

EDITORIAL

Residents need to put aside differences

Something has to be done about a walkway on Mountainview Road.

For years this extremely dangerous strip of roadway has seen pedestrians and vehicles sharing its width — and therein lies the danger.

Anyone who has driven through the ravine between Georgetown South and the more built-up section of town knows that it is only a matter of time until someone — likely a pedestrian — is hurt or killed.

And when the town finally gets its act together and makes a pair of proposals that will take the pedestrians away from the cars, area residents can not reach an agreement on what they want.

The residents of Georgetown's southern development had an opportunity last week to let our public officials know what they wanted — what they thought would make the Silver Creek valley safer.

But the 30 or so residents who attended the meeting may have left Halton Hills Council wondering what it will take — read dollars — to satisfy their needs.

The last thing the councillors needed to hear was that they are "proposing to build...a skateboard ramp, a snowmobile run" as one resident put it.

While we agree that there may be some danger in walking the proposed path alone at night — especially for females — surely those risks can be reduced.

The pathway will be lighted at night and — unfortunately — it has become almost return for people to travel in a group when moving around at night.

Furthermore, walking a lighted pathway is going to be safer than walking against several one-ton cars moving at high rates of speed — nobody drives the post 50 kmh speed limit in the Silver Creek valley.

With the Halton Region Public Works Department and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority waiting for public input on the project before it goes ahead, the people that live around Hungry Hollow have a golden opportunity.

They can have a walkway that is satisfactory to them, increases safety and has a relatively low price tag — \$300,000 to build (most of it at the developers expense, and about \$2,500 yearly for maintenance).

But unless they get together on what they want, the walkway will never be built.

Councillor Ron Chatten — although inadvertently — may warned residents of the consequences of not putting their differences aside.

"If people don't want the walkway, we need to know that," Chatten said.

We hope that for the sake of all the residents of Georgetown South — present and in the future — some common ground can be found.

Letters Welcomed

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

Halton Hills This Week reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual errors, punctuation, spelling errors

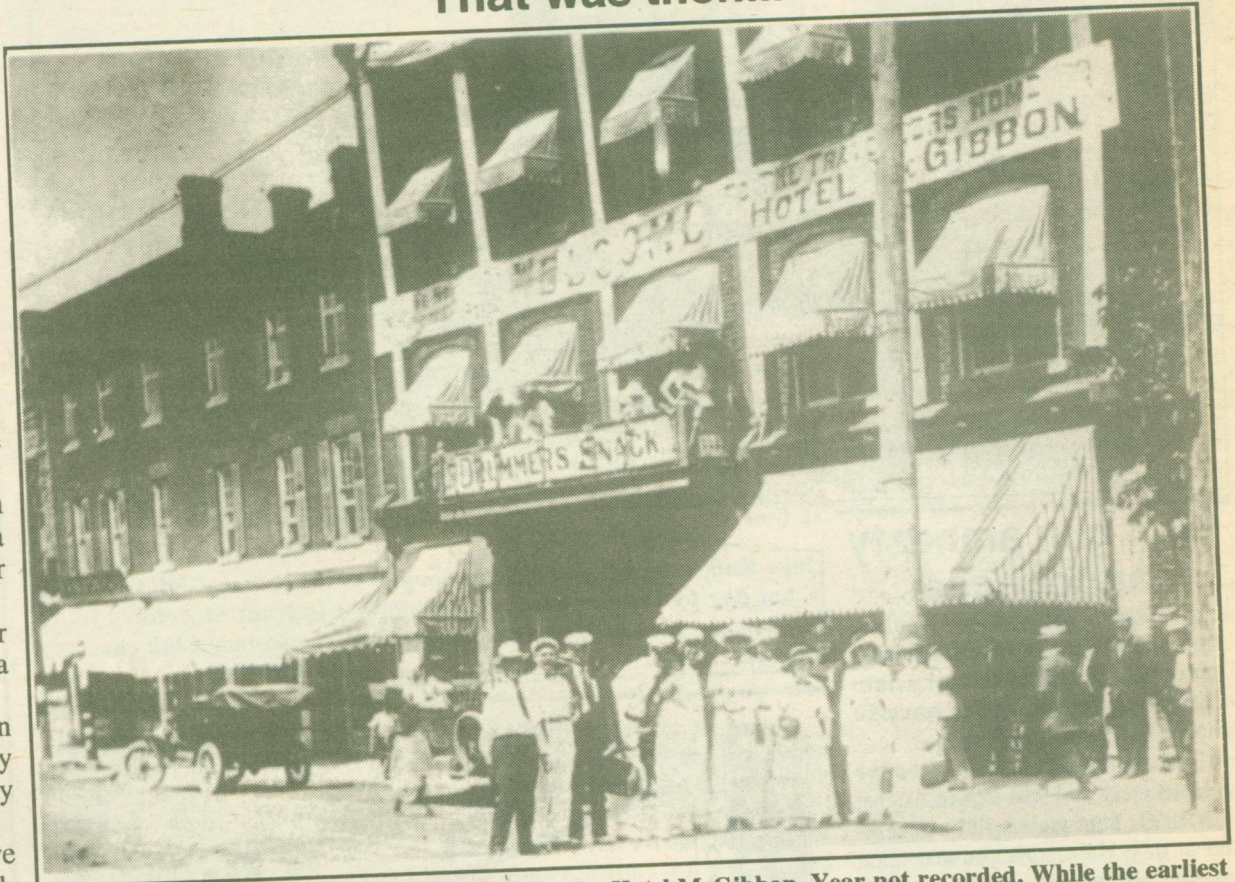
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Send your letter to:
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That was then...



