

# Georgetown Herald

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1967

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Brotherhood Every Day

The fact that this is Brotherhood Week, a yearly sponsorship of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, gives some hope that we may yet become the civilized humans we pretend, while indicating the long road ahead when such a week needs to be proclaimed at all.

True brotherhood will be reached when we accept a man for his qualities rather than the colour of his skin — for his skills, rather than his religious denomination, for himself, whatever the country of his origin.

Difficult? Extremely so, for it is born in man to be suspicious of strangers, resistant to any infringement of the clan spirit which hangs over from primeval times, jealous of what he thinks are his God-given prerogatives.

Too often we confuse brotherhood with charity — the kind that sends babies to missions in Africa, but will not accept a person of different skin pigment as his soc-

iel equal at home. Too often, we will accept a person of different faith if he is prominent in the arts, or has amassed a degree of wealth, while turning our backs if he is just an average individual. And too often we use the phrase "He's a nice guy even if he is a . . ."

Perhaps the best way to practice brotherhood would be to pretend we were blind when prejudice rears its head for perhaps people with this terrible affliction are the only ones who can really be impartial in their judgment of others.

One thing we could do as a brotherhood project — read Sammy Davis' biography, Gentleman's Agreement, Black Like Me . . . three fine books which will make you think.

The other is to hold our tongue when we would slander another, to refute the stories which all too often circulate about other religions, other nationalities, to strive for this brotherhood in our daily life, not just once a year.

### Want Some Visitors?

The Easter week bantam hockey tournament has become so well established that it is almost taken for granted in Georgetown.

Thanks mainly to the efforts of Walter (Red) Asseltine and his wife Jean, with generous assistance from many others, it has been an outstanding success from its inception, providing healthy recreation for hundreds of young sportsmen, and a bit of excitement for the town.

This year Kinsmen and Kinettes are sharing the load, while Red and his wife unload part of the onerous burden of directing the week-long affair. Next year the

Kinsmen will operate the tournament on their own.

A big job is the billeting of the young visitors for various periods of time, and the Kinettes are asking for more volunteer "parents" this year to offer their homes during the week. Bed and breakfast is the extent, as other meals are provided at the Legion Hall.

Tournament booster tickets will soon be on sale also, and it is hoped that many residents will help to finance the tournament by buying these.

The tournament has given Georgetown a great deal of favourable publicity over the years, and is well worth your support.

### Local Improvement Difficult

Council's decision to return to a Local Improvement policy for some public works is outdated and unrealistic in the overall development of a town.

Until recent years the most common way of paying for sidewalks was under such a system — town and property owners paying the bill on a split basis. Difficulties became apparent when a public sidewalk was needed for a main traffic artery where few people lived, and the property owners were loathe to add extra dollars to their taxes when there was no direct benefit.

One of the first deviations was installation of a sidewalk on the highways years back before the post office was built. The walk was badly needed, property owners declined to pay for it, and the town went ahead and installed it at public expense. This was followed by others — mostly in

areas where schools and public buildings made heavy use of the streets by pedestrians.

To return to a Local Improvement policy might seem fair at first glance, but the system would bog down again when necessity intervened, and we could be faced with a situation where some pay and some don't.

A major disadvantage, too, is that while a sidewalk might be necessary for the general public, residents can stall a project by declining to apply for this.

There has been general acceptance of the fact that sidewalks, like roads, are a community responsibility and should be paid for from the general tax rate. While we can understand council's thinking in trying to hold the general rate as low as possible by a return to L.I., we think that the administration difficulties will outweigh any benefits which might accrue.

## HARLEY TO HALTON

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

THE MINI-BUDGET debate has now concluded, with a non-confidence motion proposed by the Opposition and supported by all Opposition parties. Despite this, however, the Government defeated the motion and debates on the Budget resolutions themselves has begun.

APPLICATION FORMS for the Guaranteed Income Supplement are now being mailed to Old Age Security pensioners by Old Age Security regional offices. The application forms are accompanied by booklets explaining the Guaranteed Income Supplement and containing a guide for filling out applications.

OVER ONE MILLION application forms are involved. There will be approximately 1.3 million people in Canada receiving Old Age Security in 1967 and it is expected that about 800,000 of these will qualify for benefits under the new Guaranteed Income Supplement. Projections of these, it is estimated, that between 500,000 to 600,000 will be eligible for full Guaranteed Income Supplement bene-

fits ensuring them a monthly income of at least \$105.

OLD AGE SECURITY pensioners who feel they are eligible for supplement are urged to fill out their applications and return them as soon as possible to the Old Age Security regional offices in their provinces.

