

Georgetown Herald

A THOMPSON NEWSPAPERS LIMITED PUBLICATION

Serving the communities of Georgetown, Glen Williams, Norval, Limehouse, Hornby, Stewarttown, Bellinac, 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 the town's reeve and deputy, it has occurred to us that some of Georgetown's newer residents might be confused about how local government operates in Ontario.

In 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 meetings. When any formal motion is placed on the table, the mayor calls for a vote 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, who 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 council.

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, administra-

tion 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 flat yearly honorarium of \$1500. Other council members are paid \$13 for each council meeting they attend. There is no fee for committee meetings.

Other Elected and Appointed Offices

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 management 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 for a time.

The carrier boy should call sometime after school each Thursday.

If he has not arrived by supper time, a call to TR. 7-4156, which is distribution headquarters, will rectify your problem.

Controversial Corner

by Ian Cass

CONSERVATION WHAT CAN BE DONE!

As the countryside lies sterile and dormant under a coating of ice, the local elections attract a wide interest, as the bustle and excitement of the festive season reaches a climax. It is, perhaps, a bad time for any columnist to try to attack the subject of Conservation. When we are faced with vast surpluses of wheat, when we are urgently seeking markets for millions of pounds of extra butter, how can one paint an alarming picture of inadequate land management and destructive agricultural policies? It is difficult.

During the aftermath of Hurricane Hazel, when this part of Ontario was counting its dead and assessing the millions of dollars lost in property damage; when the bathing beaches around Toronto were declared unsafe due to sewage pollution; when thousands of acres of crops are lost due to a lowered water level and lack of rain; when the air in Toronto or Montreal is unbreathable because

ignored due to commercial pressure.

A program, such as the one described, would undoubtedly form a sound basis for solving many of our Conservation problems. Such a program will only be introduced when public pressure becomes irresistible, and such pressure can only come from an informed public—at the moment the public is woefully ignorant and lamentably apathetic. The extent to which our resources are blindly destroyed will stand as a measure of our national awareness.

For Canada, unlike most other areas of man-made devastation, it cannot truthfully be said that she acted in ignorance. Today, the science and methods of Conservation are established. The means to achieve wise utilization of land, forest, and water resources are available. Only one thing is lacking—action. Until this action, which must come from public pressure, is forthcoming, we will continue to destroy our forests, pour sewage into our rivers, and give cancer to our children by polluting the air they breathe.

Now one final barb directed at the Christmas tree trade. How nice it is to arrive home, triumphantly, with the festive pine or spruce amid the excited



A STRAIN ON THE FAMILY TIE

Sugar and Spice

Dispensed by BILL SMILEY of the *Warrior* Echo

I'm getting a bit weary of hearing people say they're sick of Christmas. It's becoming fashionable to emit such sentiments as: "It's so darn commercialized" or "Christmas is just a big pain in the neck" or "I don't enjoy Christmas any more, I'm absolutely worn out."

One year, it was a new sink in the bathroom. By the time we were through, we had a complete new bathroom, and a bill for over \$500. Another year she decided we'd sand all the floors, and we still have humps and hollows in the hardwood to show for it. Still another Christmas we got into the painting, and when the family would meet at meal-time, it looked like a war-gathering of Apaches.

It's not Christmas that's a big pain in the neck. It's some of the so-called Christians who celebrate it—worrying, complaining, grabbing, sweating, pushing, whining—in a perfect frenzy of self-interest as the glorious day approaches.

For myself, I find Christmas and the weeks approaching it a demanding but exhilarating experience. Each Christmas season, around our houses 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 are beginning to wrap gifts or address Christmas cards, we're plunging into The Project. Most people do their major overhauls in the spring. For some reason, we get into the most stupendous domestic upheavals just before the festive season, and each year, it's not my doing, there we were, facing December. The old house looks pretty good, but the Chief Engineer goes into some sort of mal people.

And when the boiler lid finally goes down without squeaking, when the last snarl of the sander fades, or when the last spatter of paint is being turpentineed 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 knows what obscure feminine haunts in the spring, she crossed me up again and went on a painting and 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 December. The old house looks pretty good, but the Chief Engineer goes into some sort of mal people.

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APPLES WERE BEING GROWN AS EARLY AS 1633 AT ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, N.S.

ed cries of the youngsters. To have of land erosion would set it up, in the living room, be under control, the rivers decorate it with tinsel, ornaments and coloured lights and vast source of lumber wealth draw back the curtains for all would have been available to see. Each year, at this time apart from the aesthetic satisfactions of young trees are cut felled and increase in wild down to meet the public demand. A few days after Christmas the same millions of young trees are thrown away to be burnt. If all the young trees, destroyed in this manner over the past ten years, had been planted in the denuded areas of the Southern Ontario, much of the

ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald, Dec. 12, 1934

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

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

An Ottawa dispatch on Monday says Canada's first silver dollar will be minted and circulated as a commemorative token of King George's accession to the throne on May 6, 1935. It will be called the George Dollar and bear a 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 suddenly seem to make up half the population, are telling me nobody but a damn fool would build a chimney in that kind of weather.

Then the moon said he couldn't work with wet bricks, and it was raining or snowing every day. I'll bet we're the only people in the country who 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 mortar, and the dog coming in to get dry (that's where he sleeps), and that mausoleum of bricks confronting her every morning, the Old Girl was about ready to have herself bricked off into a quiet cavity in the cellar or someplace.

However, the Project cleared the air, as they always do. We have the longest chimney this side of Pittsburgh. That makes three chimneys on the house, and I hope Santa Claus doesn't get into the wrong one. One chimney will drop him right into the toilet. And if he jumps into my new one, he'll drop like a stone about 50 feet and into the furnace, and that will be the end of Father Christmas.

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