

30 Years Ago

Roger Smith, an 11-year-old Chapel Street student, was recognized as having come up with the most suitable name for Georgetown's new war memorial park. Remembrance Park, the name thought out by Roger and selected by a judging committee, was submitted to council Monday night by Dave Capperault, Legion president. The name was favored by the council.

Finance Chairman, Reeve Doug Sargent, told council Monday night that a small surplus might be found at year's end. Town auditor, Walter Pope, had just finished reviewing the first six months of the year which included the ways in which the various departments had been handling their finances. His filed report makes Sargent believe a surplus can be shown at year's end if departments continue to operate as they have been.

20 Years Ago

The Georgetown Library held a puppet show last week which entertained 100 children, whisking them off to a fantasy land of fairy tales. Georgetown was only one of three stops for the tour of puppeteers, who came from the South Central Regional Library system. All summer the group has been playing at the Cockpit Theatre at Dandurn Castle in Hamilton.

A major Canadian department store, Zellers, wants to open up a store in Georgetown. Zeller's has made arrangements with the owner of Georgetown Market Centre to lease 67,000 square feet of land to build a store. Focal Properties, the firm that owns the land, will build the store for them if the deal goes through. The agreement can only become valid if the town decides to suspend current regulations which would allow Zellers to stay open six days and five nights a week.

10 Years Ago

The Junior Halton Hills Beauty Pageant will still take place at the Fall Fair on the weekend of Oct. 4th, as Georgetown resident Jim Barrett has the confirmed support of the Fall Fair's Board.

Halton's History
from our files

Fourteen recent letters published by the Herald expressed negative response to the pageant but the board voted to go ahead with the competition.

The chairman of the Halton Separate School Board, warned trustees Wednesday night that if St. Joseph's Separate School gets a portable facility, it means it probably will never get a permanent one.

Bob O'Brien warned that pupils might be "condemned" to using portables for quite some time if they are installed. Ironically, the meeting for this had to be changed from St. Joseph's school to Robert Little public school due to over-crowding. The problems with St. Joseph's school stem from the lack of space combined with too many enrolled students causing crowded conditions.

5 Years Ago

Halton Board of Education Trustees voted to give themselves a raise at last week's board meeting. This will be the board's first raise in six years, their honorarium raised gradually from \$7,200 a year to \$11,100 by December of 1988. The final vote showed 14 in favour of the increase, four opposed.

Although extending funding has been promised, students from public schools in Halton Hills have not been switching to the Catholic high schools. Although no Catholic high schools are located in Georgetown (currently the separate schools in Georgetown only go up to Grade 8 through Holy Cross school), Catholic high schools in Guelph and Brampton haven't noticed a large increase. The extended funding, expected in January when the government's fiscal year begins, will mean that Grade 11 students will not have to pay tuition costs of about \$750.00.

LETTERS
Norval resident objects to changes

An open letter to the residents of Halton Hills -

Copies to - The Herald, The Independent, Mayor Russell Miller, Halton Hills Councillors, Planning Dept. - Mr. Ian Keith.

Re: The proposal to build a commercial plaza on the corner of Highway No. 7 and Mary St. in Norval and comments by the developer.

I have read the article "Norval developer unaffected by public outcry" on the front page of the Herald Aug. 22 when Antoy Developments President Angelo Buligan was interviewed and I was amazed at the arrogance of this developer. He has no consideration of what would be best for our village. In the interview, after reading letters from Norval residents objecting to his proposal, he states - "If I want to throw a million dollars on the street, I can" and "what I do with my money should be no concern to the residents of Norval." Also he finds it unbelievable that we are using No. 7 Highway traffic to prevent the construction of this plaza.

So this developer believes that his million will buy him whatever he wants and NOBODY has the right to oppose him! It doesn't matter to him that bylaws made to protect people and property have to be amended just for him including one designating the area for residential use. And of course it doesn't matter to him that the residents of our village oppose this drastic change of lifestyle in our hamlet. It doesn't matter the fact that Mary St. and No. 7 Highway is a very dangerous intersection with this stretch of highway being the scene of many, many accidents. Because this developer has a million dollars to throw away he thinks he can override common sense and justice for the taxpayers of Norval. Can he?

