

# Elm Blight Taking Heavy Toll Georgetown's Beauty

Hundreds of grey skeletons, once beautiful elms standing head and shoulders above the rest of Georgetown's abundance of foliage, stand naked and ugly today, stark victims of a blight that is fast eliminating the trees from the local landscape.

The dead elms, casualties in the rapid spread of Dutch Elm Disease, are one by one being felled by town workmen and property owners and then burned to at least retard the plague.

Cutting trees on town-owned land and burning them is being done as part of the regular work program this year, but private landowners are responsible for disposing of dead elms on their property. Logs from the felled elms must be burned at once, and it is advisable that the trees be taken down as soon as they show signs of the blight.

In Brampton it is mandatory that all elm logs and bark with in the town limits be sprayed or burned before the first day of April each year. The Brampton by-law to this effect also states the cost of destroying diseased elm trees will be borne by the town.

In Milton a similar proposal was shelved when it was learned there are so many dead elms in the town it would be impossible to shoulder the cost. The intention was to remove all diseased elms under the winter works program and then to charge the landowners their share of the cost.

Elm blight first came to North America in the 1850s, an unauthorized tourist hidden in logs imported for furniture. It spread quickly through Quebec and the United States and reached Toronto by the mid 1860s.

Elm blight, or Dutch elm disease (so-called because it was first discovered in Holland) is caused by a fungus. The fungus, in turn, is carried by two different kinds of beetles, the smaller European bark beetle, and the

native elm bark beetle. Neither of these can breed on live trees but they feed on live ones and in so doing inoculate the spores containing the fungus into the sap.

The only effective prevention against the blight to date is sanitation. Dead trees — breeding grounds for the carrier beetle, must be cut down and burned. Still, this is not totally effective since under provincial law, municipalities are responsible for control.

What this means is that Georgetown for instance, could be completely disease-free. Somebody could drive in from an infected area five miles away and the whole thing would start again.

There are at present only two methods, other than outright destruction, to protect the elms. One is spray. The most common chemical used is DDT. Sprays are used to kill the beetles, but does not affect the fungus itself. If used on many trees, spraying is relatively expensive. If a private household wishes to protect its tree, the cost is enormous, and spray has not proved totally effective.

Another method, developed by several chemical companies, is to inject the tree with an insecticide. A few years ago an oil company came out with a product called Bidrin. It didn't last as long as spray, however, and was less effective. It was taken off the Canadian market this year.

For the individual homeowner, this method has promised some hope. About \$250 a tree it was much less expensive than spray.

Attempts have been made by universities to develop a blight-resistant tree. Several European strains are already totally resistant but cannot be imported here because they would be susceptible to our own Canadian tree diseases.

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It has succeeded, however, in isolating living elm branches. These branches can be kept alive for up to 24 days. This is more important than it seems since it means the scientists have a reliable way to test the effectiveness of any fungus cure.

Until something is discovered, the future is bleak. K. B. Turner, supervisor of forest pest control of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, gloomily predicted: "I certainly don't think there is any chance of elms becoming extinct, but they are going to be used to kill the beetles, unless somebody comes up with a cure".

