Georgetown Herald

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... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

Early Budget Saves Money

That council has expended a great amount of time and thought on the 1963 budget was seen last week when ratepayers learned that there will be only a conservative rise in their tax payments this year.

A residential increase of 2.28 mills was the final decision, after conferring with elected and appointed boards which did some budget paring along with councillors.

It is not easy, as anyone in business these days will know, to hold costs at their last year level. We are still in an inflationary spiral which started during the war years and has continued now for twenty-odd years. But there is indication that the spiral is levelling off to some extent and it is a wise move for a municipal council to do its best to hold costs within previous figures.

Especially noteworthy is the early budget date which, in itself, will cut borrowing costs and help to keep the tax-rate down.

Finance chairman John Elliott and his committee deserve the thanks of ratepayers for promoting an early budget which can set a pattern for future years. Tax money will now become available much earlier than has been the custom, and bank borrowing will only be necessary for the first three or four months until payments due on April 8th begin to reach the town treasury.

Rodeo Project Too Risky

What was hoped to be a yearly event which would build on a smaller scale to the famous Calgary Stampede, has been dropped by the Lions Club.

"Too risky" was the club decision last week when its third annual Rodeo came up for discussion.

"Too bad," we say, for the rodeo was a catchy attraction locally and one which residents were beginning to look forward to

But no one can disagree with the Lions who found that weeks of work and worry produced only $300 in net profit last year, and less the year before.

The club is interested in making a reasonable profit on its projects, and $300 is only a pittance measured in the work involved. And even this cannot be assured, with a one-day event completely dependent on the weather.

Perhaps the Lions can come up in future with another event which could fill the double purpose of raising funds for public service work and putting Georgetown in the national news.

Fergus has its highland games, Calgary its stampede, Toronto its CNE, Shelburne its old tyme fiddling. There must be something that can be Georgetown's if we all put our heads together.

Rates Must Carry GVAS

An upward revision of rates charged by the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service should not meet any criticism from the public.

The revision was made only after careful thought by council's ambulance committee which decided that this service should pay its way and not be subsidized from the public purse.

The new rates, as it is, are more reasonable than we could expect if the GVAS were a private business. For if it were, the operator would expect to make a reasonable profit which would have to be included in his scale of fees.

As it is, the two local ambulances are manned by strictly volunteer help and any salary bill is negated.

Georgetown was the first community to inaugurate a volunteer service and it has not only proved its worth locally, but has been copied by other towns as well.

To keep it on a cost-meeting basis is a sensible and worthwhile aim.

See Military Vote As Election Factor

Ottawa (Special to the Herald)

Canadian Military personnel, past and present, may play a more significant role in the April 8 election than is usually the case. The reason - the red-hot argument over Canada's acceptance of a nuclear role.

In terms of numbers, active service personnel and veterans could have a considerable effect on the election, but only if they voted more or less solidly for one party - an unlikely event. Canada's active service totals 124,818, divided 21,497 in the Navy, 51,053 in the Army and 52,268 in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Of these about 12,000 are overseas.

Add to this some 275,000 in veterans organizations and several thousand more in the militia and the number starts to become formidable. Comparatively few former servicemen belong to veterans' groups, however. The Royal Canadian Legion, the largest, has a membership of about 250,000 and the Army, Navy and Air Force veterans about 15,000. In addition, there are several smaller organizations. But there are over a million war veterans in Canada, some 870,000 from the second war and Korea, and another 168,000 from the first war.

The armed forces, of course, are strictly non-partisan until the individual serviceman and woman enters a polling booth. In the past, the armed services have tended to be traditionally Liberal. In the June election they upset the result in several ridings when their vote was added to that of the civilians. It is no secret here that the military sides with their former defence chief, Douglas Harkness, in believing that Canada should acquire nuclear arms for the carriers the army and the air force now possess.

The legion and other veterans' organizations are equally non-partisan. But at the Legion's dominion convention in Halifax last June, a resolution which could be interpreted as referring to nuclear arms, was passed. It urged that all Canadian forces be trained and equipped with the most modern and effective weapons, made in Canada if possible, so as to ensure the best possible defence for the nation.

