

Georgetown Herald

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... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

Election News So Soon....

With four council candidates already declaring their intention to seek office in December, the local political scene is much different than in our first days as a council reporter a quarter century ago.

Then, a candidate's aspirations were a closely guarded secret. No one could say for sure whether a present mayor or councillor was going to run again, and while councillors might let it be known behind the scenes that they could be 'talked into' stepping up, politics was carried on mostly behind the scenes.

Even at nomination meetings, it was seldom the custom for those seeking top office to reveal any intentions. There was no legislation as there is today which forces a candidate to declare himself that night. He had from Thursday night until Saturday at 9 p.m. to feel out his support. And it was not unusual for him to keep the town clerk patiently waiting in his office until a few minutes before the deadline before he qualified.

Seldom, too, did a man announce that he intended to seek office. It was always a matter of a number of people urging him to run. Many a time we watched the supposedly startled candidate as he started his platform speech express his surprise that he had been nominated at all. Nominees were as carefully chosen to represent as large a majority of organizations as possible. And no wonder, for in those days, names of the nominators were publicized in the press too, with the implication that the Legion, Lions Club, other political figures, were solidly behind the man.

It happened, on occasion that a man in his first bid for council might be defeated on the grounds that he 'caused an election.' We were jealous of a democratic privilege to choose our councillors, but we also had a sharp eye on election costs. Sitting councillors, therefore, had much more of an 'in' when it came to municipal elections and it was usually only a major upheaval which ousted these.

Election campaigns were much different too. Never was it considered cricket to come out with any platform, any defini-

Big Problems Then Too...

Newer residents might wonder if council had any big problems when the town was a quarter of its present size. Of course it did.

Perhaps the problems did not involve as much money, perhaps they were not so important to the future as some of today's major decisions. But they were debated as fiercely as anything today. And they usually had the advantage of being the type of question which everyone could understand.

Take the year the park fence needed a coat of paint. It took almost as long to decide whether a contractor would be hired, or whether a casual labourer would be supplied with paint, as it does to order a new water well or pave a large section of roads today. There was the quality and colour of paint to be debated, whether to give the fence two or three coats, whether to paint one side or two sides.

There was a big problem when the Gray Coach bus was changed from its downtown location to the top of Main St. hill. It rocked the town for weeks, and while the coach company silently laughed up its sleeve, a red-faced council begged them to come back again.

There was the time when one councillor borrowed a weigh scale, weighed a quantity of coal he received at home from a supplier, said it was short and demanded that all the town's supply of coal be checked to see if we were getting full measure.

There was the merchant councillor who when complaints were received about

the statement — in print, that is. The Herald's ad department usually received a modest election card, copies of which were also handed out to voters. And most candidates when they gave their order would say: "Oh, you know what to say." It was no easy job when there were a number of candidates, for the Herald to produce a dozen or more cards, essentially the same, but with variations. The colour of the paper stock was important too. With only a half a dozen colours to use, one had to be careful that known political enemies did not get the same colour of paper.

While there was no election campaign in print, or from a public platform, people were people however, and there were some hot campaigns carried on behind-the-scenes. The toughest kind to fight against, of course, because while a spoken or written statement can be refuted, how does one go about correcting a well-placed rumour.

Well, it's a new era now, as exciting in its own way as the old type campaigning. There is something about elections which brings out the best and worst in human beings. Politicians, be they federal, provincial or municipal are considered fair game by the critics.

Today, perhaps, this criticism is more in keeping because we are past the days when the honour of the job was the only thing at stake. Today, sparked by the senior governments which provide a full-time job at full-time pay for the winners, municipal politics has become a mixture of honour and pay also. No longer can a politician, unless like one man here, he declines his offered remuneration, tell a ratepayer to quit bothering him or see him in business hours. He is, to some extent, an employee of every resident, and he is more at the beck and call of everyone than he was in those days.

Whether the new system is better or worse than the old one could be debated from here to eternity. In our opinion, we have had good men, middlemen and mediocrities both with pay and without.

bad roads, blamed it on the city peddlers who used Georgetown's roads but didn't pay any business tax — and accused his fellow councillors of helping out by buying from them instead of the local businessmen.

Last year's donkeybrook about the old post office wasn't unique either. When the Bank of Montreal closed its branch during the early war years, it was bought by the town for a municipal building. One councillor criticized the sitting mayor severely and the mayor came back with an offer to buy it himself for the same money. The irate councillor changed sails immediately and started to worry about what the mayor might do with the building. (It turned out to be an excellent bit of business, as it happened, for the Royal Bank paid the town a substantial bonus when it purchased the property after the war.)

One of our greatest chuckles was in that very bank building. The mayor and reeve were political opponents and there was no great love lost between them at the council table. This night we watched as one lit a cigar, puffed reflectively, and set it down in an ashtray. As the meeting went on we noticed that while both were smoking, there was only one cigar.

