

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Mill Rate Misleading Term

Until there is a uniform assessment basis across the whole province, the term 'mill rate' is relatively meaningless.

And yet it has always been popular for politicians to boast that their community's mill rate is lower than another, as if this was some magic reason why Smith's Corners is the cheapest place to live, the best place to locate an industry.

The folly of trusting a low mill rate is shown in Georgetown's tax rate this year. Residential property owners will pay a 68 mill rate this year, compared with an 82-85 rate last year. But the average home owner will have his taxes upped \$30 to \$40.

The reason — a townwide reassessment last year which boosted assessed values from the old basis to a more realistic picture of the property's present value. The assessment basis is still kept to approxi-

mately one-third of value; however, so that it is still possible for Georgetown to have a lower mill rate than a town which assesses at half value, or a higher rate than one which uses a 25 per cent basis.

Those who tend to be confused must, then, keep in mind that 'mill rate' is only a bookkeeping term, used to establish the amount of money which an owner will pay. A 68 mill rate means that for every thousand dollars of assessment, \$68 will be owed to the town in taxes.

There is no more use in comparing the 1969 tax rate with past years, than there is in the popular pastime of looking back to food prices in the thirties, without comparing wages at the same time.

The important fact which a taxpayer wants to know, of course, is 'What is it going to cost me.'

Don't be Bashful

A new Georgetown group, the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities is finding it tough going, according to a spokesman.

The association has had wonderful support from teachers, doctors, and anyone upon whom they have called for professional advice, but finds many parents reticent in becoming actively associated with them in attempting to solve their children's problems.

The member says parents are loathe to admit that specialized help may be needed for their child and terms them as 'unseen' crippled children. On the surface they are completely normal, but because of an emotional problem, or perhaps in the way that they are made, brain signals may take different paths, causing difficulty with the normal course offered in school.

In the past ten years there has been a wonderful breakthrough in people accepting the fact that not all children are the

same. Schools for the retarded have shed new light, have given hope to parents and youngsters who, while perhaps not able to lead what we may call a normal life, have been greatly aided by special instruction available in North Halton's Sunshine School. Years before, the crippled children's association had helped overcome physical handicaps, given children with crippled limbs a better chance in life.

Correction of learning disabilities is in its infancy, and Georgetown is fortunate in having a few dedicated people who are prepared to do something about it. The association is issuing an urgent appeal to anyone who wants to help, and particularly to parents who may be having problems similar to those who are already members.

The local group is backed by a national association which is dedicated to research, to obtaining government aid, to do the very best possible for every child who needs such help.

Grateful to Hospital

A Georgetown couple are high in their praise of the town's hospital.

"He owes his life to the care he got there" is the way a patient's wife put it when she asked the Herald to comment on the fine facilities and the capable staff.

It is common to criticize, less usual to praise, humans being what they are, and those who take the trouble to speak a good word when warranted, do untold good in morale building.

Hospitals, dealing as they do with critical situations day after day, are often prone

to brickbats. Sometimes deserved, sometimes not, for a hospital is constantly dealing with life at the basic — treading a fine line between life and death. Patients and their relatives are often distraught, prone to put blame on those who hold that life in their hands.

A good work like this gives a tremendous boost to nurses, doctors, other staff members of an institution which tries its best to ease suffering, to give the best care, to restore a sick person to health.

We should say thanks more often.

THE MAIL BAG

O Canada is Anthem Not 'The Queen'

Dear Sir:
It has come to our attention that God Save the Queen is still being sung in several public schools in town.

We were under the impression that this was Canada and that O Canada was our national anthem. We realize God Save the Queen is the Queen's anthem; therefore it should be sung in her presence or that of her representative, the Governor General.

Because of the constant use of God Save the Queen, some children do not realize that the one is the national anthem and the other the Queen's anthem. We feel that both the words and circumstances for the use of each should be taught.

— Heather MacDonald
Judy Nichols.

