

30 Years Ago

The newly-created positoin of town assistant works foreman has been answered by six applicants. The administration committee has selected two of the applicants for an interview and plan to have a recommendation by next Monday. The Town Council will make the final decision.

The prohibiting of overhanging signs on Main Street is causing a heated debate since Barrager Cleaners recently installed a sign that does not conform with the by-law. Although zoning administrator, G.R. Bligh, has ordered the sign removed, Mr. Barrager had requested that council approve the sign anyway, as he was unaware of the restrictions when he ordered the sign. Mr. Barrager's request was defeated, 5-3 in a recorded vote.

The North Halton Association for Retarded Children is planning a new school to serve Acton, Milton, Georgetown and surrounding area. Representatives of the association believe that one good school located in the centre of Halton Hills would be ideal to suit everyone's needs.

The property committee is currently looking at building sites in both the Horby-Ashgrove area on Seventh Line and on Highway 25 in the Speyside area.

20 Years Ago

A Kinney Shoe store officially opened in Georgetown last week, the 62nd store for the firm, which opened in Canada back in 1965. The store, located at the corner of Guelph and Mountainview, held opening ceremonies which saw Mayor Steamer Emmerson cut the ribbon.

Del D'Entremont is opening a new Beaver Lumber store on Guelph Street, 10 times larger than the Beaver Lumber that burned down last year on Water Street. The new store, located east of Sinclair Avenue, is 9,000 square feet in total. D'Entremont said the old store had such a small stock space that it was like a mail-order counter. The new store will have most of the catalogue merchandise in the store.

Centennial School will be opening its doors this September. It is the only middle school in town, with Grades 6, 7, and 8. It will be taking students from Harrison and Kennedy schools who are within walking distance.

Halton's History

from our files

10 Years Ago

Work began on the library-cultural centre last Tuesday. Mayor Pete Pomeroy was there along with members of the building committee to perform the breaking-ground ceremony. The facility will cost \$1.3 million dollars.

The Halton Separate School Board is making no plans for major construction work on St. Joseph's school located in Acton. Recently, Fire Prevention Officer Larry Brassard discovered problems with the installation and placement of the school's smoke detectors. The board's plant manager says the school is not under the board's jurisdiction because the school is leased from the Halton Board of Education. A hydro inspector will visit the school soon to make a report.

The Toronto Blizzard professional soccer team members arrived in town Saturday at Cedarvale Park to present a soccer clinic.

5 Years Ago

A new housing plan for 453 lots south of Georgetown was presented to council last Tuesday. John Bousfield, consultant for Enterac Properties Limited, said 105.4 acres have been proposed for a phase one development project. The second phase would cover another 139.7 acres. An obstacle is a portion of land not owned by Enterac. The plan will be brought up again at a future town council meeting.

A 6-5 vote saw town councillors agree to help acquire a Limehouse auto wrecking yard in a joint venture to turn it into a heritage park. A second vote also agreed to a recommendation that \$50,000 be paid towards the purchase of the park. Although some councillors are concerned with the cost, it was Councillor Armstrong who questioned the feasibility of whether another park was needed or not.

LETTERS

Claims democracy disappearing

Editor's note: The following letter was forwarded to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.

Mr. Garth Turner:

It appears to me that democracy in this country is quickly disappearing. While eastern Europe and Russia are becoming more democratic, Canada is becoming less so.

You and your government have completely ignored the wishes of Canadians and rammed the GST through Parliament as well as threatening the Senate against opposing it. Members of your government who did represent the interests of their constituents have been expelled from the party, and demonstrations on Parliament Hill have been banned. Your government has also completely ignored the wishes of Canadians regarding Via Rail and the RCMP's dress code. It has also allowed the language rights of Anglophones in Quebec to be taken away with impunity.

You recently sent me your booklet, 'The Canadian Consumer Guide'. I suggest that by continuing to support this government you are not qualified to advise me or any other Canadian on finance. The only financial problems I may have are caused by the crushing tax load I and most other Canadians now bear. This crushing tax load is caused by the actions of your government. It refuses to reduce its spending. The bloated bureaucracy continues to grow and your government wants to increase it still more for its GST. It seems every other day I read new reports of patronage, corruption, and waste associated with your government. Recently over \$193 million of Canadian's hard-earned tax dollars were thrown away in the Caribbean, and another \$1.8 million was thrown away on an American painting consisting of red and blue stripes.

