am not against public housing but not there! It is too small an area for

such density and there definitely would be environmental damage.

The Stone School is just 50 feet away from Robert Little School where hundreds of very young kids are continually coming and going. If any of you councillors had children attending Robert Little, would you approve a housing complex so close to your children's school? Have you ever considered the noise factor that would be caused by this? Shift workers may be sleeping during the day when children go out for recess. There would also be babies and young children having naps if there were apartments there.

I understand there is to be a traffic survey done on the school lane. Will you guarantee this survey will not be done in the quiet of the summer holiday but on a busy school day? The school lane is short, and even now one has trouble getting out onto that busy Highway 7. River Street only allows library users and school buses to park there and there is two-hour parking only from River Street to St. Albans Church. Their parking lot is a private one.

If the town is looking for public property for non-profit housing, what is wrong with the land across from Lakeview Villa? That soccer field could be moved elsewhere and noise would not be a problem there. The Stone School site and park around the library is the last lovely scenic park within Acton. When the town purchased that historic site they talked about a possible museum there. If the Library ever needed to be enlarged there would be room to build on to it. It may be trivial but how many weddings choose to have their pictures taken in that lovely park? Actonians both young and old enjoy that park, especially the young in the winters for tobogganing and

the older ones for summer picnics. Please think hard and look ahead and try to see the damage you may be creating for hundreds of school kids who are so innocent and impressionable. Kids do need room to play. An apartment complex would create too much density for too small an area.

I hear that the price of \$200,000.00 was considered for that prime piece of beautiful parkland which is peanuts today. At that price the builder would buy cheap, build cheap and leave an eyesore.

I know Halton Hills can use more money. They say Acton needs a new arena, a new firehall, a seniors complex. What towns don't need more? We have been very patient and we are finally getting ahead - no thanks to Halton Hills Council. Remember since Regional government was forced onus Acton has only 3 councillors to Georgetown and Esquesing's 9. My taxes have tripled since its inception in 1974. How can we ever right and win anything for Acton? We were forced to join with Georgetown much against our wishes. Since we lost our Acton Council we have been hurt so many times because we are small. We have not been allowed to grow due to water shortage or no room for sewage. How come Georgetown has grown so fast? Many people in Acton want our town to remain small but again we haven't a chance in hell to fight against this latest wrong-doing.

Come on councillors - don't destroy our beautiful school lane park and library setting! It will surely cause future problems. There is already enough vandalism at Robert Little School, so please leave it alone! Thankyou.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Stella Brunelle,
A Concerned Citizen.

Manitoba school reaches 100

Dear Sir,
The Manitoba Development Centre previously known as the Manitoba School, will be celebrating 100 years of service to the community July 12 - 15, 1990. All former residents and staff are invited back to Portage la Prairie for the celebration. Events will include a banquet and dance, fashion show, guided tours, picnic, tea and many reunions.

Please send your name and current address to Brian Tully, Box 1190, Portage la Prairie, Man. R1N 3C6 and we will be happy to mail you further information.

Yours truly,
W. Wilson
For L. Rennie
Co-chair Centenary Comm.

Earth-shaking revelation issued by English clergy

There's been a fair amount of interesting news out of Britain recently, what with prison uprisings, poll tax riots and the growing suspicion that Maggie Thatcher may not remain in office until the twenty-third century after all.

But a truly earth-shaking piece of British news wasn't revealed to a flabbergasted world until just the other day.

The other day, it was revealed - brace yourself - that the English clergy are mounting a campaign to change the second verse of God Save The Queen.

It goes without saying that you and I are left quite dumbfounded by this news. This is partially because you and I - like 25 million other Canadians - had no idea that God Save The Queen HAD a second verse.

But apparently it does. But all these years, it turns out, we've been singing the Reader's Digest version.

For the record, this second verse was composed in the Eighteenth Century, and goes as follows:

Oh Lord our God arise,
Scatter her enemies,
And make them fall;
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix,
God save us all.

Well, this second verse has - you'll quickly admit - quite a ring to it. They just don't coin phrases like "knavish tricks" any more.

("U.S. President George Bush today deplored the Soviet Union's knavish blockade of Lithuania. 'Zounds, but 'tis the work of varlets,' the president said in a written statement. 'Odds bodikins,' he added.")

On the other hand, you can see why the English clergy feel a little squeamish about this second verse. Its sentiments are (let's face it) a tad on the billigerent side.



Ian Weir
Weir's View
The Sun News Service

A traditionalist might well point out that billigerence is the raison d'etre for a national anthem in the first place. After all, nobody composes a national anthem to assert his belief that his country is a pleasantly inoffensive little place in a second-rate sort of way.

A national anthem exists to explain what a glorious place your country is, and to warn knavish neighbors what lies in store for them if they start feeling cheeky and tricky.

Still, even the traditionalists would have to admit that a national anthem which calls down God's wrath on the folks across the border is a little out of place in the modern world.

Warlike sentiments are no longer terribly fashionable in more refined circles. Few countries continue to view warfare as a stimulating national pastime, and most people are happy to settle for substitute experiences - like watching football and raising teenagers.

Besides, the second verse of God Save The Queen seems a little ... well, silly. After all, who precisely are these "enemies" whom Liz needs "scattered"?

Prince Charles, it is true, is waging a grim battle against the builders of high-rise office blocks. So perhaps that second verse could be revised to contain an exhorta-

tion along the lines of: "Lord, don't be circumspect - smite down those architects..."

Or perhaps not. In any case, the whole issue raises a provocative question. To wit: should we in Canada be considering revisions to our own national anthem?

Granted, we've all been quite happy to raise our voices in the familiar chorus of "Oh Canada, our home and native land ... er, land."