MANY WHO QUALIFY for the supplement will receive their payments, dated back to January, 1967, with their March Old Age Security cheques. The remainder will get their payments including retroactive benefits, in April.

THIS MEANS THAT those receiving first Guaranteed Income Supplement benefits in March and who qualify for the full supplement, will get a cheque for \$165 made up of \$75 in Old Age Security plus \$30 a month supplement for each of the months of January, February and March. Those being paid in April, and qualifying for full Guaranteed Income Supplement benefits, will get a cheque for \$195 including \$75 in Old Age Security and \$120 in supplement retroactive to January.

ASSISTANCE in filling out the application forms is available to pensioners through the regional offices of Old Age Security, at Canada Pension Plan Offices and Income Tax Offices throughout Canada.

THOSE HUSBANDS and wives who are both Old Age Security pensioners (those who are or will be 65 or older in 1967) should return their applications in one envelope. Otherwise, there may be a delay in making their payments.

THE GUARANTEED Income Supplement, which came into effect last January, 1967 guarantees Old Age Security pensioners a minimum income of \$105 a month. The maximum supplementary benefit is \$30 monthly and reduced benefits are available for those with modest incomes over and above their Old Age Security pensions.

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Walter C. Bishn  
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Garfield McGilvray  
Production Superintendent

News Editor Accountant  
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"YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING"

## SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

### Goodbye Ole Friend

It was quite a blow to me to read recently that the Warton Town Hall had been destroyed by fire. Admittedly, the catastrophe didn't rank with Hiroshima, or the San Francisco earthquake, or even Hurricane Hazel, but it hit me pretty hard.

It was rather like reading of the sudden death of an old friend. You knew she had gone to fat and drink. But you could remember when, at her best, she was the heart of your life.

A lot of personal memories came crowding back when I read about it. That ugly old building with the shaky bell tower on top was one of the hubs of my existence for more than a decade at a special time in my life.

It was when I was young and my family was young and I was learning the newspaper busi-

ness. I didn't have a mistress. I didn't hang around the pubs. I didn't take part in all-night poker sessions. I just went to the town hall. I spent more nights in the council chamber, crouched over the rickety press table, than I did with my family.

On more than one occasion, my spouse, a tender young wife and mother, displayed psychoneurotic tendencies toward the old town hall. At least twice she suggested I move a cot into the council chambers and doct her darkening bedroom door.

I'll bet I attended more than a thousand meetings in that town hall. It was the only non-denominational meeting place in town, and it was there that great causes were launched and collapsed; that political careers

were begun and ended; that human triumphs and tragedies were recorded. And I was in on all of it.

It was a regular breeding ground for lost causes and last-ditch battles. We fought such behemoths as the CNR and the government; we lost. We battled to salvage moribund industries with heavy transfusions of local cash; and some of us are still anemic.

But a lot of good, positive work was done there, too. The commercial fishermen, the farmers, the resort owners and the merchants met there, fought with each other, but emerged, united in each case, to fight for their existence, and the betterment of the area.

Another function of the council chamber was that of courtroom. This was one that I didn't mind seeing go up in smoke. It's the only time the council chamber smelled bad — on court day. Most of the time it smelled dusty, wax, and cigar-smoke, just plain old. But on court days it stank; hangers, puke, fear, shame and curiosity all the law.

But that was only one part of the old town hall. Across from the council chamber was the auditorium. And what memories that brings back. Con-

## NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald of 10 and 20 Years Ago

1957

● Manager of Canadian Bank of Commerce for the past three years, Jack Hart, has been transferred to St. Catharines where he will manage the Page and Queenston branch of the bank. His successor here is Don Wingrove, formerly manager at Port Credit.

● A number of alterations are being made to the local Roxy Theatre. Manager Bill Leslie announces that the theatre will soon have complete new seating to add to the comfort of the patrons. Improvements will also modernize the lobby.

● Georgetown's Volunteer Ambulance Service, believed to be the first of its kind in Canada, was officially inaugurated Thursday night, when the keys of the municipally owned ambulance were turned over to Chief Ralph Hawes at a meeting in the Rose Room by Councillor Fred "Tut" Harrison.

● Jack Crawford of the local Brewers' Warehouse was among a group of company men honoured at a driving safety award meeting in Kitchener, Thursday. He was one of two drivers receiving 9-year awards.

