

Georgetown Herald

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... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

No Reason for Change

The impending plebiscite on a two-year term for municipal officials has nothing particularly in its favour — and some definite disadvantages to a two-year term for councillors.

Its proponents point to a saving in election costs, a better chance for new councillors to familiarize themselves with municipal procedure, and adoption of more long-range improvement programs as salient features of two years in office.

The saving in election costs is minute. A new councillor with anything on the ball should not take a year to get perking. And there are no particular projects which cannot be planned over a longer term than a year.

The arguments for a two-year term could be equally applied to three years, five, ten ... or life.

There is no guarantee that because a council knows it will be in office for a double period, it will attack problems with more vim, or implement improvements which it might otherwise ignore.

Quite the contrary. Councillors, being human, like all men, could procrastinate.

Beware the Greeks

In the past few years Georgetown, like many Ontario municipalities, has grown accustomed to the big brother control of the Municipal Board which has frowned on debenture issues unless they are for absolute necessities like schools, water and sewer improvements.

It has worked particularly to our town's advantages for rapid growth and rigid economies during depression years accounted for an inordinate number of large capital expenses in the post-war years which have taxed Georgetown's borrowing power to capacity.

Now, just as we have learned to live within our means, comes a reversal in senior government philosophy.

According to new legislation, commu-

Two years look like a long time, and important projects might actually be shelved with this comforting knowledge that council could do it at a later date.

The yearly municipal election is a time-honoured one, and we can see no place that Georgetown has particularly suffered because of it.

There have been years when ratepayers were satisfied or apathetic and a whole council has been returned by acclamation. There have been other years when there was almost a complete turnover. Good councillors have been tossed out by voters on occasion, and ineffectual ones have been retained.

A two year term would not alter the facts of democracy — that voters do not always make the best choice. But would it be any particular advantage to retain a good man an extra year when one takes the same chance of retaining a weak one?

We intend to vote against a two-year term on December 2nd. And we hope that a large majority of voters will express the same opinion as they did when the same question was placed before electors a few years back.

nities are not only going to be allowed to splurge — they are actually going to be encouraged to undertake projects forbidden up-to-now. Extra government grants are being made available to municipalities, provided the project is one which would not be undertaken in the normal course of business.

We hope council will keep a wary eye on this gift from above.

"Beware of the Greeks bearing gifts" as we have learned in the past.

For while ostensibly it might cost only a few dollars out of one pocket to pave the streets with gold, there is only one place that senior governments get the money to foot the subsidies — right out of that other pocket.

able men are sometimes reduced to jelly, while glib political types sound impressive. Members of the present council have the advantage of being known ... and the disadvantage of creating opposition along the way if they have been worth their salt and voted as they believed.

On occasion the meeting has been marred by regrettable incidents, sparked by over-enthusiastic attendants. Some years, procedure has been almost deadly dull. But usually there is enough spice, enough humour, enough drama to satisfy audience and candidates, and to start the town on the annual guessing game revealed the first Monday in December when ballots are counted and winners announced.



LOOKING FOR OLD MONEY'S WORTH



SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

I think you'll agree that we the matter to the proper council don't have problems. If you milks. Six months later don't you're either dead or when your fine fire of indig-

Wouldn't it be grand if we Ask a provincial government voters could solve our prob- lem as easily as the govern- ment does?

When an ordinary person has a problem — too many bills, Mother hitting the bottle, children getting lippy, storm windows not on yet—he has to do something about it, either positively or negatively.

That is, he finds a solution to the problem or he doesn't. He stops paying his bills, tries to get Mom off the bottle and onto the lounge games, gives the kids a belt on the ear, and talks his neighbor into helping him put on the storm.

Or, if he's another type, he pulls his head into his shoulders and hopes. He hopes that Mother will join AA, that the kids will stop bullying him, and that it'll be a mild winter.

Either way, he has to make a decision whether to act or not. Not so the government. Municipal, provincial or federal, it has a much neater way to deal with dilemmas. It appoints a body to look into the matter. And in this case, body and curper are often synonymous.

Ask a municipal council for new street lights, adequate sewage disposal, or patches for the potholes. It listens politely, and promises to "refer" the matter to the proper committee.

