

NEWS of the district

Education bill bitter pill...

GEORGETOWN—A 50 per cent jump in public school costs over last year was termed "an inequality" and "a bitter pill I intend to fight" by Georgetown's representative on the Halton County Board of Education to council.

Public school costs to the town are set at \$691,610, an increase of \$230,260 over last year. High school costs increased more modestly to \$500,337 from last year's \$419,950.

The inequality, according to Mr. Bodnar, arises from the method of arriving at the town's share of the county education budget. He pointed out that last year's mill rate was applied to the recently increased re-assessment figures, rather than to the lower assessment upon which the mill rate was based.

Predict \$100 tax increase...

MILTON—A \$100 increase in the municipal tax bill for Milton homeowners was predicted as Milton councillors began their first budget-setting session.

Mayor Brian Best reviewed preliminary projections on the recently established County Board of Education budget which, if unchanged, would cost the local owner of a home assessed at \$5,400 an extra \$72.72. If the town's general rate remained the same as it was last year it would result in a rise of \$23.87 because of re-assessment, and if the county rate remained unchanged it would cost the homeowner an extra \$4.56.

Reaches century mark...

HILLSBURGH—The family of Mr. George Haws held "Open House" in the basement of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hillsburgh, on Sunday, to honor him on his 100th birthday.

Although his birthday was February 15, it was not celebrated until March 23, as Mr. Haws was on winter vacation in Florida at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harman Leader.

Old stone house sold...

FERGUS One of the oldest stone buildings in this part of Ontario is included in the latest major real estate deal in Fergus. The Ketchen farm, which includes the first home of James Webster, one of the founders of the town, has been sold to Cara Construction Company of Toronto. Reported price for the land is about \$200,000.

The farm is located on the western edge of Fergus in Nichol Township. It straddles the Fergus-Elora county road and stretches nearly as far as the Wellington Home. Included in the deal is the site of the Fergus Golf Club, the fate of which is uncertain at the present time. The club has held a lease since 1932 but the latest one expires this year. They have been using the Webster home as a golf clubhouse.

It is the large stone building south of the county road facing the Grand river. The club owns part of their course, the section inside the town behind the houses on Colquhoun St.

Ducks are flying north...

KORTWRIGHT PARK—While tourists are still flocking to the exotic tropical resort areas, wildfowl are coming back.

A spokesman for the Department of Lands and Forests in Hespeler said the ducks are coming back early this year and geese have already landed at Kortwright Park. However, there were some qualifications.

Ducks will sometimes fly up from their winter quarters in the south, find no open water, turn around and go back. Sometimes they'll stop in Lake Erie and wait for the more northern waters to reappear from under the ice.

Wildfowl may have bird brains but it seems they know enough to stay away from the cold.

Dissolve continuing committees...

GUELPH—Displeasure with the contributions of many of the continuing committees prompted the Wellington County board of education to take steps to have all but one dissolved as soon as possible.

The continuing committees were established to offer assistance to the new county board in its formative stages. They consist of trustees who have served on the local boards prior to their being replaced by the county organization.

The county board had planned to make good use of the committees, especially in the preparation of its first budget. Few of the committees made reasonable efforts, and the board decided to save the taxpayers' money by disbanding them prior to the June deadline.

Only the Guelph district board's continuing committee will remain. That group presented a detailed budget report.

Honor Norman Jackson on his 90th birthday

The family of Norman Jackson, R. R. 1, Orton held an "At Home" in honor of his 90th birthday at Ospringe School recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wheeler welcomed the guests at the door, and two great grandchildren tended the guest book which was signed by 200 visitors.

A beautifully decorated birthday cake centred the tea table, flanked by gold candles. Five grandchildren served the dainty refreshments.

Mr. Jackson was the recipient of many cards and gifts, as well as a telegram and plaque from Prime Minister, Robert of the Province of Ontario, and letters from John Root M.P.P. and Mr. Rud Whiting M.P.

Guests were present from Sudbury, Weston, Mindemoya, North Bay, Toronto, Guelph, Kitchener, Georgetown, Erin, Eden Mills, Everton, Brampton, Hillsburgh, Acton, Orton, Ospringe, Waldemar, Shelburne, Grand Valley and Elora.

Following the "At Home" a family dinner party was held at the home of Mr. Jackson's son and daughter-in-law, with 34 attending.

Members of Mr. Jackson's family include two daughters, Nellie (Mrs. C. Robinson) of Weston and Sadie (Mrs. Willard Carlisle) of Mindemoya; one son, Leslie of Orton; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, all of whom were present for this happy occasion.

Mr. Jackson lives alone at his home, is about daily and takes a keen interest in his family, and the happenings of his community.

Best wishes are extended to Mr. Jackson on this special birthday.

\$145,000 total township permits

Nassagaweya zoning administrator S. W. Savage reports building permits were issued within the township during March for structures with a total value of \$145,000.

