

EDITORIAL

The Olympics a chance for gold

While most sports have their world championships or World Cup, the true measure of sporting excellence remains the Olympic games.

For Canada's athletes XXV Summer Games — which open today — the Barcelona Olympics are a chance to get out from under the cloud cast by the "Ben Johnson Scandal" of 1988.

We have a hard time believing anything concrete has been done about drug testing since the 1988 Games.

Anytime an athlete from any country wins anything you have to seriously wonder if they are "doped up."

And we are starting to see fewer truly amateur athletes at the games — look at the U.S. men's basketball "Dream Team" as an example of the erosion.

Of course the Olympics are — and have increasingly been — more than the sporting event they started out being. The ultimate sporting event has become the ultimate way to make a political statement.

We need only look at the Olympic boycotts of the 1980s to realize the true extend of how politicized the Games have become.

Despite all its shortcomings and past controversy — or perhaps because of those things — it is still excellence in athletics that will have us glued to the television over the next 14 days keeping track of our athletes — and cursing U.S. television coverage.

For many Canadians, this is a chance to be entertained by and learn about many sports we do not normally have a chance to watch — when was the last time you a water polo match or shooting competition.

Canadian athletes have some good medal chances — among them Mike Smith in decathlon, Ian Millar and Big Ben in equestrian show jumping, and the men's and women's eights rowing teams.

But we tip our hats to the lesser known, more obscure athletes — the true amateurs — who attend the Games and set personal bests or improve on past performance.

They are the true reason that the Olympic Games were founded and the real reason we tune in and keep track.

To all the athletes — especially the underdogs — we send our best wishes.

Dear Editor

Yesterday, while walking by the side of Fairy Lake in Acton, I saw a monarch butterfly. Just think, I saw a monarch butterfly. Perhaps this may be the last, or one of the last I, or my children and grand-children, may have the opportunity to see.

Just last year there were hundreds to be seen. This year, hardly any. I cry for generations to come, that will not have the same chance as I have had, to rejoice in such a small

yet tough and magnificent creature.

As I understand it, millions of these butterflies were killed by logging in South America, habitat destruction.

Surely the human race can do better than this. Do we have to destroy our planet for the sake of progress? If that is the case, I want to get off.

John Shadbolt
Deputy Leader
Ontario Libertarian Party

Letters Welcomed

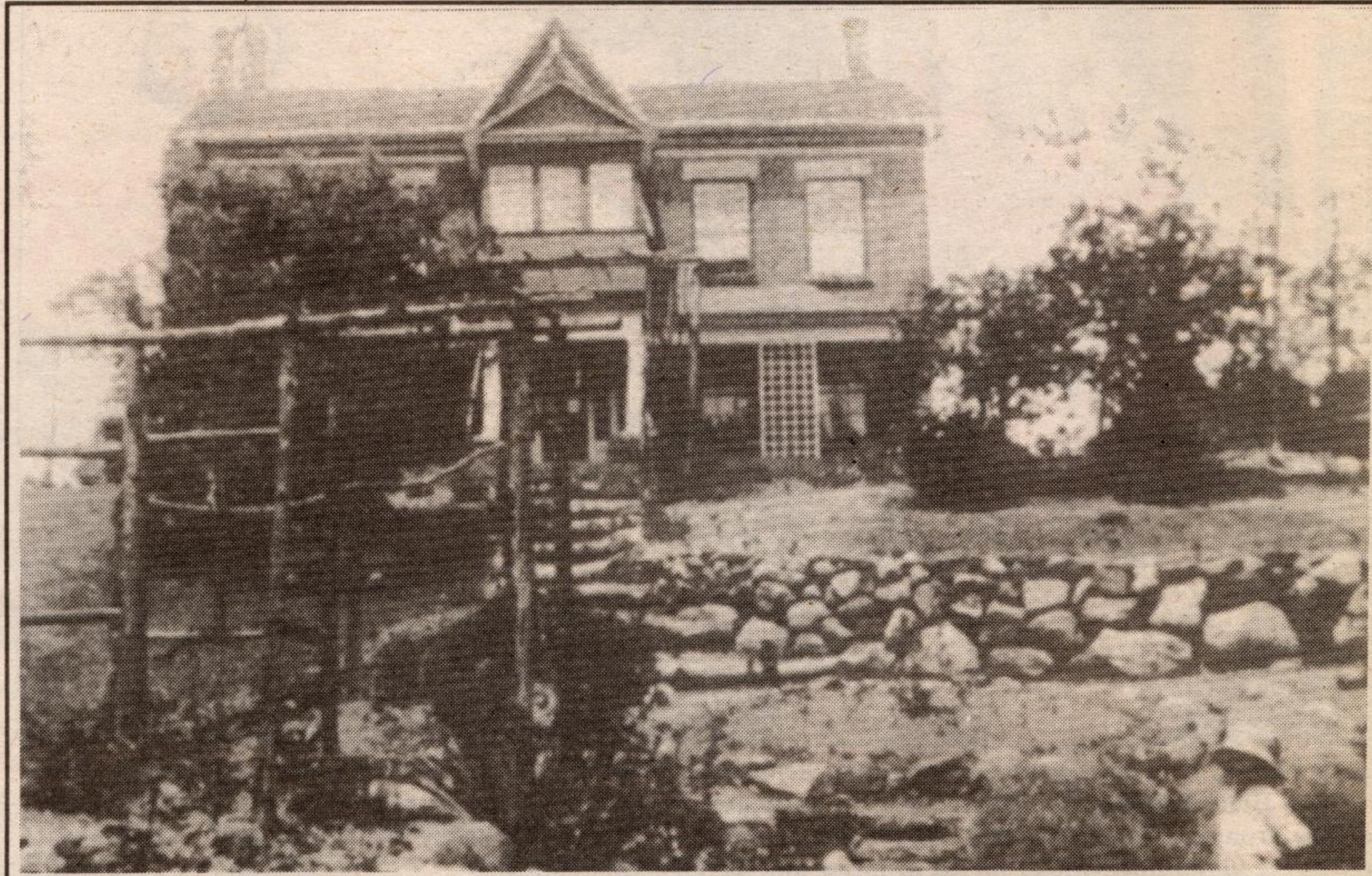
Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