Georgetown Herald

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NEWS ECHOES

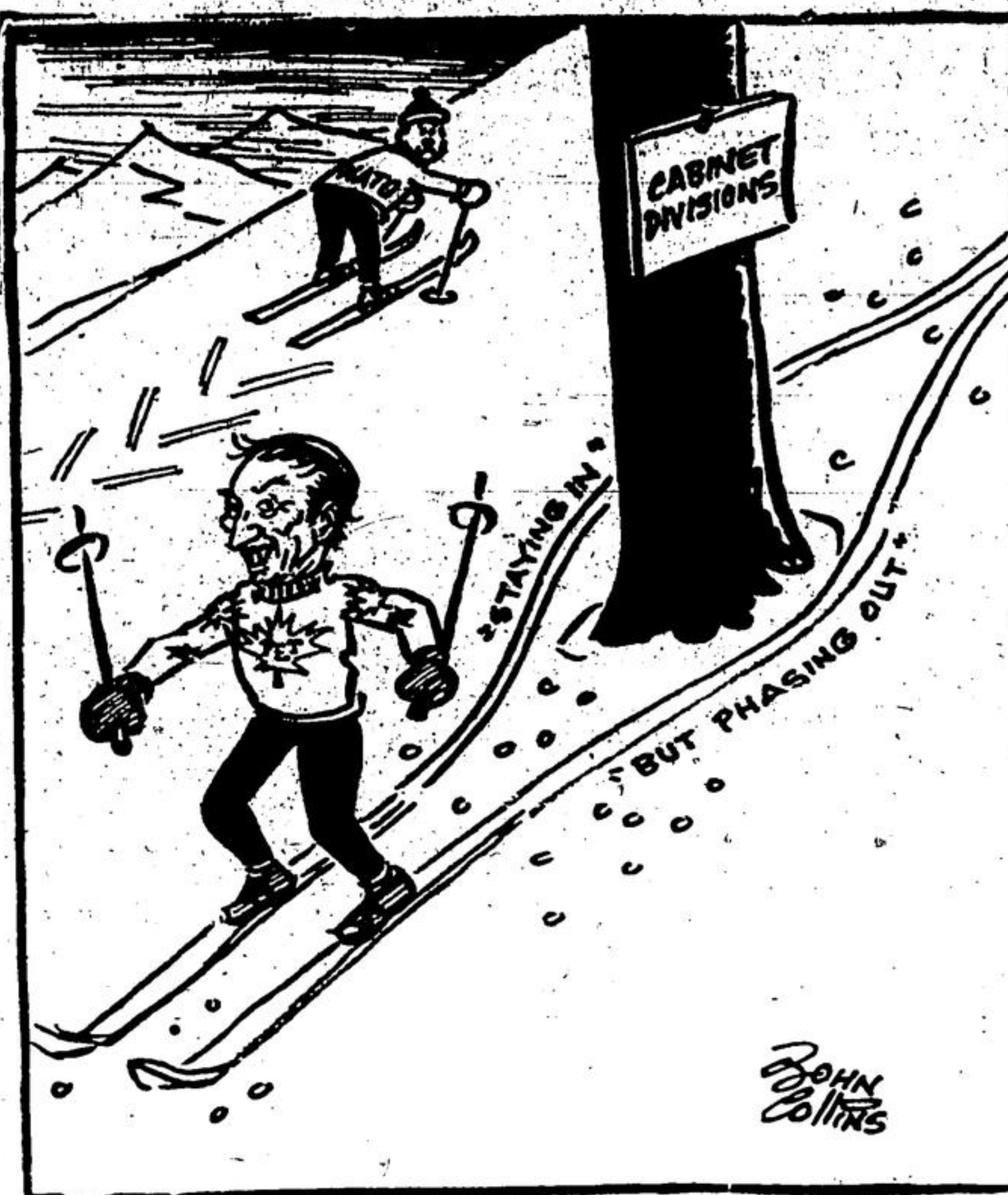
From the Heralds of 10, 20 and 30 Years Ago

1959
● Georgetown home owners face a sharp tax rise this year. The 1959 budget, approved by council at Monday's meeting, calls for a 61 mill rate for houses and 63 rate for industrial and commercial properties... a 13 mill rise over last year. In dollars, the owner of an average house in town will pay approximately \$50 more in taxes.

