

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Must Houses Go?

...Destruction of seven houses on Main Street north as part of the plan for improving the 'White Bridge' over the railway tracks seems to a layman like a somewhat reckless expenditure which should take further study before proceeding.

To be sure the project is a joint one with the provincial government and railway, and the town's cost is minimal for the estimated half-million dollar project. But we only fool ourselves if we think the government gets its money from a magic tree—it comes eventually right out of our pockets too.

That the bridge needs to be widened and contours somewhat changed for better visibility is something with which no one can argue. But that this should entail such a major change as razing half a dozen good dwellings is another question. Has any alternative plan, with modified construction and modified costs ever been stud-

ied by either council or highway engineers? Aside from the high cost to taxpayers (and we have not yet quite recovered from the provincial treasurer's forecast that Ontario will this year have its largest deficit in history) the project gives a very real problem to seven families who must find other accommodation.

The real value of any older home today is only peanuts to the cost of replacing it. One can value these houses at twelve to fifteen thousand dollars, for instance, but where in Georgetown is the owner to get another without adding several thousand dollars of his own?

Georgetown is faced on every side with expenditures which we have been warned can cripple our economy unless our town fathers sharpen their pencils and save every nickel. It's not too late to take a second look at Project Bridge and see if an acceptable substitute can not be found.

Exit Rene Levesque

Quebec's Rene Levesque took a fatal step last week-end which can only end his public life in one of two ways. The new separatist group whose birth he master-minded is going to destroy him completely, for radical as he is, some of his new cohorts are so far out they have passed him even before the party gets started.

Levesque will either have to join them or quit—and our guess is the latter, for he is far too smart a man to go along with some of the nonsense emanating from discussion groups at the Montreal meeting.

Serves him right, of course. He has been playing Russian roulette too long, and now he's playing it with a Russian. No longer will he be dealing with a kindly Ontarian playing the old political game of bowing to Quebec. He's got a tough ex-buddy now, who understands what he is faced with and will be using his own type of political guile.

One should not, of course, put too much stock in daily newspaper reports of what went on at the convention, for daily men are notoriously out for the sensational. It probably took only one hothead to suggest that the province have its own army, to boost this to the headlines.

But it is understandable if we in Ontario are beginning to get browned off with this kind of thing. It's time that the tail which has been wagging the dog for all

these years (and we blame the dog for much of the trouble too) is chopped to size.

Maybe we can count on our new prime minister to state a few facts.

Quebec has been plagued with generations of crooked politics, with men in public office, large and small, who have bled them white. A parochial church has kept people half a century behind, economically, culturally and politically. Quebecois have been given the Marie Antoinette diet of bread and cakes—a handout here from the federal government, a crumb from the province. They have been encouraged to stick to their own language, barring them from opportunities which other Canadians enjoy. The church has burdened them with families they can't support.

Now there is a quiet revolution but instead of this being directed against their own leaders, an attempt is being made to blame the rest of the dominion, Ontario in particular, for all their troubles.

It's past time that someone doesn't say—get perking, clean up your provincial politics, keep your language but learn English too, loosen the control of your church over your whole secular life, and quit this foolish talk about having your own show, if any province stands to gain by separatism, it's Ontario, but we don't want it. Canada is one nation, one of the finest places to live in this world today. Let's keep it that way.

Champions

It was quite a week for a little town.

First came news that two young men captured the Canadian doubles championship in their bowling class in Edmonton.

And good luck almost ran in three, for Lanes Midgits seemed set for their Ontario title, only to drop their one-game advantage and lose a tough Ontario final to Learnington.

Friday's hockey victory here was followed with the usual festivities. A victory parade was led around town by the fire truck while fans showered congratulations on the young team which showed the winning spirit right from their first season's game.

To all our young athletes we extend the good wishes of the community with congratulations on their prowess.

TURNING BACK—TIME SERIES



NOBLE MILLS NOW LONG GONE

THE NORVAL SCENE has vastly changed since this photo was taken in 1928. Gone are the mill race (foreground), bridge, and all three buildings which made up the Noble Flour Mills group. The picture was contributed to the Turning Back Time series by Fred Hoskin of Norval.



THOUSANDS OF TULIPS BLOOM EACH MAY ON PARLIAMENT HILL IN OTTAWA CANADA'S NATIONAL CAPITAL

IN THE MAIL BAG

Nothing but Praise for Hospital and Doctors

136 Roxway Drive, April 15th, 1968.

Dear Mr. Editor:

The April 11th issue of the Georgetown Herald carried a letter purporting to be a criticism of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital but which neither identifies those who are supposedly incompetent nor stated in what respect the hospital was failing in its performance of service to the community.

May I take the space in your paper to express my view that in Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital the people of this community have an invaluable institution.

I know nothing of the administrative operation of the hospital. However, I do know several of the board members and I have the highest regard for their unselfish dedication and judgment in striving to provide the best possible hospital service within the means of their disposal.

I believe that Georgetown is most fortunate in having the fine group of physicians, surgeons and consulting specialists who provide service in the hospital.

It has been the experience of my family that Georgetown Hospital provides care second to none. My mother and father have each undergone surgery on two occasions and my wife has been a patient for the birth of each our three children in this hospital.

Each of them is most grateful to their own physician, consulting specialists, nurses, orderlies and all other hospital personnel for the kindness, consideration and conscientious care received while in the hospital. As patients and I as one vitally concerned, we could ask for nothing more.

May hike — one group walking south from Terra Cotta and one heading north from Kelso

When they meet in the centre they'll trade car keys and after completing the 25 miles, drive each others cars back to a central meeting place at Limehouse. This hike is reserved for experienced hikers with plenty of stamina. It's an all day hike starting at 7 a.m. sharp.

