

Editorial Page

County Police Force

Halton County has grown 159 per cent. in the past decade while growth across the province has been 34 per cent.

There is little wonder then that problems of administration and operation, of municipal boundaries and extending services with a host of others, make for complex times.

We were given the other day to wondering if municipalities would ever be broad-minded enough to agree to the establishment of a county police force.

The Ontario Provincial Police once approached the idea of a province-wide force with detachments in municipalities linked for emergency by common centres and radio networks. The Provincial Police now, however, are pulling detachments out of centres with over 5,000 population.

Burlington, Oakville, Georgetown and Trafalgar now have their own forces with the O.P.P. covering Milton, Acton, Nassagaweya and Esquesing. Milton is faced with the

need to organize its own force by December of this year and no doubt Acton will not be long delayed.

Halton has pioneered a number of innovations including a health unit, Mutual Aid fire protection and a number of others. Surely here is a realm for intelligent study. The two northern townships, not presently paying police costs directly from taxation, could surely obtain similar assistance from the province through a county scheme. This way too, it would not be necessary for police from a county detachment at Milton to travel to Glen Williams rather than police from Georgetown. Investigation of incidents just over a municipal boundary would not be delayed when a more conveniently located constable is on hand.

Surely a county police force with strategically located urban detachments is worthy of study. A population in Halton of over 108,000 should make it practical.

Facts... Just the Facts

We have campaigns to direct attention to mental illness, cancer, polio, crippled children, cerebral palsy, heart disease and just about every disease prevalent in our modern progressive world. It seems though that no one has had the inclination to suggest a week to direct attention to alcoholism.

This is startling too because each new day in Ontario eleven new alcoholics are "created". The odds are interesting too. Every person who started drinking as a teenager had a one in 12 chance of becoming an alcoholic. Should drinking begin as an adult the chance is one in 17.

We were interested to see that a group of teenagers met in Grimsby to study alcohol. The group was not an organization and it was not sponsored by any group. "It is our aim to have as many facts as possible revealed and to educate teenagers about the effects of alcohol," the 18-year-old chairman reported.

This is a good healthy basis on which to analyze a problem... getting as many facts as possible. It's really quite astonishing though how few people want the facts. There are very few facts in advertisements and commercials that promote alcoholic beverages. We pay more attention to what's in our breakfast cereal.

Premier Frost has been vilified for not wanting to broaden the appearance of brand advertising of alcoholic beverages. Probably he has more facts from the Alcoholic Research Foundation than the vast majority of supporters for broader advertising would care to digest.

We're happy to hear that at least a group of 100 teenagers met at Grimsby during the Easter holiday to get more facts. It is doubtful that a week will be claimed by promoters to dig out the facts and present them for general enlightenment.

Expressing Opinions

From time to time newspapers, including this one, carry letters directed to the editor as a means of permitting expressions of one's opinion.

These letters can cover a multitude of subjects. Last week one was carried in the Free Press on the very broad field of education with some specific suggestions locally.

Letters do not emanate from our office so they are quite often not in line with policies we may editorially promote. People are, however, entitled to opinions and quite naturally not all agree with our ideas.

The old line about disagreeing with a person but defending his right to express his opinion holds true in letters to the editor.

Last week's letter has quite evidently raised the ire of a number of people and

they are as entitled to their opinion as the original letter writer.

Letter writers too have the choice of using their own name or a nom de plume and where a nom de plume is used the paper is called upon to protect the identity of the writer. We cannot and will not reveal that identity when nom de plumes are used.

This paper welcomes letters to the editor whether they agree or disagree with our editorial policy. We ask only that letters be legible, avoid libel and state their case as briefly as possible.

Letters are one way of expressing opinions and convictions and believing that these are a bulwark of democracy, we will continue to accept letters.

Insurance--Not Welfare

With 15 months operation behind it, the Ontario Hospital Insurance plan has demonstrated that the cost of hospital care can be met without families suffering financial chaos or hospitals showing large operating deficits. Every month since it started, the plan has paid more than 80,000 hospital bills totalling over \$13,000,000 a month. What this has meant in peace of mind to over 1,000,000 patients and their families cannot be measured.

The introduction of the hospital insurance plan by the Ontario Hospital Services Commission on January 1, 1959, was one of the most important governmental measures taken by this province in many years. Through it, over 93% of our residents are no longer fearful of what an enforced stay in hospital will cost. Also there is the fact that the Commission, composed of experts in the hospital field, doctors and laymen, is conducting most intensive research into Ontario's real hospital needs and at the same time guiding the most active programme of hospital construction this province has ever experienced. Ontario has over 31,500 public hospital beds now (at

most twice as many as in 1947) and 6,500 more are either under construction or on the drawing boards.

The insurance plan is not a welfare programme. As with other insurance we carry—life, fire, automobile, etc., etc.—we must personally assume certain responsibilities to keep insured. These include such things as prompt payment of premiums, taking the proper action when entering or leaving an insured group, and making sure that our children are registered on their own within 30 days after they reach age 19.

