

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Personal Centennial Project

A personal centennial project which a reader says she is adopting could well be a target for most Canadians this year.

Expressing herself as woefully ignorant of Canadian history, she intends to read as much as possible about our country's origin and its economic and political history during the year.

It's an idea which we are going to attempt ourselves, for after leaving school we seem to forget much of what we learned, if, in fact, we ever really learned it at all.

It seems wrong that most of us know more about Abe Lincoln than we do about

Macdonald and Laurier — more about the American War of Independence than about the Riel Rebellion. We can name more U.S. presidents than we can Canadian prime ministers, and more states than Ontario provinces.

How many of us know the fascinating history of the transcontinental railways, details of the Family Compact, the years our provinces were incorporated in the Dominion?

We have become so used to American movies, and American magazines, that we have neglected our own history while filling our heads with that of our southern neighbours.

Town Arena an Asset

Does Georgetown realize what a fine recreational asset we have in the arena?

Burlington is already talking of replacing a building only 17 years old and estimates for the new structure range from \$300,000 for one seating 300 to \$450,000 for a 1200 seat structure.

Georgetown thus has a building which would cost half a million dollars to replace and through the efforts of the Board of Parks Management over a period of years, has been renovated into a fully modern structure to serve the needs of a town which has quadrupled in size since it was originally built.

In recent years, the seating has been

completely replaced, new washrooms installed, the lobby and refreshment area improved, and now heating has been added to make it more pleasant for spectators. A continuing program has been maintained with no major drain on the tax treasury.

Addition of a large parking area has increased convenience for the public. And construction of the municipal swimming pool on adjoining land has made it possible for management economies by operation of the two under closely allied boards and the same general manager.

The town should be thankful to the men who have devoted their energy to maintaining a fine recreational asset for the community.

For Movie Fans

Addition of Friday night movies in Holy Cross auditorium supplements this entertainment media for adults who have missed the cinema since fire removed the old Roxy Theatre from the scene.

Just as vaudeville almost disappeared when talkies came on the scene, so were movie theatres a prey for television.

Where once Georgetown lined up for blocks to see *Gone With the Wind*, the best movie drew less than full houses to the Roxy in its declining years. The fire, several years ago, only hastened what was obviously going to happen. Larger centres have been able to hang on — Brampton now has

one theatre in place of two, Guelph has two instead of its former four. And there is some hope that, as Georgetown grows, we may once more have the benefit of a theatre again.

Meanwhile, we should be thankful to a Toronto man who is trying to bring back this form of entertainment by offering some topnotch movies Friday nights.

The Saturday afternoon shows, slanted to children, are already established as a popular feature and a new generation of popcorn eaters fill the church auditorium to see specially selected films to appeal to the younger generation.



THAT CENTENNIAL CANOE RACE



HARLEY TO HALTON

Weekly Observations by
Dr. Harry Harley,
M.P. for Halton

THE HOUSE OF Commons has again begun work on the 1st Session of the 27th Parliament. It is my opinion that the present session will probably last until Easter, which is late in March this year. There may be a short recess and the new 2nd Session will begin almost immediately and carry on until June or July.

The end of this present session will probably deal with the following:

(1) Bill C-231, an Act to Define and Implement a National Transportation Policy for Canada. With this debate dealing with these matters of so much concern to the Prairies, I expect this Bill will not pass much before the end of the month.

(2) Bill C-243, an Act to Amend the National Defence and Other Acts will deal with the unification of the Armed Forces. This is the most controversial subject on the Order Pa-

per and it is expected that the debate will be "hot and heavy". From the conversations I have had in Halton, the majority favour the unification of the Forces.

(3) The Mini Budget will also be debated for not more than six days, which will deal only with the increase in income tax to pay for the supplementary allowance payable to our senior citizens who qualify for it.

(4) Bill C-261 to establish the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation which will insure bank and federally incorporated trust company savings up to a certain maximum.

(5) It is probable that motions to set up two committees will be made — these will be the Committee on the words for a national anthem "O Canada" and the Committee to recommend changes in the procedures in the House of Commons to promote the more efficient and economical dispatch of the business of the nation.

