

# EDITORIAL

## The summer that wasn't

We have been trying to avoid it but it has become inevitable.

An editorial about the weather.

This past weekend was the first dry weekend since April.

Everyone has complained about the weather this summer and why not.

Hands up those of you who have actually been able to go to the cottage, boat, beach as much as you normally would.

People staying away from usual summer resorts has caused a slump in an already depressed tourism industry.

And according to a report in Monday's Toronto Star beer sales are down almost 14 per cent from last summer. The article uses data from this June — the latest accurate data available.

The article goes on to say that, if stacked, the equivalent number of cases of 24 would reach a towering 282 kilometres — more than 500 times the height of the CN Tower or 30 times higher than Mount Everest.

With 16 of the summer's 18 weekend's being miserable people have simply not had the urge to sip a frosty one.

One brewery's spokesman called this summer "a beer salesman's nightmare."

We are not trying to promote drinking but the Canadian beer industry — like tourism — has been experiencing a slump over the past few years.

When industries slump, it ultimately means jobs are lost.

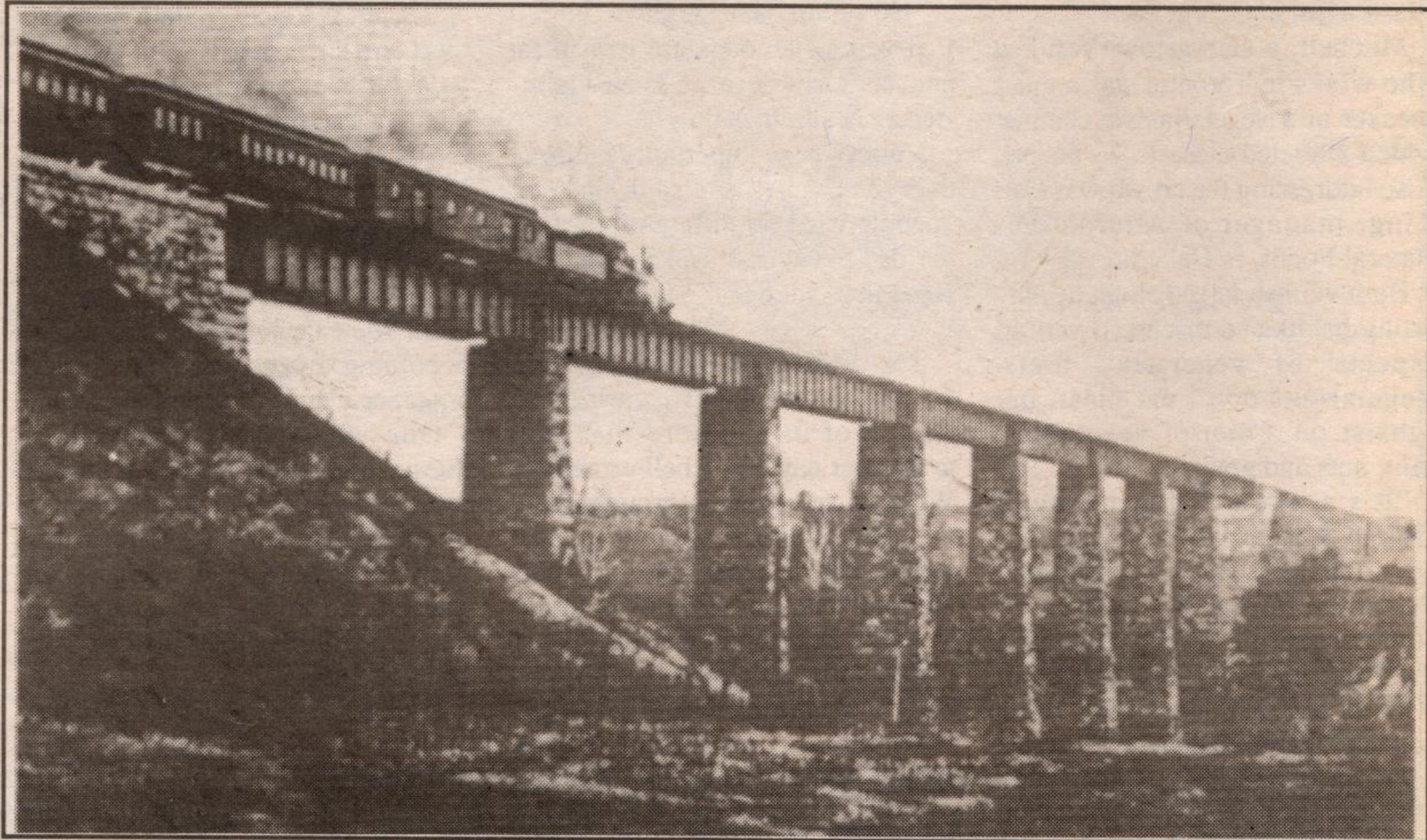
Communities that rely on a strong summer tourism season are — for the most part — facing long hard winters.

It would be interesting to have statistics on the number of tourism-area businesses that close shop after the summer.

