Georgetown Herald

A THOMSON NEWSPAPERS LIMITED PUBLICATION

Serving the communities of Georgetown, Glen Williams. Norval, Limehouse, Hornby, Stewarttown, Ballinafad, Ashgrove, Terra Cotta.

PAGE 4

Thursday, December 17th, 1959

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

How Municipal Government Operates

Questioned by a resident who comes from western Canada last week about the status of he town's feeve and deputy, it has occurred to us that some of Georgetown's newer residents might be confused about how boal government operates in Ontario.

h Georgetown, a 9-member-council is elected to conduct the town's business. Separate elections are held for mayor, reeve, deputy reeve and six councillors.

The mayor is the head of civic government. He acts as presiding officer at council meetingss. When any formal motion is placed on the table, the mayor calls forvote after discussion on the subject on hand, He does not himself have a vote, except on occasions when any councillor might ask for a "recorded vote". If such is asked, the town clerk, whoc acts as secretary at a council meeting, records the vote of each council member, including the mayor, and this becomes a permanent voting record of that particular question.

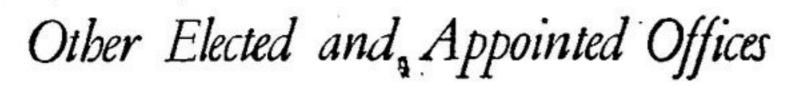
The reeve and deputy are full-fledged members of the town council sitting at the head of the table on either side of the mayor. In addition to these duties, they have an extra task as members of the county touncil.

Georgetown is part of the county of Halton, which comprises eight town and rural municipalities. Certain matters of government are entrusted to the county council, including county roads, administration of justice, conservation, health unit and home for elderly people, to mention a few. There are no elections for members of the county council. It comprises the reeves and deputies from the various municipalities. Presiding officer is known as the warden, and he is elected annually from among the council's membership. It has been customary to pass this honour from municipality to municipality, and this year Georgetown's reeve Doug Sargent has indicated he would seek it

Returning to local town government, at the first council meeting of a new year, a slate of committees is arranged, under the mayor's guidance, to deal with all phases of town affairs. Each council member, including the reeve and deputy, is chairman of a committee, and members also are selected to serve on other committees. Town committees include finance, police, public works, property, water, etc.

Committee meetings are held at the call of the chairman, and discuss matters which subsequently come before council for final decision. A committee meeting has no legal status, and only motions passed at a council meeting become law.

For several years, council members have received remuneration for their services. The mayor gets a flet yearly honorarium of \$1500. Other council members are paid \$13 for each council meeting they attend. There is no fee for committee meetings.



Besides an elected town council, Georgetown has two more elected groups, the hydro commission and the public school board.

Members of these two are elected for two-year terms. The hydro commission has only two such members, elected on alternate years, with the mayor as the third member of the commission. (The mayor, by virtue of his office is also an ex-officio member of every appointed board in town.) The school board has six members, three of whom are elected each year. Both these boards appoint their own chairman from their membership.

A number of other boards to which appointments are made, conduct various specialized aspects of community business.

Georgetown District High School board, to which appointments are made by the council and public and separate school boards, is in charge of high school affairs. A public library board comprises a similar set of appointments. Georgetown Planning Board is composed of three council members plus four appointments made by council. The industrial commission has four councillors and four appointments for its

membership. The cemetery board is a 6 man-appointed group; the board of parks managemen which confines its activities to operating the arena, has six appointed members; the community centre board, in charge of the swimming pool, also is a six-man appointed board.

New Service Has Its Headaches

A switch to carrier boy service for the Herald in town has not been accomplished without headaches, and we are sorry for any inconvenience caused the past few weeks to subscribers who have not received

their papers on Thursday. The boys and girls who are delivering the papers are an enthusiastic group and have done a fine job in their new careers as young businessmen. But for one reason or another, some houses have been missed.