Still, you have to question whether all those promises to "stand on guard for thee" are particularly realistic, given the current tone of the national debate.

As such, I'd like to propose a second verse to O Canada. Ahem. If I could have a middle-C please ...

O Canada, our former native land,

Seems such a shame things didn't go as planned.

You were strong and free for a century

'Til we made one small mistake. And who'd a' think that you would have sunk

To the bottom of Meech Lake? Turn in the keys. Switch off the lights.

Smile while you sing the ruddy Stars and Stripes.

One last refrain: Ohhhhh, Canada. Ohhhhh, cripes.



A new spirit of giving

A national program to encourage giving and volunteering

30 Years Ago

Georgetown's five public schools pooled money raised from past projects to make their initial contribution to the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital fund. Hospital representative Jack Armstrong, accepted the cheque totalling \$510.

Acting on behalf of the students were Elizabeth Davidson from Park, Joan Bradley from Howard Wrigglesworth, Dorothy Page from Chapel Street, Linda English from George Kennedy and Laura Baird from Harrison. The principals also attended the cheque presentation. The principals were Harold Cattling, William Kinrade, Val Stein, Harold Henry and Hazen Allen.

A fifth generation minister, Rev. Ewart Madden, was expected to begin duties in July at St. Andrews United Church. Rev. Madden is a native of Watford. He graduated from Emmanuel College, Toronto.

As a student, he spent some time working at Glen Williams United Church. His grandfather was also a minister in Georgetown. He relieved Or. Charles Donald who took the temporary job in August. Mr. Donald will return to St. John's United Church in Oakville as assistant pastor.

A 27-year-old North York teacher, Harry Knapper, has been chosen from 15 applicants to fill the principals' position at Harrison Public School. The position was open when Harold Henry left the school at the end of the term.

20 Years Ago

The project of cleaning up litter in the Norval hamlet won a \$25 prize for the Norval Rangers. The contest, sponsored by the Georgetown Naturalist Club, was open to anyone or group in Grades between 7 and 13 and had to be an anti-pollution project.

The Norval Rangers used four trucks and cleaned up the entire village and the surrounding area. The runner-up in the contest was Oscar Nierstrasz, of Terra Cotta, who wrote an essay on pollution.

Members of the Zeta Alpha chapter of the Beta Sigma sorority held a dinner to celebrate the 39th anniversary of the organization. The ritual of jewels was observed when nine new members were officially welcomed into the sorority.

The new members included: Deanna Butwell, Nancy Foxworthy, Pauline Hughes, Pat Mounsey, Lois Rogers, Lorrie Ryan, Maxine Scanlon, Kathleen Vickery and Judy Lawday. Evelyn Wilson presented a special message from the president from the international headquarters in Kansas City.

Georgetown District High School student's council entertainment chairman, John Riley, presented the traditional bouquet

Halton's History from our files

to Brenda Hulme as she was just given the title "Queen of the Formal." The theme for the 1960 formal was Spain at the Riviera.

10 Years Ago

More than 180 Acton and Georgetown high school students "faced off" for the annual Cystic Fibrosis Bump-for-Life danceathon. The students raised almost \$5,700. The much-anticipated return competition to GDHS did not happen due to the lack of participants from Georgetown. Only 18 GDHS students picked up Acton's gauntlet, prompting Kinsmen to cancel the Georgetown Bump-for-Life and transport the Georgetowners to Acton for the dancing duel. Kinsmen organizers estimate that pledges collected by the Acton students will raise \$4,628.

Two scouts from Halton Hills received the highest award in scouting at a special ceremony held at Halton Regional Headquarters. John McPhall, 15, and Evan Siddal, 14, were both presented with the Chief Scout Award. Twelve awards, at the ceremony, were presented to Halton Hills Scouts. John is a member of the first Ashgrove Group and Evan is a member of the fifth Georgetown group.

5 Years Ago

Senior citizens in the Sargent Road area asked for a crosswalk with overhead signs and flashing amber light across Mountainview Road in Georgetown. Mabel Brownlow said seniors have a hard time crossing the road because of the heavy traffic. Using the traffic lights at Campbell Gate is no solution because the lights change too quickly for an elderly person to cross, she said.

Over a weekend Ms. Brownlow collected 500 signatures on a petition asking for the crossing lights.

Thursday, Theatre Direct Canada presented a play on alcohol abuse to the students of Georgetown District High School at the John Elliot Theatre. The name of the play was "Getting Wrecked!" The cast included Barclay Hope, David Fraser, Helen Taylor and Lisa Hocura.

Carnations to aid multiple sclerosis came out just in time for Mother's Day. Weber Drive twins, Kim and Gail Fraorichs, helped out by buying carnations and giving them to their mother, Evelyn.

More letters

Front page story initiates comments

Dear Sir;
After reading your front page story of The Halton Hills Herald, May 2, 1990, I forward my following comments.

I confirmed that I noticed a number of Sikh members at the rear of the hall when the nominations were proceeding. As a matter of fact, there were three Sikh members nominated, seconded, and they were there to accept the honour of running for election as delegates. A Sikh youth was elected as an alternative delegate.

I can appreciate your need to meet a deadline, and did make arrangements, as I said I would, to get you direct information on the "deal" between "Liberals for

Life" and the Martin (only) Camp. I should have thought to make it clear to you that finding some "Cops" people on the Martin slate was a surprise to me. However, as everyone knows, an opportunity for a position or two is better than no opportunity at all. Your source of "Liberals for Life" information would be Jim Barnes, Media Spokesperson, Liberals for Life.

I trust you appreciate also, my feelings about what I was credited with saying compared with what was said and what more I should have told you.

Sincerely,
Tony Smyth,
Norval.