

2 BIG DAYS 2
JULY 1 & 2
Streetsville Park
 Greyhound Racing | SPORTS - MIDWAY
 FIREWORKS
 BRING A PICNIC AND STAY ALL DAY

The Adventures of Flitt the Butterfly

by Robin Wynne

FATHER NEPTUNE'S PARTY

It was cloudy this morning—just the kind of a morning that makes you want to snuggle down deeper under the covers. That's just what Flitt did—snuggled deeper down in his cosy bed in Father Neptune's castle.

"Wake up, sleepy head," came from the window. "Wake up, sleepy head," came from the hall. And then "Wake up, sleepy head," seemed to come from everywhere. Suddenly all the noise stopped and all was as quiet as a mouse in Sunday School.

Then "Surprise" came from all around. Flitt was out of bed so fast that you couldn't have said "Boo." He looked all around him, but not a soul was in sight. Just then someone giggled, and suddenly the door burst open, the window swung in, and the little

people of the ocean floor just swarmed in until there wasn't room to move. Elmer the octopus began singing in his deep gruff voice, "For he's a jolly good fellow," and everyone else joined in. You can imagine what a noise there was in Flitt's tiny room.

Father and Mrs. Neptune appeared at the door with big smiles. "We planned this farewell party for you, Flitt, as we know you want to go back to the Green Forest tomorrow," said Father Neptune. "It's rather cloudy," went on Mrs. Neptune. "But all the sun-fish have come and they are going to do their best to make it bright and cheerful."

My, oh, my, what a breakfast was laid out in the castle dining room. Everything you could possibly want to eat was on the table. The sea nymphs bustled about, so neat and tidy with their little pinafores starched and clean. They made sure that everyone had enough to eat.

However, they just couldn't resist one little bit of mischief. They fixed an enormous hot dog for Elmer and it looked so tempting with its nice brown bun. You should have seen Elmer's eyes sparkle when he saw the sea nymphs bringing it to him. You see, Elmer was just a little bit greedy and because this was the biggest hot dog of all, he just bit into it without looking at it very closely.

"Ugh! GGA! Ugh," sputtered Elmer. "What in the world—?"

Instead of a wiener in the bun, there was a piece of rubber hose that the sea nymphs had borrowed from Davy Jones! How everyone roared with laughter! If Elmer had not been so greedy, he would have noticed the hose in time. They teased Elmer all the rest of the day, but he was good-natured and didn't seem to mind.

Breakfast was soon over and everyone helped straighten up the breakfast room before they left for the castle grounds to play games and run races. They had a three-legged race and a wheelbarrow race as well as many others. Some of the little sea people got bumps and bruises as you sometimes do on a picnic, but everyone was enjoying themselves so much, they didn't even notice the bumps.

After they had almost tired themselves out, Father Neptune stood up and announced in his solemn voice, "The next race is to be a butterfly race. The first prize is a tiny suitcase made of mother-of-pearl!"

Flitt realized that this was just a nice way of giving him a farewell gift. Naturally, he would come first as he was the only butterfly there. Wasn't it a nice way of showing their friendship!

The little sea people had just settled down for the cake and sea tea that Mrs. Neptune had prepared, when there was a swirl of foam and right in the middle of it was a great big eel. They knew that Mr. Eel was a mean, bad-tempered fellow and he didn't very often dare come near Father Neptune's castle.

Everyone tried to get out of his way at once. Such a mad scramble in all directions at once! Mr. Eel seemed to be most interested in Flitt, for he swam straight toward him. Before you would wink an eye, Elmer the Octopus reached up one of his long arms and caught Mr. Greedy Eel, bent him around a post, and tied him into a double knot. To make double sure he couldn't get away, he tied him into a bow knot on top of the double knot. Then he calmly rubbed a little water on the knot to keep it tight—just as you sometimes do with your shoe laces.

Mr. Eel was so furious that he slithered and squirmed this way and that, but he couldn't untie himself.

The little ocean people knew they were safe now and soon the party was in full swing again. They had such a wonderful time that they didn't notice that it was getting late.

Father Neptune made a very nice speech and said how much they had all enjoyed Flitt's visit. He said he hoped Flitt would visit them again soon.

Flitt replied that he was sorry to leave his friends here on the ocean floor, and thanked them all for being so kind to him. He said it was time for him to get back to his home in the Green Forest.