Before marriage, man yearns for a woman. After marriage, the "Y" is silent as in work.

— H. E. Allen.

Bruce Trail Hikers Plan 25 Mile Walk

A 25 mile hike from Terra Cotta, along the Bruce Trail north of Glen Williams, and through the Limehouse and Speyside areas to Kelso is being planned, by the Toronto Bruce Trail Club.

This is an annual 'end to end' hike of the section for which they are responsible. It will take place Sunday, May 12.

Last year 78 of 80 starters were able to finish the lengthy stretch and qualified to receive a club badge.

Two groups will start at opposite ends of this section for

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NEWS ECHOES

From the Heralds of 10 and 20 Years Ago

1958

Damage has been estimated at close to \$30,000 as the result of a spectacular fire Saturday afternoon that ravaged the Roxy Theatre on Mill Street one hour after it had been jammed with children watching the matinee. According to Fire Chief Jack Harlow the blaze originated in the eaves at the north-east corner of the building and spread rapidly between the roof and the false ceiling toward the front where two families had to evacuate their apartments. The entire roof, the screen, stage, and curtains were razed and most of the seats damaged in the fire, which, at its height, threatened the adjoining Mackenzie Building. One of the firemen, George Glassford, was injured while fighting the fire when hit with a piece of the tin false ceiling. The brigade was aided by many of the onlookers in the battle of the flames and removing the furniture, bedding, appliances and other contents from the apartments and Ernie's Radio Appliance Store and M. E. Manderson law office. Firemen confined the flames to the theatre proper, but water damage was done to most of that part of the building left standing.

1948

Dolbeau Beavers have won the Eastern Canada Intermediate A hockey championship. They beat Georgetown Raiders 4-2 April 23rd at St. Joseph d'Alma to sweep the best of five series, three straight. Raiders were Ontario champions. Georgetown goalie Jack Rhodes was given the third game's first star.

Returning to Robb's Drug Store where he served his apprenticeship, Stuart Young will take over the management of the store, replacing Neil McLennan who has purchased a drug store in Timmins.

Members of the Georgetown Ladies Lawn Bowling Club met on Thursday to elect their officers. The President is Mrs. R. H. Ireland, vice president Mrs. E. B. Tyers, secretary-treasurer Mrs. L. E. McKibbin, games committee Mrs. W. McDowell, Mrs. Harold Cleave, prize committee, Mrs. W. Bull, Mrs. J. Williamson, auditors Mrs. H. Goldham and Mrs. H. Cleave.

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

GOOD LUCK, PIERRE!

Everything that could possibly have been written about the Liberal leadership, convention has already been written. But it's Spring, almost and we have a new prime minister, almost. They're both pretty green, but Summer usually follows.

No, I didn't bet against Trudeau. But I can't see a guy called Winters ever winning an election in this country. We get enough of that nonsense about 8 months of the year.

As an English teacher, I always look at names for symbolic suggestions. Winters has already been dealt with. Hellyer sounds slightly like 'Hell with yer, I'll do as I please.'

Paul Martin. I think a martin is a small bird. And he sure got it from the eagles and falcons. But he was a game bird, despite the fact, and deserves a salute for dignity and courage. (I met Martin years ago encountered by a couple of plastered Liberals from the sticks and he had the same dignity then. These are the people who let him down, after he'd made gruelling trips to Hayfork Centre to speak for some local jack.)

Turner didn't live up to his name. Tough. No turning. Watch out for him in future. He wants it all or nothing.

MacEwen was a disappointment. He's a man of intelligence and integrity. But he ran his campaign as though he were running for Reeve of Juniper Junction, and even made a bollix of withdrawing from the race. A pity.

Joe Greene is Joe Greene. I've seen him in action before. A dangerous orator of the old school: emotional, convincing, but a pretty fair Minister of Agriculture, when you penetrate the verbiage.

Sharp was sharp, and always has been. He made the right move at the right time, and he is famous for this. Despite a couple of abysmal lapses during the economic crisis, Kierans made a great fight,

but who really feels sorry for a millionaire who is going to wind up in the Cabinet, and didn't have a ghost of a chance in the first place. Stout chap though.

You can't make much of Trudeau's name, symbolically. However, I think he's just possibly a better choice than that chap called Laframboise from North-ern Ontario. I have a vague idea Laframboise means 'The Strawberry.' And where would we be then: Intentionally? Faten, with sugar and cream, that's where.

All I hope is that Canadians won't go sour on Trudeau when the Gallic shrug, the quirked eyebrow and the chimpanzee's grin disappear after a couple of months of dealing with all the garbage a prime minister must put out.

To the constant disgust of my wife and daughter, I knocked J. E. Kennedy constantly after his election. I kept saying, 'Sure, he's cute. Sure he has a beautiful grin. Sure, he's witty. Sure, everybody loves him except 40 per cent of the U.S. voters. But he's a ruthless politician. When is he going to do something besides charm people?'

I feel the same way about our new prime minister. He's clever, charming, rich. He's a bachelor, which probably accounts for the rich and charming.

I wish him well. I hope, he breathes into Canadian politics that fresh new breeze everyone is predicting. But I wouldn't count on it. Most of the boys in the press gallery touting him as the salvation of Canada were saying the same about Dief ten years ago. And they will be the first to start cutting strips off him when he fails to produce immediate miracles.

Good luck, Pierre Elliott Trudeau. I think you might just do it. And, finally, goodbye Lester Pearson. I think you were a dandy despite your faults and I think history will record you as such.

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