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## Home must continue

We have probably bored our readers to tears with complaints about the way the Province of Ontario gives out funds and then withdraws them, but it is happening again.

While trying not to sound like the boy who cried wolf too many times, we note with extreme displeasure the situation in which the Sheridan Youth Home and its attendant association have been placed.

The Sheridan Youth Home houses young offenders in a controlled setting using a building on the grounds of the Halton Manor establishment. Here the young people are supervised and counselled prior to and after making court appearances for what tend to be serious crimes.

Yet in all cases, the past 2½ years of the operation of the home for young offenders from Halton and Peel has been one of success. In fact it was a Peel family court judge who said he has come to favor the Sheridan Youth Home over all other detention facilities.

In short, the record of the Sheridan Youth home is one of success and we are pleased that someone has found a way of treating young people in trouble with the correct measure of discipline and understanding.

But such a service does not come cheaply. The home almost closed in March because the Ministry of Community and Social Services would not give enough money, even though it had encouraged and funded the start.

The home knows it cannot meet the service it has to cover with the money it has; so the only option is to turn to the regional municipalities of Peel and Halton for the extra \$20,000 needed between now and next March.

## Justice mocked

It is impossible to set a value on a human life, but the recent sentence handed down to Walter Valente by Milton County Court Judge Thomas Quinlan is nothing less than mockery of justice and an insult to those who respect the law and its keepers.

Valente is the 19-year-old Burlington man who was found responsible for the deaths of three Hamilton women cyclists and injuries to two others, last July.

Judge Quinlan fined the youth \$200 and suspended his licence for one year.

Noting the youth's age, Judge Quinlan said he felt a jail sentence would be inappropriate and a fine was suitable.

Youthful he is, but in the three years he has held a driver's licence, Valente has been convicted on four separate counts of speeding, plus running a yellow light and has twice had his licence suspended.

The second licence suspension, for failure to pay fines, was handed down two months ago, less than a year after the tragedy that claimed the lives of Elizabeth Sarrazin, 25, Marilyn Jessop, 17, and Lorraine Robertson, 24.

Police evidence showed Valente had entered a curb lane on Plains Rd. to pass a vehicle in front of him, striking the bicyclists at about 60 miles per hour (96 km/h)

Why, we wonder, go to the great expense of setting up a project and have it run successfully, and then turn a deaf ear when they very existence of the project is in jeopardy?

In just too many instances, as money dwindles from one project, the money "saved" goes to set up something new and then the process repeats. This goes on at the same time as the province more and more expects the regional municipalities something the province again set up despite initial and continuing misgivings, to foot the shortfall.

But just how long can a region like Halton keep asking for a 25 per cent levy hike year after year until there is a ratepayer revolt and the current government is tossed out on its ear?

The Sheridan Youth Home needs the \$20,000 or will have to close the doors. Halton and Peel have been asked to come up with the money, but why?

The service was set up by the province for the specific aim of aiding the province through the judicial process.

If regions are to pay, should they not have a say in the judicial process?

Of course not, as far as the Davis Government is concerned. It's "you pay the bills and we'll make the decisions."

Such flagrant action should not be allowed to continue. It is not the mere \$20,000, it is the whole problem of terminating something that works well in the name of alleged budgetary controls.

If the province cares about young people in trouble, as it claims, then it is time to back up the words with dollars.

as he re-entered the passing lane. The speed limit on Plains Rd. is 35 mph.

It seems as obvious as the tombstones that mark the graves of those three women, that Valente had absolutely no respect for the laws governing the roads, nor had he learned his lesson during previous court appearances.

Halton Crown Attorney James Treleaven, who has since appealed this sentence, said he has received more calls and letters than he can count, from angry citizens.

Many have asked how they personally can assist with sending Valente to jail. The case has certainly aroused the wrath of the public.

Any sentence is supposedly designed to act as a deterrent to the offender and any other individual who might contemplate the crime.

This sentence was nothing more than a verbal reprimand, a half-hearted slap on the wrist.

We eagerly await the outcome of the appeal, scheduled for this fall before a provincial court judge.

Mr. Treleaven had previously asked for a jail sentence and the maximum fine of \$500 for the offence of careless driving, and is still pressing for that penalty. We wish him good luck.

## NEWS ITEM: FOLKS ARE GEARING UP FOR THE FESTIVAL OF COUNTRIES



## A 12-month Viewpoint school system

with MIKE BOYLE

Next week marks the return to school for almost all elementary, secondary and post-secondary students in the province. Schools which were dormant all summer will be once again filled with tanned, rested students.

I guess with all this present concern for saving money and time, perhaps now is as good a time as any to reconsider year-round learning.

Originally, the summer vacation was meant for the children of farmers to help with tending the farms and helping with the fall harvest.

