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My Trip to Milton and Halton County Council

(This essay, written by George McClure after his visit to County Council last month, was chosen as second prize winner, in a contest in which each school child competed—Ed.)

by Geo. McClure
On Tuesday, May 11, 1948, I had the privilege of representing my Public School at the Halton County Council.

Leaving home at 9:00 a.m. we arrived in Milton at approximately 9:30. The trip was very enjoyable. Upon arriving we approached some huge grey stone buildings. Upon entering the County Buildings, I noticed some historical items of Halton's early times. Group pictures of members of the council may be seen also, these range from 1909 to 1947. However, we learned that Halton County was first organized in 1853. Travelling upstairs we discovered the council room, plus various other chambers.

The Council room is rectangular in shape, with benches covering two-thirds of the floor space. The remainder consisting of councillor's tables and chairs, two jury boxes one for the Grand Jury, the other for the Petit Jury. On the right and in front of the Judge's bench is the witness box, and on the opposite side the prisoner's box.

The Council opened its session with the singing of the "Lord's Prayer." Following this, the minutes of the previous meeting were read by the county clerk, Mr. Deane. One important item in the minutes which interested me especially was the granting of a sum of money to the Halton Music Festival. The reading of the minutes were then adapted on motion of Deputy Reeve Currie of Esqueping. The correspondence of the Council was then read.

Following this was the roll call when each student gave their name

and the name of the school which they represented. In turn we were introduced to the members of the Council. Members then conferred, over administrations, reports and motions. A report was received on the Peel-Halton Old People's Home, also reports on Hospitalization, Education and County Roads. Council was adjourned at 12:30, to reconvene at 2:00 p.m.

A delicious luncheon was served at 12:45 by the Mountain Union Women's Institute in St. Paul's United Sunday School. Immediately following lunch, the "Toast to the King" was proposed by Warden Cleave. A musical interlude by Milton High School Double Trio, followed. The Warden then introduced Mr. Skuce, Inspector of Halton County Public Schools.

The main topics of Mr. Skuce's speech were, first, "The Dangers of Life" in which he discussed the sea and its dangers compared with the dangers of a child. Second, he gave a biography on the great leader, Abraham Lincoln. One point, Mr. Skuce particularly stressed was Lincoln's favorite saying, "I will study and learn and some day my opportunity will come." This quotation greatly impressed me, and I know it will be an incentive for me to do my utmost in life.

Reeve MacLaren of Georgetown moved a vote of thanks to the speaker. Later a vote of thanks was moved to the ladies of the Institute and the vocal entertainers by Reeve MacLaren of Naagawaya. The luncheon adjourned after the singing of "O Canada."

We again returned to the County Buildings, where we were shown the County Road Department. Then we entered the court of justice, where we saw some geographical instruments, one of these was a telescope for measuring distances. A visit to the County Jail followed.

The County Attorney, Governor MacLaren, then gave a report on the County Jail. He stated that the jail was a very modern building and was equipped with all the latest facilities. We then returned to the County Buildings for the afternoon session.

The afternoon session was held in the County Court House. The County Clerk, Mr. Deane, presided over the session. The County Attorney, Governor MacLaren, presented some criminal cases, and Justice, Crown Attorney, Dick, related some criminal records and gave a demonstration on County ballot boxes. Dr. Blum of the County Health Unit, stated the fact that his department did not cure illness, but prevented it.

The meeting was adjourned by Warden Cleave and closed with the National Anthem.

On returning home, I began to realize the great privilege that had been given to all of us in attending County Council as the representatives of our various schools. It afforded us the opportunity of studying the different phases of Municipal Government. We then had the privilege of passing it on to our fellow pupils and thus a greater knowledge of our County Government will have been derived through our visit. In promoting this special day, I feel that the County Council is doing a great work towards the education of our youth for the citizenship duties of the future.

