

Opinion Page

30 Years Ago

It was thirty years ago this June when North Halton OPP added its eighth constable to the force. Carl Sanderson was 28 when he joined the force, stood six feet and one inch, weighing in at 210 lbs.

Mr. Sanderson, a blonde single man, came from Richmond Hill and served four years with Metro Police before joining the Halton force. He also held a pilot's licence which made two airmen on the force.

Georgetown High School added five new teachers, bringing the number of staff to 27.

Those who joined the staff were Gerald Dickenson, Keith Donald, Michael Peleschak, Sally Powell and Oscar Robb. A staff supply teacher, Mrs. John Gunn, also returned as a part-time teacher.

Georgetown High School also decided to drop a shared arrangement with Acton for home economics.

20 Years Ago

"I want to see the elimination of taxes for people in very low income groups," said Rud Whiting, a Liberal Halton MP, twenty years ago.

Speaking to an audience of 14 at the Milton Credit Union Hall, Mr. Whiting said he was committed to see that death duties were eliminated in the event that capital gain were taxes. He said he believes the abolition of death duties would benefit the entrepreneur more than a reduction in the tax on capital gains.

Twenty years ago the opening of the Halton County Museum at Kelso Conservation Area brought bountiful festivities.

Square dancing, folk singing, costume and sports events were featured at the museum's opening. The festival, sponsored by Friends of the Museum in cooperation with the Halton Region Conservation Authority, ran an entire weekend.

10 Years Ago

Ten years ago Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid

Halton's History from our files

supported a federal government bill that would have lessened marijuana fines.

The planned legislation called for possession charges being dropped to a misdemeanor from a fine with a criminal record. Although he admitted marijuana is a dangerous drug, Mr. McDermid said young people shouldn't be saddled with a record for using it when they are caught drinking alcohol and don't get one. However, drug trafficking must still be considered a serious offence, he said.

A 52-unit apartment building for seniors on Elizabeth Drive finally reached completion as many seniors anxiously awaited. Paul Ducharme of Ducharmes Ltd., turned the building over to the Ontario Housing Corporation who passed the building on to the Halton Housing Authority.

5 Years Ago

Georgetown councillors received two petitions concerning the heavy traffic on Sideroad 17 and Mountainview Road five years ago.

Fearing for the children's safety, the residents submitted petitions and speakers addressed neighborhood safety problems. Residents were opposed to the reconstruction of Sideroad 17 to Trafalgar Road which was used by heavy gravel trucks.

Some residents concerned about Mountainview Road traffic told council that trucks often hit residents' cars and one truck even went on the front lawn of a neighbor.

Double speak - part 2



Ben's Banter
By Ben Dummett

ing and public works committee is holding a special 7 p.m. meeting tonight to consider if Halton should become a full-fledged member of the GTA. Local environmental group Protect Our Water Environmental Resources (POWER) will appear at the meeting as a delegation opposing Halton's membership. They argue Toronto is facing a garbage problem because it was too slow in developing a 3 Rs, reduce, reuse, and recycling - program. And to willingly take some of Toronto's garbage now would only give Toronto a false sense of security, POWER says.

POWER's argument makes a lot of sense. But some people argue Halton would be required to accept only a maximum of 250,000 tonnes of Toronto garbage in exchange, to a supposed slew of non-landfill waste disposal ideas, should it join.

I could support this idea if I was convinced the GTA will work the way the Region tells us it will work.

Halton Regional chairman Peter Pomeroy said as late as May that Halton has to be a part of the GTA if it wants to protect Halton's interest. But he also said he's not convinced the GTA "is the way to go." Remember Mr. Pomeroy has participated on the GTA as an observer member since its inception two years ago.

When asked about the discrepancy, Mr. Pomeroy said he supports the GTA in principle, but he's not convinced the other members can be trusted. If Mr. Pomeroy is still unconvinced of the trustworthiness of the other Regional chairmen, how can Halton residents trust the real ideas of the GTA?