It is time you started representing the interests of your constituents until you are thrown out, instead of wasting tax-payers money

and valuable resources producing what I consider junk mail.

Your government has been in power 6 years. It is your government which is responsible for the present economic state of Canada, and only your government has the power to improve it. Don't try and shed responsibility for your government's incompetence onto Canadian's shoulders.

Yours truly,
R. Kathwaroon (Mr.)
Burlington.

Bureaucracy frustrating

Dear Sir:

I had never bothered to claim the Excise Tax refund for gasoline I was entitled to before. I was, and still am, very upset with the proposed GST, so in January, even if the rebate wasn't worth the work, I decided to do all the necessary paperwork to claim my Excise Tax rebate. My calculations came to \$17.59.

About two months later I received a letter from the government offices in Hamilton stating that they wanted to audit my return.

I made an appointment with the auditor, spent one and a half hours explaining how I arrived at my figure and left the pile of receipts with her. About six weeks later my receipts were mailed back to me, at a cost of \$4.00 with a letter stating I had been allowed a claim of \$14.00 and told how the appeal process could be applied for. How any calculations could come out to an even \$14.00 is beyond my comprehension. Is it just a policy to

reduce a claim by a few dollars and return it? The reduction didn't even pay for the return postage.

But look - someone in Ottawa had to write a letter and send the claim to Hamilton. Someone in Hamilton had to write a letter to me, talk to me on the telephone, spend an hour and a half with me, then write me and return my invoices. They also had to write Ottawa to inform them to send me \$14.00.

What did it cost the Canadian taxpayers for these civil servants to "save" \$3.59 (less than the postage) and I think the \$3.59 was quite debatable.

The cost, if properly allocated, would amount to several hundred dollars and it started over, at the most, \$17.59.

Why do we need the GST? One of the many reasons is to pay for an incompetently managed civil service.

R.D. Pinkney,
R.R. 3
Georgetown, Ont.

Thanks Lions Club

Dear Sir:

Sunday, August 12th, saw two bus loads of seniors leaving Georgetown for the Skydome to watch the Blue Jays play the Twins.

Dinner at the Swiss Chalet followed, putting a cap on a wonderful day.

As one of the lucky seniors participating and thoroughly enjoying myself, I am taking this opportunity to publicly thank the Georgetown Lion's Club for their generosity and also for the flair they possess whenever they sponsor a community endeavour.

Thank you Lions.

Mid Brunski,
Georgetown.

Visitor applauds hospital staff

Dear Sir:

On July 13, 1990, two of my sisters and a niece arrived from Sherbrooke, Quebec with my mother to visit for a few days.

On Sunday, July 15, 1990, my mother (who is 84 years old) felt ill and I took her to Georgetown Hospital. She was looked after in emergency by Dr. N. Chiba and several excellent nurses. Then, it was decided that she should stay in the hospital, and that for Dr. L. Landry to look after her starting Monday morning.

In fact she required to stay in the hospital until the following Saturday to recuperate, and during her stay was looked after by Dr. L. Landry, Dr. C.J. Browning and teams of super nurses.

The quality of care she received at Georgetown Hospital could not be surpassed anywhere. Myself, along with my family were most impressed, and wish to thank each and every person who looked after my mother during her stay at Georgetown Hospital.

Georgette Dorcich,
Georgetown.

A different perspective

Upon learning that someone is a former psychiatric patient, a person's immediate response is to either shun or pity that person. The person is shunned because he or she represents something not easily understood; or pitied because the person is somehow relatively disadvantaged.

But Acton resident Tom White, a former psychiatric patient, now working with the North Halton Work Program (NHWP), in Acton shows he is someone who is different from "normal people" in that everyone is an individual but he is the same in that he shares similar goals.

Like most people, Mr. White wanted a job. As he said, before the NHWP got underway in February, he was waiting for the program to start. Since joining the program from day one he has taken full advantage of the opportunity. The program's manager, Anita Lloyd, describes Mr. White as "an excellent worker" because he works hard and has set long term goals.

