

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Future considerations

This is an important week upcoming for Halton Hills — one that will determine the future configuration of our town.

Scheduled next week is town council's discussion on two studies: the Town of Halton Hills Urban Study Final Report and the Residential Implementation Study for the Acton Urban Area. If approved, the studies will determine the future configuration of Halton Hills. For instance the first report calls for a population range of 34,550 to 41,850 in Georgetown and 10,000 in Acton by the year 2011, and for specialty retail, restaurant, residential, 12,000 sq. ft. grocery store and office uses in the downtown area. The study will be debated at a special meeting of town council late Thursday afternoon.

Also on Tuesday in Acton, 7 p.m. at Acton High School and on Thursday in Georgetown, 7 p.m. at Halton Hills Cultural Centre, the public is invited to make comments on a proposed recreation master plan. Your comments will be included in a study on the future recreation needs of the town. The report will address the needs of seniors, young kids, older kids, adults, singles, families.

If you want to be considered in the future of this town, we suggest you attend these meetings. Consider your future.

Thanks for the memories

Dear editor:

It is with a great deal of pride, and a tinge of regret, that I look back on my reign as "Citizen of the Year" - an honor bestowed on me by the Georgetown Lions Club. For many years, I have admired the Lions, for the excellent work they do, and I only regret that, due to an untimely accident I suffered last summer, I was unable to fully perform my duties as their honored citizen. I trust my successor will enjoy, as much as I have, this bestowed honor, and I wish the Lions, as a club, and as individual members, continued success and much happiness in the New Year.

Lena Johnston

Save the seals

Dear editor:

I would like to bring to your attention the issue of the harp seal. The harp seal is being blamed

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for reducing cod stocks in the North Atlantic - when evidence points to over-fishing as the cause. Despite this, a mass slaughter could commence next March and up to 180,000 innocent seals could be brutally executed. Canada's reputation was severely damaged by the large scale seal slaughter of the 1970s which was only brought to an end after a massive international outcry and pressure from foreign governments.

Animal lovers must once again stand up and show their outrage at the idea of a large scale seal hunt - for the sake of both the seals and Canada's international reputation.

This is an injustice of the planned hunt and we need a Marine Mammal Protection Act. Please don't let Canada's good reputation

be stained with blood once again. Write to your MP, the Prime Minister on your support for the seals. Thank you for caring about animals.

Sincerely,
Monika Andrews,
Terra Cotta

Member of International Fund for Animal Welfare

A special kindness

Dear editor:

On Tuesday, December 29, my husband and I with three of our four sons went to the House of Buddha for dinner. Our boys were watching with wide-eyed interest the food that two other couples were enjoying while we waited for ours. To our amazement we were informed that these two couples had paid for our dinner when they paid for theirs. We do not know who they were and would like to take this opportunity to tell you that your kindness was greatly appreciated and thank you very much.

An appreciative mom

Tories announce spending cuts...



When did it happen? Just check the diary

Anyone know what happened two years ago on this date?

How about 10 years ago? Or maybe 15?

I know. Or can find out, at least.

You see, I've kept a diary of every day's activities, since January 1, 1976. And I've never missed a daily entry yet.

It seems diary writing runs in our family. I always knew my grandfather, Fred Brown, kept a diary in the early 1940's, but a few years back, I turned up a number of diaries written by my great grandfather, John Kerr Brown.

They date from the 1890's. Written in little date books presented, "With Compliments of the North American Life Assurance Company," stamped in gold lettering on the cover, these little notes are a wealth of information, with local events, the weather, and family outings documented in point form.

The recent mild wet weather has prompted many to say something like, "It sure isn't like when I

