

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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The vital link

It's always admirable when someone strives to cut costs — especially in this day and age.

However, we don't believe that losing one councillor per ward is a direction that should be considered. It was then appropriate that council members voted against the downsizing Monday night.

Ward 3 councillor Pam Johnston who made the proposal, felt it would mean a savings of \$45,000 in salaries annually, and at the same time, not reduce the public's ability to communicate its needs to council.

But consider what a councillor does — attend weekly Monday night council meetings, often stretching to four hours in length, weekly committee meetings (a councillor averages seven committees), and representative on various agencies such as CVCA and HRCA. Councillor representation on these outside agencies are vital to maintaining the interests of Halton Hills. In addition, councillors must be available to talk with their constituents at all times, question staff for information and attend public functions.

Four less councillors would increase that workload, which we believe would undoubtedly lead to a call for full-time councillors. That would mean greater salaries and negate the effect of the Johnston proposal. But more fundamental would be the increased difficulty of the public to communicate their views to their councillor. A councillor now serves anywhere from 2,000 to 3,000 people. That would almost double under the Johnston proposal.

There are plenty of other areas at town hall which could be cut to save \$45,000 without the severing of a vital link of our democratic right of representation.

Thanks for the plug

Dear editor:

From: Halton Hills Library Staff

Thank you for the marvellous "unsolicited testimonial" in the August 8th Weekend edition. Your appreciation is much needed good news at a time when uncertainty demoralizes us all.

In fact, many of the services and innovations we provide have developed in response to ideas and questions proposed by our users. We have always been proud of the high level of interest in the library shown by Halton Hills residents. Their needs challenge us to provide the highest level of service we can devise.

Despite what promises to be even more difficult times ahead the library staff are determined to continue developing better and more cost effective ways to meet users needs. Thanks again for the pat on the back.

Yours truly,
(Mrs.) B. Cornwell
Chief Librarian

Letters

to the Editor

Take a bigger cut

Dear editor:

Monday I mailed a letter to Premier Bob Rae suggesting he and MPPs take a pay cut as they are telling the workers to take a day off. A day off means a hardship in many cases. It means food off the table because electricity, gas, phone, etc. has to be paid, therefore what is left is for food? Ontario workers in government really are Fat Cats. Provincial MPP's get at least \$60,000, Bob Rae \$113,330. Liberal Lyn McLeod \$97,982, Conservative Mike Harris \$85,749.

MPPs also get, if they are out of town, an extra \$14,654 for Toronto rent, reimbursed for their local apartment. We do have to cut down on this because we can't afford it.

May I suggest a 10.5 per cent cut for MPPs. This way no need for

workers to get a day's less pay.

You and me didn't get our province into the debt it is in. The politicians did. How sad.

Sincerely,
Kathleen (Molly) Cowhurst

Where are morals?

Dear editor:

An Ontario Human Rights Commission board of inquiry ruled recently that York County Hospital and the Ontario Blue Cross must give medical benefits to the female partner of a female nurse who is employed at the hospital.

The nurse even claimed the couple were planning to have a child. How?

God pity the adopted child brought up in that environment. Disgusting!

What kind of creatures do we pay huge salaries as members of a board that pass that type of decision. Where are their morals?

With Ontario Attorney General, Marion Boyd supporting such actions is there any wonder our province and country is in such a mess!

Rod Pinkney



Great-great-great grampa Zachariah rode with Butler's Rangers

I've always enjoyed history, particularly researching my own family history.

Over the years, I've collected reams of records about my Brown family, and have recorded hundreds of names, dates and bits of information on my computer. But there is another branch of my family to which I've not paid much attention.

My great-great grandmother, Mary Ann Hainer, married James Brown in 1830, and the two of them built the home in which I live today. As a tribute to Mary Ann, my wife and I named our second daughter after her.

My knowledge of my "Hainer" roots was limited. I knew Mary Ann's parents were Zachariah Hainer and Sophia Braun, and Mary Ann was the youngest of five children. Sophia and her family settled in Esquesing Township (today Halton Hills) in 1824, about 11 years after Zachariah's death in St. Catherines. Mary Ann was 13 at the time.