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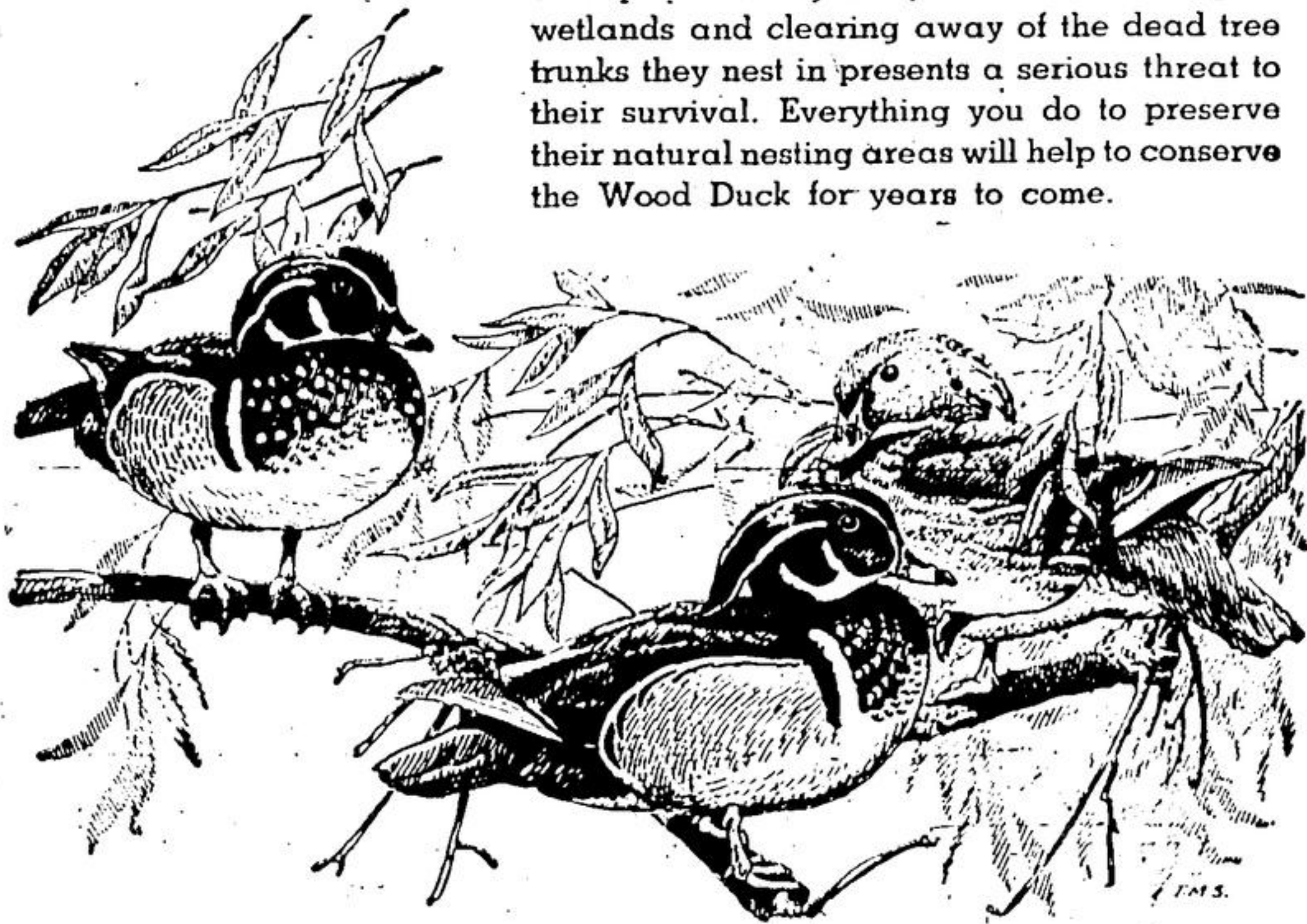
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