

# Georgetown Herald

Published by Home Newspapers Limited  
22 Main Street S., Georgetown, Ontario  
W. C. BIEHN, Publisher

PAGE 4 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1963

## ... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

### Not In Favour

Many local merchants are old enough to remember the days when stores were open Wednesday and Saturday nights till midnight, and had a Thursday half holiday.

There was no municipal legislation in those days and hours were governed by a mixture of endurance and unwritten agreements which tended to be observed by most local stores.

Later, there was a painful evolution to Friday and Saturday open nights—elimination of Saturday evenings and finally a Monday all-day closing.

And along the way the town council entered the picture by legislating store hours.

Each time there was a change, there was a brisk battle between merchants with differing opinions. Each time, council had to act because provincial legislation required this.

Today another store hour battle looms on the horizon. And it would seem that the circle has turned completely. For while the tendency used to be toward reducing store hours, this time one merchant group wants an increase to allow Thursday as an extra open night.

There is a strong argument in favour of this. Many places within easy driving distance have lowered two open nights. A general five-day working week has perhaps reduced the popularity of Friday night shopping. Some merchants feel that they will derive extra business, keep shoppers at home, by the change.

### Old Problem Returns

A two-year term for municipal councillors is something which we do not personally favour.

And we are completely opposed to any council deciding on this without a plebiscite, as was discussed in council last week.

The argument that major projects could better be tackled if council had two years in office is a flimsy one on which to base a longer term. Nor do we think better men would be attracted to seek council office, as one councillor thinks. And election costs of \$2,600 are too small a factor to worry about saving in a million-dollar business.

### Had We the Power

Did you read in last week's Herald about the mushrooms which are playing havoc with a Durham St. driveway?

The energetic spores produced plants which burst their way through four inches of gravel and a couple of inches of black-top. And the remarkable thing is that the mushrooms had relatively soft and appeared to cause no damage in its climb to the sun.

Several years back an even more remarkable scene was created on Mill Street. The mushrooms of that day came up through solid concrete in front of the

And council is now in the unenviable position of being able to decide one way or the other without its former guide in the Municipal Act about necessary majorities, for the provincial government has eliminated this from the Act.

Last week, open Thursdays were voted by a 6-3 council vote. But opinions expressed by councillors were so varied that by the time you read this, the vote could easily swing in the opposite direction.

Perhaps Cr. Jim Emmerson had the best idea of all — to repeal closing legislation altogether and let merchants fight it out themselves.

This would certainly be good for council, which has enough controversial matters which have to be solved without tackling one they can bow out of.

On the other hand, it is equally good for merchants and shoppers to have all stores open and closed for the same hours, and a hit-and-miss system would benefit no one.

Perhaps last week's council decision was the wisest at the present time. It would be difficult to allow a minority group to set the pace for a majority. Plaza merchants have strong reasons for wanting another open night and it is now their job to convince a portion of the downtown group that they are right.

It may well be that merchandising today is no more static than it was in the past and that a businessman must bend to the times as he has done before.

Annual municipal elections are one strong point of democracy, which a town retains. And, with all democracy's disadvantages, they are worth holding on to.

Good men have failed to be re-elected after one term in office — and poor men have been.

And the chances of retaining a poor man for two years are just the same as those for holding a good one.

Perhaps Mayor Hyde summed it up best when he told council last week "Once in a while there is a bad council, and this could be a catastrophe if it was in office for two years".

Muckart Building and was a mecca for the curious for several days.

Humans might well be shocked at the implications of the power which plant life can generate. A science fiction writer could easily add his imagination to write a chiller which wouldn't be too far from fact.

The mushrooms illustrate that man alone is not imbued with all of nature's gifts. It should create a healthy respect for the supreme being which has endowed even a lowly fungus plant with powers beyond man's comprehension.



—Photo by Lorne Biant

I can scarce forbear to weep with joy when I think of the glorious gifts of taste which September rejuvenates our palates, jaded by hamburgers, and hot dogs, mustard and relish, charred steak and skunky beer.