While the beer industry has the up coming Christmas season to help it bounce back tourism towns face empty streets and closing shops.

Our sympathies go out to everyone from a tourism town faced with a job loss because of the summer that wasn't.

## That was then...



Built around 1952, the railway through Georgetown had a great effect on the area. Not only did land prices increase but so did prices on butter, cheese, potatoes and grain. The bridge over the Credit River is still used today. Photo courtesy of The Esquesing Historical Society.

## Article misleading

Dear Editor,

In the August 19 edition of Halton Hills This Week there was a article about auctioning houses and how this may be a developing trend. Mr. Val Serrie of Auctions and Alternative Methods Inc. was quoted in the paper as saying that only 20% of real estate sales are now done through the MLS (Multiple Listing Service). He further went on the estimate that 80% of houses listed are sold through this method. The facts do not bear this out.

The vast majority of homes sold in the Georgetown area are still sold with the use of a Realtor working on the MLS system. The Brampton Real Estate Board which operates their system in this area has over 1,000 members about 10% of whom work the Georgetown area. This system is computerized and all listings are exposed to all the agents in the Board, in addition the Board publishes a bi-monthly catalogue of homes which includes a picture and a description.

So far this year there have been 249 properties sold in the Georgetown urban area through the

MLS system, and as far as I know there has not been ONE successful house auction. The facts show that the traditional way of selling is the choice of most vendors.

Local Real Estate offices promote their properties extensively in the local media all of which is paid by the Real Estate Broker very seldom is the vendor asked to contribute to the cost of marketing the home. In the case of the auction the cost of newspaper advertising is borne by the Vendor regardless if the sale occurs.

I attended both nights that the auction was scheduled the first night the auction was canceled due to a severe thunder storm, the next week it was held. The house did not sell as the bids submitted were not acceptable to the owners of the house. There may indeed be a place for house auctions in the real estate market, but all the facts in the recent article were somewhat misleading as to the success of house auctions.

Doug Penrice

Doug Penrice is a real estate sales representative with NRS Brand Realty Inc., in Georgetown.

## Chamber lobbies against legislation

The following letter was sent to the Honorable Bob Mackenzie, Minister of Labor for the Government of Ontario. A copy was filed with Halton Hills This Week for publication.

Dear Minister,

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce represents over 350 businesses in Halton Hills most would be classed as small to medium sized business and the majority are not unionized.

The Board of Directors have in the past sent letters of concern to you, the Premier and Noel Duignan M.P.P. (Halton North). We also encouraged our members to contact you and Mr. Duignan and provided to them a form letter for that purpose.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce has been active in this campaign to let the public know of

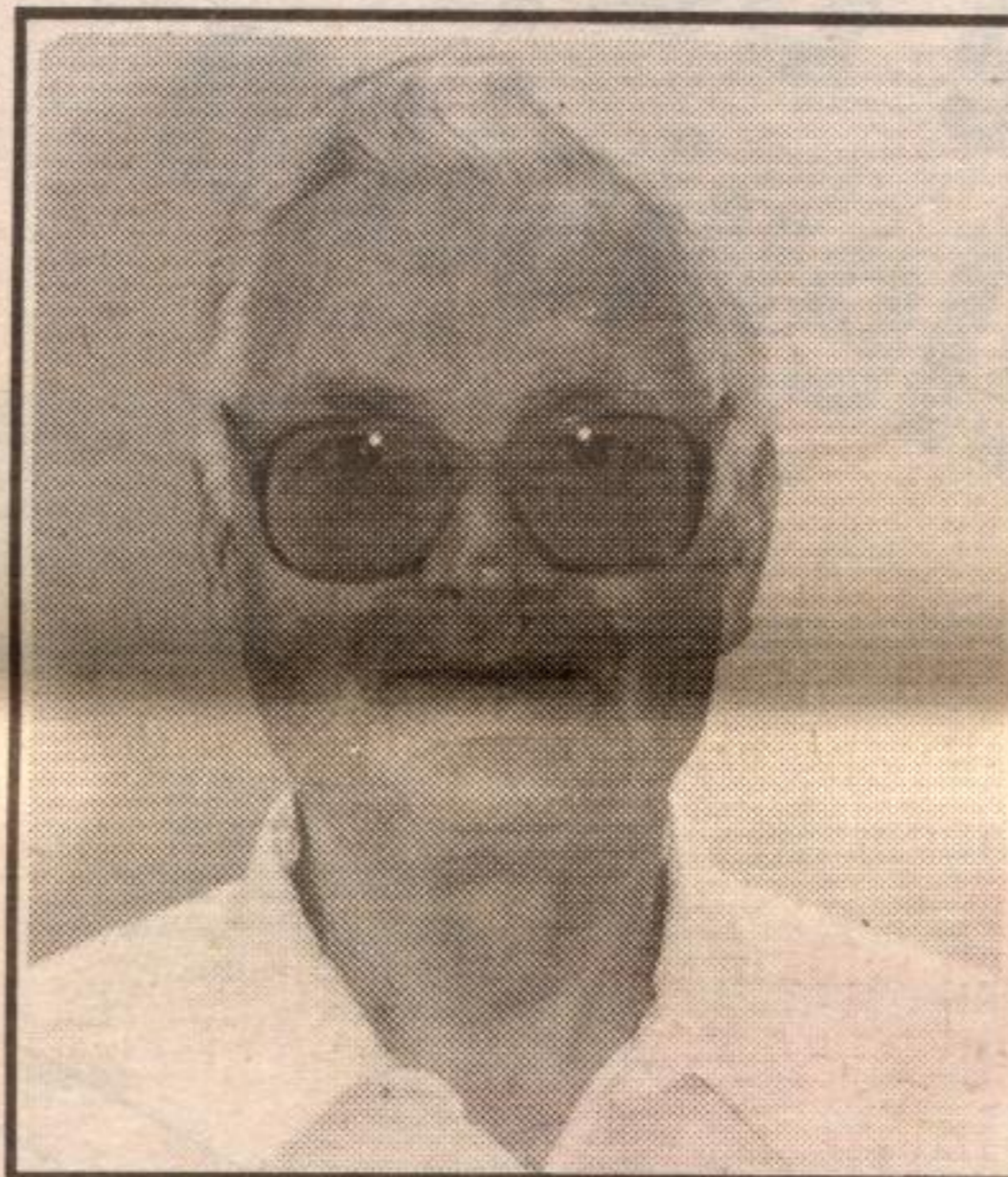
the business community concern for this proposed legislation. These efforts have been dismissed by you and your Government as scare tactics by the business community and has resulted in a very negative attitude on both sides of the debate.

