

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

... giving the communities of
GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL, LINDSBOURGH, BOONBY
STEWARTTOWN, ARROWOOD, BALLINAFAD, TERRA-COTTA
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The Editor's Column

INTER-COUNTY COOPERATION URGED

Last week's Erin Advocate carried a front page editorial titled "Why Can't Halton and Wellington Cooperate in Road Maintenance." We have been asked by two residents of the Ballinafad district to reprint this editorial in an effort to have the situation remedied. Not being particularly familiar with the road in question, we are assuming the honesty of the writer and hope that County Council will give consideration to the problem. Here is the editorial:

"We hear and read much about National and international cooperation, if the world is to survive. A glaring sample of the laxity of local County Councils in the matter of cooperating in keeping five lots of county road in some sort of passable condition, right here at home, is a sample.

For years the Councils and County Engineers of Wellington and Halton have failed to set-up a mutual arrangement whereby that portion of the seventh line from Ballinafad to No. 7 highway is kept in something like passable condition. Wellington keeps this road in good condition from the Dufferin Boundary to Ballinafad. Halton County simply ignores the necessity of taking care of the remaining portion to No. 7 Highway. Consequently it is practically impossible to drive over this five lots. This stretch of road is the outlet for a large area north from number seven highway and it is about time something was done about it! Even in summer it is a mess of ruts and pot-holes and dust. There is no apparent reason, except failure to co-operate, that this short stretch of a main road should not be in good condition. Come on men, get down off your pedestal and get going.

Last Saturday evening a car left the road in question and came to a stop in the ditch with all four wheels in the air. No one was injured, damage to the car was negligible — so it was not a question of speed or careless driving, simply failure of those in authority to keep the roads in condition. Many cars turned around and drivers and passengers were run ragged. Oh yes — they do put a fey shovels of sand on the only hill on it — that part of the road known to local drivers as the mountain. We repeat — get going men, do something about this before there is a fatal accident."

SPEAKING OF ROADS

While on the subject of roads, we realize just how fortunate we have been in Georgetown this winter regarding snow removal when we see the condition of roads in other districts. Last week-end we drove to Chesley and were struck by the deplorable condition of many small-town Main Streets. Harriston was particularly bad, with large pools of water and chunks of ice making it hazardous for cars and pedestrians alike. Fergus was little better, and in Walkerton, Hanover and Mildmay, we found a similar lack of snow removal. In each case the highway passes directly through Main Street, and we thought how lucky we were in Georgetown to have a Main Street off the highway kept clear of snow all winter long.

The highways themselves were in good condition with the exception of a stretch between Fergus and Arthur where the road was nothing but bumps and hollows. However, no blame can be attached because the large banks of snow on either side of the highway showed what a problem the snow plow had to cope with and to keep the road open at all was a feat in itself. This district seemed to have had more than its share of the ice storm and there were still hundreds of telephone wires down.

REPORTING ON COUNCIL

Many readers have complimented us on our report of the business transacted at the first Council meeting and we thank them for their interest. In the dozens of meetings we have attended in our seven years of reporting such meetings, this was perhaps the most difficult. The meeting lasted for five and a half hours and is isn't an easy job for a reporter to catch the highlights of all that happens in such a long period of time. Then, too, a number of controversial issues were dealt with which required the report to be exact in order that no member might be misquoted.

One mistake which should be rectified is our report on the voting results of the motion to offer the Municipal Building for sale for \$30,000. In addition to Cr. Ritchie, Reeve MacLaren and Cr. Hale voted against this motion. It was not a recorded vote, hence our error in counting the "yess" and "nays." The opposition for technical reasons, those opposing feeling the motion should have been worded to allow a

loop-hole in case the town should decide to sell for less. That is all water under the bridge, of course, as the building deal went through at the Thursday meeting.

PUT IT IN WRITING

From time to time, we have people ask us "why don't you write an editorial on this?" We usually come right back with "Why don't you write a letter to the editor?" It isn't that we are trying to side-track our duties as an editor, but we don't want to become the repository for the ideas of others, or to go off on a tangent about Mr. Jones' pet theory with us being the goat. We try to keep the distinction between editorials and news which at least one city paper consistently abandons. This, then, leaves us only this column for personal comment and anything which appears in it we must necessarily endorse as our own ideas.

Our readers are meanwhile given the opportunity to get their ideas across by writing a letter to the editor. We prefer, but do not insist, that the writer's name appear in print. We do require that the writer of a letter which will appear under a pseudonym make his name known to us as an evidence of good faith. The final decision as to publication of any letter, with or without a signature, rests with us. At certain times we have not been able to publish letters because of the extreme views expressed by the writers. This is a privilege which we must reserve to keep the Herald within the bounds we have set for it. However, we do wish that readers would make use of our columns more often, to give credit where it is due, to criticize constructively any public questions, to agree or disagree with any ideas which we express editorially. With each letter so published, we feel that we are better serving our function as a newspaper in reflecting trends of thought in the district.



HON. JOEN BRACKEN
Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party who will make an important radio broadcast over the C.B.C. English Network on Wednesday, February 27th at 8:30 p.m. Coming as it does at the opening of another session of Parliament this address will have special significance to all Canadians.

MRS. WILLIE SUTCLIFFE WILL MAKE HOME IN ENGLAND

For the past thirty five years a resident of Glen Williams, Mrs. Willie Sutcliffe sailed for England two weeks ago on the Queen Elizabeth and will make her home in the land of her birth. Mrs. Sutcliffe came with her husband from Yorkshire to this country. Mr. Sutcliffe passed away six years ago. Prior to her departure, thirty-three friends and neighbours gathered at the home of Mrs. John Garvin for a farewell party in her honour. The evening was spent in singing and dancing after which a lovely lunch was served and the evening closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "She's a Jolly Good Fellow."

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