

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
 Publisher

The Halton Hills Weekend, published every Wednesday, at 211 Armstrong Ave. Georgetown Ont., L7G 4X5 is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Georgetown Independent and The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, The Barrie Advance, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Collingwood Connection, The Etobicoke Guardian/Lakeshore Advertiser, Halton Hills Week End, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Oakville Beaver, Orlia Today, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, Today's Seniors, The Uxbridge/Stouffville Tribune.

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Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Georgetown Independent is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

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Library welcomes newcomers

Dear editor:

I sent the following letter to the head librarian at the Georgetown Library on Church Street. If it is possible, I would appreciate you publishing this letter so that my young son and I can publicly thank the library for giving us, and his one-year-old brother, such a warm welcome, and great service.

We are very impressed with the kindness of strangers here in Georgetown.

Dear Georgetown Library,
 Re: Great Services at Georgetown Library

My family just recently moved to Georgetown. My four year old, Kyle, and I would like to publicly thank the Georgetown Library for a wonderful welcome to Georgetown. Not only did the members of the Library provide great service, inviting my son to visit the library at least once a week with the promise of stickers, warm smiles, hamsters, hats, etc. but they also

Letters to the Editor

provided him with the best Friday mornings with great craft activities provided by Allison and Kirsten. Every Friday morning, we could be sure to be welcomed with their patience and smiles. During the week, with his small neighborhood friends, Kyle excitedly shared what Kirsten and Allison had taught him about the worry dolls and the Mexican customs, or the Indian purses and the Sioux Indians.

Having come from Brampton, and having taught in a school equipped with one of the best libraries in Dufferin Peel, I was pleasantly surprised to find such an excellent library in an old and small building.

Thanks for the wonderful welcome!

Sincerely
 Gina Tousignant,
 Kyle Tousignant (4 yrs old),
 Jake Tousignant (1 yr old)

Solution to goose s—

Dear editor:

The goose s—really hit the fan! While Ms. Whitehead-Perrott points out the social, economic and cleanliness problems which plague Acton, she does not offer any solutions. Although I strongly disagree with her views, perhaps my solution to Acton's very serious problems can be of some help.

Solution: Provide government funding to start a business which will employ Acton's "derelicts" to manufacture and sell goose s—pooper scoopers!

Lucy Pyke

Tender trials

Valid points have been made on both sides of the debate on whether the town should support local businesses by buying their services.

On one side, some councillors are concerned about the cost to taxpayers — can we afford to support local businesses who offer services priced \$8,000 more than their competitors?

On the other side, councillors ask can we afford not to, citing ramifications such as lay offs and fewer business tax revenues?

While we too would prefer council would "seek every avenue possible to see favoring local businesses under any criteria they can," as Chamber manager Terry Jackson urges, we would not want it done at the cost of creating havoc with a balanced civic budget.

That benefits no one.

We have no doubt that Halton Hills is home to many high quality businesses including the one currently in dispute. However, it is our local businesses' responsibility too, to ensure that they are financially competitive with all the other tender bids.

Perhaps it would be a worthwhile exercise on the part of councillors, town staff, chamber of commerce and local businesses to review the town's tendering process — something that seems to have suffered from council fickleness lately. All sides — councillors, town staff, local and out-of-town businesses should know what to expect when a tender is submitted to the Town of Halton Hills.

The end result hopefully will benefit the people who matter most — the local taxpayers.



Looking at old negative files is like prying open the 'Lost Ark'

From time to time, I must delve into the depths of our dusty old Acton Free Press negative files from years gone by to retrieve a picture of the past.

Such was the case earlier this week as I dug into the files from the mid and late 1960's, to find a photo of 1967 Acton Fair Queen, Brenda (Spear) Hillier, to run on Wednesday's community page feature on former Miss Acton Fair queens.

For me, there's always a problem opening up those sacred files, sort of like prying open the "Lost Ark" of Indiana Jones fame.

One never knows what can be hiding in there from so many years ago.

After all, like today, not every picture that was shot appeared in the newspaper, so whenever I open the files, I find so many distractions of news events of long ago, it becomes a trip down memory lane.

