

GREAT CANUCKS

"Sunshine Sketches" Won World Fame for Leacock

One of a series of articles on great Canadians, written by students of Georgetown District High School.

STEPHEN LEACOCK

by **Patty Wright**

Stephen Leacock represented in a way the paradox which is Canada. Born in England, he moved to Canada and wrote American humour. But this was the simplest of the inconsistencies that his life and personality presented. He was the untidy man with the orderly mind, the man who could not drive a car, but could explain the theory of relativity. The man was at the same time lecturer, teacher, economist, scholar, political scientist, humorist and historian. Everything he wrote and everything he did was based upon a recognition of human dignity.

Leacock was born December 30th, 1869 in Swamore, county of Hampshire, England.

In 1876 he sailed with his family to Canada, where he settled on a farm near Sutton, Ontario.

Previously his only formal education had been at a Dame's school in England. During the first years of his life in Canada he studied at home, but in 1882 was enrolled in Upper Canada College. His academic life proved to be very successful, as he graduated in 1887 as the head boy.

In 1888, after completing two years in one at the University of Toronto, he prepared himself to teach high school by attending three months as a teacher in training. Finally in 1889 a teaching position was his at Uxbridge, and later at Upper Canada College. At the same time he furthered his own studies at the University of Toronto. On completion of his B.A. he taught for several years full-time at Upper Canada, and acquired the position of head of his department.

The summers of the years he taught at UCC were spent sailing on Georgian Bay or writing. At this time several of his essays were printed.

Influenced in 1889 by a man named Thorstein Veblen, who produced the book, Theory of the Leisure Class, Leacock left UCC, and began studying at the University of Chicago for his Ph.D. where Veblen taught. At this time, he acquired a minor appointment at McGill University. When, in 1903, he received his Ph.D. he took on a full-time teaching at McGill.

It was at this time he really proved himself as an author. He wrote humour, history, economics and political science. His first great book was "Elements of Political Science" soon to be adopted by thirty five universities as the standard text. Before being replaced by newer ones it had been translated into nineteen languages.

Humour books were Literary Lapses, Behind the Beyond, Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town, Nonsense Novels and Further Foolishness only to name a few. Historical books were: "The Dawn of Canadian History" and "Adventures in the Far North."

During his years of teaching at McGill, he bought a property on Lake Couchiching near Orillia which he named: "Old Brewery Bay." He immortalized this small town and the country which surrounded it in his book: "Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town."

In 1915, his only child, Stephen Jr., was born to him. Ten years later his wife Beatrix died of cancer. Following this he began his fight against cancer. He tried to set up a cancer research program at McGill, but the university turned him down. The irony of his failure was seen at his death, for on March 28th, 1944, at the age of 74, he died from cancer of the throat.

On July 4th of that same year the Liberty Ship "S.S. Stephen Leacock" was launched. A letter explained: "Liberty ships were named for eminent Americans, patriots, writers, artists, statesmen, etc. or other deceased persons who had contributed to the history and culture of Americans." I am sure it cannot be disputed that Stephen Leacock certainly belonged in this category.

SPACE HEATER

GOT TOO HOT

Georgetown fire fighters put down a fire threat yesterday afternoon when they got to an overheated space heater in Glen Williams before it caused damage.

The heater was in the former Cooper home three houses north of St. Alban's Anglican Church.

Discuss \$10 Fee for Council Committees

A \$10.00 fee for attendance at committee meetings is in the discussion stage by Georgetown council.

Preparation of a by-law was ordered by council Monday on a 5-3 vote after this was proposed by Deputy Reeve Arthur Speight. It would be retroactive to January 1st.

Mr. Speight told council that the work load of councillors is out of all proportion to the \$20. meeting fee they now receive.

"I don't feel the public expects a man to devote 12 to 15 hours a week to town business," he said. "In many municipalities they pay the council meeting rate, but I have kept my motion at half the rate."

He said council's fee has static for some years while everything else is increasing. School boards have been serving without pay, but now the public school board has taken an initial step in voting themselves a salary to which they are entitled.

"I think the other school board will follow suit," he said.

Cr. Steamer Emmerson was against the proposal.

"I don't think it appropriate for a council which has served only three months to vote ourselves a raise at this time," he said. "If it were to be done it should be at the end of our term to apply to an incoming council."

Querying whether this could be legally done under the Municipal Act, Cr. Roy Ballentine was told by the mayor that this would be checked, but that he believes it is quite legal.

"This motion is only for preparation of a by-law," said Cr. Young. "It will have plenty of publicity in the press and unless there is a hue and cry we will know the public favours it."

Reeve Hunter, Crs. Emmerson and Ballentine voted against the motion.

At present councillors receive a \$20 fee for each of the approximately fifty meetings yearly which they attend. Mayor Gibbons is allotted a \$2500 yearly salary which he has declined to accept during the three years he has served.

Boy To Man Film For Sons and Dads

Harrison Teacher - Parent association will run the second of two physical health films at the high school auditorium on Monday evening - this one for boys of Georgetown elementary school senior grades.

