

Editorial

Which way we goin' Bobby?

It certainly is a relief to know that all is well in this land of Oz we call Ontario, and that the NDP government under Premier Bob Rae has things well in hand.

This, of course, is offered tongue-in-cheek because increasingly conflicting smoke signals continue to billow out of Queen's Park, obviously smothering the thought processes of members of the party in power when clear-headedness in not only needed, but demanded.

We are all well aware of the deficit situation plaguing Ontario. In fact, the constant woe and betiding of the deficit by the NDP has taken on crutch-like connotations used to defend unpopular government decisions and positions.

Then, jubilation in the ranks with the recent announcement of the new jobsOntario program.

"We'll invest more than \$460 million during the next fiscal year..." crowed Halton North MPP Noel Duignan, in his Queen's Park Report of Feb. 20.

Let the bells ring out and the banners fly.

Maybe someone should have invited Finance Minister Floyd Laughtren to the festivities.

In a presentation to a legislative committee this past week, Laughtren revealed this year's deficit will be higher than expected, topping \$12.1 billion. He also announced that next year's deficit is expected to soar to \$13.9 billion, \$5.8 billion more than had been forecast.

Laughtren suggested possible tax increases for next year, along with tight spending controls to control the burgeoning bucks blight.

Don't these guys talk to each other?

Ontarians can't afford another tax increase - that's a given.

But more to the point, how can the provincial finance minister call for tighter spending controls when his buddies across the hall are trumpeting the news of a \$460 million spending spree?

Which way we goin' Bobby? Or do you know?

Vote change queried

To the editor:

On Wednesday, February 24, The Halton Regional Planning & Public Works Committee had another discussion on the taking over from the NEC the costs associated with development planning on the

Niagara Escarpment. Currently these costs are paid for by the provincial taxpayer. By Halton taking over the planning responsibilities from the NEC, the Regional and Municipal taxpayer will pick up the total bill, which has been estimated by regional staff to be up to \$600,000 annually.

New feature

In an attempt to become even more attuned to the wants and needs of Halton Hills, Halton Hills This Week is offering a new editorial page feature - the Guest Column.

Readers will be offered a forum to express their views and concerns on any number of varied topics, subject to editorial approval. Special interest groups need not apply as their concerns can be dealt with in other areas of the newspaper.

Those wishing to be considered for the guest column should drop off their article, along with a photograph, to the Halton Hills This Week office, 232 Guelph St., Unit 9, Georgetown, c/o the editor.

The Guest Column will appear in our Saturday edition.

At our Halton Hills council chambers on February 15, the only local or regional councillors present admitting to voting for the takeover of the NEC planning function, was Norm Elliott. Both Rick Bonnette and Marilyn Serjeantson represent Halton Hills on the Regional Committee. At the Region, on February 24, Marilyn stayed with her local vote and the wishes of the council, which will help to keep tax increases to the minimum. It came as a surprise that Rick Bonnette, who represented us so well on the issue of Market Value Assessment, would vote one way locally and change his vote at the Region.

Fraser Robin
Georgetown

The People's Corner

Seniors deserve centre

To the editor:

What do seniors need a centre for when, according to an article in the Georgetown Independent dated 24 Feb., they already have one, namely "THE NEW MALL".

It's a shame that seniors have to rely on such a place in order to meet and socialize when the younger generation have so many things going for them. Look at all the sports and recreational activities available and the drop-in centre at St. George's.

When we seniors were the younger generation, we had to do without television, video, frozen foods, credit cards, ballpoint pens, plastics, polio shots, contact lenses and the pill.

We would our watches daily. We had no calculators other than the brain God gave us. A chip was either a piece of wood for lighting the fire or a piece of fried potato. Hardware meant something from the chandeliers that was durable and software wasn't even in the dictionary.

Pawn was what we did with our assets (until the next pay-day) under the sign of the three brass balls. Jeans were any property belonging to a girl of that name. We had no dish washers, tumble driers, drip-driers, pantyhose or electric blankets. Fast food was what we ate during Lent.

We married first and then lived together (how quaint-but how nice!). Divorce was a pastime exclusive to film stars and we thought cleavage was what the butcher did. Bunnies were little rabbits and dishes were for eating off, not for receiving signals from outer space.