First one, then the other, would take a puff or two. Then it had to happen — both reached for the cigar at the same time. The pipe of peace was talked about for many years and perhaps broke the shell for eventually the men became much less antagonistic.



GOING TO TAKE THE PLUNGE?

IN THE MAIL BAG

Says Mayor Won't Forget Name or Face in Future

66 Stevens Crescent

Mr. Editor: Not having a spot on radio on which to air my opinions I must ask your indulgence and use of your Mail Bag to put the record straight once more.

Mr. Gibbons in his radio broadcast of July 24th and again in the newspaper stated that it was sour grapes on my part as a defeated candidate that I have been taking time out to write to you correcting some of the statements made by him. In Mr. Gibbons' campaigning last fall, he not only made mockery of my name by mispronouncing it in public, but he continued to state that I did not know what went on in council, in fact even after I had addressed him in council he refused to admit that he knew who I was. I can assure you that after this year Mr. Gibbons will not only be able to recognize me, but he will never again forget my name.

Mr. Gibbons is again jumping on the Industrial band wagon. He stated on the radio and in the newspaper that he has met with a number of persons concerning a large industry and that if it locates here, he will have more to do with it than myself.

Come on Joe, let's admit that members of the Industrial Commission, Council and the Developer were also at this meeting. By all reports, the best contribution made by the mayor was by not saying anything. I do not wish to take your space discussing Mr. Gibbons, except to say that in his broadcast and in the newspaper he did not contradict any of my statements. Instead I wish to speak on the Council meeting of July 26th.

At this meeting it was stated that the Town of Georgetown is at the crossroads. I would like to commend Mr. Jim Young for the excellent presentation he gave in erecting directional signs at these crossroads. He clearly showed the way the Town should go. After Mr. Young's presentation Mr. Don Bowers arose and built a fence between the crossroads. Sure enough as soon as the fence was erected Mr. Elliott and Mr. Hunter climbed aboard and took up squatter's rights. What I couldn't understand about the whole thing was the fact that Mr. Bowers seconded the motion to approve the agreement, then spoke and voted against it, especially when no changes had been made in the agreement with the motion. It sure makes a fellow wonder how much faith you can put in a man when he can turncoat so fast, doesn't it?

Incidentally in regard to the increased cost to the consumer for water when the new iron removal plant is installed. I have been talking to a number of people in east Georgetown and all agree that they have to run off water worth much more than the proposed increase. Not only do they have to pay for the wasted water, but the Town charges an extra 50 per cent to allow them to put the dirty water into the sewer. I think this is a pretty profitable agreement for the Town. No wonder there were members of Council who opposed installing the iron removal plant.

Thank you for the use of this space.

Malcolm Freeman

NEWS ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald 1955 and 1945

10 YEAR AGO

- Visiting friends on a Georgian Bay island last weekend, Ted Darlington and son Peter had extra good luck in a catch of northern pike. It was too stormy to go out in a boat and fishing from shore Ted hooked a pike measuring 33 1/2 inches. Moments later they had two others measuring 27" and 25".
- Receiving their Grade 13 examination results this week from the Department of Education are Donald Anderson, Mary Barber, Audrey Bishop, Lois Carson, Betty Greig, David Hart, William Leslie, Barbara Lindsay, Kenneth Richardson, Gerald Scott, Richard Sienko, Donald Southern and Gail Wheeler.
- Georgetown's municipal office will be enlarged and renovated. Plans call for a new police office with separate entrance at the side of the building, an enlarged council chamber and clerk's office, accommodation for the town's engineer and other major changes. Estimated cost of the plan is \$42,000.

20 YEARS AGO

- Among the latest group of Georgetown servicemen to arrive home are Flt. Lt. Doug Sargent, Sgt. G. H. Smith, Flt. Lt. Jim Evans, Tpr. R. F. Emmerson, Lt. Gordon Boody, Cpl. Bruce Harley, Pte. Bruce Gummer, MSM John Alexander, Sgt. Norm Marchment, Pte. John Graham, LAC Herb Reid, Lt. Keith Barbary.
- A business deal was completed this week whereby Mr. James Goodlet purchased the building and hardware business formerly operated by Mr. J. P. Reid. Mr. Goodlet has closed the store for remodelling. He was formerly proprietor of the Budget Groceries which was sold some months ago.

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

Now, Back to Work

Some people say to me — "It must be quite a chore writing that 'Sugar and Spice' column every week." The only difficulty is getting started. Tonight is column night. Midnight is the deadline. I sat down at the typewriter at 6:30, so I'd have lots of time to watch TV after I wrote the column. I worked quietly until 8:30. Very quietly. No noisy typewriter.

Feeling but pristine sheet with interesting lines — "Sugar and Spice, by Bill Smiley," at the top. Threw it in wastebasket. Decided to mow lawn to relieve mental constipation. That had a beer. Bundling magazines for tomorrow's garbage, came across fascinating article on Procreation in the Middle-Aged State. Helped Kim get valves unstick in French horn. Moved water sprinkler on lawn. Whipped up tea and grub for television room gang. The Fugitive is still running. Or re-running.

