

Too Many Sirens? Blame Grass Fires, Not Firemen

All Georgetown's volunteer fire department needed this week was for somebody to complain the siren was sounding too often.

"We can't argue with that, but I hardly think we can be blamed for the frequency of the alarms," one firefighter said when he learned that an anonymous caller had used the emergency number to phone the dispatcher and complain about the siren.

"Well, now I've heard everything," another volunteer commented.

The siren whirled nine times this week, bringing 620 the number of alerts sounded since the grass fire season was ushered in two weeks ago.

But not all the alarms have been the result of burning grass. At 8:20 Tuesday morning, firefighters were summoned to a house at 12 Chapel St. Monday at 11:35 p.m. they were called in a search for missing boys; at 3:50 p.m. Thursday it was paper fire in an addition to Holmes St. to St. store; and later the same night an overheated oil burner at 573 Main St., Glen Williams.

The others were for grass. Saturday firemen doused grass on Edward St. and No. 15 Side road at the 5th Line Esplanade Sunday afternoon on No. 22 Sidemad, and Monday a field near Centennial public school.

Fire Chief Erwin Lewis had something to say about the complaint. "It is very necessary that the sirens sound since with an all volunteer department, this is the only way to summon the men," Chief Lewis told the Herald.

"Sure most of the calls are for burning grass at this time of the year, but a grass fire can always become worse," he said. "For all the men know, the flames could be blowing toward a house or barn and delay could mean the difference between a minor and a major blaze. For this reason the firefighters treat all calls with the same sense of urgency."

He said 90 per cent of the grass fires are caused by people who do not take enough care or precautions when they start to clean up their property.

"When that fire siren rings it's to alert firefighters only," said the Chief. "Too many people think it's a signal for them to go chasing the fire equipment. This kind of curiosity hinders the department, but those who hamper the trucks and block lanes and driveways never seem to care," he said.

He said the residents who least like hearing sirens will be the firemen themselves. "The men are all volunteers and have homes and families to enjoy and jobs to do. But they respond faithful at any hour of the day or night, 365 days year," said Chief Lewis. "Certainly nobody would like it better than that if the siren sounded only for Thursday night practices."

He said the only way to eliminate the sirens would be to establish a permanent fire department. That's unless somebody comes up with Dick Tracy wrist radios for each of the volunteers.

Georgetown Firm Gets Milton-Rexdale Bus Run

An application from Georgetown Transportation to start a daily public run from Milton to Rexdale has been approved. It will go via the base line Milton village, Rexdale Blvd., to Islington Ave., and then to Rexdale Plaza.

This will be a fast service to downtown Toronto when the subway extension opens soon. It will also be an hourly service from Bramalea to Rexdale plaza through Malton.

Georgetown Transportation has been operating a daily service to Malton for 28 years starting back in the days when Victory Aircraft was operating 3 shifts per day. After the war things were very slow until Brampton High School required one or two buses. Then the new Central Peel Composite School Board and the Bramalea Secondary School were built. This required a lot more transportation. They have been operating school buses for Central Peel ever since. Then they branched out into Toronto Township for Malton, Marvin Heights, Westwood, Applewood Heights, Britannia, Cooksville, Meadowvale, and Streetsville schools. Georgetown Transportation operate 54 buses daily.

Their daily service to Malton Airport from Georgetown, consists of six round trips per day through Norval, Huttonville, Brampton, Bramalea, Marvin Heights, Malton and Airport. Also the commuter train at Malton station a.m. and p.m. is well patronized by Bramalea and rural residents which they meet.

There is a daily service out of Streetsville. Two round trips Monday to Friday through Brampton Mall to Bramalea and connects with the Georgetown and Malton buses.

Conservation Talks Produce Interest

Policies and educational plans for the coming year were discussed at a recent meeting of the Information and Education Advisory Board of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Mrs. Joan Rollings, Information Officer for the Authority, told the members of the interest shown in the talks given throughout 1967 and explained how well the program was progressing this year. Jack Bailey, Streetsville, told of several meetings he had attended and verified the interest of the people in the Credit Valley Area.

