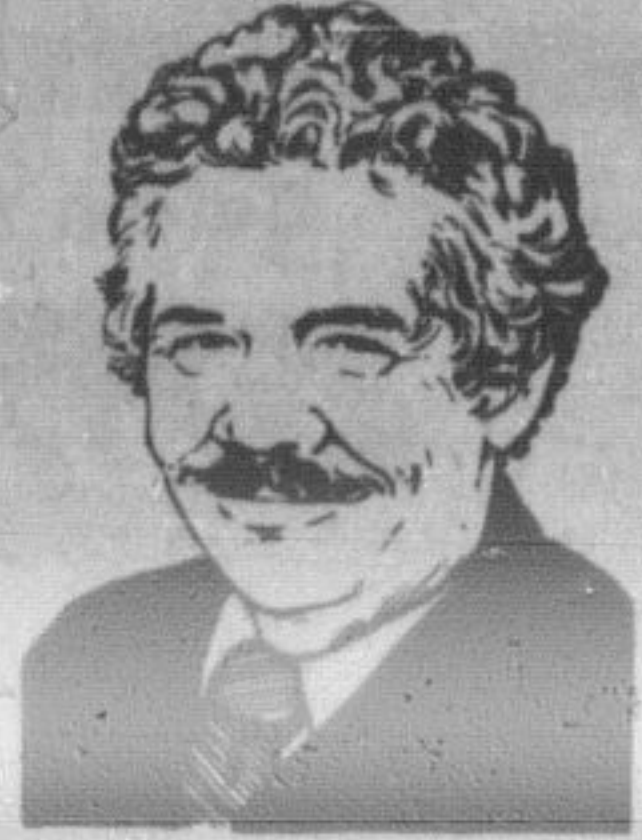


Between the Willows



Think spring!!

By DON BYERS
Champion Resident Columnist

As I stood in the parking area, behind the house, I was troubled about the menacing depth of snow that I observed piled high upon the roof.

I could not get up there to shovel it off and that really bothered me.

Believe it or not, it was upon this negative note that the Mount Nemo Winter Carnival had its beginnings.

A couple of days previous to the events I am about to describe, son Dave had brought home a huge bag of wild bird seed. When I scattered the feed on the back deck, all hell broke loose.

A flock of about two dozen starlings opened the show. Also featured were sparrows, chickadees, and our resident cardinal "Red Baron".

"Herbie," our legendary grey squirrel, with his four slap-happy black troopers, provided a fitting, tail-twitching finale.

It was during this animal action that I got the brilliant idea of how to try to solve the problem of the packed, deep snow on the roof of the house.

"Why not," asked the voice inside my headbone, "throw the bird seed on the offending drifts? When the hungry feathered and furry guys get into their acts up there, they'll break up the surface of the snow, and the wind will blow it away."

Editor's Note: Don, your cabin-fever seems to have reached a terminal stage.

Sure, I know it sounds slightly flaky. But, believe it or not, my unlikely project seems to be working. After all, they laughed at the Wright Brothers, didn't they?

When I first viewed the avalanche in suspension on the roof, I, of course, thought about my arch rival, the Guru of Mount Nemo.

You may recall, in a previous column, I conjectured about what new calamity that scrawny scoundrel would dump upon me. Apparently, the Cold War goes on unabated.

Again, reaching into the recent past, I need not remind you of my culpability in the death of our mystical housefly, our "non-harsh-winter-insurance", which I callously flushed down the drain.

As I drive between the mountains of snow that border Line 1 am burdened with a sense of guilt that, no doubt, will haunt my thoughts until the Trilliums bloom once again.

Meanwhile, the carnival goes on. The life, the color, and the action, are all most welcome at this bleak time of year. And they reinforce the sweet promise of spring.

Yes, I know. That magic moment is at least six weeks down the road. But, folks it's coming. Were I a philosopher, I would probably observe that most Canadians are what they are, not in spite of winter, but because of it.

Editor's Note: Good grief.

Not to worry. My feathered and furry friends out back are waiting for more handouts from the king of the carnival. And, if they can make it, we all can.

Altogether now—thing SPRING!