In addition to this, various small pieces of legislation will probably be dealt with in this session.

IN THE MAIL BAG

Concerned at Soaring Expenditures, Taxes

31 Byron Street,
Georgetown, Ontario
January 16th, 1967

Dear Mr. Editor:

I was very glad to read in a Saturday Toronto daily paper that the Ontario Municipal Board is concerned about the overspending of municipalities. The Board has threatened to do their spending for them if the municipalities do not curb it.

While cities are cited in the item, this concern is applicable also to all municipalities and it is about time the Board called a halt to this type of spending which has caused tremendous increases in the tax rates. It is recognized that much of this heavy expenditure has been for educational purposes and was beyond the control of the municipalities, yet there were many instances of unwarranted expenditures especially in view of the high educational expenses.

We, in Georgetown, have experienced this type of spending in the past few years and have seen the tax rate soar. It is high time for the taxpayers of this town to wake up and DEMAND that only necessary spending for essential purposes, be permitted.

The statement of the O.M.B. chairman, J.A. Kennedy, "The taxpayer has a right to look for extreme prudence on the part of his elected representatives in the light of today's economic conditions" is a truth that must be faced by all members of municipal councils.

Yours truly,

Ed. A. Peters

Organizing Starts For New Halton-Peel College

The Board of Governors for the proposed Halton-Peel Community College met for its first business meeting last week and set up two committees to start the job of organizing a college from scratch.

The names of the governors of the Halton-Peel college were announced in late November.

Once the college's name has been approved by the council of regents the board can be legally incorporated — and so roll up its sleeves for some work.

Immediate problems facing board members are: determining the general and special educational needs the college should meet; supervising construction of new college buildings; and staffing and operating of the new institution.

Local appointees on the board include Reeve Herbert Merry of Oakville; former Halton County warden Herbert H. Hinton of Acton; Werden Leavens, a Bolton newspaper publisher and Dr. Carl Williams.

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

BACKLOG OF NOTES

I'd like to tidy up a lot of loose ends this week, if you don't mind. First of all, thanks for the warm and personal notes about the column, and the good wishes to the Smileys. They came from all over the continent.

Many of you will be getting your Christmas cards at Easter or possibly in July. My wife lost her list of addresses.

We had a refreshingly different New Year's Eve this year. Went to a skating party on the bay. We even took skates. But, fortunately, we had to make a couple of calls before we got there, and when we did, the skaters were pooped. I expressed great indignation before allowing someone to set me down before the fireplace with a small portion of herb tea.

But it was a great party. Just as we arrived, a pretty young woman hustled in from outside, clutching her pants and various other things. She'd been out on a Skidoo on the ice, and they'd gone through. She was quite annoyed. Last time I'd seen her, she was eight months pregnant. This time she was almost in shock. She said she'd like to meet me under normal circumstances.

Another feature of the party appealed to me. Instead of the usual maudlin rendition of Auld Lang Syne, followed by a round of sloppy kisses, we all stood to attention and sang a maudlin version of O Canada.

Speaking of Centennial year some readers may have noticed a rather sardonic attitude toward this great national occasion, in my last couple of columns. Please excuse it. I don't really feel that way. It's a sort of back-lash. For years, I've been trying to tell people how great Canada is and could be.

Kim had her first teenage party over the holidays. She invited 18 and 27 showed up. That's the way they operate nowadays. She was adamant about her parents staying out of the way. We did, with hidden horror.

But when it came time for the food, she came to us, hissing furiously: "Aren't you even going to cook the hamburgers?" And we spent the next two hours feeling much like a couple of short-order cooks brought in for the evening to do the catering.

The music was turned up so loud I was sure the cops would raid us. Kids kept wandering into the kitchen and demanding flatly: "Got any cold pop?" But it was over finally. We checked

the living-room. Not a burn on the the piano. Only one hamburger, with all the trimmings, upset on the rug. So we are going to let her have another party. Twenty-two years from now, for her daughter.

