

Three Weeks Early?

Early Groundhog Means Early Spring

A Bit of a Whimsy
By Our Outdoor Editor
If you go by the groundhog's predictions (and isn't he always right?) Spring will be coming pretty early this year — at least three and a half weeks early.

A reliable source (a real, live groundhog) got the big jump on the annual Groundhog Day celebrations this year, and poked his nose out of the burrow on January 9. He was 24 days ahead of time but, oh well,

with this crazy weather we've had lately, you can't really blame him.

Readers will recall the old groundhog story. He's supposed to puke his nose out on February 2 to see if he can spot his shadow.

Longer Season

If he sees it, the season is supposed to mean six more weeks of winter, so he better be late into his burrow to sleep for another six weeks. If there's no shadow, he figures it's Spring already, so he stays out of the hole to greet the new season.

Well on Saturday, at the Acton district farm of Tom Patterson, one groundhog decided to make an early check of the situation and, thanks to some fancy footwork on the part of Mr. Patterson's 15-year-old son Norman, he was kept out of the burrow long enough for a staff photographer to head there and record the phenomenon.

The fat, furry little fellow seemed quite nonplussed by the nearness of several human beings, and even sashayed up to the family cat "George" in an attempt to make friends. Of course, George wasn't having anything to do with this weird stranger, and their meeting was only brief.

Friend groundhog stayed out long enough to cast an appreciative eye over the weather. He emitted a series of short grunts and squeals, which, roughly translated, went something like this:

"Humph. Cold but little snow. Plenty of sunshine. Spring's still six weeks away. Why don't you humans leave, and let the get back to sleep? I predict Spring will arrive on February 20 this year. Yawn. Goodnight."

(Editor's Note — Our reporter may have gone a bit overboard with this talking groundhog stuff — but the animal did appear, he got pictures to prove it. Norman Patterson claims he also saw groundhogs during the week between Christmas and New Year's, but he wasn't wild enough to catch one until this weekend. Goodness, if they WERE out around Christmas time, it is possible that Spring will arrive on or about Groundhog Day, February 2? We shudder to think of it.)



CAN IT BE TRUE? An early groundhog got the beat on the annual Groundhog Day scheduled for February 2, when he stepped outside his hole in the ground on Saturday, January 9. It's the earliest groundhogs have been spotted around here in years. Norman Patterson, 25 Sideroad west of Acton, caught this fat, furry fellow to prove he'd seen him out over three weeks earlier than his scheduled appearance.

Nassagaweya Council

Appointments Fill Inaugural

Members of the Nassagaweya Township Council and the School Area Board gathered Monday, January 4, for the administration of the oath of office and the inaugural meeting of the council.

Rev. R. P. E. Jettares addressed the group and offered prayers for their direction during the year.

The majority of the township business included appointments as follows:

- J. C. McIntyre as clerk
- Mrs. Vera Cockram as assistant clerk
- Grant McMillan as road superintendent
- Fred Edwards as caretaker of the Township Hall and memorial plot
- Stanley Norrish as attendance officer
- Ed Parson and Arthur Norrish as livestock valuers
- Nelson Howard and Percy McGillivray as pound keepers
- Ed Cairns, James Robertson, George Dredge and Charles Lasby as fence viewers
- Charles Thomson and J. A. Milne to the Acton Fire Area Com-

mittee.

- A. R. Service to the Milton Fire Area Committee
- Alex Near for three years and Ross Gordon and W. J. Coulter for one year to the Planning Board
- Duncan Moffat to the Acton District High School Board
- Russ Carbert to the Milton District High School Board
- W. J. Coulter to the Halton Region Conservation Authority
- Charles Thomson to the Grand Valley Conservation Authority
- W. J. Coulter, W. Mahon, Ken Moore, Len Andrews, Douglas Agnew, Dr. C. L. Young and Claude Inglis to the Community Centres Board at Campbellville.

Committees of council named at the meeting were: roads, Young and Gordon; property and building committee, Gordon and Young; assessment and planning, Mahon and Parson; personnel and office administration, Young and Gordon; finance and welfare, Parson and Mahon; legislation and by-laws, Mahon and Parson. The reeve is an ex-

officio member of all committees.

During the inaugural meeting members also:

- Authorized paying road employees every two weeks rather than twice a month.
- Renewed membership in the Ontario Rural Municipalities Association and named the clerk and members of council as delegates to the February convention in Toronto.
- Renewed the quarry license of Dominion Tar and Chemical Co. for 1965.
- Named the road superintendent, clerk and members of council as delegates to the Good Road Convention in Toronto February 22, 23, 24.
- Instructed the clerk to take legal action to collect all arrears of dog taxes.
- Authorized the treasurer to register tax arrears certificates against all properties in arrears of 1962 taxes.
- Authorized the clerk to advertise for a township assessor.
- Approved the payment of road accounts totalling \$4,044.94 and current accounts of \$1,586.88.

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