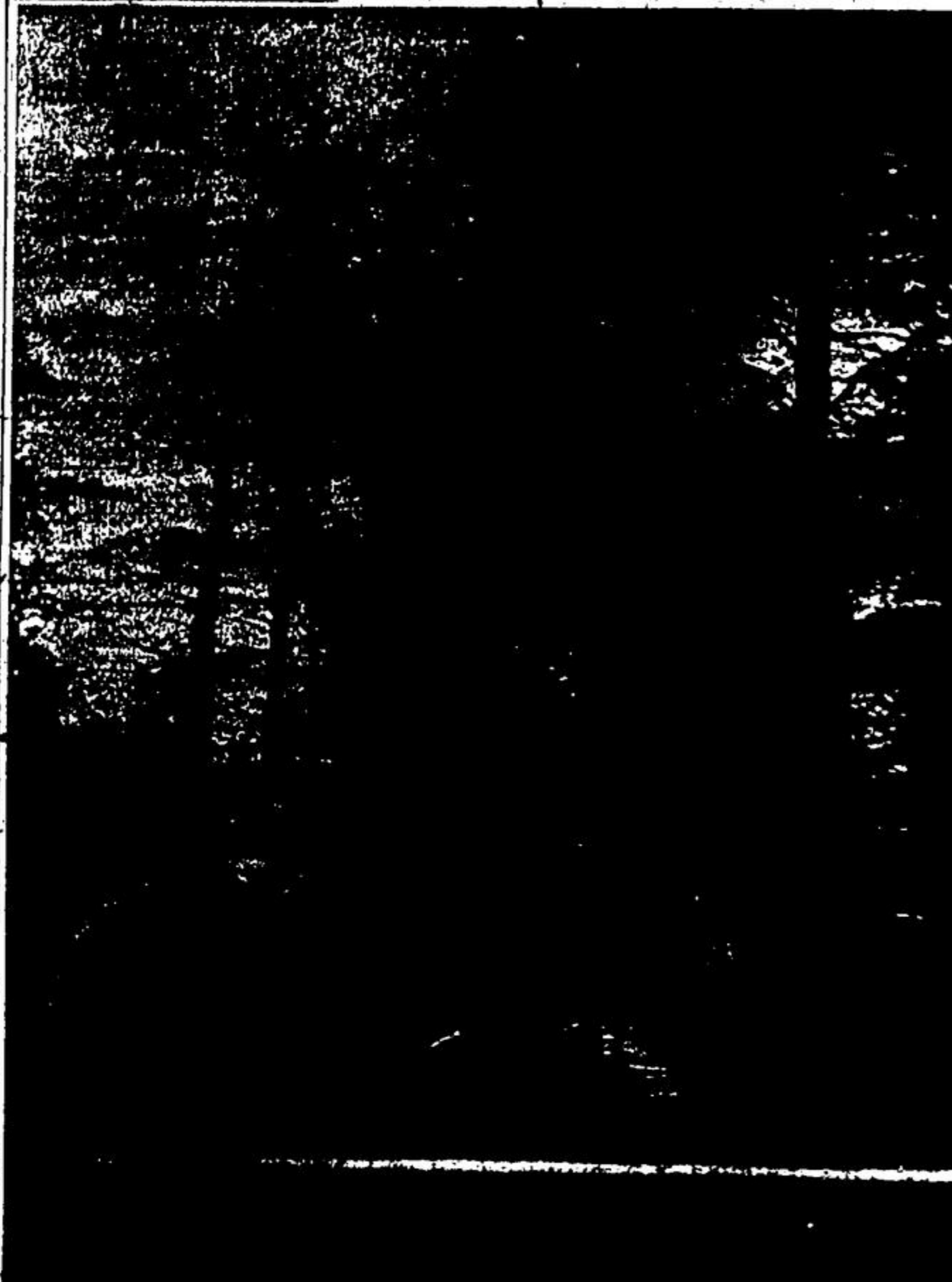
## Three Minor Traffic Accidents in Week

Cars operated by James Francis Graham, R. J. Linthouse, and Cynthia Minnick of Toronto received \$200 damage when they collided at the Main Street corner May 10th. Neither driver was hurt. It was one of three two-car collisions investigated by Georgetown police during the week.

Sunday, May 12, John Wayne Clemmer, Milton Heights was leaving the downtown parking lot at the Mill Street exit when in collision with a car driven by Donald Parker of 72 Duncan Dr. Damage to the side of the Parker car was \$100.

The Main St. North - Ontario corner was the scene of a collision Monday, May 13th, in which cars driven by Jack Rumm, 12 Parkview, and Leo Jamieson, of Ballinacra, received \$230.

## HOSPITAL GATES



### ENTRANCING ENTRANCE

THE ENTRANCE to the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital grounds is graced with a set of gates this week. Artist Brian Mackenzie, behind the panels and Cowan Cameron installed the ironwork Friday. It is a project of Georgetown Arts and Crafts.