It's now 10:30. Time to get cracking. But maybe I'll just answer a few letters, to get in the writing mood. There's nothing that cheers me up and inspires me like reading the warm and friendly notes from column readers.

Here's a nice fat one. Six pages, small writing. From Miss Edna Wegman: "Dear Mr. Smiley: Oh, you poor little penguin! My heart bleeds for you! Woops! Let's try the next paragraph. 'Now, after feeling sorry for yourself and your fellow males, for males they are and not men, wake up and face reality.' Uh, maybe we'll leave that one till tomorrow."

Here's one that looks friendlier. From a lady who says it's not for publication. Just a quote: "There's not a woman in the world who doesn't consider that her old man is the dope of the earth." Well! Really!

This one sounds better — "Dear Bill: I'll call you Bill instead of Mr. Smiley, seeing I always thought of you as a friend, that is until your recent column in which you were lambasting women."

By George, a bad week. Here is Linda Alton taking me down a few pages for knocking the

Beetles. She has me all wrong. I love the Beetles. I have to, in self-preservation, or I'd go splurging mad every time I drive the car with my kids in it.

Let's see. Here's a letter addressed to me, by Gwen Sarsky. Good old Gwen. She must really like my column. She's written about 1,000 words.

Hey, this is pretty good. She's commenting on a recent column in which I suggested that modern women had gone to pot, while men are the same stupid, gallant chaps they were in Julius Caesar's day. Gwen says: "I wonder if Cleopatra ever had to drive one of her legislators home in a chariot after one of those Roman parties. There would be an advantage to a chariot. The over-zealous partygoer would get more air while sprawled in an open chariot than the modern table dues when his wife is driving home from a party and he has to relax with his head out the window." Hmum.

Talk about lambasting. A few others, picked at random. "I agree that man hasn't changed much since Caesar's day, but really don't believe that it is possible... It's against their moral code to pick up, or hang up, a piece of clothing... This species of human manages to contradict itself more than any other of God's creatures... Nobody is, was, or ever could be, as sick as a man with a cold."

There's a lot more in the same vein, so well written it's like listening to my own wife. But I haven't time to sympathize with Mr. Sarsky right now. I have a column to write.

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

H. B. Dean

"In famine he shall redeem thee from death; and in war from the power of the sword." Job 4:20

The mercy of God and the mastery of God is equal to every situation. "Only believe."

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Fall Fair - Dates

Acton	Sept. 17, 18	Georgetown	OCT. 1, 2	Stratford	Sept. 20, 21, 22
Arthur	Sept. 22, 23	Grand Valley	Oct. 1, 2	Teeswater	Sept. 24, 25
Ancaster	Sept. 23, 24, 25	Hanover	Sept. 3, 4	Tillsonburg	Aug. 30, 31
Arbuthnot	Sept. 22, 23	Harriston	Sept. 15, 16	Toronto	Sept. 1, 2
Barrie	Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1, 2	Kincardine	Sept. 16, 17	(CNE)	Aug. 20 to Sept. 6
Beaconsfield	Sept. 9, 10, 11	Kitchener	Sept. 27 to Oct. 2	(Royal)	Nov. 12 to 20
Beeton	Sept. 29, 30	Leamington	Aug. 3 to 7	Uxbridge	Sept. 21, 22
Blenheim	Sept. 17, 18	Lindsay	Sept. 7, 8	Walkerton	Oct. 20, 21
Bolton	Sept. 24, 25	Listowel	Sept. 10 to 15	Waterdown	Sept. 10, 11
Brampton	Sept. 16, 17, 18	Markham	Sept. 16, 17	Welland	Sept. 14 to 18
Caledon	Sept. 10, 11	Markham	Sept. 10 to 15	Woodbridge	Oct. 8, 9 & 11
Caledonia	Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2	Milton	Sept. 16, 17	Woodstock	Aug. 25 to 28
Obesley	Sept. 10, 11	Mitchell	Sept. 24, 25	International Plowing Match:	
Collingwood	Sept. 23, 24, 25	New Hamburg	Sept. 17, 18	Mansey-Ferguson Farm	
Durham	Sept. 2, 4, 5 & 6	Orangeville	Sept. 21, 22	Milliken, York County	October 13 to 16 inclusive
Elmhurst	Sept. 2, 4, 5 & 6	Oshawa	Aug. 19, 20, 21		
Elmira	Sept. 18 & 20	Ottawa:			
Erin	Oct. 9, 10 & 11	(Can. Canada)	Aug. 20 to 28		
Fergus	Sept. 17, 18	(Winter Fair)	Oct. 25 to 30		
Galt	Sept. 9, 10, 11	Owen Sound	Oct. 8 to 9		
		Palmerston	Sept. 27, 28		
		Rockton	Oct. 9 & 11		
		Shelburne	Sept. 24, 25		