

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Relocating Municipal Building

Council's move to expropriate ten acres of Dominion Seed House land for a future municipal complex indicates how rapidly we are passing from small town to city status. Who would have dreamed a few short years ago that the town would outgrow its downtown offices to the point where a decision might have to be made for an entirely new location.

While we can agree that the present location could someday become impossible, from an accommodation and parking standpoint, we suggest a close look should be given to seeking a new location in the downtown area, somewhere off the main street.

Removal of the post office to a midtown location should be proof enough that a location outside a commercial area satisfies no one. A municipal complex across the street would have an added disadvantage, in that a large majority of pedestrians would have to cross the highway to reach it.

There are many possible locations still available downtown where a new municipal building could be a decided asset. To mention only a few—the partially empty old theatre on Mill Street, or the

old town hall, where public parking is only a step away, plus any number of houses which could be acquired and removed for this purpose.

With extensive growth in the town's east end, the downtown will even more become the commercial hub of our future city, and the municipal centre should not be lightly abandoned for a halfway house.

If, after careful investigation, there must be a decision for a completely new location, then council might be well advised to look at the Delrex building, already standing almost empty on the Mountainview corner. Here, too, there is plenty of public parking available in the adjoining shopping plaza, and a building which could house a large number of offices.

Acquisition of the valuable Seed House property could be a long and costly procedure for the town, for its value will be judged, not only on the value of land acquired, but on the damage which this could do to remaining land which, if not used for its present purpose, is ideal for either residential, commercial or industrial development.

### More Centennial Events

An upswing in centennial year events in town is indicated in a revised schedule issued last week by committee officials.

While some disappointment has been expressed, particularly in the lack of a Dominion Day celebration, the town has not been without its activity to date.

Besides a January 1st flag raising and a giant Christmas tree bonfire in January, there has been a centennial ball, a special Sunday for senior citizens and a centennial midget hockey tournament.

Aside from these events which came under the jurisdiction of an official committee, private organizations have also contributed to the celebrations, particu-

larly the Business & Professional Women with a fashion show; a week-long Legion affair which featured a number of banquets and presentations; and some interesting exhibits in merchants' windows during the past few weeks.

Many beards are evident in the male population, with judging for this and for a Miss Georgetown contest slated for the fall fair. Still on the horizon is the visit of the Centennial Caravan next month, and an armed forces motorcycle display, a skating carnival and Christmas lighting contest.

We are sure that, when the year is over, Georgetown will be able to look back on a successful Centennial year, with many happy memories of our celebration.

### Quarrymen Cooperate

A substantial donation from a quarrying firm and the deeding of land to Halton Region Conservation Authority marks a new era in preserving part of the county's natural beauty which could have been lost for generations.

It should now be possible for commercial activities to proceed profitably while still retaining much of the beauty of the escarpment in the Milton and Kelso areas where quarrying could have wrecked for all time one of the finest views available in this part of Ontario.


The strip of land will create needed parkland which will become more and more valuable as population increases. It is a forward step in retention of natural beauty which nature has created for us through the centuries.

All too often today, we are prone to toss away things which should be treasured, in the name of progress. We slaughter trees wholesale for widening

roads so more and more traffic can move. We turn our finest farmland into factory locations, crowd beautiful homes onto too-narrow lots, allow signs and second rate small commercial buildings along our secondary roads, and as individuals litter our streets and roadways with tin cans, papers and accumulated refuse.

Perhaps our trouble has been a plenitude of land. We have forgotten that, as immigrants, we left crowded lands where every blade of grass is treasured, every drop of water retained. We have polluted our waterways to such an extent that one of our Great Lakes is almost devoid of aquatic life, unfit in most places for bathing.

It is a sad reflection on us that we despoil our natural resources with little thought for future generations. This little glimmer from the quarry owners is heartening. Let's hope it may become a beacon light to follow.



### HARLEY TO HALTON

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

THIS WEEK will conclude the work of the House of Commons until Parliament reconvenes some time in the Fall. It is anticipated that the spending estimates of ten Government Departments will be concluded and the remaining Departments will be completed early in the Fall. This will leave most of the time of the House of Commons in the Fall for Legislation.