NEWS ECHOES

- 10 YEARS AGO**
 - Bunny Morganson of the Toronto Telegram, Gordon Alcott, Bill NHL originator, and at Patterson, OHA official were the guest speakers at the Little NHL night sponsored by the Legion Monday night. The hall was packed for the occasion.
 - A deer hunting party from Glen Williams made Thomas Richard Hunter's column in the Today with this story. One of the party, while tramping the northland, saw a bear and shot it. "He had been told always to shoot a bear twice, so he did. His pals came running and just to make sure put a third bullet into it. Then they walked over to it to discover the frozen carcass had been dead for over a week, having been caught in a snare."
- 25 YEARS AGO**
 - Attendance at the high school starts at 151, 15 more than last year at this time it was learned at the Commemoration exercises, Thursday. Chairman of the program was C. B. Dayfoot.
 - (Read it and weep) ... Georgetown stores are selling giant ten pounds of sugar for 49 cents.
 - Expressing outrage as re-elected by acclamation at the Expressing Commemoration Monday. They are C. H. May, G. W. Murray and Edwin Harrop. George Currie and H. A. Robinson are candidates for the Reeve's chair, W. A. Wilson and Wesley Murray for Deputy Reeve.

THE MAIL BAG

2-Year Term, Sunday Sport Ex-Councillor Says "No"

Dear Mr. Editor: First of all I wish to assure you that I am not running for ... or from any office in the Municipal field, nor am I promoting ... or knitting ... need- ing?? any candidate. Accord- ingly I trust what I have to say will be accepted as strictly edi- torial and not advertising mat- erial.

It appears that we will be asked on our ballots this year to signify our wishes on the Two Year Term, and Sunday Sports, etc. On the two year term, may I say that for a small town, the two year term is a very stupid way to save a few pennies. One or two bad guesses in electing members of the council can cost us many times the amount spent on an annual election. We have seen glaring examples of this in the not too distant past. The stand- ard cliché used by members of council "It takes us half a year to learn the ropes" is to my mind so much political propa- ganda. Any man interested in making himself a useful member can do so by studying the Municipal Act, listening to the Town Clerk, and using a bit of business sense in the management of the town's affairs, rather than taking the attitude that "Having been elected, I am now indispensable, and an authority on everything."

It is my opinion that we should stick to the ONE YEAR TERM and in fact, should also revert to the GENERAL VOTE system to obtain and maintain the best available material for our elected bodies.

On the Sunday Sports ques- tion, as I see it, there should be a resounding NO vote on the question "Why?" — Because, at every turn, the moral fibre of old and young is being twisted, bent and broken by the "don't be a square" attitude and the "what's the difference" line of reasoning. Granted, many, many people are against the view of the masses on these matters, because they do not care enough to take a stand. But for many people who still have a conscientious feeling, that whatever race color or creed, they happen to be they desire the right to make up their own minds as

says she simply must have new drapes to match the new rug she had to buy to match the new chesterfield, just cool her with, "I've appointed a commission to look into it."

And anyone in his right mind knows this country is not bilingual despite all the night school classes filled with people made "bilingual" conversational French. But never mind, we have a commission to look into the matter, so all is in safe hands.

However, all this is none of my business, I'd love to be bilingual and bicultural but I ain't neither. And I dare say you ain't neither, neither.

All I wanted to say here was that I find this commis- sion idea fascinating. It's the solution to every problem that promises to be awkward.

Jack, next time your wife

DISTRICT NEWS AT A GLANCE

OAKVILLE — A mammoth industrial complex reported to cost \$75,000,000 will be located here. The complex, involving Canadian Petrofina Ltd., and Union Carbide Canada Ltd. will bring to Oakville its third oil refinery and its first large-scale petro chemical plant.

BURLINGTON Town police have embarked on a full-scale search for thieves who netted \$1,500 in a restaurant break-in Thursday. Most of the money was from ticket sales for the Hamilton Tri-Cat Football club.

MILTON In rapid fire action, and without discussion, Milton Council approved an application to the Ontario Municipal Board for permission to issue debentures of \$170,000 for the development of the Kelso wells Monday. That would double the water supply Council also sought assistance from the Federal Municipal Loan Fund.

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God. — James 1:5.
The Almighty is the abundant source of all true wisdom.

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OTTAWA REPORT

BI-MONTHLY OBSERVATIONS BY DR. HARRY HARLEY, M.P. FOR HALTON

THE SIXTH and last Supply Motion for the Session has this confidence in the Government, the rules must be changed to allow reasonable debate, and argument without wasting a great deal of time in Parliament. AS I HAVE said before we great deal of time in Parliament. AS I HAVE said before we great deal of time in Parliament.

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