All insurance premiums must be prepaid and Ontario Hospital Insurance is no exception. Most readers will remember that when the plan started, the Ontario Hospital Services Commission gave three months' insurance for one month's premium. This was done to set up the required three months' prepaid cushion without cost to the residents. All we have to do is maintain this prepayment by registering our premiums regularly when they are due. As the Commission's hospital insurance Guide says: "Prepayment may be a blessing to you some day."



—Photo by Esther Taylor

"Spring Voyage"

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

Some people think we Canadians are lacking in tradition. They are quite wrong. We have traditions we haven't told anyone. This legend, reprinted by request, tells of the origin of one of them.

Once upon a time, two or three million years ago, a Canadian couple lived in a cave with their three small children. When the winter had begun, they'd had eight small children, but they'd had to keep the wolf away from the door somehow, and the wolf was very partial to small children.

Now, it was spring and things were tough. The mammoth they'd put in the deep freeze at the back of the cave was gnawed to tusks and tail. The Mother had begun to eat the three small children, gaunt as they were, in a rather chilling manner. And every time the Father looked at the Mother, saliva leaked out the corners of his mouth. She had a little more meat on her than the three small children.

As for the three small children, they took a snap at the calves of their parents every time they crawled past them. And the wolf had long since forsaken their front door. He knew well that if he whined once, he'd be hauled in, clubbed and end up as guest of honor at a wolf dinner.

It was a tense situation and just to make it unbearable, the Mother started agitating about the condition of the cave. She wanted all the bones picked up and dumped outside, the skins on the floor shaken out, and the mammoth skeleton dragged outside, so she could get into the corners and clean them.

Maintaining an iron self-control, the Father went to work. He knew that if he bit her, as he should, and she went down,

he'd pounce on her and gobble her up. He didn't want to do that, as she was a good woman. She always chewed the tougher pieces of meat before handing them to him. And she made the best, sabbre-toothed tiger soup in the neighborhood.

But she made a mistake when she told him to go out and get some clean sand for the floor. He rolled back the stone at the mouth of the cave. It was a golden morning, blue sky, world turning green. He took a deep breath, a quick look over his shoulder, and off, in that order, and didn't stop until he had reached The Place Where the Big Ones Are.

When her mate failed to return, the Mother snarled: "That lousy bum. He never has time to do anything around the house, but he always has time to go to The Place Where the Big Ones Are." The three small children, knowing they were living on borrowed time anyway, nodded their three small heads agreeably, though they didn't have a clue what was bothering her, as she stormed around, cleaning up.

By noon, the cave was tidy and the Mother was fit to be tied. She sat in the cave entrance, chewing her nails in a combination of rage and ravenousness. The three small children sat in the sun on their three small bottoms, looking worried.

Suddenly the Mother realized she had chewed three of her fingers right down to the second joint. This would never do. Sadly but remorselessly, she fastened her gaze on the three small children. When they saw their Mother pick up her club and advance on them, the three small children uttered three small squeaks of despair.

and forgetting that they hadn't learned to walk, got up and began to run like hell.

Just then, who should come stroting up, whistling, but Father? The Mother, scarcely had time to hide her club behind her back. "But you don't know what I've got for you," beamed the daddy covet, hiding something behind his back. "And I'll bet you don't know what I've got for YOU!" she countered, grinning widely, and clutching the club tighter.

But he knew her of old. Just as she swung, he leaped like a deer and she missed. Grinning hugely, he whipped around behind his back a knotted piece of hide, on which were strung the three biggest rainbow trout you ever saw.

After the tears of remorse, and her assurance that it was just her nerves, he gave her a 12 pound trout. She was well into it before she remembered, with shame, and said: "Go and find the three small children and give them a fish." She could have saved her breath, as the three small children were already crawling out from behind three small rocks, their three small noses quivering and their three small teeth glittering. Soon their three small bellies were dragging on the ground.

And so they all lived happily ever after. Until next winter. And that's the story of Opening Day of the trout season, and how it acquired its significance in our Canadian way of life, even though it interferences with the housecleaning.

Enjoys Family Party For 84th Birthday

Mrs. Helen McDonald, Toronto, entertained at a surprise party for her mother Mrs. A. E. Fordell, Main St. S. Acton, at Hilltop Lodge, Elm on Saturday. The occasion was Mrs. Fordell's 84th birthday.

The table was festively decorated with spring flowers and the centerpiece was a large birthday cake decorated in pink and white.

Mrs. Fordell wore a corsage of red roses the gift of two of her grandchildren, Sharon and Susan Stewart of Burlington.

Played Cards

After a delicious turkey dinner the guests played the evening card game.

The guests included Mrs. Fordell's three sisters, Mrs. M. M. Deibel, Toronto; Mrs. A. McGinty, Acton; Mr. and Mrs. John Hall, Oakville; her brother Mr. and Mrs. W. Jackson, Acton; her granddaughters, Mrs. and Mrs. Jack Stewart, Burlington; her grandsons, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Fordell, Acton; five great grandchildren, Sharon and Steven Stewart, Burlington; Ruby Ricks and Emma Fordell, Acton; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Stewart, Acton; Mr. and Mrs. W. Leavelle, Acton; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fordell, Willowdale.