The smaller Army, Navy and Air Force veterans has no stated nuclear policy. The orginization does belong to the World Veterans Federation, representing 75 countries and with headquarters in Paris. This organization works closely with the United Nations toward disarmament and is opposed to any extension of the nuclear "club."

If veterans, servicemen and their families voted together, they could influence the outcome of the election in a number of ridings. There was a rumour recently that a number of servicemen were changing the stated location of their home constituency to Prince Albert in a desire to vote directly against prime minister Diefenbaker on the nuclear question. But this is believed to have about as much validity as service rumours generally.

If any party does benefit from such a vote, it will likely be the Liberals who have supported a nuclear role for Canada. At the other extreme, the New Democrats will get the least support in view of their firm stand against such weapons.

VON Would Extend Into North Halton

Extension of VON services to cover a broader area and implementation of a Homemaker and Nurses Services Act on a county basis were two main objectives stressed by D. G. Hallford, retiring president of the Victorian Order of Nurses, in his report to the annual meeting at Oakville.

"Our VON headquarters in Ottawa has made it clear to our board that we are now in a critical stage of change insofar as health services in Canada are concerned," Mr Hallford told the meeting.

"With a capable nursing staff already on tap, the present local organization hopes to extend its services into surrounding districts.

Although no conclusive proposals have been made, the retiring president said that the local branch was prepared to serve the sick in extended areas when the demand was made known.

"We have allowed in our budget and out of our special projects account sufficient monies to fill the gap between the amounts requested from each municipality as a grant and our anticipated expenses," Mr Hallford said.

The group had endeavoured to interest the North Halton Urban Board in having the VON establish an office in the north part of the county.

"Mr. Costigan, Municipal Clerk, Milton, and member of North Halton Urban Bd. has been most helpful," he said, "and recent indications are that we will be favourably received by Georgetown, Milton and Acton."

Funds

Mr. Hallford explained, however, that current financial assistance from the United Appeal might not be sufficient to cover extended service.

"Since the Oakville UA draws its support largely from the population living south from the Upper Middle Road they feel that the money collected should be spent in the same area," he said.

"With the exception of the VON, this is quite a reasonable asumption. In our case, however, we are led to believe that we should extend our services and, if the United Appeal cannot fill our requested budget, we must seek other sources of income through grants or government sponsored bills."

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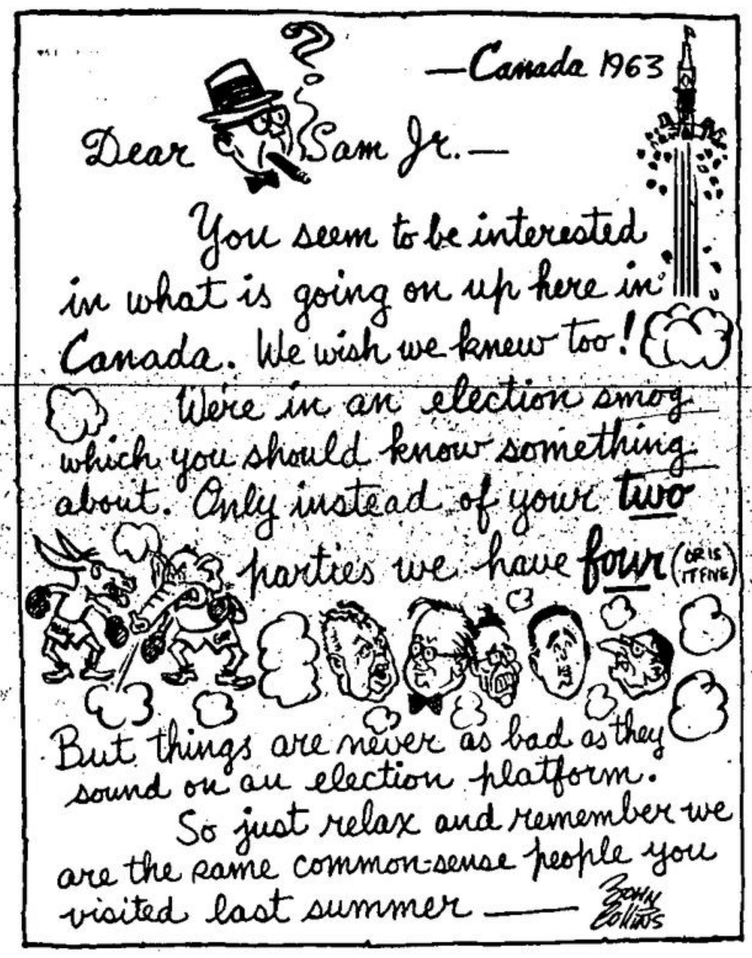

