

# THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

serving the communities of  
**GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL, LIMEHOUSE,  
 HORNBY, STEWARTTOWN, BALLINAFAD  
 ASHROVE, TERRA COTTA**

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## Tremendous Vote of Confidence

Georgetown's Sandy Best should indeed be a happy man.

His feat in winning election last week with a majority of 8725 votes over his closest opponent and almost a 4400 majority over combined opposition was most spectacular, even in the light of a Conservative upsurge over the whole dominion.

Based on past statistics, Mr. Best was accorded a more-than-even chance of carrying Halton, although faced with formidable Liberal opposition by a man popular both in his own town and in the county. In 1949, Halton returned Liberal Hughes Cleaver, giving him a 1426 majority. Mr. Cleaver had the advantage of being the sitting member, and of having a large personal following. His election occurred despite the fact that Halton voted Conservative in the provincial elections.

When Mr. Cleaver retired, Sybil Bennett captured the seat for the Conservatives in 1953 with a majority of 1284. Her untimely death last fall made a new nomination necessary, and Mr. Best was the choice.

## Return to Ward System?

Desire of a number of residents of the newer districts of town for a return to a ward system electing municipal officials, might lead to a plebiscite on the question at next December's elections.

If, as intimated Monday at council, there is dissatisfaction with the voting system, it would be proper for those who wish a change to petition council and ask for a plebiscite. Such a request, made by even 25 or 30 taxpayers would not fall on deaf ears, we are sure, for a town council always strives to follow the wishes of a substantial number of citizens if at all possible.

After years of voting by wards, Georgetown abandoned this in 1950 after a similar-type plebiscite. In the December, 1949 elections, 809 were in favour of election by general vote; 592 opposed to it. The issue was not a particularly "hot one"; though there were proponents of both ideas who argued quite strongly.

Main reason for the present general vote was to overcome a system which on occasion, led to more than the required two men seeking office in one ward, while other wards had acclamations, or as had happened, could not find enough candidates and had to call for new nominations. It was believed by those favouring general vote,

Looking backwards, it can now be seen that practically any man running under the Conservative banner would have been successful, it was a nationwide trend in which even traditionally Liberal communities threw out their former representatives. What made the Best victory outstanding was that in every one of the county's ten municipalities, he had a substantial majority, while the Liberals headed the polls in five places in 1953.

Mr. Best's first year in parliament will be an exciting one.

John Diefenbaker has been entrusted with forming a new government and he will be sharing in formulating government policy rather than being, as Miss Bennett was, a member of the opposition party.

He will worthily represent his home constituency and his country, we are sure. He is a young man with talent and brains, an able public speaker, and one who has evinced a deep interest in affairs of state. Halton will be proud, and Georgetown particularly so, to have him as a member of parliament.

that the six men who were wanted by the most number of voters would thus obtain office each year.

Another reason for general voting was to overcome what, at that time, was believed to be too sectional a system. Councillors elected in a ward tended to feel they should place the narrower interests of one part of town first, and quite properly so, for their job was, primarily, to legislate for those who elected them.

As a town grows larger, perhaps there is a better case for returning to ward politics. Some of the newer residents apparently feel that they should have more direct representation on council and that a candidate who is not so generally known among older residents does not stand as good a chance of election. In this, they have a point.

However, the old argument still holds good for general vote.

Any council worth its salt is conscious of its duty to all citizens. In ten years of reporting under the present system, this reporter can recall no incident in which any section of town was slighted. Unless such things do occur, we can see no particular reason for changing the voting set-up.

## Alan Neelan Conducts Grand Lodge Service

The Oddfellows and Rebekahs Grand Lodge Assembly opened on Sunday evening in the Royal York Hotel, Toronto. Sessions for both assemblies opened with a church service in the Concert Hall with Alan Neelan of Ballinafad charge of the United Church conducting the service as chaplain for Grand Lodge.

The Chorallies, an all girl choir led the singing and sang special numbers throughout the evening. Representative and scholar from Verdun Rebekah Lodge are Mrs. Bob Jepson and Mrs. Gordon King. The Odd Fellows representative and alternative are Jim Collier and Leslie Dickenson. Others attending the opening ceremonies were Mrs. Alfred Collins, Mrs. William Gibbs, Mrs. Gordon Spence, Alan Edmunds, Mr. and Mrs. Corey Harrington Jr. and Mrs. Harrington's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Newlands of Downsview.

## THE MAIL BAG

WHERE WERE ALL THE MUSIC LOVERS?

Georgetown, Ont.,  
 31 Byron Street,  
 June 17, 1957

Dear Mr. Editor:

Conspicuous by its absence was the crowd that should have jammed the stand at the park on Sunday night when the Georgetown Brass & Reed Band put on its first concert since the change from military to community status.

If this band was second-rate, with poor leadership we could understand the public apathy. But when a band boasts of the calibre of leadership given by Mr. Perrott and the record of achievement of this organization, we feel ashamed at the meagre showing made by the public.

Playing to an empty stand certainly does nothing for the morale of the musicians and we can readily understand their unwillingness to provide concerts for a handful of supporters.

Let's forget the television shows and other entertainments and give backing to one of the finest organizations musically by our attendance and monetary backing. Yours for the best band ever,  
 Ed. A. Peters.

## MRS. ROBERT KERR, 80 IMPLEMENT MAN'S MOTHER

Mrs. Robert Kerr, 80, wife of Robert Kerr, R. R. 2, Acton, died at the Flynn Nursing Home, Acton, June 12th. The former Laura McColl, she also leaves an only son, Archie, district farmer and implement dealer.

Funeral service was held Sunday in Church Hill United Church.



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## THE MAIL BAG

**Thanks From Band For Concert Support**  
 Georgetown, Ont.  
 June 17th, 1957.

Mr. Editor:  
 We would like to take this opportunity to thank those that attended our band concert on Sunday evening with their presence and financial support.

We do hope that we will be able to put on another concert in the not too distant future. Your continued interest and presence will be much appreciated as we the bandmen enjoy playing these concerts and trust that you as listeners enjoyed the varied programme that we presented.

Also our sincere thanks to the Mayor for his fine job as emcee and to the two men that took up the collection.

Trusting that we will have the opportunity of serving you the citizens of Georgetown in many ways in the future.  
 Sincerely yours,  
 The Georgetown Brass & Reed Band.

## PARISH PICNIC FOR ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN

A Sunday afternoon parish picnic proved popular when over two hundred members of St. George's Anglican gathered at Stanley Park, Erin on Sunday.

The picnic was convoked by Edwin Wilson, Sam Penrice and Jack Armstrong, with Jim Sargent and Gordon Spence in charge of the races. The intense heat precluded any notion of a ball game, and most of the youngsters spent a good part of the day in the swimming pool.

Following a picnic supper in the pavilion, Rev. Kenneth Richardson conducted an evening service. Grant Casely read the lessons and Walter Biehn played the piano for hymns.

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