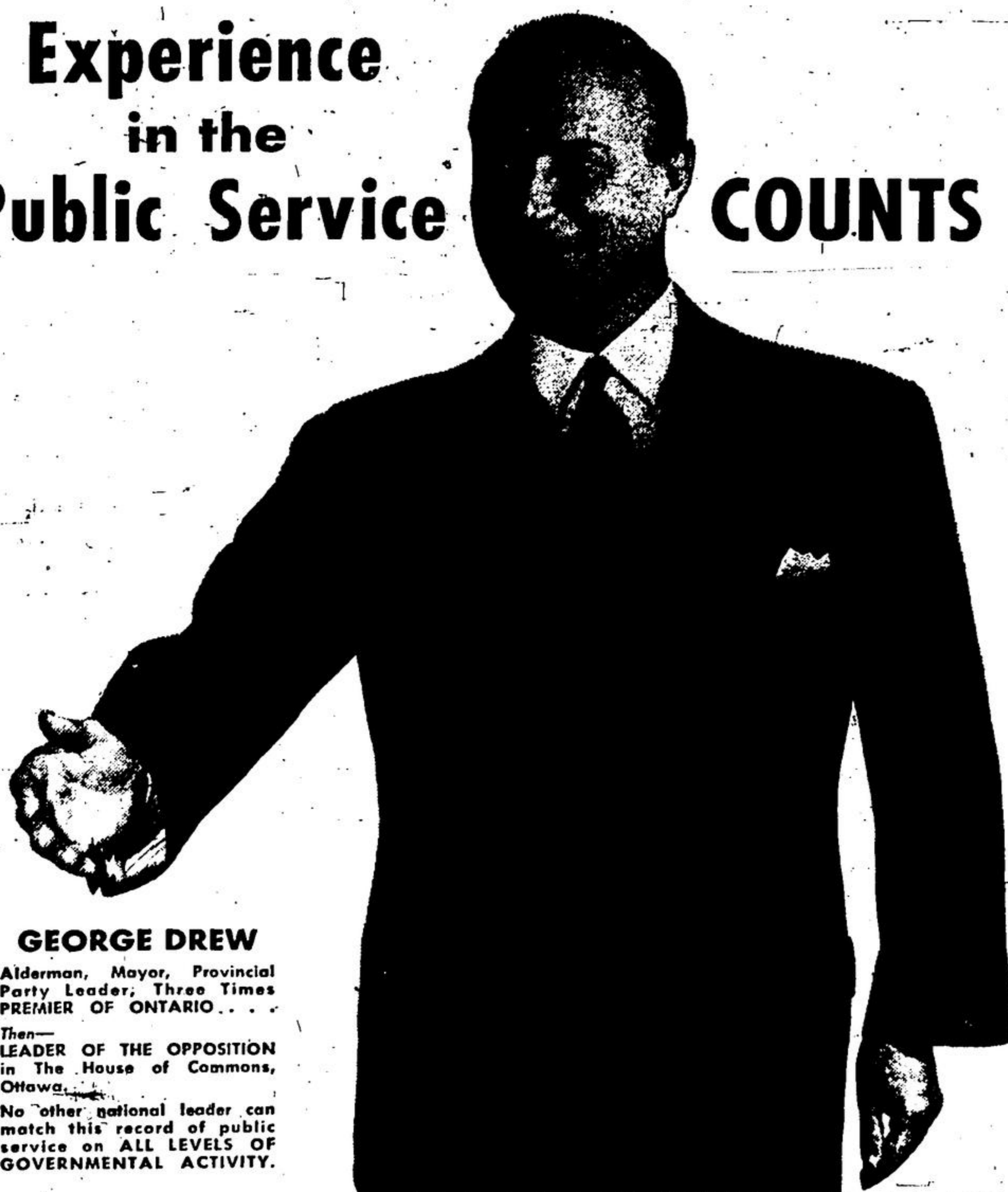
They all sang "For he's a jolly good fellow" again, and then gave three rousing cheers for Flitt the Butterfly.

Flitt had still to pack and get ready for his journey in the morning, so the party broke up and everyone swam away home feeling that it had been a wonderful party at Father Neptune's castle.

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DOUG LATIMER TAKES SUMMER NAVAL TRAINING
 Doug Latimer, son of Mr. Donald Latimer, who has completed his first year in the Arts course at the University of Toronto, is spending the summer as a naval cadet at Halifax, stationed on H.M.C.S. Stadacona.

Inserted by Halton Progressive Conservative Association.