The Canadian Cancer Society fights cancer by supporting research, carrying on an education program and giving assistance to cancer patients.

...Dodging 'Round the District

BY ROY DOWNS

Charge Kids on Wagons

WATERLOO—Police have warned children that motorized wagons cannot be driven on sidewalks or streets or drivers will be liable for charges of driving a vehicle without a licence. Traffic on Highway 5 through town is heavy Thursdays and Sundays, notes the Review, and at one time cars were at a standstill as far as a mile east of the village limits.

Discuss Sunday Sports

BURLINGTON—The local Municipal Association has asked council for a chance to discuss Sunday sports if the question of a public vote on this issue ever reaches the council agenda. Council authorized its one-man meter parking patrol, Chief John Scott with the purchase of a motor scooter which will enable him to tag as many as 10 times the violations he does on foot. The council treats the scooter worth \$275 and soon pay for itself in extra parking fines.

Protest Stop for Service

GEORGE TOWN—Council will petition the Board of Transport Commissioners to continue CNR passenger service on the Barrie-Hamilton line. Milton has been awaiting Georgetown's decision before lodging a similar complaint with CNR.

Form Singing Chapter

ORANGEVILLE—A group of local men are forming a chapter of the organization trade marked by a barber pole and an arched alpha bet, S.P.I.B.S.N.S.—Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartette Singing in America, Inc. They will sing for charity hospitals, other service clubs, and for a hobby. Already 17 have indicated an interest in the group.

Industry and More Industry

BRAMPTON—The town scored a big industrial hit this week. Three new industries announced plans to locate on Holly Avenue, including aluminum, woodworking and mechanical plants, to employ a total of about 150 people. As well another industry announced plans to double its floor area by 16,000 feet.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1910

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 28, 1910.

Mr. William R. Kenney has been notified by the County Crown Attorney that the provincial government has issued a commission appointing him a Justice of the Peace for the County of Halton. H. P. Moore, J.P., who is now the oldest magistrate in town, had the pleasure of swearing him in on Tuesday. Squire Kenney will now be the object of congratulations from his many friends upon his being the recipient of this distinctive honor. He has been an honored resident of Acton for nearly half a century.

The property of the Acton Hotel was purchased from the mortgagees last week by Mr. Neil Patterson. It will be remembered that the hotel building was destroyed by fire on the 22nd of November last. The stone walls are standing. Mr. Patterson has not fully decided what he will do with the property. It is rumored that the front will be taken down and a new brick front built out to the street line, the first floor to be converted into two floors and the second into residences.

Last Thursday, Mr. Hugh Mann's men put a new manure spreader into commission on his farm for the first time. The old gentleman was quite interested, having never before seen one in operation. With characteristic independence, he was not satisfied at seeing the machine do the work, but decided he would operate it himself. He mounted the seat and drove around the field and was quite proud of the exploit. It was rather a novel accomplishment for a man in his 94th year.

The log barn and frame building adjoining purchased by Robert Hill, first line, Esquesing, was destroyed by fire last Friday night. A good binder was burned in the barn. The fire was to all appearances incendiary. Mr. Hillton knew nothing of it until next morning.

With the passing of the liquor licences in Acton, the legal sale of cigarettes without a licence is also discontinued. By-law 375 of this municipality prohibits the sale of cigarettes without a licence under a penalty of not less than \$10 nor more than \$50 and costs.

BACK IN 1940

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 2, 1940.

The Force bowling team won the Jockey Club shield and the Commercial League bowling championship on Tuesday night, defeating Wishing Well and Capital Garage, in a great match that was in doubt until the final few frames.

At a special meeting of Acton council last night, a report was received on the drainage plan to serve east Church Street and the Force Electric plant. A motion was passed authorizing the plan to connect the drain on Mill Street. The Force Electric Company will pay a portion of the cost of this drainage.

The shortage of houses in Acton continues to be acute. Any more employees in Acton's industries will have to find houses outside the town.

The Dublin Women's Institute held their April meeting at the home of Mrs. John Black, with the president, Mrs. G. Somerville, in the chair. The topic was "Legislation" with Mrs. G. Watson as convener. Mrs. Watson gave a paper on "Our Laws in Parliament". A report of the meeting in Milton regarding organization of a Chamber of Agriculture was given by Mrs. Bracken. A solo was given by Mrs. Watkins, and an instrumental by Miss Robertson. There was a flower contest which was won by Mrs. Van Green and Mrs. Storey.

Acton school pupils won many awards in various classes during the Halton Music Festival held in Georgetown on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week. Mr. Roy Fenwick, provincial supervisor of music for Ontario, was adjudicator and told the vast audience Halton compares favourably with any district in the province as far as musical talent was concerned.

A very enjoyable birthday party was held by the Knox W.A. girls at the home of Mrs. Alex Mann on Wednesday night. Many games were played and prizes were won by Mrs. Fred Coles and Mrs. Mann. A quiz contest was conducted by Mrs. Fred Anderson and all the lucky winners were presented with a silver dollar. A solo was contributed by Miss Bessie Rawlings, followed by a lively singing. The evening was brought to a close after everyone had enjoyed a lunch.

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