

## Halton's History from our files

### 30 Years Ago

Councillor John D. Kelly announced possible changes to Georgetown's traffic by-laws at the Aug. 15th council meeting. Possible changes included Wesleyan Street and one block of Market Street becoming one-way streets, as well as prohibition of parking in front of the post office.

There will be an expected drop in the volume of traffic on Highway 7 through town when an interchange under construction where Highway 6 crosses Highway 401 just south of Guelph is completed shortly. This connection will provide a direct route to Metro Toronto from Guelph and should have an effect on reducing traffic flow on Guelph Street and Main Street North.

A local resident made a strong appeal that the due date for tax payments be extended to mid-month at Monday night's council meeting. The resident, whose income is dependent on rentals, said if it is impossible to pay taxes on the first of the month. The mayor said he should discuss the problem with the tax collector, as the matter comes under his jurisdiction.

The owner of Dairy Queen was told this week to remove a sign in front of his business because it contravenes a zoning by-law. The mayor said although it is not council's intention to put stumbling blocks in front of a business, he said sign regulations are being reviewed by council.

### 20 Years Ago

Mayor Wheldom Emmerson confirmed rumors last Monday by making it official that he would not seek re-election. At the end of the council meeting, he announced that he would be retiring at the end of his term as Mayor. Mayor Emmerson said, he felt it was only fair to give the early announcement because it gives anyone who wants the opportunity the time to make plans for their campaign.

An unknown person dumped more than 1,000 pounds of chemical waste on the Bruce Trail. W.B. Fortowsky, who lives just above the nearly-completed Scotch Block Dam, reported the pile of chemicals to township authorities and the OPP in late May. Mr. Fortowsky's main concern was that rain would wash the chemicals down into the water supply. Mr. Fortowsky and a neighbor bagged up the chemicals and took them away themselves when officials did not respond to complaints.

"Kincourt" was the name suggested for the 24 unit senior citizens apartments which opened last Wednesday. The name was suggested by Kinsmen Bill Hewitt.

### 10 Years Ago

The Herald Newspaper opened up in its new office located at 45 Guelph Street in Georgetown. Moe Pinder, construction foreman who oversaw the renovating of what was once the farmer's co-operative outlet and legal office, said it was the nicest building he has ever worked on. In the process of rebuilding the interior, workers had to knock out part of a wall and the basement ceiling so that the new presses would fit in the building. The Herald moved from its location on Main Street.

A new school board trustee position will go to Acton and Esquesing Township, council decided. The position was allocated to Halton Hills following a shuffle of representatives from the Halton Board of Education. It was designated to Acton and Esquesing after representatives from the four municipalities sat down and recalculated representation on the 20 member board.

Contrary to a story which appeared in a Toronto newspaper last week, Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital will not be closing for three weeks. Hospital business manager, Brian Pollock, was quoted as saying, "the facility might be closed for three weeks in an attempt to keep this year's deficit down." Councillor Paul Armstrong said that at no time did the board ever even consider such a notion.

### 5 Years Ago

A plan by Halton Region is designed to reduce the amount of public school trustees from three to two if accepted. The three areas, (Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing), will be combined to two: Georgetown alone, with Acton and Esquesing combined. The board's proposal is expected to be aired at the next local council meeting on Aug. 26.

Georgetown will be undergoing a second co-operative housing development set for completion by the end of the winter. The Glen Mills Co-op will be on property bordering River Drive, Mountainview Road North and John Street. It will consist of 26 three-bedroom houses. Kim Pratt of Homestarts Inc. said the sewage, water and electricity on the site have already been completed.

A proposal was recently made to Halton Region to look at a "Cabs on Patrol" program which would look at the feasibility of cabbies helping police in their efforts to fight crime. If the program was undertaken, cabbies would get decals for their cars and pamphlets would be handed out to the drivers instructing them on what to do if they witness a crime. Costs would include a hotline hook-up for dispatches plus written literature about the program.