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

or as a result of space limitations.

Send your letter to:
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Georgetown, ON
L7G 4B1

That was then...



McLaren House was built in 1858 by James Barber overlooking the Paper Mill on Maple Avenue north of River Drive in Georgetown. The house was torn down in 1990 to make way for a large residential development. Photo courtesy of the Esqueing Historical Society.

Ed. Notes

By Scott Kline



Just a few thoughts about some of the things that have crossed my desk — or mind in the last while.

Color

I think I have discovered the main cause of problems between men and women.

Color. Men and women see different colors.

Recently, a female friend and I had a discussion about the color red.

"I like that dress. The red looks very good on you," I said.

"What red dress?" she replied.

"The one you're wearing."

"What color is this dress?" she

asked with her eyebrows lifting ever so slightly.

"Red," I replied innocently.

Turns out the dress was in fact "fuschia."

What the heck is fuschia?

It sounds like an entree at a Chinese food restaurant, but apparently it is indeed a color — as are the fruits lime, banana and lemon.

Now, I have heard of the color candy apple red but watermelon — another color that came up in a recent discussion.

What part of the watermelon are they basing the color — the red inside or the green outside?

The basic problem between men and women is that men see primary colors, red, green, blue, orange — women see magenta, cyan, navy and tangerine.

Until we can standardise color, the battle of the sexes will continue.

Pigeon holed

A police detective that I deal with on a regular basis took me to task over a recent editorial I wrote.

The officer called me to the carpet on the July 8 editorial I wrote about the police response to the rooftop pigeon hunter on Mill Street.

Detective Keith Woudstra was annoyed — that's putting it mildly — that I questioned the need for the level of the police response.

Just to paraphrase the editorial: police response was based on the possibility that a person with a gun "may" have been on the roof of the

old post office and that did not warrant the amount of man power called in.

With little information and the possibility that the gunman was around police called in the heavy artillery — the Tactical Rescue Unit (TRU) — cleared the streets and went to work.

In hindsight — the angle from which most stories and editorials are produced — a guy with a pellet gun shooting pigeons does not warrant the kind of attention the situation was given.

But as Keith so eloquently put it "there was a real potential for harm to the public".

Hence the response.

I agreed with him that the "potential" for harm to the public did exist, and I don't claim to know police work, so I guess the response was warranted.

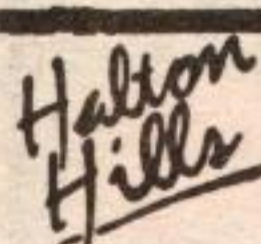
And I think the editorial said that when it posed the question "What if the gun had been real?"

This could be one of those situations that my police contact and I will argue about for a long time.

There's somebody out there

Judging by the letters and calls we have received, people are reading — or at least looking at — Halton Hills This Week.

That's kind of exciting and we hope it continues after the novelty of having a new newspaper in Halton Hills wears thin.



THIS WEEK

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For Pete's Sake



by Roe