Orwellian double speak part 2. What's the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), mean you ask? The words imply a geographical area defined by the Regions in and around Toronto. These might include Metropolitan Toronto, Halton, Peel, York and Durham. And to some this is exactly what it means.

But to others, especially the politicians, the term should be understood to mean the answer for the garbage problems faced by the five municipalities listed above. Or does it?

In the short term at least the GTA really means, the Region's offer to take Metro Toronto's garbage for the next few years so it can escape what it calls a garbage crisis. The only garbage problem the GTA is helping to solve is the one Toronto has created for itself.

Only when the long-term aspect of the GTA is considered is there proof that it actually represents cooperative action between all involved municipalities. During the next five years the GTA is supposedly developing long-term non-landfill type garbage disposal ideas that will be shared among its members.

Halton Regional council's plann-

LETTERS

Politicians are letting taxes get out of hand

Dear Sir:

More on taxes. Alex Furness' letter was right on the subject. Increases of 10% local taxes, 12.25% regional and 16% educational are disgraceful. A few days after this bombshell the federal government announced the increase in Old Age Pensions, about \$5 onto ones \$314 a month or 1.5% raise. Some spread!

More and more people in industry are having their salaries frozen while they attempt to compete with foreign competition. Are the local, regional politicians and school trustees completely unaware of what is happening in the real world? Writing these politicians and telling them might help but it is going to take something stronger to bring them to heel. And as usual, before many

weeks have gone by, we will be sidetracked by some other local issues and take our eye off the issue. Let's not do this. Let's get completely involved in one issue and one issue only. No more tax increases above the cost of living!

California has the right idea where they can install rules and their elected officials have to operate within them.

So how about a voter block in Halton Hills dedicated to electing officials who will not pass budgets greater than the current cost of living. Politicians and trustees would be required to commit to this concept before getting the groups endorsement. The group would publicize those who commit to this policy and monitor their subsequent actions. In the meantime, a

watching brief and continuing publicity on current officials and their bad spending habits would be another activity which might help.

For starters, watch trustee Arlene Bruce's latest in the Herald, June 13 - "She reacted quickly to proposals which could bring qualified social workers into elementary schools".

A hurrah for local politician Pat McCarthy and trustee Dick Howatt who voted against the ridiculous increases. Only two out of dozens of spenders. We have a long way to go!

Enough is enough! Let's devote ourselves to this issue and see spending cut and increases held to the cost of living.

D.M. Morrow
Norval.

Drugs cost more than environment

Dear Sir:

Did you know that Ontario spent more money last year for prescription drugs for the elderly than the entire budget for the environment. Drugs cost \$642 million dollars while the Ministry of the Environment was allocated \$528.5 million dollars.

Maybe the government doesn't realize that studies show that there is a problem with over-medication of seniors while environmental degradation is escalating health-related illness.

As an advocate for the disabled and an environmentalist, I recognize the staying healthy depends on many factors including genetics, exercise, clean air, water and food, lack of stress, etc. At present, I am asking myself if it is by design or coincidence that environmentalists (volunteers) are inundated with issues at a time of year when others (paid staff, politicians, etc.) are looking forward to holidays.

Just consider the following concerns to be addressed:

- 1) Region of Halton is deciding whether to join the GTA/SWIS.
- 2) The GTA urban structure review document is being released along with the Greenlands Strategy and the recommendations for the waterfront.
- 3) Halton Region votes on POWER's amendment 52 regarding no garbage in the escarpment.
- 4) The Minister of Natural Resources is reviewing all quarry licences beginning in July.
- 5) The Niagara Escarpment Plan is being reviewed.
- 6) EAGLE's amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Commission comes before the Town of Halton Hills.
- 7) Local developers have several

plans before the municipality that will affect the community.

8) Plans are proposed to widen Guelph Street.