However, as one looks at the tremendous expense involved with building and maintaining schools and the cost of teachers, it may be in the best interest of all concerned to keep schools open 12 months of the year.

Some universities have opted for a successful 12-month semester system in which students and teachers adapt their teaching and learning schedules to the school, rather than vice versa.

That same system could be adapted to secondary schools.

As things stand now, secondary schools are open for just under 200 days a year. It's less for universities and slightly more for elementary schools.

A full 12-month semester system separated by Christmas, an end-of-April break and the end of August, with one-week breaks in between would enable the schools to be fully operational for all 12 months.

Instead of five years needed for a grade 13 diploma, that could be changed to 12 or 13 semesters enabling some students, if they wanted, to complete the whole thing in less than four years.

The advantages of such a system outweigh the disadvantages. For starters, the obvious advantage would be cost. There wouldn't be any need to build many more schools. Since the school would be operational for all 12 months, more students could be accommodated. Secondly, instead of throwing all students out into the job market at the same time, they would be released, at their convenience, for "summer" jobs. One of the biggest demands for short-term work occurs in the time leading up to Christmas and yet there are no students (who would fit the bill perfectly) available.

Thirdly, teachers could be moved around from school to school in a region or county to where they're needed. It would also put a demand on them to be versatile.

Something would have to be worked out financially for the teachers, something akin to the 13 semesters equalling five years of pay. Also, students complain, rightly so, how difficult it is to work in hot weather.

The basic idea for such a 12-month school plan would be to keep schools in operation on a year-round basis, keep students in school for more time and finally, to release students on a staggered system out to the work force when they're needed.

## Collective Column

**FLYING HIGHER**  
When it came time recently to review the money being spent on conventions by councillors, Milton's Bill Johnson was leading the way.

According to a report, Mr. Johnson spent \$479.38 at the American Public Works Association Convention.

This was substantially more than Acton's Dave Whiting who spent \$40 to attend the same convention. It was noted most of the money spent by Mr. Johnson was for the flight.

"I walked there," Mr. Whiting chuckled.

Mr. Johnson also spent \$100 for the Fourth Government Industry Conference.

The only others noted in the \$859.38 spent to date from the \$5,900 budget were Halton Chairman Jack Rafits and Halton Hills Councillor Russ Miller who handed in a joint bill of \$240 for their attendance at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Convention.

**SLUDGE IS BEST**  
A quiet test has been going on with sludge on winter wheat and we have been told the test is proving successful with the wheat and a test field of corn producing at equal or above average growth to fields treated with normal fertilizer.

Halton's sludge czar Vic Lesnicki said the farmers who own the test fields are pleased with the results to date and he said he feels certain this will do much to encourage the wider use of sludge in Halton in the coming farm year.

**TRY BEAVER**  
So you think the cost of beef is too much for your budget? Perhaps you might be one of the people who might seek out the meat of the beaver.

Bruce Buckland, wildlife management officer for the Cambridge district of the Ministry of Natural Resources, says that \$20,000-worth of beaver meat is taken every year in the area covered by the Cambridge office.

In 1971, the last time a provincial survey was done on the subject, roughly \$7-million worth of beaver meat was taken by trappers.

The selling of beaver pellets is carried out through the Ontario Trappers Association Fur Auction where all furs are collected and auctioned for sale.

"Most of our furs are bought by foreign buyers like Italy, West Germany and Japan. With some of the more wealthy countries involved in the bidding, fur prices in this country are quite high," said Buckland.

"In the winter the trapper utilizes everything from the beaver," he said. "The tails go into making shoes, and the teeth are often made into necklaces."

While it is well loved by many Canadians, the beaver can cause a great deal of damage where it is not wanted. It can turn a clean cold running stream, where fish flourished, into a boggy marsh.

A dam will initially attract waterfowl, "but only for a short period of time," said Buckland. "After a while the water will become stagnant even for waterfowl."

**A ROUGH WINTER**  
Experts are predicting a worse than usual winter ahead.

The birch trees have a pile of extra seeds this fall; the squirrels appear to be storing more nuts; and the "woolly bear" caterpillars appear to have a longer, thicker coat than usual.

And who can doubt "experts" like that?

**ARE THEY CHARLIE'S?**  
The baseball team at ARC Industries, Hornby, has a unique name. They call themselves the ARC Angels. (ARC stands for adult rehabilitation Centre, it's a sheltered workshop where adult retarded can work and be of use to their community.)

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
When Ministry of Natural Resources Cambridge District Manager Bob Catton admitted the ministry was a poor communicator, several of the reporters assembled at last week's information meeting were already aware of this failing.

Area reporters were invited to lunch by the ministry at the Cambridge Holiday Inn through a phone call two weeks ago. Then, a few days prior to the meeting, a letter was received giving directions to the ministry's Puslinch property several miles east of the Holiday Inn. Assuming the correspondence indicated a change of plan several reporters, including The Champion's Jane Muller, were faced with nothing but each other at the site.

