

# Committee Agrees Larger Municipal Units Needed

Special to The Herald  
By Gwyn Kinsey  
(Second of Four Articles)

After agreeing, in principle, that larger municipal administrative units are desirable, members of the Legislature's select committee on municipal law have disagreed, often sharply, on how big the units should be, how they might be organized and how the councils should be elected.

The committee has finished its three-year stint and is preparing its report for the legislative session beginning next Jan. 20.

On the committee are nine Progressive Conservatives, three Liberals and one New Democrat. The NDP position has been made clear by Fred Young (Yorkview). The Liberal position has been outlined in a vague statement by Vernon Slinger (Downsview). The Conservatives show no unanimity, except on the point that the county, with broader powers and possibly revised boundaries, be the building block in a system of regional government.

**DIVERGENT VIEWS**

Most of the PC members, for example, are opposed to Chairman Hollis Heckett's proposal that county councils be elected by direct vote. One of the most vocal opponents is Arthur Evans (Simcoe Centre), but Mr. Evans is more firmly in favor of the regional government idea than are George Combs (Lanark) and Norris Whitney (Prince Edward Lennox). In the middle, clearly trying to reconcile divergent viewpoints, has been Allan Kauter (Waterloo South). All Cowling (High Park) has been plugging an amendment "Metro Toronto" organization.

They're thrashing out their differences now. Their report will probably be not quite as radical as some of the views expressed by a couple of the rural members. There's good chance, too, of a minority report if the majority fails to advocate strong regional government.

Some of the Conservative members are even suspicious of the term "regional government" simply because it has been advocated so strongly by the New Democrats.

**FIVE POINTS**

Mr. Young's statement of the NDP position listed five suggested recommendations. "That immediate steps be taken to set up regional municipal government in Ontario. These regions would consist of the county as the basic unit.

In some instances existing counties would form the unit. In others, where good planning and efficient administration demand it, a combination of counties or even parts of counties would emerge. The actual boundaries would have to take into account logical planning areas, watersheds, practical educational units, and other similar factors.

"Within the regional unit, municipal governments should be set up which would have jurisdiction over all matters properly falling within the scope of such governments.

"The regional municipal governments would be elected on a basis of representation by population with new ward or borough boundaries drawn to accomplish this purpose.

"That a small commission should be set up, responsible to and reporting to the Legislature to draw the new boundaries and to recommend them to the Legislature. It should be composed of experienced municipal people.

"The Commission should start with those areas where population pressures and development problems are most acute. It should report on each area as its recommendations are ready. It should work with all possible speed, with power to build the staff necessary to examine several vital regions at one time."

**LIBERAL POSITION**

Mr. Slinger's statement was less precise. He said in part: "Since we believe that the present system of municipal organization no longer adequately serves the needs of the people of Ontario, we recommend that the Ontario government establish such regional local governments as are necessary whose boundaries will be determined by considering watersheds, geographical features, economic factors and present county boundaries.

"These regional governments will have the sole municipal responsibility in their areas for the following: assessment, planning, borrowing, water, sewers, police, highways, health.

It must be remembered that one of the advantages that will accrue and must be made to accrue from the foregoing suggestions is the necessity for government in co-operation with this new format of municipal organization, to move effectively toward a program of diversification or decentralizing industry even to the point of subsidizing specific industries, if necessary, in

an effort to have them established in areas of slow development and economic depression.

"Such matters as the administration of justice, welfare services and education obviously no longer are matters solely of local municipal concern.

The cost of these three services should be substantially borne of all of the people of Ontario based on their ability to pay. The administration of these services to provide equality in all sections of the province should be a regional and provincial responsibility.

"Because of modern demands it must be obvious that the Ontario government has to find a method of providing training for (such) personnel who will on the administrative level, handle our municipal affairs."

## Yellow Sheets Tell Sad Tale, Council Sympathizes

Bill yellow sheets, permanently discoloured by iron deposits in the town water were produced as evidence by Stevens Cr. resident Bill Richmond before council on December 21. He is demanding recompense.