Frank Webb, Mississauga, suggested that the appropriate Hydro and Water Commissions be contacted for their cooperation in publicizing conservation in the areas covered by the CVCA.

Resources manager, S. B. White, explained ideas for interpretative displays in the Conservation Areas where the public could have an explanation of what they are seeing. The Board decided to prepare billboard type maps for each main conservation area. These could be seen from a car and would direct the public to their particular area of interest.

Contacts are to be made with clubs and groups in the Credit Valley to offer the services of the Authority as speakers on Conservation.

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Right for Easter

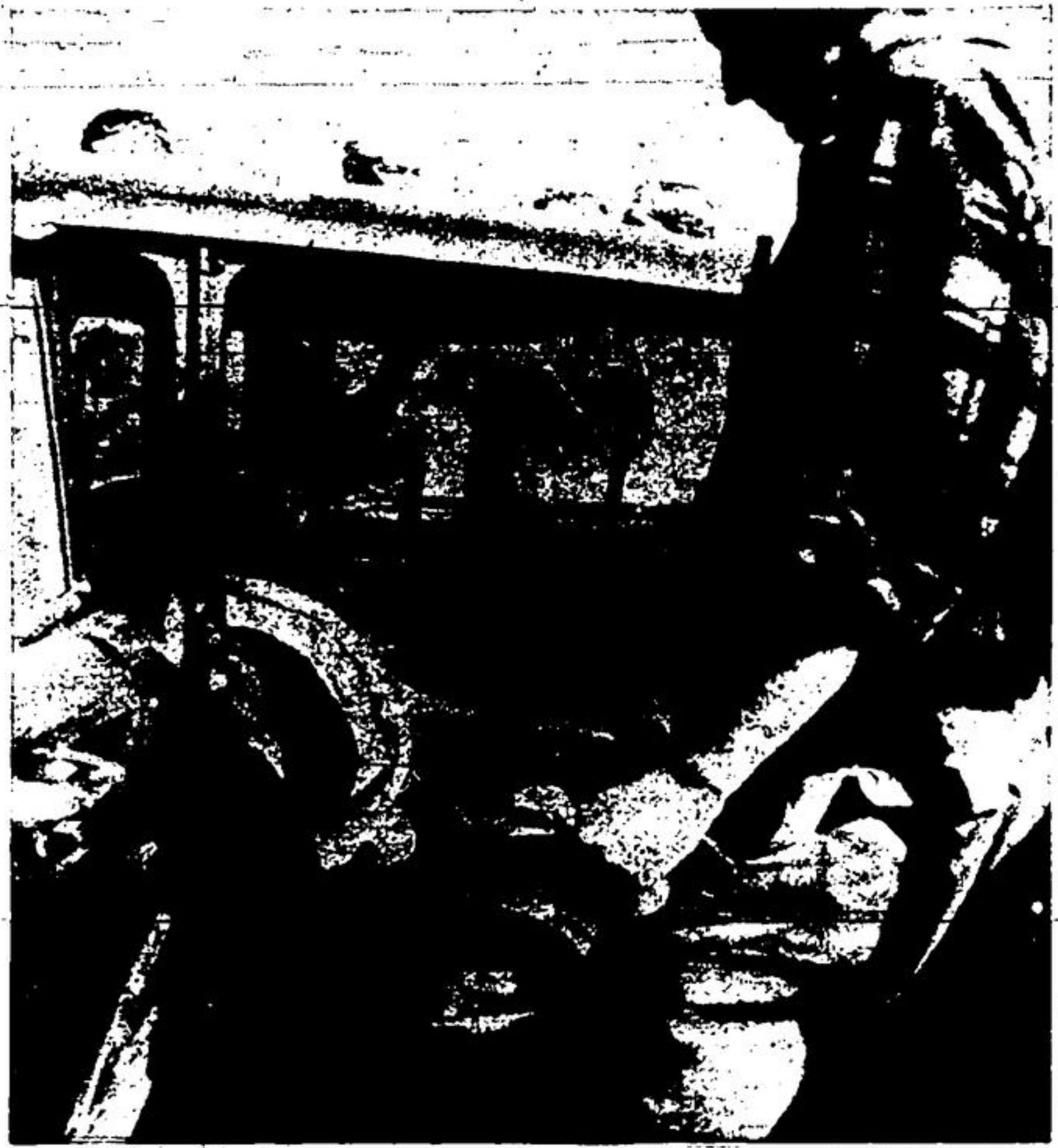
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A BYSTANDER inspects the charred interior of a car damaged by fire in a Howson Cres. driveway.