Enclosed are a number of coupons provided to us by our members and the public and we would ask that they be given your consideration during the public hearing process.

On behalf of our members we hope that all sides will be considered prior to enacting this legislation, we will continue to lobby hard and will keep in contact with Mr. Duignan during these crucial public meetings.

Yours truly,  
Doug Penrice  
Issues Committee

# 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.

By George, I met the "voice" Vince Mountford the best M.C. in the world on Main St. last Tuesday morning, in front of the Royal bank. The bank "held" me up for a change. Vince had me laughing so hard I had to lean against the bank to keep from rolling in the gutters.

Vince's patter, "Keep smiling Steamer, it makes people wonder what you have been up to". "How can you look so clean and laugh so dirty"? "I like to see people smile and hear them laugh but not when I'm changing a tire". "Laugh and the world laughs with you. Snore and you snore alone". Oh God he hasn't changed a bit.

Vince looked great in his Tilley hat, spiffy summer shorts, and his beautiful white beard. A charming lady stopped to ask Vince about his son who was on the cameras at CBC, but is now with NBC News in Atlanta. I'm pretty sure he said Atlanta but it may have been Atlantic City. Whatever, he is now in the States.

People were passing by and Vince and I were entertaining. Vince would say in that way of his to chortling passers-by "I'm not going to stand here and tell you a lot of old stale jokes, but I'd like

you to meet Steamer, who will".

Vince and I met in the back room of Harry Goldham's butcher shop while he was selling bologna for Canada Packers. That was forty years or so ago and we haven't stopped laughing since. While taking Harry's meat order, Vince would give a running account of where he had been to entertain since his last trip. Even then he had enough one-liners to choke a horse. Harry, butcher that he was would always wince of "horse" was mentioned and ask that he preferred the term cow in his shop. Horse or cow, Vince could choke either one.

Maybe I have told you this story before. I've forgotten, but if I have please allow me to tell it again. One night my wife and I went out for dinner to a nice restaurant in Mississauga. We asked to be seated in the No Smoking section. What a pleasant surprise to find we were about to be seated beside Vince, and his sister Ethel. For years he used the line, "and this is my sister Ethel". In letters or phone calls I would always ask about Ethel. She took it all in stride.

Once we were seated, it was

show time. Vince and I for years always had what we considered a good joke for each other for certain audiences. It was sort of a extra in your bag if you needed it. He would tell me he did a show, dinner, fair or plowing match and a particular joke went well. Of course he would tell me the joke. We usually saved these exchanges for parting so what ever cropped up in the meantime you had added another string to your bow. Vince knew how to bow, he played the fiddle.

Well anyway, he had the dining room patrons roaring and Vince never let up. He was at his funniest. During the course of the meal, while the fun was at it's height, he leaned over and said to me, "Great audience Steamer, we should have charged".

On the main drag we did our Comedy at the Improv routine free and nobody threw us a damn dime. Vince said "I take credit cards, but it looks like they've all left home without it".

And his parting joke, "If your passport photo looks as bad as you do you're not well enough to travel".

## 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:  
The Editor  
Halton Hills This Week  
232 Guelph St., Unit 9  
Georgetown, ON  
L7G 4B1



Halton Hills This Week is published every Wednesday 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  
EDITOR: Scott Kline  
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kathleen Topolesk  
REAL ESTATE MANAGER: Kathy Toth  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Marie Shadbol  
HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.  
PHONE: 873-2254  
FAX: 873-3918