We are anxious that errors do not oc-

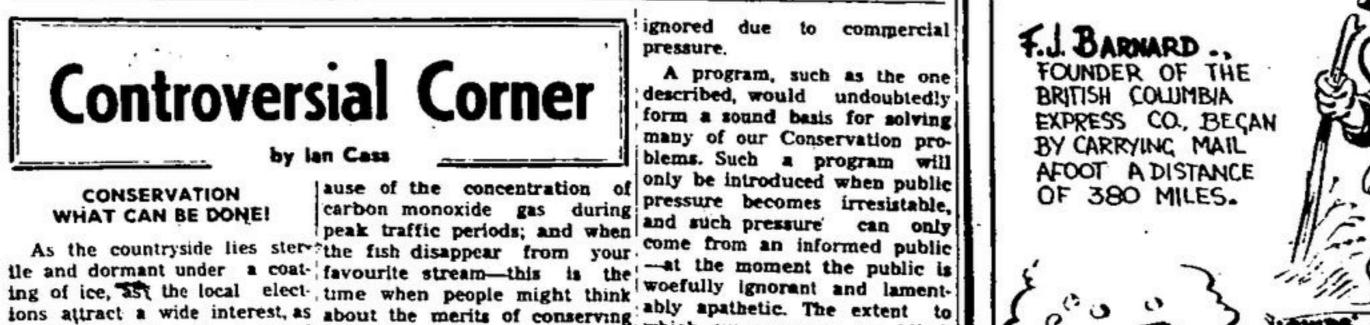
cur twice, and any complaints have been relayed to the carrier boys. But we realize that it will still be a week or two before anything near perfection is reached and there will be disappointment in delivery The old house looks pretty er with nothing to do but get for a time.

after school each Thursday.

If he has not arrived by supper time

The carrier boy should call sometime

a call to TR. 7-4156, which is distribution headquarters, will rectify; your problem.



the festive season reaches a cli- what is left of it. max, it is, perhaps, a bad time; It is quite easy to point for any columnist to try to at what is wrong, it is easy to pretack the subject of Conservat- scribe the action required to ion. When we are faced with put it right-like this point vast surpluses of wheat, when one; no further pollution of we are urgently seeking mark- freshwater (lakes, rivers or ets for millions of pounds of streams) will be permitted, ex. rance. Today, the science and extra butter, how can one isting pollution will be correct methods of Conservation are paint an alarming picture of in- ed within five years point established. The means to achadequate land management and two: lumber companies will op leve wise utilization of land destructive agricultural polic erate on a sustained yield (ade forest and water resources are quate replanting) basis or will available. Only one thing ies? It is difficult.

During the aftermath of hur-not operate: existing stripped lacking-action. Until this actrican Harel, when this part of land, unfit for agriculture, ion, which must come from Ontario was counting its dead will be replanted on a top public pressure, is forthcoming, to see. Each year, at this time apart from the aesthetic satisand assessing the millions of priority basis -point three: we will continue to destroy our millions of young trees are cut faction and increase in wild dollars lost in property dam misuse of agricultural land by forests, pour sewage into our down to meet the public demilife. age; when the bathing beaches excessive cash cropping or unaround Toronto were declared wise cultivation methods result, children by polluting the air mas the same millions of young critical finger at a source of inunsafe due to sewage pollut- ing in land erosion will be pre- they breathe. ion; when thousands of acres of vented by advice, non-payment Now one final barb directed burnt. If all the young trees, service clubs, but I will be erope-are lost due to a lowered of subsidies, or by-law-point at the Christmas tree trade. destroyed in this manner over much happier when Christmas water level and lack of rain, four: air pollution will be drasti- How nice it is to arrive home, the past ten years, had been trees are made of plastic and

the bustle and excitement of what we have inherited, or

ably apathetic. The extent to which our resources are blindly destroyed will stand as a measure of our national aware-

For Canada, unlike most other areas of man-made devastation it cannot truthfully be said that she acted in igno-



Sugar and Spice

I'm getting a bit weary of frenzy about the first of Dec- weeks, and everybedy feels It's and I hope Santa Claus doesn't hearing people say they're sick ember, every year, and we're more like old times. of Christmas. It's becoming fas- for it. hionable to emit such sentiments as: "It's so darn com- One year, it was a new sink man to build it. Finally found into my new one, he'll drop

more, I'm absolutely worn out." bill for over \$500. Another week. Then be needed a few mas. Christmas, that is commercial- humps and hollows in the hardixed, it's our society. Don't bet wood to show for it. Still anothere won't be a sharpie out ther Christmas we got into the there selling souvenir buttons painting, and when the family

It's not Christmas that's a big pain in the neck. It's some of the so-called Christians celebrate it - worrying, plaining, grabbing, sweating, ing a bangover. That's why I pushing, whining-in a perfect look on the annual Project as glorious day approaches.

the Second Coming.

and the weeks approaching it, terms. a demanding but exhilarating experience. Each Christmas season, around our house, presents a challenge that brings out the best in me. And don't anybody, please, say the best is none too good.

