

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

A Two-Year Term

Opinion on a two year term for councillors, which will be asked in a plebiscite in the December elections, finds us with only one strong opinion on the question. If we favour it at all, it would be with the proviso that elections be held on a split basis — say mayor, deputy reeve and three councillors one year; reeve and three councillors another.

This would guarantee some continuity to municipal government operation and assure a newcomer some time to make his civic contribution after learning the ropes, while, at the same time avoiding a blank year in politics and a council which might stay in power for a longer period than taxpayers might desire.

Cenotaph Needs Better Location

The cenotaph is a victim of town growth. Situated at a busy intersection where pedestrians must keep a careful watch for cars, it is not an impressive location for passers-by, nor does it have enough surrounding area to properly landscape. Add to this difficulties involved in public parades which block highway traffic and force marching up a steep hill, and one can concur with the Council-Legion decision for a move.

Obviously there are locations other than that decided in the park district where the memorial could be located. Each would have

We hesitate to endorse any proposal to elect a complete 9-member governing body for two years. Only once in our two decades as an editor have we seen a complete council shift from one year to another. It is much more likely to see only one or two faces change despite the yearly elections, and the law of averages seems to take care of the continuity which is the one major argument for doubling a council's term of office.

Whether one agrees that the new location decided by council for Georgetown's war memorial is the best, one cannot argue too strongly that it is not any improvement over the present location.

Its proponents and each could be an acceptable choice. Necessity, however, seems that someone must decide and we are content to leave it to council's property committee which has spent much time and effort on the question.

The Herald, as readers will notice in recent issues, is featuring more and more pictures of local interest. It is a policy which the Thomson company pursues in all its newspapers, and one which will be in effect from now on.

Notes From New York....

If you haven't been in New York City, you have something to look forward to. It can be the cheapest city in the world, or the most expensive, depending on your inclinations. And, as a twice visitor, we can recommend some of the attractions particularly which we enjoyed and some of which cost nothing.

Reflecting back on a wonderful week in the big town we highlight the United Nations building, where we were lucky enough to sit in on the debate on Tibet. The Planetarium should be a 'must' on anyone's list. As should the Staten Island ferry ride, a nickel each way, which combines the best features of the more expensive 3-hour boat ride around Manhattan Island.

Walking down Broadway is a never-ending source of fascination to those who like crowds. You will see hawkers selling tablecloths, puppets, or what have you, their wares spread on the sidewalk; little urchins selling orchids and shining shoes. You'll wonder if the well-built man with long platinum hair is a wrestler, an actor, or just a Broadway 'character'. You can stand in the doorway on a street level cabaret and watch a famous jazz band in action; look at pictures of the talent in the dime-a-dance spots, see huge bingo games, just like at the Ex, or marvel at the Camel cigarette sign which puffs out smoke; or the G.E. Iron emitting steam.

Fifth Avenue is another mecca for tourists with its perfume stores like Lord & Taylor and Saks, a glamorous all-glass building, street canopies running out from expensive

hotels, blind and crippled mendicants soliciting your help.

New York taxis are in a class by themselves. Daytime one sees the usual mixed traffic downtown but after sundown the taxis take over. Relatively cheap, if one can ignore the expected tip. And take our advice, a tip is expected, as we found when, paying a 95c ride with a dollar bill, an outspoken cabbie handed us back the nickel saying "Mister, you need this more than I do." (We agreed and took it.)

If new plays are opening, you can catch the excitement of opening night from a sidewalk stand, watch limousines and taxis disgorge the wealthy and the famous. If you're lucky you might spot Rosalind Russell, Arlene Francis and Ed Francis, as we did, or Helen Hayes, Dorothy Kilgallen and Hedda Hopper. Or you can join the constant crowd in front of Sardi's, the restaurant where theatrical celebrities congregate, in hopes of glimpsing a famous face.

You can spend a dollar on a cocktail in the rooftop lounge at Radio City, and take as long as you like watching the twinkling lights of the city. For \$1.25 you can see a top movie at the Music Hall, plus symphony orchestra, organ interlude, and a stage show reminiscent of the Ex grandstand show. You can travel by bus from one tip of the island to the other for 15c, viewing enroute Wall Street and the Hudson River docks, the downtown sky scrapers, quaint Greenwich Village and plush Park Avenue.

