

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Interest in Elections

Georgetown may be in for one of its most interesting municipal elections this year if present indications bear fruit.

Already, one national political party has announced its intention of fielding candidates who will run on a party line.

And a group of residents have been meeting to discuss entering candidates, either as a slate, or getting behind one or more whom they feel will represent them best on the town's governing body.

More than one man has been mentioned as a mayoralty candidate, and there are several names being talked about as likely candidates for other council posts.

To date only one sitting member has indicated he will not seek office. Others are keeping mum, in the traditional pre-season speculation, but it appears that they will all be candidates for their present, or other positions.

Councils, particularly in a growing community, come in for a lot more criticism than praise, and one qualification needed is a thick skin — that is, if one intends to be more than a token member.

Municipal councils are neither all good nor all bad, and the 1967-68 group is no exception. If we had any criticism to level, it would be a lack of decisiveness, caused perhaps by a constant split in opinion, so that many problems are never thought through to a successful conclusion, or that when a decision is reached, it may last for only a week. The Gray Coach fiasco is one good example.

It is our opinion that Georgetown is

past due to emerge into a system where council would turn over minor problems to the proper municipal departments and allow more time for important policy-making decisions at its meetings.

From a cost standpoint alone, it is not sensible for the town to pay \$160 (more than this, if the mayor accepted his salary) to settle such matters, as fixing a pothole, or ordering a new piece of office equipment.

Council, in our mind, should act like the management of a business. It hires people to look after the various facets of town affairs, and it should deal with one of these only if a taxpayer feels he is not getting satisfaction and comes to the corporation for this.

The best advice we can give this, or future councils, is to hammer out a decision, adopt it or turn it down by majority vote, then abide by this, at least for more than a week or two.

The two-year term, proposed by some as a cure-all for getting major projects off the ground, has hardly fulfilled its expectations. We can see no particular extra progress because councillors were ensured of their seat for 24 months instead of twelve. It might even be that a bit less work has been done, because there was less urgency at the start of 1967, with December, 1968, seeming so far away.

Whatever may be, there will be mounting interest in municipal affairs from now until December, as Georgetown faces its first municipal election in two years. May the best men win!

They Haven't Heard

The widespread theory that "God is dead" apparently hasn't spread to the Ashgrove and Hornby communities.

With two small churches which served the community well in the horse and buggy days, members began to realize that they could not continue to exist in that form.

Did they discuss closing them?

Not at all. Instead they got together and decided to build one church to replace two and recently a sod turning ceremony was held and the building is underway for a new United Church to be known as Hillcrest.

In our opinion, religion is becoming an even more vital force in Canada.

There was a day when churches held their members through a combination of fear and boredom — fear of an after-life

of turmoil, in simple people who took their Bible stories literally. Boredom with a society which decreed that Sunday was a day of rest, and no fooling. The rest included reading nothing but religious books, indulging in no frivolity, so that going to church was a relief from the monotony.

The jet age has changed all this. Today few churches preach hellfire and damnation and science is changing our interpretation of old testament stories, the virgin birth, miracles.

There is a plenitude of pleasures available on the Sabbath, from sports to theatres, TV, swimming. It's just another day, as far as recreation goes.

That people still follow their religion, attend church regularly, is a tribute to religion's power, and to man's need for belief in a supreme being, no matter what form this interpretation might take.

Sometimes It Happens

When one considers all the things that can go wrong with a weekly newspaper, when it is typeset and put together in one plant and printed in another, one can be proud that there are as few mishaps as there are.

In our case, pictures are processed on a "scanograver" which works from a glossy print positive. The picture is buckled around a cylinder, and a kind of electric pencil etches the picture of a piece of plastic.

The scanograver is located in Brampton, where The Herald is printed on Wednesday night, and is reproduced in the printing process directly from the plastic

engraving. When The Herald is composing the page on which a picture will appear, a blank space is left in the metal. The plastic is pasted on the metal in Brampton in the final printing operation.

From time to time there is a kink. Perhaps a couple of pictures of similar size are interswitched, or for some reason a plastic is lost.