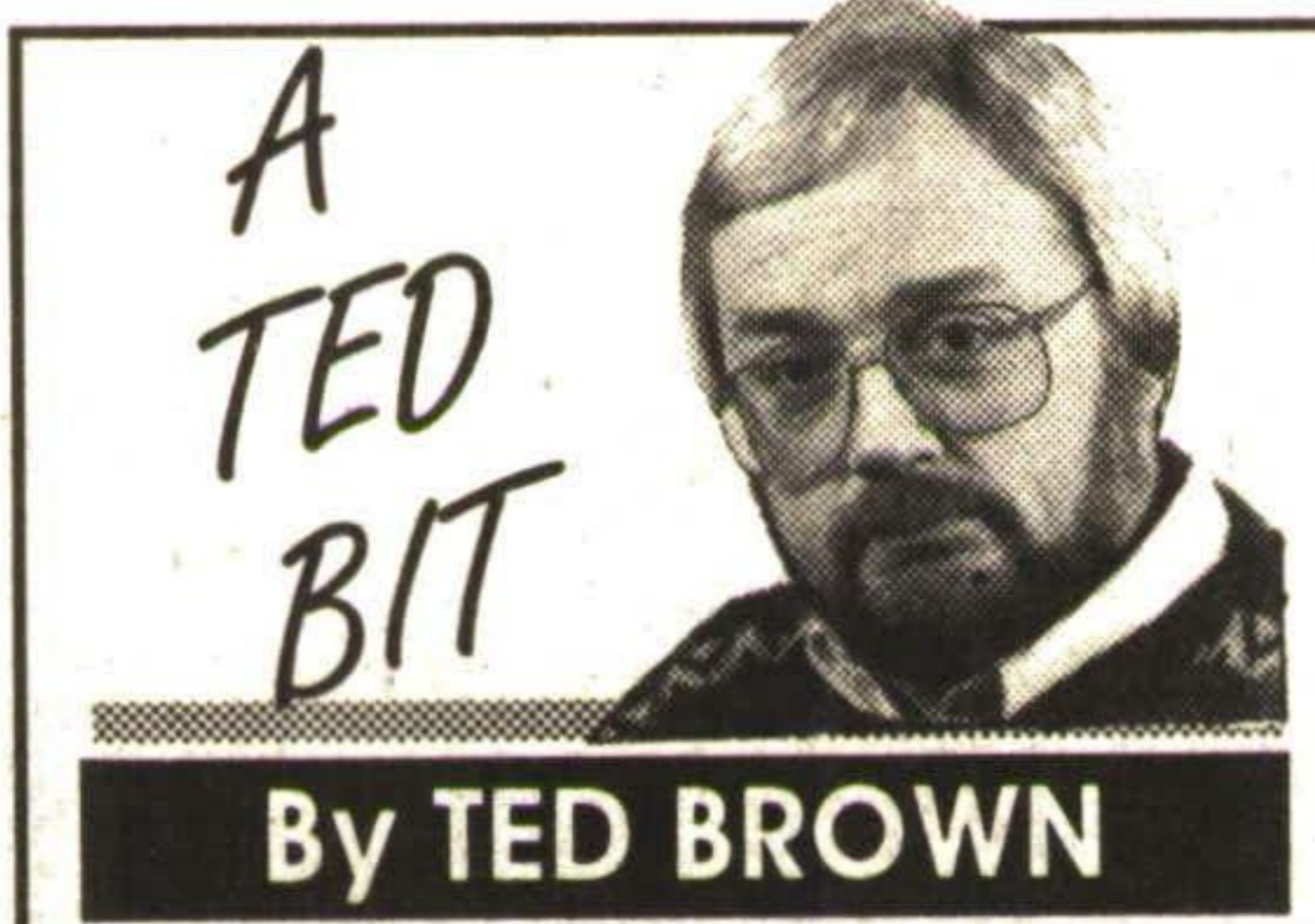
Locating the photo of Brenda Hillier, surrounded by a bevy of beauties as she accepted the

crown, was not a problem. It was filed in the 1967 Acton fair files, and duly recorded by Hartley Coles, (the photographer of the day) as being shot September 21, 1967.

But on my way to finding those negatives, I stumbled across a number of interesting little gems, from the same time period in the "High School" file.

One envelop was recorded as "high school folk singing group," shot by photographer Barb McIntosh (whom I never knew).

Being involved in a folk group at that same time I had to check it out. Even though I didn't attend AHS, I certainly knew many people who did. Further investigation revealed a photo of three young people on the stage of then Acton High School (now McKenzie-Smith Middle School). The group featured two guys and a girl, one guy playing a guitar (looks like a Gibson I believe) and the other a mandolin. The girl was playing an electric bass.



Their names were recorded on the outside of the envelop; George Beshiri, Victor Funk and Lynda Gage.

I have no idea where Lynda Gage and Victor Funk have gotten to, but George Beshiri has been Chief Photographer at the Brampton Guardian (our sister newspaper) during the past 20 odd years.

Other files cropped up and I found myself looking at a December 4, 1968 file for the Roaring 20's dance at AHS. Some of those pictured included Rob Roughly (a childhood friend of mine from Limehouse who moved

out west many years ago), Terry Dowding, Barb Browne, Marie Holmes, Judy Connell and Bev Brunelle.

Other assignments surfaced like the October 23, 1968 cross country track meet at the University of Guelph where the AHS team had made a good showing.

Athletes like Jim Slaven, Bob Andrews, Brent Marshall and Rae Swackhamer were featured; all of whom I knew.

And Bruce Andrews was coaching the AHS track team even back then.

Numerous files of AHS happenings like winter carnivals and sporting events were buried in the cabinets. One event caught my eye; the April 13, 1969 coverage of an AHS Walk-a-thon for cancer, in which sponsored students walked many miles; sort of a forerunner of today's Terry Fox Run.

Negatives of Colleen DeForest, Wanda Culp, and Donna Moore were filed, along with others of Nigel Scott, Barb Browne and Seth

Armstrong trudging along the road.

That day stuck in my mind, as I recall riding with a friend as we drove along the route that sunny April 13 of 1969, waving to the participants and blowing the horn.

The annual commencement exercises at AHS were interspersed in the pile and valedictorians of years gone by were listed on the envelopes; many with familiar names.

I should dig into those files more often; they tend to make me appreciate the importance of preserving the events of the past, no matter how unimportant they may seem today.

I have since restored the 1967 Acton Fair negs to their original resting place in the files and once again closed the drawer that holds so many snippets of local history.

And as I do, I'm reminded of how much went on and was so well recorded.

It was so important then. And so quickly forgotten.