Realizing the folly of their ways the stragglers headed for the Holiday Inn where they were pacified by a cold beer and lunch.

**What next? Some of the read-a-board sign-makers around town have been competing lately to see who can put up the craziest sign. This could be the winner.**



## Pages of the Past

### One year ago

From the September 3, 1980 issue  
Steam-Era organizers chose to virtually ignore the three downpours that threatened to wash out the 20th annual weekend reunion in Milton, and went blithely ahead in true show-must-go-on style. The rains did dampen things but didn't ruin the show which was once again described as a qualified success.

Effective today, the single copy price of The Champion is increased to 25 cents, from 20 cents.

Subject to ratification by Milton Council, the Civic Committee has retained the services of Barry Lyons and Peter Turner, architectural consultants, to devise a series of sketches suggesting improvements to local business facades.

Halton's elementary school teachers will vote Friday on the terms of the new tentative contract agreement. Details of the pact will remain secret until after both sides have ratified it.

The Ontario College of Physicians will look into complaints than an Oakville doctor refused to treat a patient in the Milton District Hospital. Dr. Michael Dison, registrar of the college said the complaint committee will look into allegations the gynecologist refused to deal with the female patient because she may not have been in a position to pay for the doctor's services.

### 20 years ago

From the August 31, 1961 issue  
George Homewood of Guelph Junction, a second war vet, made the long Warriors' Day Walk at the CNE as he has done every year since 1945.

History reversed itself this week when Burlington Board of Education ordered the last one-room school, Bell's School on Bell School Line, sold to Mrs. Georgina Bell, great-granddaughter of the man who sold the school site to the old Nelson Township school board in 1855. Absalom Bell, one of Halton's early settlers, had sold the site for 12 pounds, 10 shillings. Under the terms of the sale, the board was obligated to offer the school to the heirs when it became useless.

Jack Price, a brilliant forward star with Milton Merchants hockey club for the past three years, has been signed to act as playing coach of the club for the 1961-62 semester.

A record 310 pints of blood were collected yesterday at the Red Cross blood donor clinic. The hospital auxiliary members, who sponsored the clinic, were overwhelmed with the response.

The contract has been let for the new provincial school for the deaf in Milton, and at nearly half a million dollars under the estimated cost. Frid Construction of Hamilton won the job with a \$3.8 million bid.

Mary Lou Taylor of Burlington will compete in the Ontario Dairy Princess finals at the CNE tonight, representing Halton.

A crop of hybrid corn on the farm of William Van Grunsven on the mountain west of town, has grown to a record height of over 10 feet.

### 50 years ago

From the September 3, 1931 issue  
Through the deprecations of a stray dog, J. Bariendski, Trafalgar, has lost a number of turkeys.

Bogus fifty-cent pieces are reported to be in circulation. The coins are a clever imitation and ring fairly good when rattled on a counter.

Local police are investigating reports of fruit theft, some of which has been committed by youths, while mere children have also been guilty of stripping trees.

At the matinee horse races at Brampton on Wednesday of last week, Jean Ganot, owned by Dr. C. H. Heslop of Milton, came second in the 2.14-2.18 class.

The theft of 55 choice birds from his chicken house is reported by Jacob Colling, Lowville, and Provincial Constable Cookman, of Milton is investigating.

Now that the electric railway has ceased to operate two good sites may be available for Georgetown's new post office. In fact it has been suggested that the present substantially built power house, with certain alterations, would make a good office, and the situation is ideal.

Stray dogs are again doing much damage in Trafalgar Township. Many chickens have been killed on the farm of E. Hall and flocks of turkeys have been depleted, but although the dog has been seen in the very act of destruction, he manages to escape.

### 75 years ago

From the Sept. 6, 1906 issue  
The Champion has received two sample copies of the New Idea Woman's Magazine. It has several attractive cuts of dresses (house and walking) for young girls and maidens. There are some good stories and other reading material as well.

Miss Maggie Armstrong was taken to the Guelph General Hospital on Monday morning, suffering from appendicitis. An operation was performed and she has since been making headway towards recovery. This disease seems to be very prevalent in the neighbourhood at present.

Wesley Breckon, an attendant in one of the stables at Toronto Exhibition, who was sleeping in a loft, had a dream that he was being robbed. He sprang from his bed and fell through the opening in the floor, fourteen feet to the ground beneath, receiving severe spinal injuries. He was treated at the Emergency Hospital and sent to his home in Appleby.

The Hotel Brent was closed for the season Saturday. This has been one of the best seasons for the hotel in the history of its existence.

The rate on the assessment for Milton this year will be 30 mills on the dollar. This increase it is understood is caused by the large number of new sidewalks,