Juice-sprouting sweetness of red apples, golden corn. Tongue tingling tartness of huge, cold tomatoes, tawny peaches. Earthiness of scrubbed new potatoes, running with butter. Faint, crisp, bitterness of cucumbers. Speaking of faint, I'm about to haven't had my dinner.

September sounds: acorns rattling off the roof; squirrels back in the attic, gibbering and muttering and scrabbling; the thuds and whacks and bips and hups of football practice; and the vast sighs of the earth, delivered of her finest, oozing milk and honey and satisfaction.

September smells: hot dogs frying at the fall fair; new apples — there's no smell like this one; the first acrid smoke of the exhausts from school buses; wood smoke in the fireplace; the soft, heavy sweet scent of summer replaced by a tang like printers' ink and fresh sweat and champagne, rolled into one.

You take it, whatever it is; Paris in the spring, summer on the Riviera, Japan in cherry blossom time. I'll take Canada in September.

The worst thing I can think of, including my wife running off with the milkman, my kids turning into no-goodniks, is to die early in September. This would kill me. Literally, as they say.

### Georgetown Herald

Published by Home Newspapers Limited  
Georgetown, Ontario  
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### SEPTEMBER SKY

But, thanks to a benevolent deity, the transition between the maddest of summer and the scrambling activity of fall is a painless — nay, a glorious — experience.

We are given just for a month, new eyes, eyes that suddenly see the splash of colour the annals make against the fence, the thrilling sweep of browns and greens across valley and ridge, the sad purple of distant hills.

### SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley



There are certain months of the year in which I would gladly shake the snow off my boots and walk out of this country, never to return, without a backward glance. But September is not one of them.

At this time of year, I would take a moment of time to drag me kicking, screaming and roaring, to Canada, across the border, out of my home by native land.

Twice, poet John Keats expressed it, though he never saw this Canada of ours. He spoke of "the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness." This is our September. He spoke of "a thing of beauty and a joy forever." And this is our September.

When is it all so well? It is a place and its place is a time after the chaos of summer. Spring in Canada is a happy and rich.

In most countries of the northern hemisphere, spring is the time of joy, of waking to new life, of a fresh stirring of the blood. In Canada, spring is merely a muddy interlude. Completely whacked after five months of winter, we drag ourselves through it, only to tumble into the clammy, feverish embrace of summer; shameless, exhausting wench.

In this country, autumn is the time when the pulse begins to weaken, the imagination to wane. The "blue nation" comes to a halt. The "blue nation" comes to a halt. The "blue nation" comes to a halt.

### NEWS ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald, 1953 and 1958

#### 10 YEARS AGO

- Provincial Police are tracking down all leads in a serial bomb attack in Glen Watford, where goods valued at over \$4,000 were removed from the Beaumont Knitting Mill.
- A treasure hunt for Mayor Jack Ainsworth will be a coronation medal which he received by registered mail last week. The medal was struck by the Canadian government to be presented to each head of a municipality.
- Last Sunday afternoon a meeting was held by the Branch 120, Canadian Legion hockey committee to set up an organization for the purpose of organizing "ed hockey" in Georgetown.

#### 25 YEARS AGO

- The thanks of the ratepayers of this municipality is due Mr. Sam Harrison, who has served in the capacity of public school trustee for sixteen years. He is retiring from the board this year.
- "Do we need more beer?" If you think we do not be sure to sign the petition of protest against the establishment of a beer warehouse in town, says a WCTU advertisement.
- At council meeting Monday night Georgetown council voted 7 to 1 to go on record as opposed to the new Pasteurization of milk law recently passed by the Ontario Government. Councillors called it "an invasion of personal freedom, a burden to farmers, a blow to the farmers' income, and a reason for higher prices. Requesting an appeal of the new law were Hall, Coshgan, Brown, Lyons, Davis, Crapps and Gibbons.

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