LETTER TO AN AMERICAN COUSIN

SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

A month from now it will be all over. Have you decided yet which way you are going to vote? It's tough, isn't it? The experts tell us there's only one real issue in this election — that of nuclear arms.

* * *

Well, I'm telling them right now, if they can't think of something a little brighter than that to vote for, or against, they needn't expect me to vote at all.

* * *

Let's say, just for the sake of argument, that I'm an ordinary Canadian voter, which I am, who is flatly opposed to nuclear arms for Canada, which I am. Who the heck am I going to vote for?

* * *

Diefendumper says we won't have any of these atrocities in Canada sort of. But if a war starts, he'll blow his whistle and stop the play while we send a couple of trucks down to Detroit or somewhere and pick up nuclear noses for those Boneheads or whatever they call them, that the Yanks unloaded on us. Makes me go all hot and cold when I think that I voted for that fellow one time.

* * *

Then there's Lesser Person. Lesser reminds me of the girl who sang in the choir and taught Sunday School, but took a drink one night on a sleigh-ride and now dances third from the left in the chorus line at the Purple Garter. Lesser, who once remarked sensibly that he'd rather be red than dead, who once won the Nobel Peace Prize, now wants to press those hideous heads into the hot little hands of our gallant lads in uniform. How could I vote for him?

* * *

And of course we have that new party. Tweedledum vows that the party wouldn't touch nuclear arms with a 10-foot Tory. Tweedledee says the party will accept limited use of nuclear arms. Tweedledum says to Tweedledee: "Comment ca va, Bob?" (English translation "How's that again, Bob?") Tweedledee informs Quebec audience that the party wouldn't touch nuclear arms with an 11-foot Tory. I'd like them to be a little more explicit. Is it to be no nuclear arms for anybody, or just a sprinkling here and there, or no nuclear arms for Quebec?

* * *

There's only one party left. It's been left for years, and will probably be left again on election day. The grinning leader of the Indeepees, somewhere in there among all the jokes, has stated that his party is again nuclear arms at home or at school, at work or at play. Does this mean that, because it's the only party that agrees with me, I have to vote Socialist, whether I want to or not?

* * *

I told you this one-issue business was ridiculous. The sooner the politicians get back to some good, old-fashioned election issues, the sooner we will all know where we're at. You know the sort of thing I mean: higher salaries for everybody and lower taxes for all, free dentures for everybody who believes in fluoridation, government subsidies for credit card carriers, free twist lessons for all over 80, a month's supply of oil, free, on April Fool Day. We want something the voter can get his teeth into, not this tasteless rubbery, nuclear nonsense.

* * *

What about a shot in the arm for bilingualism, and thereby Canadian unity? More French in the schools would do it. And I don't mean text books. The party that promised it would import a few thousand Parisian models and plunk them on our teaching staffs would be doing more to create national unity than all the shredded wheat boxes printed in French and English between here and Trois Rivieres.

* * *

What I'm looking for is a straightforward party of the old school that will offer a solid program of the type we're familiar with: outlawing liquor and lowering the legal drinking age, free medical care for every man who can prove, in triplicate, that he's dying of an incurable disease, polygamy with all household expenses to be shared equally by the working wives, a chicken in every Jaguar.

* * *

Nuclear arms my foot! If they keep up that foolishness, I'll vote (and I think I can swing my wife) for Mahatma Ghandi.