Dr. A. W. Ashenburt will speak to the boys after the showing of a health film entitled Boy to Man. The sponsors insist on the pupils attending having either written consent from their parents or be in the company of their father. They prefer the latter.

The film will be shown in the gymnasium at 8 p.m.

Only boys of Grades 7 and 8 have been invited.

A film for girls of Grades 6, 7, and 8 was shown in the Holy Cross auditorium Monday, March 6th and drew a crowd of close to 600. Most of the girls were accompanied by their mothers. The film was the Story of Menstruation.

Mrs. J. R. Coulter, president of the Harrison Teacher - Parent Association said the entire program takes just over an hour.

Share Founder's Birthday Cake At Thinking

The Brownies of 1st Pack, South Georgetown, celebrated Thinking Day with a special program in honour of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement and Lady Baden-Powell, World Chief Guide.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Dorothy Jarrett, Brown Owl; Miss Jane Collett, Tawny Owl and Miss Susan Graham, Arctic Owl, the Brownies were made aware of the worldwide movement by a large globe of the world. They chose five countries to learn about.

Kieran Woods was dressed to represent Brownies in Ceylon. Rennie Douglas represented India who are called Bulbul. Lauren Goebel represented Burma called Bluebirds, Laurie Jarvie was Spain, called Daina and

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Tony Treahy was Germany, called Wichtel.

Each girl carried a flag of the country they represented and their fairy gold for the week went to the World Friendship fund and to Mexico. At the close of the meeting the pack was treated to a large birthday cake.

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House Damaged, Dismiss Careless Driving Charge

A car smashed into a Glen Williams house and rocked it from its foundations a court was told Monday.

Police estimated the damage to the 1½ storey building at \$2,700.

Constable Walter Jordan said: "The house front, the railing,

the porch and the front wall — was caved in."

He added: "The railing was knocked off, two doors caved in, the door frame smashed and front wall of the house caved in, also."

The officer said the house had been knocked 1½ inches off its foundation.

Before the court was a 21 year old district man. He was charged with careless driving on 20 Sideroad, January 14th. He pleaded not guilty.

Police testified the car had gone out of control on the wet road surface, and skidded 140 feet before smashing into the house.

The accused said he was on the way to work and skidded after realizing he had taken the wrong road.

"I applied the brakes but then I seemed to go faster," he said. He thought he had hit a snow patch on the road.

"Civil negligence," said Magistrate Kenneth Langdon. "With some hesitation the charge is dismissed."

OSHAWA WHOLESALE HAS RECORD PROFIT

Oshawa Wholesale Limited's annual report will show a net profit increase of 39.07 per cent, highest in the company's history, and a 30.39 per cent rise in sales reports, R. D. Wolfe, President.

The company also announced a 30 per cent dividend increase.



M. T. (MIKE) ARMSTRONG

Mr. Pete Masson of Pete Masson Motors Ltd. takes pleasure in announcing the appointment of Michael Armstrong to their Georgetown Sales staff. Mr. Armstrong brings with him 7 years experience in the automotive business and is fully qualified to assist in the selection and purchase of the fine 1967 line of Pontiac, Buick, Beaumont and Firebird as well as G.M.A.C. Trucks and Goodwill Used Cars.

Oshawa will pay dividends of 26 cents per share in 1967 compared with 20c last year. This is the seventh dividend increase since 1960. The first quarterly dividend of 6½ cents will be paid April to shareholders of record March 17th.

Easter Dress Parade!



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BELL OF CANADA REPORTS

Our Company's Annual Report for 1966 has recently been mailed to shareholders. Some of you may have received one since more than a quarter-million shareholders hold stock in Bell Canada. I thought some of the items covered in the report might be of interest to you.

Behind the report of Bell Canada's financial standing, program of activities during 1966 and plans for the future is the record of our employees. Their day-to-day jobs, whether driving massive cable-laying machinery, answering a question about your account at our Business Office, repairing or installing a telephone in your home, or assisting you with a telephone call, are all reflected in the Report. You may know many of our Bell people. Some may be your friends, neighbours or relatives in the Georgetown district.

Their work in widely-diversified jobs helps to bring communications services to your homes and place of business. And it is through their work during 1966 that the Annual Report can relate the continued growth of telephone service in our territory; the story of how we are continuing to help Canadians keep in touch even in sparsely settled parts of our country; new technology that will bring added communications benefits to our subscribers; innovations resulting from Bell Canada - Northern Electric teamwork and a program for satellite communications. In telling our story of 1966, the Annual Report also looks forward to the future. A future which will see communications advances unimaginable just 87 years ago when Bell Canada was begun.

Years ago when one Operator could and did handle all calls in many small towns, she was often asked for special services and information. One such operator got a daily request from the same voice, always just before noon, for the exact time. Finally she became curious and decided to ask the man why he called day after day.

"It's my job to blow the noon whistle," he told her. "and I want to be sure when it's twelve o'clock."

"That's funny," laughed the Operator. "Every day I get my clock by the noon whistle!"

Arnold Blachford

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