This included six residences evaluated at \$110,000; three remodelling projects evaluated at \$31,000; and two accessory buildings evaluated at \$4,000.

That there is an easy way to count seconds accurately, as navigators must? Say, One Mississippi; Two Mississippi; Three Mississippi; Four Mississippi etc., at brisk speaking speed. The four syllable word correctly measures out a second of time.



RISING FROM the waters like a huge monster this limestone shelf carved by glaciers in the ice age was an attraction when it was photographed many years ago.

Rockwood's history written in pictures

from the Richard Harris collection of photographs



ENTRANCE TO HI-POT-LO Park, now part of the Rockwood Conservation Area, succumbed to the wrecker's hammers several years ago. The park, a Harris family project, was a popular summer playground.

Esqueusing Councillors hit for financial aid

Esqueusing Council heard a succession of pleas for financial assistance at their regular meeting in council chambers Monday night.

Acton Fall Fair Board, president Wilmer Fryer, Bill Nelles and Don Matthews, approached the township for an increase in their grant for the coming year. They reported that last year's fair took in a record gate total of \$5,000 and paid out a record \$5,800. Mr. Fryer commented that he hoped, if Esqueusing raised their grant, Acton might feel obligated to follow suit.

At present, Esqueusing gives \$200 to Acton and Georgetown and \$50 to Milton. It was decided that it is too early to consider making a decision.

A second plea for financial aid came from Denny Charles, chairman of the Georgetown and District Hospital Board. He requested consideration in the

new budget for a grant to the hospital for construction of the new 31-bed wing. Council agreed to give the matter some attention.

A representative of the township fire area reported that repairs are needed on the Georgetown-based truck immediately. In addition to mechanical problems, most of the tires are 16 years old. Council agreed to pay the expense of putting the truck in top condition.

A motion was passed by which the Council agreed to assume 7 1/2 per cent of any actual losses incurred each year by the O.H.C. Senior Citizens' Housing units in Georgetown.

Reeve Currie and Councillor Leslie voted against the proposal on the grounds that there was no guarantee of how much losses would be. Councillors Ken Marshall, Russell Miller and Tom Hill voted for the motion.

Approximately 150 professional foresters will graduate this year from the four universities in Canada which give forestry training. Technical and ranger schools will provide an additional 600 forest technicians.

Horsemen's clinic for EB-HO Riding Club

The Eb-Ho Riding Club held a Horseman's Clinic on Sunday at the Erin Fair Grounds. The turnout was excellent with over 120 spectators present. The ticket taker was Jack Dice of Hillsburgh.

Guest speaker was Mike Leppard from Georgetown. Gord Secord, a blacksmith and Quarter Horse breeder, from Oakville, brought his Quarter Horse stallion to demonstrate hoof care and showmanship at halter.

Stan Wellington gave an excellent talk on grooming the show horse with the help of his palomino stallion Colonel. Carol and Bryan Robertson from Hillsburgh brought along their two horses to demonstrate the proper method of performing western games: Showing and training tips for the western pleasure horse were given by Duncan of Rockwood, Gord Secord and Jim Corbett.

The English pleasure horse class was shown by Stan Wellington, Danny Hall and Francis Smith. The western reining pattern was demonstrated by Jim Corbett, riding his Quarter Horse Indo's Martin, while Mike Leppard explained to the spectators the finer points to look for in a well trained reining horse.

Door prizes were given out between each event and the grand prize was a saddle blanket. Refreshments were looked after by Ruth Burt and Brian Carneloa of Hillsburgh.

The next club activity will be a trail ride and steeplechase day at Stan Wellington's on April 27.

Issue \$720,100 building permits

A \$370,000 addition to Pineview school was the major item in the \$720,100 worth of building permits issued during February and March in Esqueusing township.

Most other permits were for new houses and garages.

Building permit fees amounted to \$819 but the fee of \$374 for the school addition will not be collected. Approval was held up on another residence and carport because the owner owes back taxes.

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Another theory for mystery bird

A resident on the Sixth Line of Esqueusing, north of Highway 7, has identified the huge bird which has been keeping one eye on the sky as a red-tailed hawk.

A lady, Mrs. Burt said she was able to move to within a few feet of the bird on one occasion and checked its identification in an illustrated bird book.

She said she recently saw six such birds near Erin. The book states they range throughout the U.S. and southern Canada.

Mrs. Van Patter of R. R. 1, Georgetown said she recently noticed what looked like a Golden Eagle in a tree near the 401 which raises the possibility that more than one kind of huge bird is responsible for the rash of lost and slashed pets in the surrounding rural area.

Though the Golden Eagle is rare in Ontario a Burwash trapper recently caught one in a trap. The trapper found the 15 pound eagle in a snare beside a beaver carcass which he was using as bait for wolves.

All the big bird sightings started a couple of months ago when Georgetown area farmer Ed Osborne discovered an unidentified large bird had been responsible for the loss of a few pets and damaging some small livestock.

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