Controversial Corner

by Ian Cass

THE LESSON OF BELLEVILLE

No doubt the disclosures of the judicial inquiry, recently terminated in Belleville, will have shocked the complacency of many of that town's citizens. The fact that the town needs almost a million dollars to balance its books is enough to shock anyone. It is to be hoped that the lesson to be learned here will be duly noted by municipal voters and taxpayers all over Ontario.

The main point in defense of Belleville Council is that they had an obsession with a burning desire for the success of the town's hockey team. If you can call this a defense. Presumably, this ambition was fulfilled when the team won the Allen Cup and the world amateur hockey championship. Regardless of what reasons may be put forward, it is doubtful if any administration has ever placed any municipality in Ontario in such a serious financial position in such a short time, commission council said.

The main indictment is not only against Belleville Council for its gross, irresponsible handling of public affairs; it is also against the people of Belleville who, by a combination of apathy, indifference, and ignorance, put such a hopeless bunch in office. The damage has now been done and Belleville is \$900,000 in the red for the current year.

Out of the trials and tribulations of the unfortunate taxpayers

of this town may come some good. Perhaps it will encourage people who pay municipal taxes to take a little more interest in the way their money is spent and in who is elected to spend it. Perhaps it will encourage more people up off their rear ends and out to the polling booths at election time so that we will see at least half the people who have a vote using it. This will be an improvement over our present Ontario average which is around thirty per cent.

Closer to home, perhaps the lesson of Belleville will be learned by the people of Georgetown. Learned to the extent that they will be determined to keep this town from getting into such a financial tangle. Perhaps our townspeople will be encouraged to take a closer look at our present precarious state and swear it shall not become worse.

As far as this town's finances are concerned, the Delrex question looms large on the horizon. The questions posed in this column are certainly no closer to being answered as a result of that company's full page spread in last week's Herald. The figures quoted are quite meaningless, as both Delrex and the town council are well aware. The company has completely ignored the many additional items of expenditure which are being and will continue to be a drain on our resources. It has ignored the \$200,000 worth of services which the town is asked to provide for

the Delrex area, it is ignoring the additional capital costs of schools which will be needed. It has forgotten the million dollar sewage disposal plant which has to be built, and its peculiar calculations are enough to make a statistician shudder.

The counter proposal, suggested by some council members, seemed quite reasonable to me — it was certainly no more stringent than the requirements of many Ontario towns. The speed with which it was rejected by Delrex was regrettable. It was also regrettable that the company should wish to turn their backs on the original agreement (60-40 ratio) and yet expect the town to pay for services specified in the agreement. If the originally-agreed ratio of industry was in town now, there can be no doubt that money would be available to honour the town's original commitments.

This is not a question of who is for or against Delrex or who is for or against expansion and progress. To try to make this present controversy into such a question is merely to confuse the issue. The question is whether or not Georgetown, as a community, shall have complete control of its own affairs. It is our council, in the light of past experience determined to ensure that any further expansion is carried out within the framework of an exact agreement which conforms to the present standards of sound municipal practice — that is the question. The Delrex company has made its stand in this matter abundantly clear; it is time for our councillors to do the same. When they do, we shall see if the Lesson of Belleville has been learned.



THINK AND BE THANKFUL

Sugar and Spice

Dispensed by BILL SMILEY of the Winton Echo

If there is one thing on which Canadians pride themselves, it is their lack of racial prejudice; their "tolerance." Perhaps that's why the Toronto papers, with a fine show of indignation, gave a big play to the recent rejection of a Negro girl by a university girls' sorority.

Beating their drums and their breast with equal fervour, the Toronto dailies turned loose reporters on every aspect of the story, dragged in sociologists and anthropologists to write articles, and created a fine fury. For about three days.

After that, apparently satisfied that they had struck a mighty blow against race prejudice the papers went back to their normal round. They had appeased their liberal-minded readers, they had declared that we'll "ave none o' that there 'ere and that was the end of the matter.

The truth is, as anyone who is not deaf and blind knows well, that Canadians are just as prejudiced as the next fellow, when it comes to race, colour or religion. They are not so violent about it as some other peoples, but it is there, it is unmistakable, and it is widespread.

