

the HERALD

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K. ROBERT MALCOLMSON
Publisher and General Manager

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EDITORIAL — COLIN GIBSON
Managing Editor

ADVERTISING — DAN TAYLOR
Manager

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Violence begets violence

The still unfolding Kayla Klaudusz tragedy strikes like a cold spear into the hearts of decent-minded people everywhere.

The innocent little 3-year-old girl's body was found floating in a seldom-used channel in Toronto Harbor last Friday night, ending a 23-day search which involved over 2,000 volunteers and hundreds of police officers.

Although the exact cause of death had still to be determined, at press time, police information officers did reveal the little girl had been sexually assaulted.

Rage at the senselessness of the crime percolates throughout individuals and communities; a lust for vengeance surfaces, replaced after a time with a bone-chilling feeling of sadness.

Sadness for the little girl whose light of life was snuffed out at such a tender age. Sadness for the grieving family, whose loss only they can bear. And yes, sadness for a society where violence - in all shapes and forms - appears more and more to be accepted as a part of everyday life.

Children are the most precious natural resources in the world. Children represent mankind's hope for the future - for a better, safer world than the one we now inhabit.

One wonders, however, what kind of a world the children's children will have with the adult role models and examples being presented to today's younger generation.

All hail the leaders of the conquering Desert Storm countries whose troops, by unconfirmed estimates, wiped out 100,000 Iraqis. These same leaders encouraged Kurds within Iraq to rebel, then abandoned them, resulting in thousands more deaths.

Desert Storm has blown over and although Kuwait was liberated, little has changed for the better in the region of conflict.

A United Nations working group reports that Canadians have purchased 500 Romanian babies, as upheaval reins supreme in that country following the toppling of the Communist regime. The average monthly wage is \$100 and parents who can't cope are selling their babies to foreigners, including Canadians.

Let's hear it for the Ninja Turtles and the Terminator - perfect role models for youngsters to emulate.

Violence begets violence and there is the fear a society can become immune to its perfidy.

Then a 3-year-old girl is sexually assaulted and murdered and we wonder how it could happen.

It could and did happen in a society that more and more is taking violent acts for granted.

Hopefully society has learned a lesson - albeit, a tragic one.

Turner rejects Libertarian claims

To the Editor:

While not normally responding to Libertarian John Shadbolt's frequent letters, I'll make an exception for the last one.

He wrote you: "A letter to the editor thanks Garth for taking them off of unemployment or welfare and hiring them for the GST office. We taxpayers are lucky to have Garth take them off one government spending scheme, (and) put on another.

Either way taxpayers lose, the only winner is Garth who no doubt, enjoys the travel and perks, at taxpayers' expense."

If anyone cares about the facts, here they are. The military base in Summerside, PEI, is closing due to federal spending cuts. The civilian workers at the base who are losing their jobs asked to be given priority for work at the GST processing centre, to be opened in 1993. They are not on welfare or unemployment. They are proud employees of the Canadian Forces.

I helped them get assurances

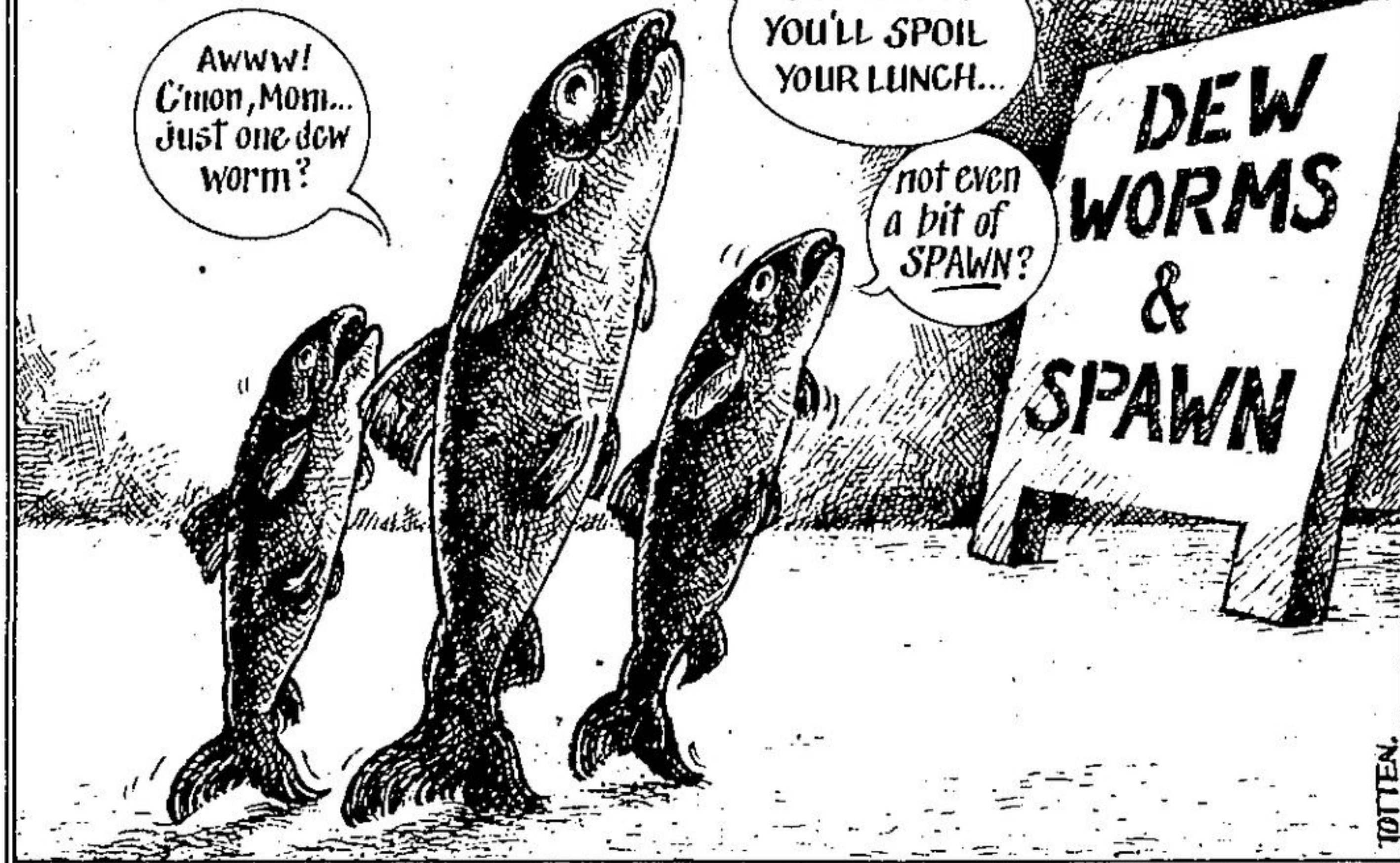
from the Minister of National Revenue that they would be considered for the new jobs. I did this in Ottawa, after they had travelled from PEI at their own expense. And some months before, when I had been on the island, I also travelled at my own personal expense.