Program aid nips crime in the bud

By ALEX MATHESON
Special to The Champion

People who have not been victims of crime should be calling the police and praising them for the protection provided by a new program.

This won't likely occur, but crime victims may berate the force because an officer has not promptly responded to take down the sad details.

The new program, called "proactive", instituted Aug. 24, 1981, has been especially effective in nipping crime in the bud, said Insp. John Barrett, district commander of Halton Regional Police.

"Proactive" means prevention, as opposed to "reactive" policing, which refers to response after the crime, he said.

Currently, four officers, one from each shift, form this unit.

This cuts down on the number of officers available to respond to a complaint, but as "proactive" gets the upper hand, there should be fewer crime complaints to respond to, said the inspector.

"In the past, we have been too busy chasing criminals to get to the crime before or as it was happening," he said.

The new unit is experimental and Insp. Barrett admits that "reactive" strength is being sacrificed.

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Our Readers Write

Let Juniors have Friday

Dear Editor:

Here it is, the end of another Junior B hockey season and here we go again at who should have Friday night for their home games—the Juniors or the Aeros.

Since 1964 Friday night has always meant Junior hockey to the people of Milton. This means you know for at least one night a week where your young people are. For 18 years I've followed Junior hockey in Milton and can't see why, at this late date, a newly formed team and new owner should merit Friday night and take it away from our Junior team.

A junior team is made up of students who need sleep for school—which lets out weeknights. Our Junior team is made up of mostly Milton players—which brings out the teenagers and

their fans.

All you have to do is come out on Friday night and see how our teenagers and their fans enjoy the game and the booster club afterwards. Many parents and myself go just to meet and talk to the players and watch them and their girlfriends dance and enjoy themselves.

Many parents of these boys have made it very clear that they want Friday left as Junior 'B' hockey night in Milton.

Weeknights would be impossible as these same teenagers have school next day.

So, let's leave well enough alone and let Aeros keep Tuesdays for their games and let the Juniors retain their Friday nights.

A dedicated Junior hockey fan,
Mary Coulter

About those Bible thumpers

Dear Editor:

I assume that Don Byers' article "Those Bible Thumpers" (Feb. 17, 1982) was sparked by two recent events. Namely, the T.V. program "Prey T.V." and the CRTS hearings on Religious Broadcasting in Canada.

Mr. Byers has incorrectly reduced the issue to a matter of dollars and cents. He infers that the broadcasting rights being sought by certain organizations will amount to nothing more than "the right to print money". This rather simplistic assessment of the situation only addresses part of the issue. What it neglects to do is to look at the reasons why those broadcasters are looking for broadcast licenses.

The denomination of which I am a part submitted a brief to the CRTS hearings in which they sought to

present the concerns of our people. The information which I now bring to your attention is drawn from that brief. Like Mr. Byers, we recognize that there are individuals and organizations which could abuse their broadcast rights and act in an irresponsible fashion. That is why our second recommendation was that "the CRTS consider the granting of licenses to religious groups who could prove fiscal ability to operate a station, and would guarantee a balance of programming."

Now granted it would be nice if we did not have to create religious stations and networks. To not create separate stations would mean though that those radio and television stations already in existence would have to do a better job of providing

Budget jars cozy Canucks

By HOWARD MOZEL
Special to The Champion

Halton MP Otto Jelinek is happy with the last federal budget because it finally jarred Canadians out of their cozy cocoon and into the grim reality of their situation.

"The budget was the final straw. I'm happy that it was as negative to the economy as it was because it shocked people out of their complacency and started them fighting back. That's good, that's healthy."

Mr. Jelinek made his comments before a meeting of Oakville Rotary Club. Absent was the attack on Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and the Liberals in general, but in its stead was a sad and grim commentary on what he believed the state of Canada to be.

"We have become permissive—not just the government—but all of us. This has become a universal problem in Canada because governments are following the complacency of Canadians."

According to Mr. Jelinek, the budget did not include incentives to small business, will not help reduce the deficit and contained no tax incentives or employment opportunities.