Don't worry, I'm not going to try to solve the whole problem in the space of this column. But let's not kid ourselves. Let's not look across the border with a holier than thou attitude. Let us not pretend that this is one country in which everybody has the same opportunity, regardless of his religion, or the colour of his skin.

It just isn't so. If my name is Klein, I've got to be twice as smart as McLean, to get as far. If my skin is black, I've got to be an Oscar Peterson to get out of the Pullman porter economic bracket. And even if I'm pure white and Protestant and my grandfather came to Canada 80 years ago, if my name's Podrinski or Soychuk, I'm on the outside looking in.

Ask the Negro from Michigan

or Ohio that happened when he made a reservation at an Ontario tourist resort. He arrived, was black, had black children, and the proprietor told him, with the utmost regret, that he must have got the reservations mixed up and he didn't have a thing left, but if he went on a piece he'd be sure to find something nice. It happens every summer.

Those are just examples, not far fetched. It's funny when you think of it, when you remember where the ancestors of Anglo-Saxon, white, Christian, prejudiced Canadians, came from. I fancy there were more shanties, crofts and slums in the background than there were minor houses.

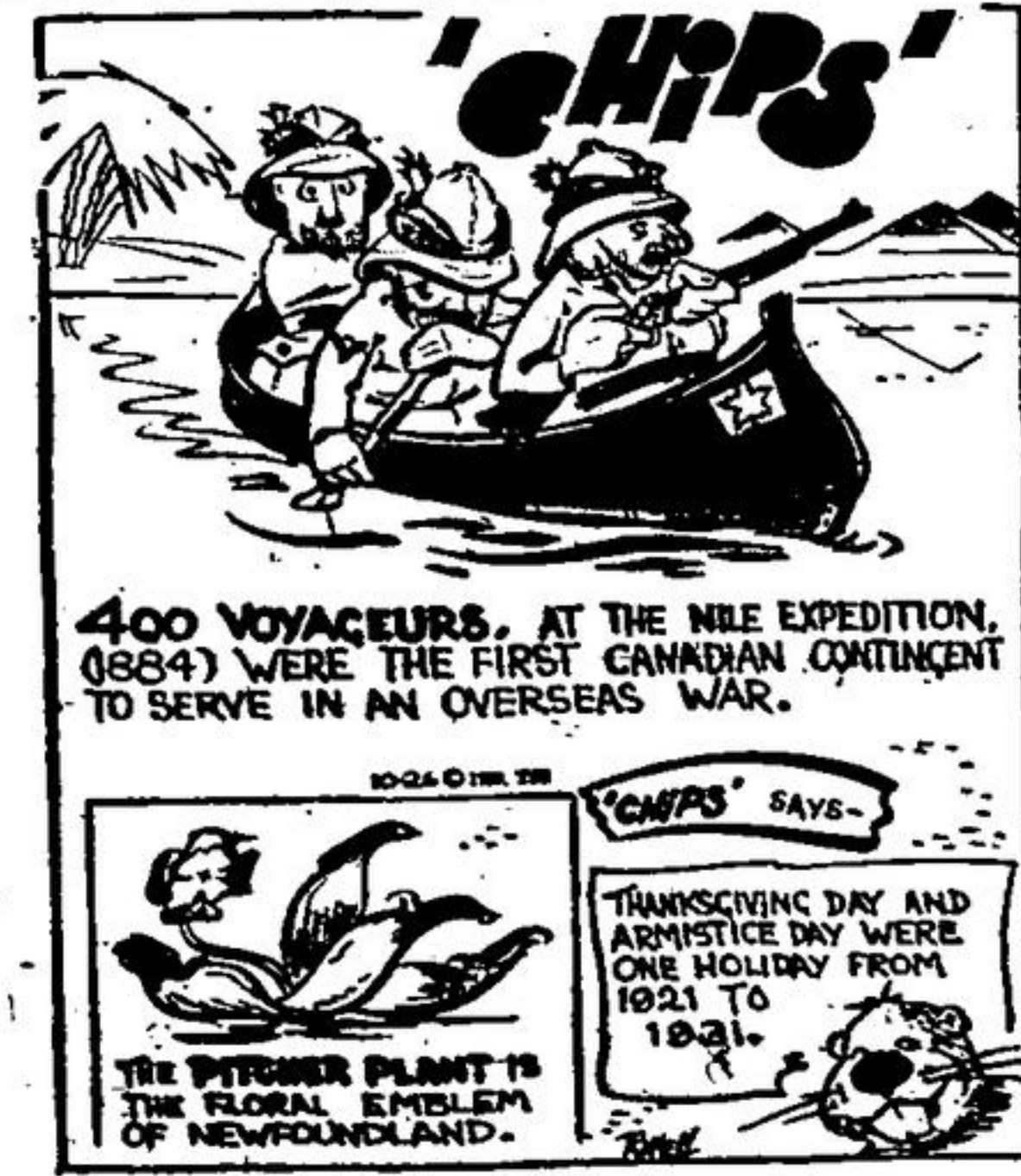
How did we get this way? The Irish aren't prejudiced. Except against Catholics or Protestants, as the case may be. The Scotch aren't prejudiced. Except against the English. And the English certainly aren't prejudiced against anybody. Except the Yanks.

