

GREAT CANUCKS

MacKenzie Helped Canada To Responsible Government

(one of a series prepared by GDHS students)

WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE
by Barbara Pankenin

William Lyon MacKenzie was born in Dundee, Scotland, on March 12th, 1785, and in 1820 he sailed for Quebec.

After working for a few weeks on the Lachine Canal he moved to Ontario, and on May 18th, 1824, he commenced the publication of the Colonial Advocate, a newspaper which specialized in the criticism of the abuses of public administration.

MacKenzie felt that Upper Canada was being run by a few aristocrats. The Lieutenant Governor held supreme power and the Church of England and the Executive Council united with the Governor to dispense patronage to their friends and supporters. Only those among the favoured class could find such a type of government to their liking, but many settlers, occupied with their farms, had no time to voice their political grievances.

In November, 1825, MacKenzie moved the Colonial Advocate to Toronto, so that he would be in the centre of political controversy. His vicious attacks caused some young members of the ruling set to smash his press in 1826, but he was awarded damages.

The publicity turned him into a popular hero and this served as a basis for his election into the Assembly. However, because of his agitation he was repeatedly expelled from the Government House.

In 1834 he was chosen first mayor of Toronto. The previous four years had a characteristic reaction upon public opinion, and in the election of 1835 the

Reformers obtained a majority, due largely to the efforts of MacKenzie. When the Reformers under MacKenzie demanded a responsible government it was turned down because the Tories believe that such principles were the first step to separation from Britain.

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD
PAGE 10

sent out, but he managed to escape to the U.S. with the help of some of his followers. Through his agitations William Lyon MacKenzie helped to set Canada on a path of responsible government. He was a great Canadian who fought perilously for what he believed making his adventures unparalleled in Canadian History.

Greenwood Cemetery Is Saturation Point Nearing?

A SUGGESTION AT A RECENT MEETING of Georgetown council urged members to be aware of a land requirement some future council may be faced with when the town reaches the stage when a second cemetery is needed. How far in the future? Quite a number of years, according to Harry Savings, secretary of the Georgetown Cemetery Board which looks after beautiful Greenwood Cemetery bordered by King St., Maple Avenue and Mountainview Road. Mr. Savings said 1,500 unused plots still exist in the cemetery, good for another 35 years, he estimates.

Says Health Unit Problem is Keeping Adequate County Staff

Securing and keeping an adequate number of qualified workers for the Halton County Health Unit was termed a "chronic problem" by former Medical Officer of Health Dr. Archie Bull in his year end report on 1966 to Halton County Council.

Dr. Bull, who officially resigned on December 31 after 14 and one-half years of service in the county, said "at some times it was possible to secure a sufficient number of staff but most of the time our staff has been below base line."

He indicated "no doubt part of the problem is reluctance on the part of elected representatives to spend tax money to pay salaries above those being offered in other areas. Undoubtedly it is much easier to carry on a good program with adequate staff."

The annual report, which summarized all Health Unit work during the last year, pointed out the drop in the number of clinics and the total attendance figure from those reported the previous year was due to the Public Health Nurses being away from work for an eight-week period following their mass resignation in September.

The payment of \$298,741.46 to Health Unit employees and board members accounted for the major portion of the Units

expenditures in 1966. The figure included \$15,541 for employer paid benefits. All expenditures totalled \$357,602.79 and there was an estimated surplus of \$2,394.16 on the year's operations.

The figures represented a drop of just over \$8,000 under the 1965 cost of \$365,926.61.

The number of communicable diseases reported during the year leaped significantly to 63, 42 over the 1965 total of 21. Biggest single increase was that of scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat. There were 36 cases reported in 1966 compared to only seven in 1965. The number of cases of infectious hepatitis was also on the up-swing from 12 to 26.

During the year there were 172 child health clinics held and total attendance was 11,144. The previous year there were 208 clinics with a total attendance of 13,468.

In dental care, 7,505 children were treated and 14,950 were examined. Treatment was completed on 8,684 children and the number of teeth needing treatment totalled 22,425.

It was noted the greatest emphasis has been placed on the pre-school and the junior grades of children. The extension of the testing to include some 3,000

children seems to have had very good results. The plan is to continue this on a competitive basis between classrooms and schools.

Health nurses visited 11,067 families during the year and a summary of the nurses' working hours shows 16 per cent was spent in schools, 21 per cent in the office, 36 per cent visiting homes, three per cent at clinics, nine per cent at prenatal classes, one per cent on other activities and 11 per cent travelling.

A total of 2,852 teacher-nurse conferences were conducted and service was given to

35,059 children in 89 elementary schools. An additional 1,926 high school students were examined.

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Present Testaments to New Church Members

At the United Church service, Sunday morning, each member received into the church recently were presented with a New Testament by Rev. R. W. Ridley.

Her family and friends had a little birthday party for Mrs. Clayton Allen on April 6th. Included were her daughter, Myrtle, Bill and Caroline Everson, granddaughters Margo and Judy Williams, Tom Maxwell, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Warnes, Mrs. R. McMaster and Mrs. J. Hooper.

Mrs. Jack Norton is home from St. Joseph's Hospital, in Guelph.

The Explorer Group held their weekly meeting last Wednesday afternoon with twenty-four girls present. Rev. R. W. Ridley and Rev. H. Llewellyn attended the meeting.

We extend congratulations to Cheryl Spence who passed with high marks her primary ballet dancing examination. Vickie Lay of Brampton is her teacher.

Members of the Ladies' Guild and guests were entertained at the home of Mrs. J. Crawford last week when they held a shower for the ladies' bazaar which is to be held May 13th.

God well wishes are sent to Roland Haines who was taken into Georgetown and District Hospital last Friday morning.

The Explorer Group sang "My Father's World" last evening at St. Alban's.

J. Eason and Mrs. H. Garvin, who leave by boat this Thursday for a holiday in the British Isles.

Mrs. W. Hughes and children of Temiskaming spent a week recently with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Schenk.

Little Ricky Starret has been sick with pneumonia. We hope he is all better now.

Steven DeForest entertained his friends at his birthday party last Friday when he was eight years old. They included Billie Klassen, Hugo Palle, Tim Clark, Michael Iddon, Jamie Lawson and cousins Evelyn and Barbara DeForest and his sister Debra. His cousin Douglas DeForest was not able to attend because he was sick with the mumps.

The Centennial Committee held a bingo in the Town Hall last Wednesday night. Mr. Alex Taylor called the numbers. He was assisted by Alf Spence and Mrs. Taylor.

Next Sunday is Laymen's Sunday in the United Church when the laymen of the church take the service.

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