If Mr. Buligan lived in Norval he would understand our concern regarding No. 7 Highway traffic. Trying to enter the congested traffic from a side street in the village is not only time consuming but is often life threatening. More traffic from Mary St. would add to the dangerous conditions all residents here share. We don't need more traffic any more than we need another plaza.

I was pleased to read that Mr. Buligan can relate to water flow

concerns as my property will get the most of it, especially if the land is raised by building the plaza. Water flow in Norval runs from west to east so again I am a sitting duck that could be a drowned duck if this development passes council.

Across the highway from Norval United Church a lovely old red brick house and barn on a large corner, treed lot are slated to be torn down to make room for this plaza on Mary St.

Mary St. is the short narrow dead-end street into Norval Community Centre and baseball field. The parking lot and street are packed with cars when ball games are in progress. Besides activities held in the community centre, a day care for preschool children occupies two rooms involving traffic on the street when parents bring their children and when picking them up. On the other side of Mary St. is the proposed strip plaza.

All local surveyors are well aware that all side streets in Norval were built for horse and buggies not cars, but we like our narrow quiet streets away from the

nightmare highway traffic and we want to keep them that way. The highway has been the death knell of our heritage community village. All we have left in our valley are a few short streets where our unique character is still cherished. Mary St. is one of them. The quality of our heritage lifestyle cannot be bought for a million dollars, or can it?

Over the years our community have gone to Council several times trying to stop some of our lovely old homes from being changed from residential to commercial outlets but we failed every time.

As we have learned from previous experience we do not have enough votes in Norval to influence council so we need help from our neighbours. Please let Halton Hills councillors know if you support Norval residents in our effort to keep what is left of our unique lifestyle your support could make the difference. We are counting on you. Numbers count. Thankyou.

Dorothy C. McLean,
Norval.

Federal government wasting money

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

Mr. Garth Turner, MP.

Sir,
With Canada in a recession caused by your government it's nice to know you have time to put a "Canada Book" of constituents' letters together. Will it include my last letter to you, the one you completely ignored? (copy enclosed).

Perhaps you could tear yourself away from your literary pursuits and tell me why, with the deficit and national debt ballooning, your government is still throwing taxpayers' hard-earned money away -

- \$238 million to fly ministers and bureaucrats around the world last year, almost double what it cost in 1986.
- \$5.5 million for a comedy complex in Montreal.
- \$5 million (US) for a terrorist organization (the ANC).
- \$400,000 for a balloon race in Quebec.

By the way, why do you keep calling the government of which you are a member "the Feds" as if it were some communciable disease?

Lastly, congratulations on your recent \$6000 tax-free pay grab. It's good to know you're looking after yourself so well at taxpayers' expense. But what do we get in return, more of your books?

R. Kathwaroon (Mr.)
Burlington.

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.

Staffing decisions should be open to the public

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller recently stated in an interview that town council will take two to three months to assess the needs of immediately filling two vacated town staff positions or postpone making the decision for an extended period of time. This means council in their deliberations will also consider the possibility of not filling the positions.

The two positions, an engineer and building inspector, carry with them a salary of between \$30,000 and \$40,000 each.

During the interview the mayor stressed council would never leave positions vacant it deemed essential. But for me, herein lies a problem.

Council could make their decision behind closed doors. If this happens the public will be unable to fully judge council's assessment of the positions' importance. In turn the public won't be able to judge fairly council's decision. But since services to the residents could be affected if these positions or any town position isn't filled the public should be privy to the debate on the potential loss of service in relation to the position not being filled.

Because an assessment of filling or not filling a position involves a personnel matter, council can choose to carry out the debate in-camera. An in-camera session means it's closed to the press and public. Council can also call an in-camera session to discuss property and legal matters.