Now, you'll notice I haven't said Canadians are intolerant. Prejudiced, yes, but not intolerant. Oh, we're tolerant. Tolerant means 'put up with.' We put up with the niggers and kikes, the wops and hunkies, chinks and frogs. We don't accept them.

The sooner the word "tolerance" is kicked out of the racial problem jargon, and replaced by the word "acceptance", the better. Who elected us, or anybody else, to "tolerate" other human beings. The arrogance of it!

Despite what I've said, I have high hopes for Canada. The old religious bitterness between the French and English-speaking Canadians is melting. There is a minority, but a vocal and intelligent one, of liberal citizens who are not afraid to attack prejudice wherever it appears.

In the service clubs and the Canadian Legion, there are no colour, religious or racial bars.



Council Should Produce Facts Says Letter Writer

It is a never ending source of amazement to me as a professional businessman in this municipality of ours, how some of our citizens and councillors can blast off into orbit on matters of municipal government and policy, vital to us all, without one iota of fact to back up what they are saying, advising, charging or counter-charging, accusing others of doing or not doing.

No business in this world could keep out of bankruptcy with such a group of uninformed managers, directors and shareholders as we are today.

Running the affairs of a growing municipality such as ours, with a total assessment of over \$12 million dollars, is a business and I mean BIG BUSINESS.

Let's be sure that there must be many more of our citizens who along with myself are fed up to the teeth with what has been going on in our town the past five years and especially of more recent date.

How can existing businesses hope to survive or others be expected to set up here in Georgetown in such a climate?

Yet, in spite of our local climate, in spite of the Arrow lay-off in spite of the lack of mortgage money, and in spite of our lack of new industry, Georgetown continues to grow and expand due mainly to our increase in population and a corresponding increase in residential and commercial and business assessment.

Some of our citizens and council members claim that the "Delrex area" is not paying its way and the Delrex Developments Limited claim that the "Delrex area" is actually subsidizing the rest of the town.

What he is and what he can do. Given a chance, this will break through the thin crust of prejudice that we have inherited or developed, and will make this land what it must be — a country where human beings are accepted, not "tolerated", regardless of colour or creed.

WHO IS RIGHT?

Neither council or taxpayers know. Because NO ONE has ever dug out the FACTS from municipal records.

I hereby challenge council to instruct the municipal clerk to prepare a breakdown of the income and expenses of the municipality (Delrex area vs. the rest of the town) from January 1st, 1955, to October 31st, 1959. The information is available in the records and we can only guide our destiny wisely by having the information at this date.

If the facts are produced for us here in this paper then we can come to our own conclusions, as is our right, as to who has been leading who up the garden path.

Let's put an end to this 'Hate Delrex' campaign both inside and outside of council so that we can go to the polls this December with clear minds and elect candidates who will give us free of political favour or disfavour for any persons, groups or so called geographical divisions in our municipality.

And gentlemen and Mrs. Currie — let's have the facts BEFORE the nominations.

W. H. CARR,
P. Eng. OLS.

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