We smoked cigarettes, pot was for cooking in and grass was for mowing. Rock music was a lullaby and AIDS were for people hard of hearing. A gay person was the life of the party.

We used manual typewriters and carbons for copying. Fax were looked up in a dictionary or encyclopedia. We were before vitamin pills, disposable nappies (sorry - diapers), McDonalds and pizzas. "Made in Japan" meant poor quality.

How on earth did we exist? We must have been a tough bunch! Don't you think we need a little help getting our very own senior's centre? I do!

Mrs. Evelyn Window
Georgetown

Appreciation expressed

To the editor:

On behalf of the Board members, staff and students of the North Halton Literacy Guild, I would like to express our thanks to the Georgetown Little Theatre for their gripping performance of the thriller, Dr. Cook's Garden, on February 18, 1993.

We also acknowledge the support of over two hundred patrons who

attended the benefit performance and the many local businesses who donated door prizes.

The proceeds of this evening of theatre will enable the Guild to continue to provide quality service and a variety of resources to clients in North Halton.

Geraldine Barnes,
Public Relations Chairman,
North Halton Literacy Guild

February is
Heart and Stroke
Month



Please give.

Baseball is addictive

Guest column

The day registration began for the Georgetown Baseball Association was the one in February where we received as much snow in one day as we did for the whole month of February last year. Nevertheless, those suffering from the blues usually associated with this month should be encouraged by one of the first signs that spring will soon be upon us.

Visions of evenings in the ballpark should lift us out of the doldrums. Although it is tempting to give in to these apparitions, I am approaching the season with some caution. Baseball took over my life in 1992.

Being proud parents of three ballplayers, my husband and I spent at least four evenings a week in the local ball parks. My visions include: hurried suppers, frantic searches for various baseball paraphernalia, the development of anti-mosquitoes tactics and adeptness at avoiding drops of rain.

My vision also includes evenings spent in comfortable companionship with other parents as we shared



By Rosaleen Garneau
Special

sunflower seeds and enthusiasm for the talents and enjoyment of our children.

Not so many years ago, I would have scoffed at the very notion of ever becoming so involved in baseball, but there is something addictive about the game. I became somewhat lost in the evenings once

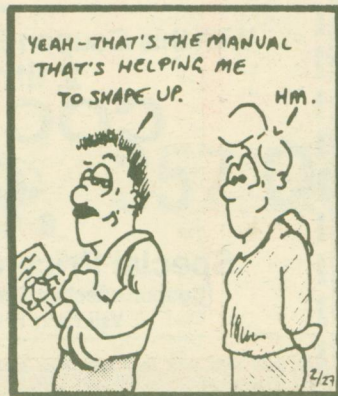
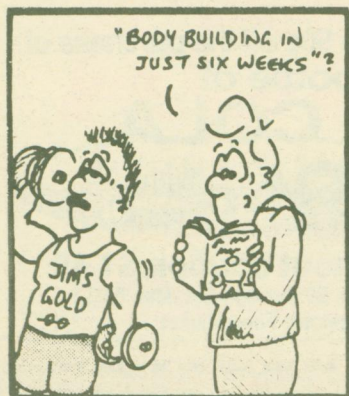
the outdoor season ended. I missed the beat of the ball on the outside wall when someone couldn't find a partner to play catch with. I had even adjusted to the sudden crashes in the kitchen as my youngest would fly across the kitchen, land with a thud on the floor and triumphantly announce that he had caught the ball while diving in true Alomar style.

As the summer progressed and the Blue Jays continued to do so well, I even became a fan of televised baseball, which is simply unbelievable. Since I was going through withdrawals after the kids' baseball ended, it was fortunate that there was an alternative of sorts. The move indoors was not without its adjustments however, and I still occasionally find sunflower seeds in the carpet.

Although I have not yet tired of cosy winter evenings, I am beginning to look forward to the end of hibernation and to the feeling of family and community that comes with the baseball season.

For Pete's Sake

by Roe



THIS WEEK

Halton Hills This Week, Weekend Edition, is published every Saturday at 232 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1, and is printed in Oakville by Q.E. Web Printing. In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time. PUBLISHER: Ken Bellamy OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Shewell CIRCULATION MANAGER: Marie Shadbolt PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kathleen Topolsek HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED. PHONE: 873-2254 FAX: 873-3918