The damage occurred, he said, when town watermains were flushed while his wife was operating her automatic washer. Earlier in the year the machines had been damaged by a similar occurrence, he said. At that time he had requested that housewives be notified when work is being done on the mains.

The firm which handles the town's liability insurance says it will not recognize such damage claims, he said.

There was general agreement among councillors that Mr. Richmond's claim is legitimate. If insurance does not cover this, Cr. Don Powers suggested that it might be possible for the town to self insure on minor claims up to \$50. To solve the iron problem, a remedial plant, would be the answer, he said, but this would be costly. Creesents are particularly subject to iron deposit collecting, and frequent flushing is the only answer at present.

Reeve Elliott said the town has a responsibility to warn residents when flushing is planned and if it is not done, the town should be responsible for damage. Cr. Emmerson cited another instance of dirty water on Ewing Street by flooding a skating rink.

"Let's be honest with Mr.

## Cemetery Erosion Control Gets \$2125 Ontario Grant

Approval of a \$2,125 grant to Credit Valley Conservation Authority for corrective action to end erosion of the river bank at Glen Williams Cemetery has been given.

George Kerr, MPP told the Herald this week that the Department of Energy & Resources Management has accepted the grant. It is about 50% of the estimated cost.

Deputy Reeve Wilfrid Leslie of Enniskillen says it is hoped to start the project immediately and complete it by early spring.

Richmond had told him he won't get his claim but he's still not sure what he can do about it," observed Cr. Hildebrandt.

Mayor Gibbons invited the complainant to the next council meeting when he plans to have a statement from the insurance firm of claims made and claims paid for the last five years.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Visiting with Father Ogter DeVend, of Holy Cross Church, is his brother, Father Cyrilus, also a priest of the Capuchin order. Father Cyrilus, a pastor in Holland, will return home on January 6th.

Prior to leaving for a Christmas vacation at Banff Springs Hotel, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Alcott entertained relatives and friends at a Sunday dinner party at their home at Weston.

Those attending included his mother, Mrs. George Alcott, Miss Phyllis Alcott, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Carlfield, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Young, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Young, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walls and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stockford of Toronto.

## Seek Tourney Honours In Ingersoll Dec. 26

Georgetown Novices play in a Novice tournament on Boxing Day in Ingersoll in hopes of capturing a successful first half of the season with a tourney championship.

They play their first game at 12:40 against Leamington. The Novices steamrollered over Vergus 13-1 on Thursday night. Georgetown trippers were Gene Inglis (3), Dennis Norton (3), Fin Arnold (2), and Bernie Hachman, Ed Pearce, Ken Hancock, Jack McFarlane, and Glen Robinson.

Last Tuesday night Georgetown Novices met Burlington who were prepping for a tourney in the Soo Christmas week and gained a 2 all tie.

Hancock from Gene Inglis at 8:30 of the second period and Dennis Norton from Brad Butlerworth at 10:42 counted the Georgetown goals.

Burlington's came from Simmons at 3:15 of the third from Handt, and with just 20 seconds left Simmons unassisted.

Georgetown's display was their best against the last visiting Burlington club.

—Let's have a list of your Holiday visitors! Drop in or call Phone 2201.

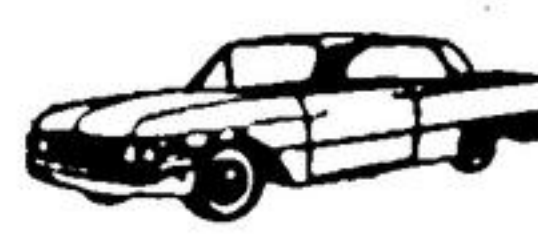
## Boxing Day Holiday

Under the authority of a resolution passed by Council, I am privileged to Proclaim **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26th, 1964** Boxing Day in the Town of Georgetown, a legal holiday.

During this holiday season we urge you to exercise the care and courtesy while driving that will ensure a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for everyone.

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