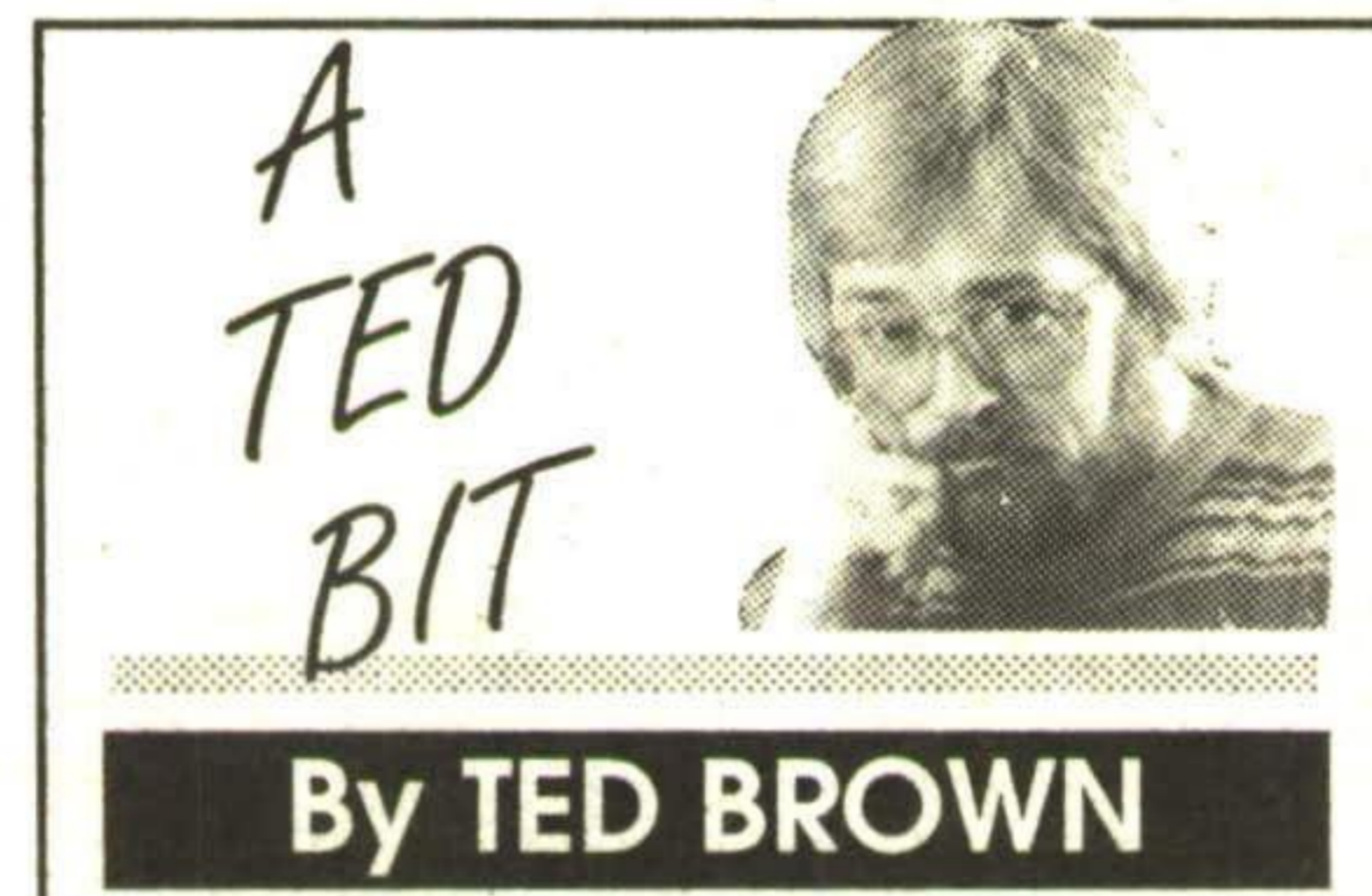
was a kid; there must have been three feet of snow back then."

Not so in 1891, when great grandpa John wrote his entry of Thursday, January 1, 1891. It read; "Rained all day, Bella went to Toronto today."

But his entry the next day said it had turned cold in the evening and the roads were very icy. The rest of the week saw clear weather, but no snow which made it easy for him and his brother Bob to haul wood on the clear sunny day of Tuesday, January 6.

With the first small snowstorm on January 11, great grandpa John tells us six inches of snow fell, and he was able to use the sleighs again. The temperature actually dropped to minus 2 degrees Fahrenheit.

Mind you, when he and other family members attended the funeral of Ephraim Moore, January 13, there was a "great crowd there" and he obviously met lots of family members, because I believe this Moore fellow lived in Uxbridge area. I guess they had



quite a trip.

On to the next generation.

In 1941, my grandfather also chronicled events, of January 1.

"Lovely, bright day," he wrote, "18 degrees above in the a.m."

He went on to describe how my father, and grandmother went to Standishes' (who lived down the Sixth Line, near Stewarttown) for New Year's dinner and supper. "McNallys there too," he concluded. (McNallys were the parents of the late Bill McNally of McNally Construction in Georgetown.)

On January 2, 1941, the weather became quite mild with rain, and the temperature hit 30 degrees above in the evening, melting

much of the snow. It continued warm for the next couple of days, and my dad and Art Knowles, (a hired hand) drew wood, while my grandfather repaired the universal joint on the drive shaft of the family car.

By the end of the first week of January, the thermometer had plummeted to minus 2, but it remained clear, except on January 5, when they were hit by the first bad storm of the year. And the next day, they all went to town to pick up 240 pounds of coal and 15 bags of chop (cattle feed.) And the temperature hit 14 below zero.

On January 13, 1941, a scant 50 years after his father, John Kerr Brown, had attended the Moore funeral, my grandfather wrote how a friend, Joe Mulholland, had died the night before, and then described how my father helped him cutting logs at Lane's farm.

Of course, my diaries are so recent, they lack impact compared to these older ones, but I decided to check out things in 1976, the first year I wrote.

January 1, 1976 was mild but became very cold by night, (what is this fixation with the Browns and weather?) and we spent New Year's Day at my sister's place.

On January 13, 1976, 85 years after the Moore funeral, we were hit with the heaviest snow storm of the year, and we had to go to the rescue of my sister and her young son, as we took a four wheel drive truck through two feet of snow, for baby supplies.

Of course, I had to check January 13, 1991, which was the 100th anniversary of Ephraim Moore's funeral. Ironically, my parents visited the funeral home that day, for a distant family relative.

I'm sure neither my grandfather or great grandfather ever had any inkling their daily writings would be published long after they had gone. Nor did I, for that matter, when I started some 16 years ago, writing every night in the same house as my forefathers.

But one thing is certain. I'm glad they did.