The Drummer's Snack is welcomed in style by the Hotel McGibbon. Year not recorded. While the earliest proprietors of the McGibbon are unknown, Randal Campbell owned the east corner of Mill and Main Streets around 1850. The Campbell House became the Clark House and is now the site of the McGibbon. Photo courtesy of Esqueusing Historical Society

Have you got a minute?



Wheldon "Steamer" Emmerson

Halton Hills This Week is thrilled to have Wheldon "Steamer" Emmerson writing a weekly column. Steamer's anecdotes are always entertaining and usually full of insight into life's lighter moments. Look for Steamer's "Have You Got A Minute?" every week in this space.

I'm out of the Dial-a-Joke business, and I'm glad. I never made a cent, and my stuff didn't sell.

Friends would phone up to tell me they had been asked to say a few words at someone's wedding, retirement party, etc., and could I give them a few lines of what to say.

Naturally they wanted a suitable joke thrown in. Immediately I would tell them:

"A young lady approached me downtown one day and asked me - 'Do you want some fun?' I said 'Certainly, I'm a fun-loving guy.' She sold me a joke book. I already had twenty-seven. Dead silence at the other end.

An honest slip of the tongue in front of an audience raps roars of laughter, and surpasses old jokes.

One night I emceed a large retirement party dinner in Milton. During the dinner I read letters, telegrams,

and scribbled notes from those unable to attend.

One dear soul, in her letter, said her father, a minister, had performed the wedding ceremony for the couple being honored, but he was unable to attend, because he had died.

Naturally I added a few soft words of comfort, solace, and compassion. The crowd was nodding their heads in solemn, silent approval, until I blurted out, "I can understand her father not being able to attend, frankly I darn near died myself, when I saw the price of the tickets."

The audience knew immediately that it just didn't come out right, but it was funny.

The same thing happened to a friend of mine, in an old tyme minstrel show. He was to come on stage, then recite this little poem:

"Women's faults are many

Men have only two

Everything they say

And everything they do."

My friend was very nervous and in the excitement of opening night, ran to centre stage and said:

"Women's faults are many

Men have only two

Everything they do

And everything they say."

Howls of laughter from the audience. Both audiences knew we had put our tongues in gear before our brains.

Spontaneous humour is the funniest. I could read a million jokes over the phone to someone who was about to face a firing squad but usually the best and funniest were ordinary human beings in front of a crowd and saying something they didn't intend to say, in a way that that brought hoots of laughter.

It's happened to all of us.

Dial-a-Joke calls asked for: wedding jokes, anniversary jokes,

retirement jokes, but I never got a call for eulogy jokes. You've got to be good to get a laugh at a funeral.

I have found in my experience of public speaking there is nothing like a laugh to put people at ease. They will pay more attention to a serious message if you lead them into it in a light-hearted vein.

Some of my Dial-a-Joke friends wanted a block-buster right off the bat to start their speech. In other words, they were hanging their hat on one joke. Not me, I would go for smiles with one or two cuties then I would wait for the right time, the right person then unload what I considered a good customized joke.

Our late mayor Joe Gibbons always used a line I loved that I still think is a very funny line. He delivered it well.

At the opening of a council meeting, after the Lord's Prayer, Joe would arise and explain the Rules of Procedure to angry delegations. He would point out "If nothing is accomplished here this evening at least we will have entertained you."

There were many nights I was part of the entertainment. I still laugh at that line but Dial-a-Joke callers never shared my enthusiasm, but to me it was and still is one of my favorites. Joe had a feel for show-biz. He had timing.

I'll leave you with a favorite of mine:

Often when I was getting ready to go someplace to speak, or emcee, my family would casually ask, "What are you going to speak about tonight?"

"Oh, I think I'll tell them about my trip up the Amazon."

"But you have never been up the Amazon," my wife would say.

"I know, but neither has my audience."