1947

● Mrs. J. Kemshead was elected president of the Legion W.A. at the annual meeting of that organization last month in the Legion Hall. The 1947 slate of officers is composed of: past president Mrs. Fred Braisby, president Mrs. J. Kemshead, 1st vice president Mrs. Adam Kay, 2d vice president Mrs. James Blair, secretary Mrs. Alf Collins, treasurer Mrs. T. F. Grieve, social convener Mrs. Perc Chaplin, sick visitors Mrs. Albert Carter, property Mrs. Fred McCartney, pianist Mrs. Mary Morrow.

● At council meeting on Monday, council instructed town solicitor to prepare the town's case for having the Canadian National Railway pay costs of widening the John St. subway on the premise that the right of way existed before the railway came through. The railway's solicitor has claimed that this was only a farm crossing and that the town is responsible for any work which might be done in widening.

● Council passed a by-law Monday completing sale of land to the Alliance Paper Mills Ltd.

● Arthur Speight, president of the Board of Trade was guest at a Lions dinner meeting in the McGibbon House, Monday evening. Mr. Speight asked the club for consideration in allowing use of their lot on Mill St. as an entrance to a proposed municipal parking lot behind Main Street stores. He said the lot would have a 400 automobile capacity and would serve the town for many years to come.

certs, plays, recitals, dances and political meetings. It even had a balcony where elderly ladies could watch the Sailors Farewell Dance in comparative safety.

Our children made their public debuts there. I'll never forget the night Kim, age three, dressed in a bunny costume, spotted me in the audience, burst out of the dance line, and hurried herself into my arms.

Or the night Hugh, about nine, won the grand prize in the music festival even though two of the notes on the piano didn't sound.

Or the night I was an unwitting sucker in an elaborate practical joke at a concert. I was to pretend I was playing a real trumpet solo, while a real trumpeter played the piece, off-

stage. He double-crossed me. Warned the audience what was going to happen, and when I went into my routine, no sound. Felt a fool.

Or the nights the old girl and I stumbled through our line with the local little-theatre group. Or the great New Year's Eve dances when the whole town was out, flying. Got a sock in the eye at one of them when I Auld-Lang-Syned a pretty young matron in the usual fashion. Not from her. From my wife.

Town halls, those great, ugly draughty chapters in our history are burning down, falling down or being torn down. They are being replaced by modern, efficient "municipal offices," which have about as much tradition, humanity and warmth as a filing cabinet.

## KERR'S COLUMN

M.P.P. Reports to Georgetown from Queen's Park

The budget of Ontario for 1967 was submitted to the Legislature last week. Most readers are aware of the general contents of the statement. However, in view of the fact that there would be no increase in taxes, I will deal with the highlights on this happy note.

1) Total budget expenditures for the year are forecast at \$2 billion. \$193 million an increase of \$361 million over the current year.

2) Total revenues are expected to rise by 14% this year to \$2 billion \$31 million an increase of \$250 million.

3) Financial aid to municipalities will be raised substantially to reach a level of almost \$1.2 billion, an increase of 27% over last year. This means that 44% of the province's revenues are being turned over to municipalities to help finance local services.

Included in the increase are road subsidies, welfare assistance, health facilities, low cost loans, water and sewage facilities, and more important, an increase in the unconditional grant to municipalities by \$1.50 per capita. This means if Milton for example, has 8 thousand people, the town will receive \$9,000 more this year over 1966 under this grant. This will mean an additional \$100,000 for Burlington.

4) Spending on education and training programs will rise by 35% to reach almost 1.1 billion. The province intends to increase legislative grants to school boards by \$60 million by raising the amount to be paid on

enrollment in elementary and secondary schools rather than on average day attendance.

5) The Ontario Housing Corporation will be expanded by nearly 63%. This is in line with the previous announcement of a new Home Program for Ontario whereby the Province will actually get in the housing construction business and the sale and rental of homes.

6) The first step of a 12 year \$120 million program of capital grants to farmers will be undertaken through a \$10 million outlay in 1967 to 68. A new Crop Insurance Commission will be in full operation this year. It intends to build up a complete umbrella of policies covering a broad range of major crops, including forages. Rates will be reasonable. Increased grants will cover wells, drainage and certain types of buildings.

I am sure all readers were happy to learn that Prime Minister Robarts is recovering satisfactorily and speedily from his illness. Queen's Park had an aura of gloom and suspense last week. Small groups of members from all political parties could be seen in the buildings, discussing the P.M.'s illness, hoping to hear at some time that it was not serious. Members of all parties in the Legislature offered best wishes. This indicates a respect and affection held by the members of the Legislature for Mr. Robarts.

The latest announcement is that the Prime Minister is expected back in the Legislature before Easter.

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