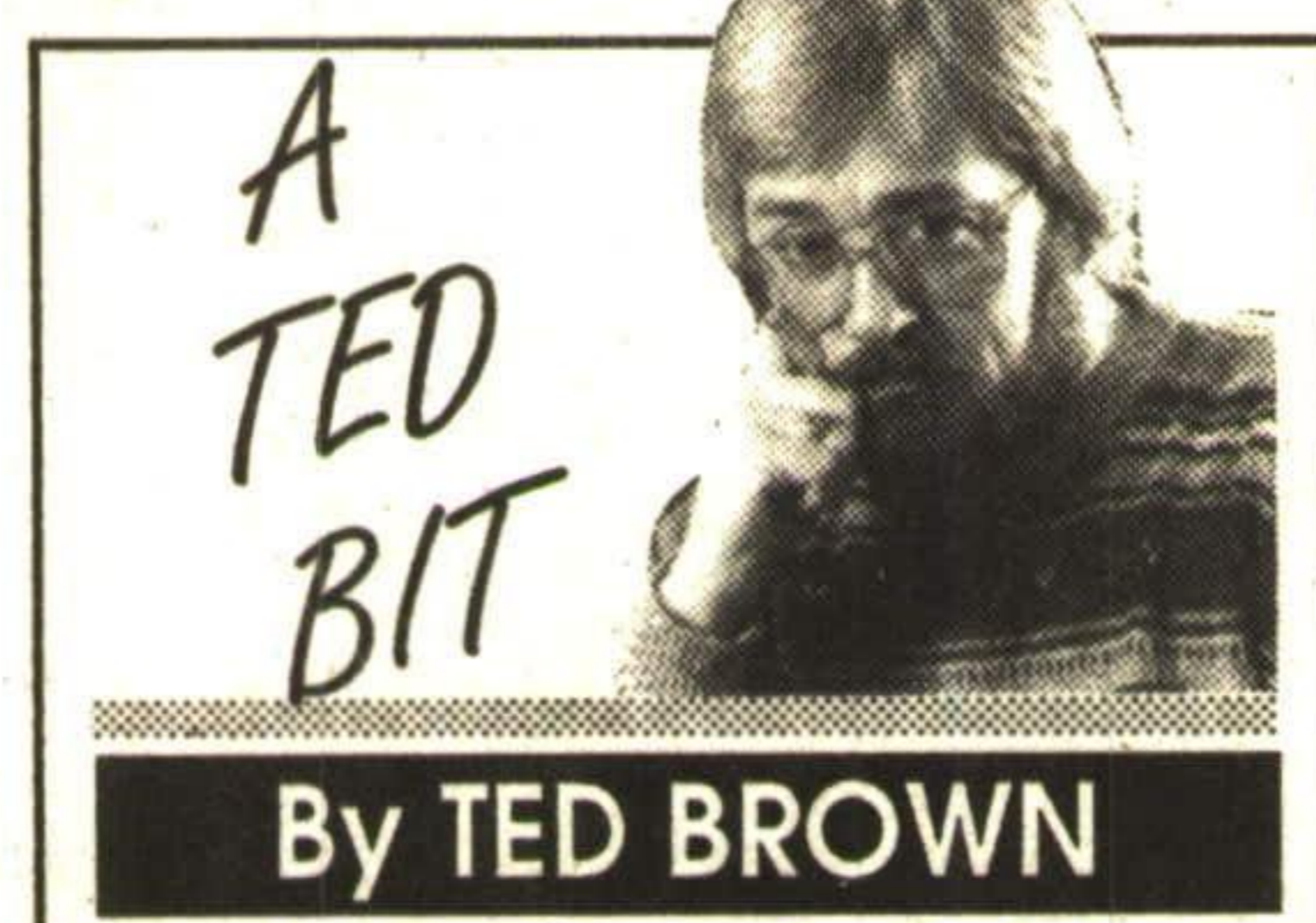
I knew Sophia was buried in Limehouse cemetery and had heard

tales of Zachariah being a member of the famed Butler's Rangers during the War of 1812, but never had the information confirmed.

Some time ago, I received a newsletter in the mail, from a group called the Hayner Family Association. The letter invited me to become a member, and listed more information about this family which had been prominent in the Niagara and upper New York State areas.

I was also invited to attend the Hayner family reunion to be held in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake, at St. Mark's Anglican Church — the same church parish in which Zachariah and Sophia were married, March 19, 1797.

The Hayner Family Association was founded in 1953, by mostly American members. The first president was Clifford Hayner, who held office until 1985, when his son, Cliff Hayner Jr., took over. Over the years, reunions have been held all over the U.S., but this year it was held outside the states, at Niagara-on-the-Lake.



A TED BIT

By TED BROWN

After reading this information, and with the reunion little more than an hour's drive from home, I couldn't resist.

At the reunion, I was bombarded with facts about the Hainers and acquired a copy of the family history, A Hayner/Haner Family in America.

The first known Haner to settle in North America was Johannes Haner, son of Curt and Anna Häner, a miller of Storndorf Hesse, Germany. Johannes was born in 1675, and was Zachariah's grandfather, which makes him my great-great-great-great grandfather. He settled in Germantown, N.Y.,

and with his wife Catharina, raised 12 children. I also learned Catharina lived to be 102 years of age.

Like countless others, the American revolution disrupted the Hainer family, and after family members took their political sides, there were numerous battles where Hayners fought their Hainer cousins.

I chatted with a few members who were also descendants of Zachariah, (in essence, my cousins) and learned Zachariah was a United Empire Loyalist, and did indeed fight with the famed crack military group, Butler's Rangers, under the command of Captain Hare.

He served faithfully with the Rangers until he was certified unfit for military duty in the fall of 1812, and he died Feb. 2, 1813 at the age of 52.

I also learned Hainers were among the founding members of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

To date, no one has found the final resting place of Zachariah, but

family historians are sure he is buried in St. Catherines, possibly in the Anglican church cemetery.

The reunion was a great day, as I soaked up information about my Hainer forefathers, but I questioned the difference in spelling between Hainer, Hayner and Haner.

Family genealogist Franklin Miller Jr. had the answer. The original name was Häner, but was anglicized as the family settled. For some unknown reason, the Canadian contingent tended to prefer the 'ai' spelling. Even in a church document, one baptismal certificate includes no less than three different spellings of the same name on the one piece of paper!

I must admit I gained a sense of pride learning about my Hainer roots, and the historic influence the family has had in the Niagara district.

The next Hayner reunion will be held in Washington D.C., in 1995. After my Saturday of basking in family history, I'm pretty sure of one thing.

I'll certainly be there.