9) The Fourth Line is being widened and trees are being chopped (by the way, I have seen more trees cut down since moving to this country two years ago than I have seen in my entire life).

10) The Green Plan is being circulated for discussion.

11) Ontario Hydro has been holding pre-hearings.

12) KEEP, Milton has hearings regarding their amendment before the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Maybe stress will get us before environmental degradation does.

I'm still wondering if all this is just coincidence.

Pat Woode
Chairman, EAGLE

Open Door's auction was a big success

Dear Editor:

Some time has passed, the dust has settled, the Open Door Board of Directors has breathed a sigh of relief; the "Nite On The Town Bachelor Bid" has taken place!

We had an overwhelming show of support from many directions. A huge and warm "thank you" to John Fisher at Club 2000! He provided the Club, the service, the tickets, the posters and a lot of motivational support for this fun and lively event. Club 2000 was a perfect spot and everyone there, especially the disc jockey Zak, gave us their energy. Thank you.

Many restaurants graciously supplied romantic Dinners for Two.

As part of our "special nite," Webb's Flowers supplied a beautiful red rose for each of the highest bidders, Vanderburgh Flowers supplied a white corsage for each date and Fendley Florists supplied a boutonniere for each bachelor. Thank you for the glamour.

L'Hotel, a member of CP Hotels, in downtown Toronto, donated a special weekend for two as part of

the lucky draw from ticket sales. We hope the winner enjoyed the elegance of this prestigious hotel.

We have individually thanked the gentlemen who were wonderful with their time and their spirit. Honorable mentions go to Joe Nail, owner/operator of the Fox and Fiddle Pub, Steve Levine, celebrity comedian from Yuk-Yuk's, and Steve Anthony, celebrity star from Much Music. Thank you guys ... you were great.

"Nite On The Town" was a lot of work made tremendously fun by the support of all the "donors" and "donations." Thank you very much from all of us at the Open Door Youth Centre. If a "Nite On The Town" is held again, it will certainly be an event-not-to-miss.

Sincerely,
Cindy Lawrence
Open Door Board Chair

More Letters on Page 9

Planning the mid-life crisis



Ian Weir
Weir's View
Thomson News Service

It's the age at which men wake up and realize they're too old to rock 'n roll. In extreme cases, they may be jolted out of a sound sleep by the hideous realization that they're almost as old as Mick Jagger.

This leads to a profound dissatisfaction with life - since 40 also seems to mark a turning point in terms of self-awareness.

Apparently, it's a sort of halfway house between the age at which you're still too young and idealistic to realize you're a failure, and the age at which you've grown too old and rotten to care.

And all of this, of course, leads to a desperate desire to quit the firm and abandon the marriage to find inner fulfillment and spiritual transcendence with a 21-year-old aerobics instructor.

Interestingly enough, the sociological literature would seem to indicate that mid-life crises are peculiar to men. Women don't seem to have them - which only makes sense, when you think of it.

Women, being much stronger emotionally, don't have crises at all. They just pretend to, in order to make men feel guilty.

In any case, as a man in my thirties, it's pretty much expected of me to have a mid-life crisis in the next few years. That's why I've been laying plans for one. After all, it's important to do these things properly.

But this has led to an alarming realization. I'm only 33 - but I think I'm already having my mid-life crisis. In fact, I think I've been having it for years.

It began when I was 27 and doing a stint as a university instructor. One sunny afternoon, I made a casual reference to Bob Dylan in a freshman English class - and found myself staring at a sea of utterly blank faces.

As I was confronting the staggering notion that none of these 18-year-olds had ever heard of Bob Dylan, a bright spark in the front row put up her hand and said: "Hang on - wasn't he some kind of singer, in the Old Days?"

I swallowed hard and quickly changed the subject, before anyone had the chance to ask whether he'd been one of the original Mills Brothers.

After class, in the faculty bar, I

Continued on Page 35