Walking Catches On as Best Challenges Harley

Sandy Best, Federal Conservative Candidate for Halton, today challenged his Liberal opponent, Harry Harley, to a walking match around the riding. "Among the many phases of legislation brought in by our Government" said Sandy, "was the creation of the Sports Council to encourage physical fitness among Canadians."

"Walking is great exercise" said Dr. Best, now campaigning in his fourth Federal election in six years. (he wore out holes in his boots in his first election in 1957, when he rang about one-third of the doorbells in Halton) "and I would like to test the stamina of my opponents. Besides, I have lived in Halton most of my life, and I think they should see firsthand some of the sights and beauty spots of our county. I estimate a walk from Oakville up to Georgetown, then Acton, down through Milton to Burlington and along the lake shore, would be about 50 miles. And while we're at it the Mayor of Burlington might come along, too. He certainly needs the exercise."

Sandy further commented that ground rules for the walking match would likely be set up by the campaign managers, watches synchronized, and stretchers in the rear. "Politicians can talk" he added "now let's see if they can walk."

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light, and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27.

The Lord's message was never intended to be a secret for the benefit of a few. If we do not tell it, it is the same as keeping it a secret.

Six Fatality-Free Years Acknowledged for Town

The Ontario Minister of Transport, James Auld, congratulated the town for completing six years without a fatal car accident in a letter to Mayor Ern Hyde last week.

The letter reads:

Dear Mayor Hyde:

The records of this department show that Georgetown has completed six years without a fatal motor accident.

At a time when all good citizens are, or should be, deeply concerned about the needless waste of life, health and property from accidents, the record of your town represents an outstanding accomplishment and a distinction in which you and the citizens of Georgetown can take justifiable pride.

I congratulate the Town of Georgetown upon its achievement and sincerely hope that this record may continue through 1963 and the years to come.

Sincerely yours,

James Auld,
Minister.

ECHOES.....

From the Pages of the Herald, 1953 and 1938

10 YEARS AGO

- Something novel for Georgetown is lacrosse on ice, which will make its first appearance Saturday night in the arena. The new sport has been catching on in various centres this season. A team from Alliston will be opposed by Georgetown-Glen Williams Combines.
- On the past two Mondays the initiatory degree was conferred on a number of candidates at Orion Oddfellows Lodge. Charles Hill and Herb Hancock were the candidates on Monday. A week ago, candidates were John Davidson, Edward Arnold, Herman McLelland, John MacDonald, Gilbert Preston and George Johnson.
- On Monday, council agreed to install necessary water and sewer services into a planned subdivision in the Tyers survey when an agreement from Alwood Construction Co. indicates the company will build at least ten houses there.
- Twenty-three members of Smith & Stone Limited became charter members in a 25 Year Club of Duplate and associated companies Saturday night. Col. W. E. Phillips, president of Duplate, Fiiberglas and Smith & Stone, presented engraved watches, company pins and framed certificates to the members at a dinner at the Royal York.

25 YEARS AGO

- The St. Patrick's supper and concert held in the United Church on Monday was an unqualified success. The artists were the Misses Capps and Mr. E. Capps, soloists; Mr. Morley Hallett who contributed comic songs; Mrs. Earl Bunting, accordion player; and Miss Armistead, elocutionist.
- The Georgetown Local Council of Women, under the convenership of Miss Mary Lawson, held a most successful travelling bridge in aid of local welfare work on Saturday. Bridge hostesses were Mrs. W. E. Nodwell, Mrs. W. Thompson, Mrs. J. B. Mackenzie, and Mrs. L. W. Dann. Tea was served at the home of Mrs. Roaf Barber and guests were received by Mrs. Barber and Mrs. Hayes.
- A concert orchestra has been formed here. The 'Acadian Concert Orchestra' includes 15 members but an invitation has been extended to all musicians to join. The executive is as follows: Hon. president, Mr. A. Maclaren, president, Mr. R. Ross; secretary-treasurer Omar Diggins and William Young; director, Omar Diggins; ladies director, Evelyn Hartley; publicity secretary, K. D. Barber.

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