## LETTERS

# High taxes equal economic mess

Dear Editor:

A recent U.S. survey that it did not matter in which part of the United States (north, south, east or west) a state was located; those states with high taxes were in financial difficulties, more businesses were failing and people were leaving the state. As a result, low tax states were enjoying much better economic conditions. Canada is a part of the North American economy, whether individuals like to admit it or not.

The people of Ontario, living under the rule of two spendthrift governments, not to mention the municipal jurisdictions, are burdened with the highest taxes in North America. This is the basic reason for the economic mess we are in today.

Both Federal and Provincial governments deserve to be kicked out of office at the first opportunity.

The Mulroney government assumed power from a spendthrift Trudeau regime, promised reform but continued Trudeau's wasteful ways. It now proposes forcing the G.S.T. on the country in a manner

as ruthless as the Chinese tanks attacked the students in Tianamen Square.

The Peterson-Nixon forces assumed power from a provincial Conservative dynasty that had - for a government - given Ontario food financial management and probably would again. This enabled both industry and the people of Ontario to prosper. The Peterson-Nixon team operates in a completely different manner to their present federal counterparts - more like the Lamprey eel that attaches itself to a large salmon and continues to quietly extract the life blood out of its victim until it is dead.

For example - increased automobile and driver's licence fees, especially for Halton and the rest of the Greater Metro Toronto area, much higher automobile insurance costs which will continue to rise, yet virtually no money spent on transportation facilities to help alleviate the traffic congestion around Toronto. Where has this money been squandered? Has it been on the additional 9,000 non-productive provincial civil ser-

vants that cost us about a billion dollars extra annually. I haven't noticed any extra services. Have you?

Some other changes:

The greatly increased land transfer tax which increases the cost of housing. The Commercial Concentration Levy which cost \$1.00 per square foot for enterprises with over 200,000 square feet of property and building. This includes parking lots. The householder pays for this in the form of higher grocery prices, etc. Like wages and realty taxes, etc., it is part of the cost of doing business. The one per cent increase in retail sales tax - it is not much each time you pay it - but, boy, does it add up quickly. In total, over 30 tax increases, more than doubling tax revenue.

Ontario and Canada are in much deeper financial trouble than most people realize. I hate to think of the consequences. We simply have to find competent alternatives to the present groups of people in power.

R.D. Pinkney,  
Georgetown.

# Town should leave Main St. South alone

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

Dear Mr. Bob Austin,  
Town Engineer,  
Town of Halton Hills:

A recent drive from Georgetown to the heart of Oakville via Trafalgar Road has left me with a question I hope you can answer. As you know, Trafalgar Rd. makes a dramatic character change just south of the Q.E.W. as it approaches the city core. It goes from an 80 km thoroughfare, built straight and stark for efficiency's sake to a narrow, tree-lined meandering road bordered closely by historic and new homes, churches, etc. It is almost as though the road purposely slows the traveller down in preparation for enjoying the quaint charm of downtown Oakville.

I was struck by the fact that the Eighth Line, (Main Street South) is now very much like that peaceful stretch of Trafalgar Road. It is hilly, narrow and tree-lined. One is made to slow down and enjoy the surrounding scenery. It is the only north-south entrance to town left to enjoy, Mountainview Road and Trafalgar Road north having already been sacrificed to progress.

My question is, if a great section of major arterial road like Trafalgar Road can be left unadulterated for the pleasure of the people of Oakville, why must we be forced to have our lovely Main Street South turned into a four lane highway? Imagine utilitarian 401 style light poles where trees, fields and lawns now exist!

Surely traffic studies, rapid development, the doubling of Oakville's population as well as Trafalgar Road obviously being a major connector between the Q.E.W., Speers Road and the Lakeshore must have indicated that widening, straightening, etc. were called for. How did it escape? Could it be that the Town of Oakville put its people and its character ahead of big city efficiency?

Isn't this discrimination? Oakville can keep a pastoral setting in the midst of a development boom but Georgetown cannot.

There is no need to widen Main Street. It is just fine as it is to transport the future people of Georgetown South into town. Trafalgar South proves that. The extension of Princess Anne Drive will handle any future residents of the downtown core.