ONE OF THE major matters to be dealt with in the Fall will be the amendments to the Criminal Code which will probably deal with such matters as the laws on Bankruptcy, divorce,

and birth control.

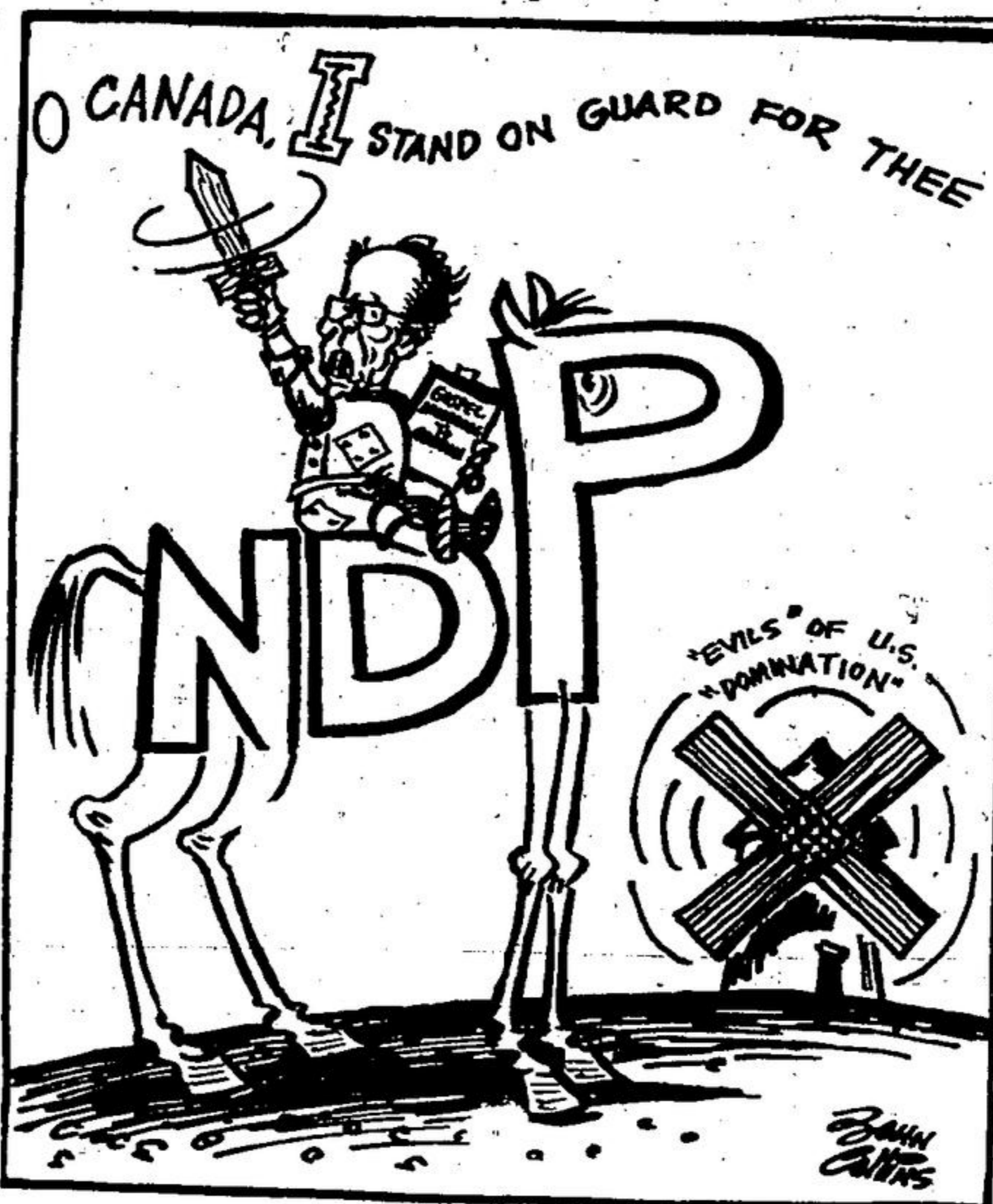
THE COMMITTEE on Health and Welfare which I again have the honour to Chair will be holding hearings in the Fall into the controversial question of abortion. It is anticipated that this will be a highly controversial matter and I expect the hearings will be extensive.