Last week, the inevitable happened. A group of pictures, sent by bus to Brampton, went astray, and when printing time came it was too late to do other than print with three large blanks. Two of these were wedding photos, the other was a news feature and they appear in this week's issue.

look off, hitch-hiking with a friend, for Montreal. Her aunt was horrified that we let her go. Until my wife reminded her (aunt) that she had been married at that age.

And today, thank the powers, Kim phoned and said she

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Walter C. Blehn
Publisher

Garfield McGilvray
Production Superintendent

Terry Harley Alleen Bradley
News Editor Accountant

Valerie Tost

Anne Currie, Reporter

Frank Mullin
Advertising Manager

Leslie Clark Dave Hastings

Myles Gilson John McClements
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STARTING OFF THE JUST SOCIETY

About That \$18,000 Job

It's Not All Roses Say Harley and Whiting...

At \$18,000 a year and what would appear to be a break from the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. routine of the life of a Member of Parliament is not really as cozy as one might think.

Although the attendance record and number of speeches or motions recorded in Hansard are often used against a sitting member in an election, it is a poor way to evaluate a member's worth to the country or to his riding.

According to Dr. Harry Harley who represented Halton in Ottawa for the past 10 years, many of the best members have relatively few motions in Hansard and a poor attendance record, while some of the poorest members have a near-perfect attendance record and their name scattered through Hansard.

"A good member is not always in the house," Dr. Harley says. "There are many problems in the house." The former MP told the story of one of his colleagues in the house who had made and kept an appointment with the Department of Revenue, and while there missed three votes in committee. He was reprimanded for missing the votes, but on the other hand he saved a constituent \$1,500 in income tax during his absence from the house.

Dr. Harley claimed the most frustrating phase of the job is "the unpredictability of the whole thing."

"Some discussions you think will take a long time, take a short time, and vice versa."

Parliament sits approximately 10 months a year. While in Ottawa, Harley was able to come home on weekends, only to answer a host of calls that had built up during the week while he worked in Ottawa.

Dr. Harley's biggest personal achievement was having his report on drugs accepted. Harley said there were committee meetings about twice a week but

there was a lot of preparation for the meeting to be done by the chairman.

Of the several calls a day at the Harley house, many of them were concerning citizenship and immigration. Many people want to bring friends and relatives from their former home to Canada.

While in office Dr. Harley received up to 20 letters a day. Some were filed in a waste paper basket, some were dealt with in a phone call or two, and some have yet to be solved.

During his term one of the big problems was with the post office. It was during his last term Milton received door-to-door mail delivery and this did not come without a lot of work and consideration.

While his successor Rud Whiting has yet to sit in Parliament he has already been well exposed to the problems he will face during his term in office. The new MP said the majority of calls he received have been in regard to passports, a problem complicated by the recent mail strike.

Both Whiting and Dr. Harley agreed the biggest problem concerning passports is that people do not read the instructions, and they fill the form out incorrectly. After the form has been returned and the date for their trip is nearly upon them, they become frantic and call for help.

Mr. Whiting has been able to get passports in time for each and every customer to date. The forms were sent to Ottawa with people Whiting knew and returned either that way or by bus.

It usually takes two weeks to obtain a passport but the time can be cut for an emergency trip. Sometimes in the case of death or illness in the family in a different country, the MP is called in to cut the red tape.

Both Dr. Harley and Mr. Whiting said they had no abusive

calls or no calls they would classify as "crackpot." However, many of the complaints filed with a member often fall out of his jurisdiction. In this case the member offers what advice he can, gives direction about who to speak to, or offers to make representation for them.

Dr. Harley, a Liberal in the Federal Government and George Kerr, a Conservative in the Provincial Legislature arrived at an understanding that they would work in co-operation with each other. If one was contacted about a problem in the other man's jurisdiction it would be referred to him. This same agreement has been taken over by the new MP and works well.

"Members of different parties work together during a session as a rule, but save playing politics until the next election," Harley said.