The residents of Georgetown will

suffer if Main Street South is widened. The accident rate will rise as speeding cars meet residents and farm vehicles exiting from the many driveways. Speeding will be encouraged through town. Our environment and drinking water will be threatened as road salt and other materials flow into already overburdened Silvercreek. Indeed, knowingly allowing a situation to occur where substances get into a water source is a direct violation of the Federal Fisheries Act. The downtown core will die as people keep up the pace and race around it.

Mr. Austin, let's just bank the 6 million dollar donation from developers to make them a highway and use the money for future repairs instead. I look forward to your reply.

Gail Rutherford,  
Georgetown.

## 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.

# Failing to relax can ruin your vacation

It's great to see that psychologists have just confirmed one of my long-held convictions: going on vacation is always a dreadful mistake.

Well, perhaps I shouldn't overstate this. Psychologists - a notoriously cautious group - haven't yet condemned vacationing utterly.

Still, a couple of Nova Scotia researchers have just published a paper claiming that far too many of us defeat the entire purpose of a holiday by miserably failing to relax.

Well. What a revelation, huh? Surprise, surprise.

To be fair, I should try not to sound too scornful about this research paper. After all, the authors make some valid points.

They argue, for instance, that too many people come to grief by embracing the "work hard, then play hard" syndrome.

They're absolutely correct, of course. If you believe in working

hard and then playing hard you trap yourself in a vicious circle. It's much better to avoid the whole thing by just phoning in sick in the first place.

But after this promising beginning, these Nova Scotia researchers make a terrible blunder. They proceed to argue that a vacation can - if properly planned - be relaxing and refreshing.

Yeah, sure. And Saddam Hussein - if understood properly - is just a guy who longs to make other people happy.

The fact is that vacationing violates the two principles absolutely fundamental to human relaxation and happiness, since going on holiday requires you to (one) go somewhere and (two) do something.

Going anywhere at all is an iffy enough proposition to begin with. Doing something when you get there just compounds the error.

The problem, of course, is that people have an almost infinite



Ian Weir  
Weir's View  
Times in News Service

capacity for deluding themselves. Walk down any street, for instance, and you'll actually meet people who claim to enjoy camping.

I haven't done a lot of camping myself, being the sort of person who defines "roughing it" as a motel without cablevision. But I spent a night in a tent 10 years ago, so I know what it's like.

It poured rain. The tent leaked. I lay in a puddle and tried to console myself with the thought that the downpour might at least drown a few of the mosquitoes. As dawn

broke, my companion leaped to her feet, smiling brightly and admiring the sunrise.

There are probably people who enjoy root-canal surgery too. But at least such people are willing to admit they've got problems.

Another terrible delusion is the belief that vacations bring families closer together.

In a sense, I suppose, this is true. Vacationing can certainly bring a family closer. The question is, closer to what?

As any anthropologist will tell you, our genetic coding was determined at a time when there were very few of us and lots of wide open spaces to rattle around in. As such, it's hardly surprising to observe what happens when two or more people - especially two or more people who happen to be related to each other - are required to spend more than 15 minutes together in a car.

I suppose it's theoretically possible to believe that a family can spend a happy week in an idyllic

little cabin by the lake - but only if you've conveniently forgotten two Universal Truths:

One: setting off to drive anywhere will be followed by the discovery that Billy has to go to the bathroom. Two: arriving anywhere, and preparing to relax, will be followed by the discovering that Billy is throwing up.

But let's not be too cynical. Besides, the fact remains that no one can avoid vacationing forever. Sooner or later, you're going to have to take two weeks off - so let's try to define the surroundings that might make two weeks bearable.

If it's summer, we'll need someplace cool and shady. This cool and shady place will need to offer refreshments, and it would be nice to have some pleasant companions on hand. As an extra perk, it would be lovely to have a TV set or two broadcasting baseball games and....

How extraordinary. I think we've just defined a pub. Happy camping.