An in-camera session is held concerning personnel matters to protect the reputation of an individual under discussion. And rightly so, everyone has a right to their privacy. But in the case of discussing the importance of a staff posi-



Ben's Banter
By Ben Dummett

tion to the town, the privacy of an individual is not at issue. Under these circumstances council should not go in-camera.

Councillors would probably argue any resolution, concerned with filling or not filling a job, proposed during an in-camera session must be passed in public. I only started covering council in January, but from what I can gather the crux of the debate takes place behind closed doors. If there is a resolution to pass, it's done so with little or no public debate.

Another problem is that Council can decide not to fill a position without passing a resolution, said Administrator-Clerk Dan Costea. Council only has to give staff direction not to fill the position and the position won't be filled.

Since no formal resolution is proposed and the meeting is in-camera, councillors and staff are not obligated to reveal to the press or public the content of the staff direction.

Once again, let me stress, any debate concerning staff positions should be open to the public.

A reminder: tomorrow (Thursday), is the provincial election. Don't forget to vote.

Even writers have worries

The week had actually been going fairly well until I read a truly distressing little item in the newspaper.

According to the newspaper, the World Health Organization estimates that neuroses occur in five to 18 per cent of the general population and are rising sharply in industrialized countries.

It came as quite a shock - to a non-neurotic person like me - to think that nearly one-fifth of my fellow citizens are suffering under the terrible burden of neuroses. That's the sort of statistic that worries the heck out of you.

In fact, I've scarcely slept for two nights, just thinking about it.

Well, that isn't entirely true. Lately, I've been kept awake by other concerns as well.

I've been worrying about the Middle East, of course. And the general condition of the ozone layer and the rain forests. And snakes. It goes without saying that I've been worrying about snakes.

I've been worrying about snakes quite a lot since I read a terrible news item a couple of years ago about a python that got loose in an apartment building and turned up in somebody's toilet.

I try to tell myself that this was the sort of hideous fluke that could never be repeated in my own apartment building. Still, I don't go to the bathroom much these days.

But as I say, I'm not a neurotic sort of person at all - as is the case with most writers. Writers are notoriously non-neurotic.

Indeed, the words "neurotic" and "writer" go together in much



Ian Weir
Weir's View
Dorset News Service

the same way as do the words "good" and "government," "military" and "intelligence," and "moral" and "majority." And not at all like the words "peanut butter" and "jelly."

Claims that many writers are neurotic are strictly lies, spread by our enemies for wicked reasons known only to themselves. (Just because you're paranoid, as Woody Allen once observed, does not mean that people aren't out to get you.)

But I digress. We were discussing the terrible news that up to 18 per cent of people are neurotic, and that this rate is rising rapidly in industrialized countries.

Naturally, this raises the burning question: why is this happening? Or to put it another way: who, or what, is out to get us?

After a productive day of agonizing over this question, I've begun to reach some tentative conclusions.

Part of the problem, obviously, is the sheer pace of life in an industrialized country. These days, we've all but lost sight of the sacred maxim which wise men

have always embraced as the cornerstone of human happiness: never put off until tomorrow what you can safely delay until next Tuesday.

This problem is compounded by the fact that we've been conditioned to believe little maxims like, "if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing properly."

This leads to all sorts of stress - which could be avoided if only we remembered that this maxim is a corrupt version of a much healthier original: "if a job needs to be done properly, delegate it."

Then, of course, there's the dehumanization of life in an industrialized society. We spend an awful lot of time dealing with machines. And a machine can never replace the warmth and the reassurance of human contact - as is well known to anyone who has ever tried to find satisfaction in swearing at a bank machine.

I will concede that bank machines are occasionally more efficient than bank tellers. But no teller would ever swallow your card and then flash you a little sign encouraging you to "have a nice day."

When you think about it, in fact, it's little wonder that nearly 20 per cent of our countrymen are neurotic. Indeed, the real mystery is why you and I aren't neurotic, too.

This raises a truly distressing question. I mean ... what's wrong with us?

If this is still keeping us both up at four o'clock this morning, perhaps we could phone each other and talk it over.