IT IS EXPECTED that in the Fall the Government will bring legislation that has been recommended by the Special Committee on Drug Cost and Prices. At this time, of course, one cannot tell which of the recom-

mendations the Government will accept but there is every indication from the recommendations made on the Estimates of the Registrar-General, who is responsible for all consumer matters, that significant changes will be made in the laws governing drugs.

THE ROYAL VISIT of Her Majesty and Prince Philip has ended. The effect of this visit will, I am sure, be with us for a long time. Canadians responded with unusual warmth and enthusiasm and while some doubted the wisdom of a Royal Visit during our Centennial Celebrations, I think those same people would now agree that this Royal Visit added tremendous impetus to the success of our celebrations.

CIVIC HOLIDAY  
The first Monday in August has as usual, been proclaimed a Civic Holiday in Georgetown, with banks and most business places taking advantage of the long week-end.



THE OLD WINDMILL-TILTER IS AT IT AGAIN

## Officials Stall Plan to Scrap Local School Boards

Despite a July 1 deadline, county council Thursday stalled on a decision which may have resulted in a single-tier county-wide board of education, by 1968.

A brief entered by council's public and high school's consultative committee was tabled for further review by a special committee yet to be set up.

The brief suggested the county education system be adapted to work under a single tier board of education.

A similar suggestion was made by regional government expert

Thomas Plunkett in a lengthy report now under study by Provincial government.

Mr. Plunkett, who envisages a new two-county split between Halton and Peel on a rural-urban basis, strongly recommends the setting up of a board of education for the southern part — to be known as the county of Mississauga — and another for the north — the Rural County of Peel-Halton.

The consultative committee goes further in recommending the establishment of an advisory vocational committee and one each for Oakville, Burlington and north Halton.

Arguments against the proposal ranged from the awaited Plunkett Report, financing the new set-up and representation.

Deep Concern  
In a brief to council Esqueing Township council found the scheme "extremely disturbing" and expressed its deep concern about the whole deal.

Council argued that although the proposal "might conceivably" result in better opportunities for "a few children" the costs of education would be seriously hiked without any appreciable improvement in education.

Esqueing disliked having only one member on a 24-man board with Oakville and Burlington having greater voting power than all five northern municipalities.

The northern municipalities might just as well not be represented at all, since in any differences of opinion either Oakville or Burlington could out-vote the whole of the north," the brief says.

The brief claims the cost of education in Esqueing would double if the committee's recommendation was implemented.

"Increased benefits to the school children of the Township would be highly problematical," it adds.

Opposes Plan  
Georgetown council simply stated it was unanimously against the whole deal.

Meanwhile Oakville Board of Education "viewed with alarm" the recommendation by the committee for "immediate action" on the scheme.

It claimed the proposed financial set-up could result in "welcome relief" for Acton, Georgetown, and Milton but in great concern to Esqueing and Nassagaweya.

On a motion moved by deputy reeve Menefy, seconded by deputy reeve Allan Day, the committee brief was laid aside to go before a council committee.

The committee, yet to be appointed will probably be composed of three councillors.

## SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

### Smileys - To Expo - Contest

Don't tell me there aren't any creative writers in Canada. The country is crawling with them. More than 100 entries for the Smileys-to-Expo contest have arrived, and they are still pouring in.

My wife thought all along it was rather an ill-conceived project, or as she put it, "a dumb idea," and I'm beginning to agree with her. One of the chief hitches is that I forgot to organize some judges. So I'm

So, first of all, I must read them all, some twice, some thrice. This is going to absorb about 100 hours, and the whole idea in the first place was that I'd get a holiday. Something wrong there, somewhere.

Secondly, all those who don't win, along with their families and friends, are going to hate me for life. It's easy enough to make enemies without deliberately alienating about 2,000 people.

And thirdly, it's costing me \$25 to acquire 100 hours of work, and 2,000 hostile natives. Sort of silly, isn't it?