Already Rud Whiting has run into several touchy immigration cases. He told of one Polish woman who was working in the home of an upstanding citizen but was being sent back because she had only a visitor's visa.

The woman failed to measure up to the requirements of the point system the immigration branch uses to select immigrants. The woman lacked education and was in an older age bracket. The immigration office frays on importing older people.

MP Whiting has become involved in the case and has asked reconsideration for the individual. The applicant, if refused has the right to ask for an enquiry and if refused there could appeal to Ottawa before having to leave the country.

Mr. Whiting tells of another case involving immigration in Halton. A man 71 years old has been farming with his wife and daughter since he came to Canada and is now at the stage where he will have to sell his farm or find a new source of income. At 71 years of age

NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald of 10 and 20 Years Ago

1958

● Georgetown high school will have that long talked about gymnasium when school opens in 1959. Tenders are being called next week by Barnett & Reider, architects for demolishing the old school building and replacing it with twelve new classrooms and a gym.

● Addition of a wire fence continues an improvement policy which has kept Georgetown's Greenwood Cemetery one of the most beautiful in the country. The eight foot Frost link fence was installed by Cecil Smith and encompasses the older part of Greenwood and a newer section added last year.

● An estimated 3,000 people visited Gower Court over the week end to view the Parade of Homes, a joint effort of North Halton Builders' Association. A total of 14 homes were on display by Robert Construction, Rex Heslop Homes and Halton Homes.

● A 25 per cent increase in population in the past year was noted when assessment commissioner Joseph Gibbons presented statistics to council on Monday. Georgetown's population as of September 30 was 8,222. Last year it was 6,578.

1948

● The second annual Glen Williams fall fair was a most successful event on Saturday afternoon. Features were hall exhibits, a baby show and decorated doll carriages and bicycles. John Creasey and Mary Jane Bouskill were baby contest winners; Betty Anne Preston, Heather Hayes and Judy Beaumont had the best doll carriages, and Dennis Hancock, Laddie Haines and Tim Haines the best tricycles, and Bobby Hooper, Gordie Preston and Gary Cooper the best bikes.

● One of the most startling announcements in the Industrial history of Georgetown came Wednesday when employees of Provincial Paper Mill were notified that the company has decided to close this branch. The shut down, affecting some 80 employees here, will be complete by November 15. Located on the banks of the Credit River on the town's northern limits the Provincial mill has been a steady source of employment for generations of Georgetown's men. A press release says the decision to close the mill was reached because its continued operation would be unsound. Although its production is rated at 15 tons a day, the condition of its equipment has deteriorated to the stage where it had been producing something less than that. Of the mill's standard crew of approximately 70 men and 10 women, it is expected about 20 will be offered other posts with the company. Ultimate disposition of the property and equipment has not been yet considered.

sources of income are limited; from the old country to work and he is unable to continue the farm. Whiting is investigating the matter.

For the Member of Parliament, your representative, there will always be a problem that mission to bring his son-in-law's needs immediate attention.

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SUGAR AND SPICE
by Bill Smiley

A GREAT SUMMER

Today the painters came. And today I have a head full of sand, literally and figuratively. It isn't today the painters came.

And tomorrow the relatives come, with their dog and children. There doesn't seem to be much connection, but there is.

The painters took all the furniture out of one bedroom and put it in another. So that's two bedrooms unserviceable. That leaves one, for four adults, two children and a poodle. It's going to be cozy.

And last night I lay in the sand by a fire and looked at a star-fungus, far-fungus sky, and kept brushing aside beautiful women who offered me drinks and food. Mostly sandy ham-

And the other night I sat by a roaring cottage fireplace on a cool night and hotly debated with old friends such world issues as Rotten Kids, and Dutch Elm Disease. Until 4:30 a.m. Nothing was settled, except the state of my health the next day.

And the night before that, a lady phoned and told us Kim had been in an accident and was in the emergency ward at the hospital. All records were shattered, getting there. A bang on the forehead, two swollen knees, 84 bruises and a three-stitch cut is pretty lucky after a head on collision.

And yesterday the same Kim