The NHWP is run similar to that of a factory so that its 22 participants learn how to work in a "normal work place." The only difference between the program and any other type of factory is that at Mr. White's workplace the employees set their own work place. But if looked at in a different way, everybody to some degree sets their own work pace. If someone is only willing to work 35 hours a week the same person is going to attempt to find the appropriate kind of job.

If possible, the person's not going to apply for a job that calls for a 50-hour work week.

In talking with Mr. White he said



Ben's Banter

By Ben Dummelt

he appreciates that he can determine how many hours a week he will work, and how he will approach each task. As he said, to do a job properly he spends half his time thinking about how to approach a task and the other half doing it. After hearing this, my instinct was to feel sorry for Mr. White. But I've since realized his truthfulness shows him to be a man who knows his capabilities and limitations, something myself and a lot of people don't readily admit to themselves.

At the same time, he doesn't allow his self-awareness to get in the way of improving himself to further goals for the future. Mr. White said he wants to some day work with cars full time and at some later time own and operate a business. To show he has his goals planted in reality, Mr. White is the first to admit he will need money which can only be obtained by saving.

Mr. White's attitude shows that just as people are different and yet the same, people should judge one another on relative terms instead of on some non-existent universal or stereotypical norm.

It's tough being a male

Okay. Enough is enough. I've had just about enough of the latest round of cheap shots and cruel snickers at one of society's more downtrodden and vulnerable minority groups.

I refer, of course, to men.

It's no secret that males are officially in the minority in the Western world, and have been for some time. And the explanation for this is no secret either.

Being male is a grim and thankless job, so the majority of human beings try to avoid it.

And the treatment of males in North American society was certainly illustrated by the prominent treatment that every paper on the continent gave to a snide and spiteful little news story out of Washington, D.C. the other day.

Apparently, the Kennedy Centre recently announced the auditions for extras to play the roles of Roman gladiators and slaves in an upcoming production of Spartacus by the Australian Ballet.

The company specified that it was looking for "macho, he-men" types, and distributed a photograph of the kind of man it had in mind - one described by the papers as a "lean and mean Roman gladiator clad in a flimsy loin cloth, his rippling muscles straining to burst his leather chest straps."

With scarcely concealed glee, the papers proceeded to report that just 36 men showed up for the audition - of whom almost half were rejected as totally unsuitable.

Well. The reporter who penned



Ian Weir

Weir's View
Theater News Service

this story - the sex of whom we scarcely need speculate about - would undoubtedly claim that she was simply reporting the facts.

Ridiculous. This news report was yet another piece of anti-male propaganda. It's a clear attempt to insinuate that we're all worms.

Perhaps one or two things need to be said.

Just for starters, it's completely unfair to imply that all men are wimps just because an Australian ballet company couldn't find any "macho, he-men" types, in Washington, D.C.

Washington is a city of civil servants. If you want he-men, you should look for them among the more traditionally macho groups - like diamond drillers and newspaper columnists.

It's also pretty unfair to suggest that macho, he-men types don't exist just because they don't show up to audition for the ballet.

Now, this is certainly not to say that Real Men never appear in ballets. Of course they do. They're

the ones looking sheepish, and trying to hide behind the scenery.

An actor friend of mine had an interesting experience at the age of 18 or 19, when he decided to audition for a small part in an opera. Since he was playing junior football at the time, he called his coach aside to explain that he'd have to miss a couple of practices - and explained why.

Apparently, it took a couple of moments for the coach to process this information. A terrible silence descended. "Don't worry," the coach muttered at last. "I won't tell anyone."

For a while, it was a little easier for guys to appear in operas and ballets. This was back in the early '60s, when society decided that men should become more sensitive.

Fortunately, people quickly realized that this was a terrible mistake, and we all got back to being comfortably loutish.

But most of all, I'd like to refute the vile insinuation that men stayed away from that Washington audition because so few of us resemble the "lean and mean Roman gladiator" in the photograph.

This is preposterous.

Lots and lots of us would be entirely capable of donning one of those "flimsy loin cloths," thus revealing our "rippling muscles straining to burst the leather chest straps."

We just don't wanna.

So let's keep these things straight.