Mr. Shadbolt seems to assume that people in Atlantic Canada are all on poge. That's unfair. He also assumes that tax dollars are being wasted in trying to help them. That's both unfair and untrue.

Every time government spending is further cut, people get hurt. As more military bases are closed, local economies are shattered. Unemployment goes up and real estate values go down. But until our national finances are in order, there is no choice but to cut further. Surely the efforts of a few Members of Parliament to soften the blow for fellow Canadians doesn't deserve this kind of reaction.

Garth Turner, MP
Halton-Peel

OUT OF SCHOOL, WITH A CRAVING FOR A SNACK...



People's Forum

GMHA clarifies Hurricane watch

The Editor:
After reading the July 24th, 1991 article "Hurricanes facing ice availability squeeze" and a previous article "Halton 'AAA' history troubling for G.H.M.A.", I felt compelled to respond to both in order to clarify the position of the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association with regard to its relationship with the "Hurricane" 'AAA' Association.

With regard to my statement expressing disappointment with the Hurricanes for allowing 50 hours of ice to sit idle last year, Hurricane Vice Chairman Terry Brandt stated that most unused ice was "very early weekend time". He further states: "6:00 a.m. Saturday is not very good practice time" and "it's asinine when you're bringing in players from Flamborough and Orangeville." As I stated to your Sports Department in several telephone conversations, the Hurricanes were issued only ONE early weekend ice slot - 7:00 a.m. Sundays. However, this ice time was specifically requested by the Hurricane Midget Coach. No other early weekend ice was allocated to the Hurricanes.

Mr. Brandt further states that he requested more weekday ice but was not optimistic, in part, due to the fact that the G.M.H.A. "had chosen its hours first." Surely Mr. Brandt can't honestly expect the G.M.H.A., which has been a part of the Georgetown Hockey scene for probably close to 50 years, to relinquish its "first right of refusal" to the Hurricanes.

The twelve hours per week allotted by the G.M.H.A. to the Hurricanes for the upcoming season is not sufficient, according to Brandt, due to the fact that Georgetown is the preferred location because of costs and the majority of Hurricane players are from the immediate area. In actual fact, registration records show Milton as having more than twice the number of players than Georgetown last year. If Mr. Brandt is suggesting ice time be proportioned in a ratio to the number of players from various centres, then obviously, Milton should be the location of choice, not Georgetown. It is interesting

to note that the Hurricanes have been allotted only two hours per week by Milton for the upcoming season.

It is not my intent to enter into a continuing war of words with Mr. Brandt and the Hurricane Association, but since your recent articles appear to give the impression that the G.M.H.A. is unsupportive of "AAA", our position must be clearly stated. Despite explaining our position on several occasions to your Sports Reporter, some of our rational was not printed.

The most contentious issue is that of reduced weekly ice time for the Hurricanes. While this is fact, the reasoning was not explained in either of your articles. Simply put, it is the intention of the G.M.H.A. to ice nine (9) representative teams for the upcoming season. This is one team more than last year and therefore, we require a minimum of three additional hours per week.

As in all other centres, the traditional 'AA' teams in the G.M.H.A. last year were severely weakened by the exodus of players to the Hurricanes. As a result, most of our teams were

reclassified to lower ratings. Some of last years teams were so weakened, that it is possible that we may not have enough players to ice a competitive team this year. Evaluating these situations brought us to the realization that a comprehensive development program for the G.M.H.A. must be instituted. Obviously to accomplish this, more ice time is required. Another cause for the reduction of Hurricane ice.

While the G.M.H.A. applauds the efforts of the 35 Georgetown players who made Hurricane teams last year, it still has an overwhelming obligation to support, encourage and help develop the approximately 535 players who remain in its system. This obligation should not be construed as a lack of support for the Hurricanes.

In the future, I hope that the space limitation in your paper (as indicated to me by Rob Risk) will not prevent the inclusion of all relative details and therefore, eliminating any confusion and misinterpretation.

Thanks.

Yours in hockey,
Hal Pells
President - G.M.H.A.