However, I dunno and I'm glad. The Toronto Telegram News Service has kicked in another \$25 and a lot of people have had a lot of fun making a whack at writing a column.

And I shouldn't complain about its being work. It's fun. Especially delightful is the fantastic variety of both writers and subject matter. The writers are of all sexes and all ages from 16 to 76. And they wax eloquent on everything from pheasants to families, from taxes to toenails.

Thanks, too, for the many warm and friendly personal messages enclosed. It's kind and thoughtful, even though it won't win a prize. What the columns have proved to me, once again, is that there's a great deal of good humour, good spirit, and good intelligence in our country.

The entries vary in many other ways. Some are quietly humorous. Others are sardonic or ironic. Some are dead serious, some angry, some passionate. (Not that way, Mum.)

Some were written on ordinary ruled paper, while the

breakfast dishes roiled in the sink. Others were immaculately typed, submitted flat in manuscript form, with return envelope enclosed. Some writers want a pen name used, others want their names in big, bold type.

They come from office workers, farm wives, students and grandmothers. Some people submitted as many as three columns. Some are ungrammatical and hilarious. Others use impeccable English, but are dull. Some are religious, others ribald.

One gentleman writes amusingly of his two pheasants, named John and Lester, because he didn't think they'd be around long. Jim Kerr of Red Deer vents his dislike of teachers in no uncertain way. A former student of mine (Hi there, Mary Graham) tells what a character her grandpa is. One entry consists of his first letter home from a lad serving in Viet Nam.

And they come from all over the country, which makes this thing a real centennial kick. Put them all together and you'd have a book. It would be raggedy and uneven, but interesting, and would present a pretty good idea of what Canada and Canadians are really like.

Trouble is so many of the columns are so good that I'm in a quandry, right up to my navel. I started to make two piles: the good ones and the rejects. The pile of rejects is two inches high, the other one two feet.

Perhaps the sensible thing to do would be to write a guest column myself, under a pseudonym, submit it to me and declare it the winner. It wouldn't be cricket, but it would save a lot of agonizing over that final decision. Not to mention 50 bucks.

Don't worry, chaps. I'll find a solution. Perhaps what I do with my exam papers. Take an armful to the top of the stairs and hurl them. The one that lands on the highest step gets top mark. Bear with me while I prurse. Hope to announce the winner next week.

## NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald of 10 and 20 Years Ago

20 YEARS AGO

● Smith & Stone Limited plans to bring another phase of their business to town which employs twenty skilled tradesmen, when house accommodation for these men can be secured.

● Gordon Harley is filling in property on John Street which he bought from the town last year and will soon have it in shape for building a garage.

● The Bradley Apartments (Berwick Hall) on lower Main St. is being stuccoed. The red brick will be completely covered and a fine stone entrance is planned.

● Fire which broke out at 4 a.m. Friday morning completely destroyed the Edgewater Restaurant, a beautiful parlour, and a large bungalow at Wassaga Beach with damage estimated at \$40,000. Georgetown councillor Thomas Eason who, with his family, was occupying a cottage near the restaurant, was one of the first to see the fire. Awakened by the crackling, he rushed to move his car parked near the burning building and then joined a bucket brigade which kept the flames from spreading to other cottages.

10 YEARS AGO

● Branch 120 of the Royal Canadian Legion has purchased the adjoining two properties, the garage housing Hewson Motors and liquor store, and upstairs apartment.

● An extensive chase after a 17-year-old Guelph reformatory escapee ended in Georgetown last Friday when he was nabbed near the park. Ron and Mike Miller, two members of a nine man posse, noticed his reformatory clothing near there. The capture ended a seven mile chase taken up by OPP constable Mervyn Harkness at Acton. He took out after a car driven recklessly through the town limits. The fugitive's car hit a guard rail on a corner at Georgetown's western limit and the chase continued on foot toward Stewarttown. Georgetown police corporal Jim Bilsborrow and constables Harley Lowe and Ted Scott flushed the man from his hiding place near the park. A shotgun and box of shells known to have been in the men's possession were not recovered.

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