Urges Teachers Find Best Approach, Student Writing

The principal of a downtown Toronto school warned about 350 public and separate school teachers Wednesday not to turn the classroom into a battlefield.

Don Urquart was the guest speaker of the Halton County International Reading Association's regular meeting held at Martin Street school in Milton. He was speaking to the teachers on creative writing.

He told the teachers of an experience of his own — two students had refused to do an assignment.

He said: "Rather than get angry at them — that's stupid anyway — I told them I had something special for them to do."

Urquart said a slightly different approach to the same assignment brought unexpected and very good results. Instead of forcing the boys to write out "My Happiest Memory" he offered them the option of "The Thing I'd Most Like to Forget" and they responded eagerly.

He also told the teachers that if they were demanding perfection from their students they were doing the youngsters a great disservice.

Urquart said: "We must encourage them to expand their written vocabulary, and this is not done by putting limitations on them. They must be free to explore."

Mrs. A. Logan, of the Milton Public School Board welcomed the teachers to the IRA meeting.

The 1968 executive for the IRA is announced by Yvonne Boach area president, Even Hoffman; vice president, Doug Copeland; secretary, Nora Hickey; and treasurer, Paul Henderson.

A coat is an aquatic bird found principally in South America.

Conclude 4-H Instruction Achievement Day is Next

Meetings of Ashgrove Fruitie Tooties, a 4-H girls club, concluded on April 6, at the home of Mrs. John Bird with fifteen members answering roll call "A fruit recipe I enjoyed making."

Three notices of objection to the proposed amended zoning by-law were registered at council Monday night. Success Builders, George Thomas, and Steve and Clare Emmerson all intend to object to the by-law at the O.M.B. hearing.

"It is becoming more and more apparent that we have to formulate some policy on apartments," stated the mayor.

Cr. Roy Ballentine reminded him that council and Planning Board had met last year and mapped certain areas for high, medium and low density.

Cr. Jim Young claimed the three applications presently in process would be needed when the new lift station on John St. is ready.

The clerk was instructed to reply to the O.M.B. that the hold up at present was due to lack of sewer services.

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OHC Plans Interviews With Senior Citizens

Thirty-six Georgetown people responded to a recent questionnaire and application form mailed by the Kinsmen Club to senior citizens in Georgetown.

The club has been investigating erection of an apartment building for older residents. A site had been chosen in the vicinity of the hospital, but plans of the club were delayed in the complications of dealing with two municipalities and the necessary legal entanglements in such a major project. The project then floundered somewhat when original cost estimates skyrocketed during an inflationary building spiral.

Ontario Housing Corporation then entered the picture, and the Kinsmen co-operated in arranging the mailing of applications, with these to be sent directly to O.H.C.

The club has now learned that OHC representatives will be visiting Georgetown in the next few weeks, interviewing applicants, to establish what need exists for a senior citizens apartment.

If such a need is found, tenders will be called for a building and construction will commence.

Powell Best Kinsman Speaker, On to London

Georgetown Kinsman Hugh Powell won the Gord Harbanson speaking contest, finals of which were held at a zone conference in Hamilton. He had previously won at the local club level against Ron Roberts, and John Wickell. He will progress to speak at the District Convention in London in May.

Bill Sunnucks, Harry Levy, Dean Taylor and Al Murphy were local club delegates to the Zone conference.

Two new members were initiated at a recent meeting. Peter Mann and Archie Hayden were initiated by Kinsmen Sunnucks, Levy, Taylor and Tom Kent.

A Kinsmen project this year is picking up and delivering lawn chairs for repair to Hope Retarded Adult Workshop at Hornby.

Most species of sharks bear living young, called pups.

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