## HORNBY

### Centennial Anniversary Planned at Eden Church

The Centennial Anniversary service committee of Eden United Church met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lowden on Tuesday night, May 14, to prepare invitations to be sent out to the former members of the church. The committee consists of Wilmer Mason, Clerk of the Session, Jim May of the Board of Steward's, Paul May of the Sunday School, Mrs. Edna Waiter from the U.C.W., Mrs. Harry Lowden of the choir and Robert Rutledge of the Y.P.S.

Friends and neighbours gathered at the North Trafalgar Community Centre on Saturday afternoon, May 18 to honor Miss Reta Summit, a bride-to-be with a miscellaneous shower. A pretty imitation of a flower garden was used to hold the many gifts received by the bride-to-be.

The weekly euchre party of the North Trafalgar Euchre Club was held on Saturday night May 18. There were eleven tables of euchre in play with the prizes going to the following: Mrs. Joe Ellis, Mrs. Harold Reed, Mrs. Otto Marslument, Arthur Burton, Ronald Kingshott, and Harold Matthews. The lucky draws were won by Mrs. Wilmer Mason and Jim Hamilton. The next euchre will be held on Saturday night, May 25.

The May meeting of St. Stephen's Anglican Church Women was held at the home of Mrs. Carl Saunders on Tuesday evening, May 14. A sale of new and used goods was sent to Hamilton. New articles, included aprons, pyjamas and seven quilts. A donation was sent to the Peppermint Patti Fund and also to the Dorcas Freight Fund.

The May meeting of the Eden United Church Women was held at the home of Mrs. Frank Hall on Monday evening, May 13. Final plans are being made for the Centennial Anniversary which will be held on Sunday, June 10, with a former minister Rev. Fred Joblin as the guest speaker. Conveners of the lunch include Mrs. Roy Break, Mrs. Frank Hall and Mrs. John Hamilton.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of the late Mabel Matilda Huffman who died at the Milton Manor on Wednesday, May 15, in her 81st year. She was the wife of Fred and mother of Violet (Mrs. Murray Hayward) of Arion, Reia (Mrs. Addison Woodley) of Milton and Thelma (Mrs. M. Hooper) of Inglewood, Sister of Joseph Anderson of Flint, Michigan. The Huffman family lived at Hornby for many years prior to their retirement.

## HORNBY

Mrs. David Mitchell of Revelstoke, BC has been visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. Milton J. Brown. On Wednesday May 15 Mrs. Brown entertained at a luncheon in honour of her daughter Dorothy. The guests attending included aunts and cousins of the honoured guest.

Get well wishes are extended to little Scott Thorne, who is a patient in the Milton District Hospital.

Birthday greetings to Ruth Mason and Brenda Locke who will celebrate their birthdays on May 23, to Lorrie Ann Boney on May 25, to Patsy Rae on May 28 and Mrs. Jack Miller on May 29.

Anniversary greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Leslie who will celebrate their wedding anniversary on May 28.

Anniversary greetings to a grand old couple Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rae of RR 2, Hornby, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 26.

Enjoy a D.Q. Buster Bar



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## HORNBY

Mr. and Mrs. Corriet Howden and family visited on the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Irvine Wallace of Myth.

Bill Bailey, Dave Leslie and Cliff McDonald spent the week end fishing at Rocyn, Quebec.

The Board of Stewards of Eden United Church met in the church basement on Monday night with Jim May in charge of the meeting. A discussion was held on whether they would repair the front doors of the church or purchase new doors.

Birthday greetings to little Judith Louise Speck who will celebrate her third birthday on Sunday, May 26 and to little Donald Hawkes who will celebrate his first birthday on May 28.

Deposits income is called "take-home pay" because after taxes and deductions you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.

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ONCE A BEAUTY SPOT, this valley on Maple has been turned into an elm graveyard by the elm bark beetle.



THIS ELM STOOD for hundreds of years through windstorm and lightning and might have stood for a hundred more, but the tiny beetle carrying elm blight brought it to the ground. Measuring its five foot thick trunk are Mary Paduco and Anna Dacosta of Georgetown.