Reason is that each year, just about the time other people arebeginning to wrap gifts or address Christmas cards, we're plunging into The Project, Most people do their major over- knows what obscure feminine hauls in the spring. For some balkiness, she crossed me up reason, we get into the most and went on a painting and stupendous domestic upheavals cleaning jag in October, two just before the festive season months ahead of schedule, and each year. It's not my doing, there we were, facing Decemb-

Piffle and poppycock, tt's not the floors, and we still have or cold drinks on the day of would meet at meal-time, looked like a war-gathering of

During these periods, living who with the old Trouble 'n Strife is like living with a cobra nursfrenzy of self-interest as the a challenge. It's a sort of combination between Custer's Last Stand and the Charge of the For myself, I find Christmas Light Brigade, in domestic

> And when the toilet lid finally goes down without squeaking, when the last snarl of the sender fedes, or when the last spatter of paint is being turpentined off, I know that Christmas, and peace on earth, and goodwill toward the kids and me, are practically upon us.

This year, moved by who good to me. But the Chief En- ready for Christmas, like nor gineer goes into some sort of mal people.



ed cries of the youngsters. To havoc of land erosion would set it up, in the living room, be under control, the rivers. decorate it with tinsel, orna- would flow more cleanly and a ments and coloured lights and vast source of lumber wealth

trees are thrown away to be come for some of our excellent. when the air in Toronto or cally reduced by methods al- triumphantly, with the festive planted in the denuded areas of the growing ones are left to Montreel is unbreathable bee ready well-known, but largely pine or spruce smid the wadit- Southern Ontario; much of the grow.

M YEARS AGO

ECHOES From the pages of the Haraid, Doc. 12, 1934

Mr. Omar Diggins leaves tomorrow for St. Johns and will sail Friday for the Old

We thank Mr. Williams. driver of RR 4 mail route for a bunch of holly and mistletoe just received from England.

· An Ottawa dispatch or Monday says Canada's first silver dollar will be mint ed and circulated as a comme morative token of King George's accession to the throne on May 6, 1935. It will be called the George Dollar and bear likeness to his majesty.

days to get organized after the hunt. By this time there's a foot of snow on the ground, and the chimney experts, who sud denly seem to make up half the population, are telling me no body but a dam' fool would build a chimney in that kind of weather.

every day. I'll bet we're the L M. Clark enly people in the country who B. Baskerville entered December with a pile of bricks, about the size of Buckingham Palace, sitting in the laundry room drying out. Between the men coming in to get water for their mertar, and the deg coming in to get dry (that's where he sleeps), and that mausoleum of bricks confrenting her every merning. the Old Girl was about ready to The thought of it completely have herself bricked off into a unnerved me, and I knew she'd quiet cavity in the cellar er be upset by all the peace and semeplace. quiet in the weeks before Chris-

trnas. So, I decided to build a However, the Project cleared chimney. I'm happy to say if the air, as they always do We worked. We've been in a normal have the longest chimney this state of alarm and confusion, side of Pittsburgh. That makes chaos and open warfare, for three chimneys on the house, get into the wrong one. One chimney will drop him right I had quite a time getting a into the toilet. And if he jumps mercialized" or "Christmas is in the bathroom. By the time the right fellow, but he was on like a stone about 50 feet and just a bag pain in the neck" or we were through, we had a another job this week and he into the furnace, and that will "I don't enjoy Christmas any complete new bethroom, and a had to go deer hunting next be the end of Father Christ-

Christmas Food special: 2 lbs mixed nuts 33c: 1 lb chocolate drops 15c; 10 or pitted dates 15c; dozen or anges 33c; 2 fbs mincement 23c; pure jersey milk delivered anywhere in Georgetown, 10c

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Georgetown Herald

Published by Thomson Newspapers Limited

22 Main St. South Georgetown, Ontario

Walter C. Biehn, Managing Editor Gerfield L. McGlivrey Production Superintendent

Office Staff: Aileen Bradley Terry Harley John Ollivier, Advertising

Plant Staff: Member of the Canadian

Weekly Newspapers Association and the Ontario Division of the CWNA.

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