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Prof. Bill Scott

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Acton Public Library
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Thurs., 7 - 10 p.m., April 8 - June 24
Ms. Pam Grossman
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balanced programming. That is to say those stations already operating would have to be more willing to provide religious broadcasting.

When we speak of balanced religious broadcasting we have a number of factors in mind. First of all we feel that religious broadcasting should be available to people at times other than the Sunday and the early morning, late evening time slots to which such programs are usually relegated. Secondly, we feel that religious broadcasting should be more than just preaching. It should also include music programs, talk-show format, drama and religious news. The current state of broadcasting in Canada does not provide balanced religious broadcasts. Radio stations do not devote even one half hour a day to religious music. We rarely hear about religious news except if it's a scandal. The only drama we see or hear generally makes religion look foolish.

Religion in Canada has not received a clean break from the broadcasting industry. It has been limited by the broadcast industry with respect to the audiences it can reach. The time allocations given to religious broadcasts have limited the potential audience. It has been difficult for the religious community to compete in the cash intensive market of commercial broadcasting. That is the reason why religious broadcasters in Canada want to have their own broadcast licenses. They want the right to communicate their message to the Canadian people. A right which, in the past, has been hard to exercise. If that right could be exercised under the present system these hearings would never have taken place.

Sincerely,
Pastor Kelvin F. Mütter
Milton Baptist Church
(affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec)

Jelinek says

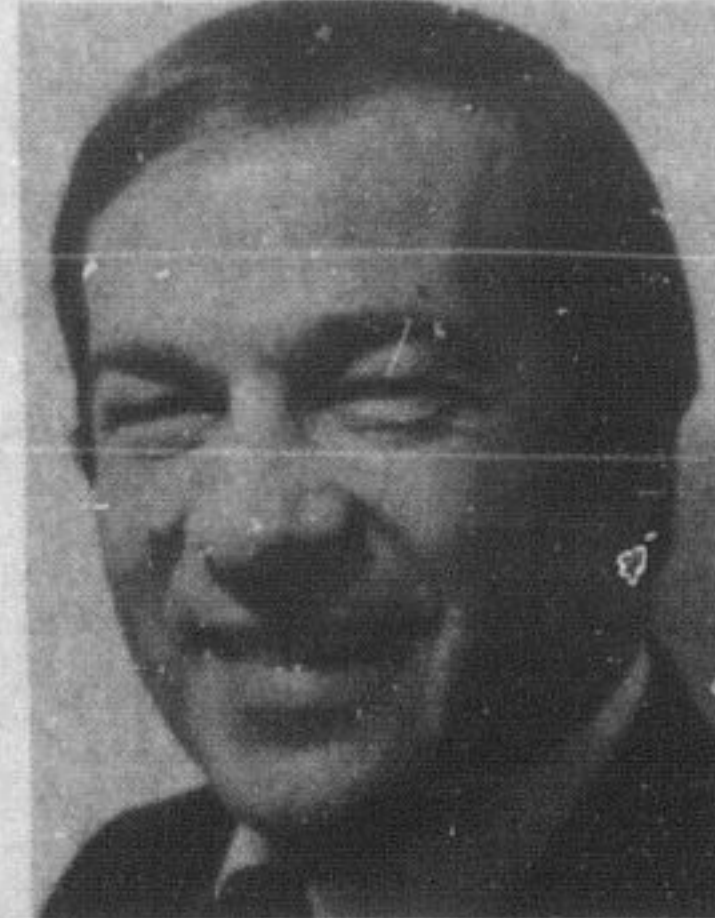
Dump pact

It's time to stop applying the bandage treatment and scrap the Auto Pact, Halton MP Otto Jelinek told the House of Commons last week.

In an interview Monday, Mr. Jelinek called the Auto Pact agreement outdated and unfair to Canadians.

Pointing to last year's \$4.35 billion deficit between the auto parts Canada imports and exports to the United States, Mr. Jelinek said the Auto Pact was not giving the country its fair share of the automotive industry as the agreement was intended to when it was struck 17 years ago.

"It's creating a higher deficit each year until we're not only not getting a fair share, but we're getting shafted," he said. "Let's stop taking the band-aid approach and make minor changes. Let's just scrap the whole thing."



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