Son Hugh brought us a special Christmas present this year. The announcement that he was quitting school. Oh, well, you can't win them all. But it doesn't make the goose go down any better, even though you assure him that he's cooked his-own and has to lie in it, or whatever the saying is.

Nephew Paul of Laval U. appeared out of nowhere, as college boys do. Father wants him to be a doctor. He wants to be a beachcomber. And he's lost his boots and his feet were soaking. That kid has lost his shoes or boots, over 18 years, in South America, the West Indies, Holland, and Cape Breton Island. But he never loses his good spirits, bless him.

Gordon Sinclair, columnist and TV personality, and I have little in common. He's rich, I'm not. He's shrewd and crude, pugnacious and pontifical, astute and asinine. I was about to say I'm not, but on second thought won't. But we are as one on the need for a holiday in February. Did you see him tackle the Prime Minister on that recently? I've been shouting this theme for years.

It's the greatest centennial gift Mr. Pearson could give this nation. By mid-February, everyone in this country is so frazzled and flogged that it's amazing there aren't suicides and axe-murders galore. I don't care what they call it. But let's have the nearest Monday to Valentine's Day as a national holiday.

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Include Painter Jackson In Great Canuck Profiles

Better knowledge and appreciation of the many contributions made to our national life and to the world by outstanding Canadians is a Centennial project at the Georgetown District High School. Once each week during the year a local high school student is presenting information about a great Canadian in a public address system message to the student body.

A. Y. JACKSON
by Brenda Crane

Brenda Crane delivered the second address in the series, this one dealing with the great painter A. Y. Jackson

A. Y. Jackson, one of Canada's leading painters, was born in Montreal on October 3, 1882. His ancestors were of British and Scottish descent.

Due to financial difficulties his formal education ended at the age of twelve. However, he attended evening classes at the Council of Arts while working for a lithographing company. He later went into the field of commercial art, but this soon lost its appeal, so Jackson set out to Paris to attend an Art School. He spent two and a half years in Europe, and upon returning to Canada, he began a life of wandering in the Canadian north and along the St. Lawrence; his only income being what he received for his paintings.

With World War I came a great decrease in art interest, so Jackson enlisted as a war artist, painting for Canadian Memorials. In 1919 he received his official discharge and returned to Canada.

Once, while on a visit to Toronto, he was approached by J. E. H. Macdonald, who invited him to join "A Group of Seven," a club which consisted of men devoted to painting Canadian landscapes. Their work, however, was of a new style which was ridiculed by critics.

his favorite spot was around Georgian Bay.
His work is now in the Tate Gallery, London, England; Illinois State Museum, Springfield; National Gallery of Canada and is also in private collections of many Canadians and Americans.
A. Y. Jackson is a great painter and also a great Canadian in that he has tried to make us appreciate the rugged but beautiful scenery of our country.

NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald's of 10 and 20 Years Ago

10 YEARS AGO

● A Hungarian family ended the flight from their war-torn country late Saturday night when they stepped from the midnight train at the Georgetown CNR station. It was the final stop on a journey that took Leslie Simonyi, his wife Anne, and their three girls, Anne, Mary and Elizabeth through five countries after a hurried escape across the Austrian border. They were greeted and welcomed to their new home by a small reception committee made up in the most part of Lions club members and their wives.

● Georgetown will have its first new factory in the Delrex subdivision in operation in April. Sykes Tool Corporation, Canadian subsidiary of a large British firm, has purchased a partially completed factory site built by Delrex Developments which will house their local operation.

● Dr. Harvey Agnew has made alterations to the hospital report presented to the county council last fall which claimed Georgetown does not need a hospital. Georgetown Reeve Stanley Allen told Georgetown council Monday that Dr. Agnew has reversed his decision and in a revised report recommends a hospital for this community.

20 YEARS AGO

● The resignation of William G. Marshall as chief constable and other offices was accepted with regret by council this week. Chief Marshall will terminate his offices as of January 31st. At the same meeting, council decided to enter in to an agreement with the Ontario Provincial Police to take over policing duties here.

● Fire Department officers this year are: Harry Savings chief, William Hyde deputy chief, and Jack Toat, truck driver.

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