● The familiar steam locomotives on the Canadian National Railway line through town are no more. The CNR sounded the death knell for the fire-breathing monsters last week with the final shift in a series of moves which gradually phased diesels into the traffic on this line on both freight and passenger trains. The last steam locomotive to take a train through the local yards was No. 6219 making a passenger run from Stratford to Toronto Thursday evening April 15th at 7.40.

1949
● Georgetown council on Monday agreed to request the Minister of Public Works to call a meeting for the purpose of discussing the formation of a Credit Valley Conservation Authority, after it was so moved by councillors Cecil Davidson and Jim Goodlet. Alex Maclaren, on behalf of the Lions Club, which had sponsored initial discussions between municipalities in the Credit River area, asked council for this. He explained that two-thirds of the affected municipalities must send in petitions and two thirds must be present at a meeting.

1939
● Following is the list of prize winners in the annual essay and poster contest recently conducted by the WCTU in the district schools. Essays: Grade 9, Shirley Wright of Limehouse; Grade 8: Barbara Cousins of Limehouse; Grade 7: Elsie Fey and Joan Main, Georgetown. Health book: Grade 6, Pamela Cousins of Limehouse; 2nd: Susie Colman of Georgetown; 3rd: Phyllis Grace of Georgetown. Posters — Grades 7 and 8: Fred Hill of Limehouse; 2nd, Pamela Cousins, Limehouse, and Kenneth Beerman of Limehouse, tied; 3rd, Bobby Brown of Limehouse. Judges were Mrs. J. F. Sutcliffe; Miss Gertrude Falt and Miss Muriel Thompson.



THAT SKIING HOLIDAY

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

OAKVILLE

Officials connected with the Don Mills Developments Limited of Toronto revealed this week they will announce 9,000 acre city development that will be known as Erin Mills and Meadowvale that will include lands in the towns of Mississauga, Streetsville and Oakville. The development will accommodate up to 200,000 people. Details will be outlined at a press conference April 25th.

ROCKWOOD

Forty one walkers hiked the entire 20 miles from Lowville to Rockwood recently in a walk-a-thon project conceived by Eramosa Young People's Group to raise money for the missions. Sixty nine started the walk. As a result nearly \$900 was earned for two Canadian missions, Summer of Service and Young Life. Walkers from Toronto, Galt, Eden Mills and Rockwood took part.

ACTON

Acton's educational mill rate will rise by 9.45 mills to provide \$225,363 for elementary school education and \$180,754 for secondary schools and

schools for retarded according to the recently approved budget of the Halton Board of Education. Acton was the only North Halton municipality increased from the original proposal.

GRAND VALLEY
Grand Valley District High School will close in June. This was the decision of the Dufferin Board of Education at a meeting in Shelburne last week. Despite the fact that a large local deputation a week earlier had asked for further study, before this action be taken, the board decided to go ahead and use the school for "public school purposes" next term.

MILTON

Application to the Halton Region Conservation Authority will be made by Milton Council for permission to develop a second well at the Kelso Conservation Area to produce 2,000,000 gallons daily. The action was approved after a letter from the International Water Supply, the town's agent, told council the provincial conservation engineers were not concerned about interference with their operation.

Rabies Spreads, Decide On Clinic for Cats, Dogs

The Halton County Health Board, alarmed by an increase in rabies, has agreed to aid the federal agriculture department in setting up clinics in the North Halton area to immunize cats and dogs.

An agriculture department letter to the health board said the department was ready to establish clinics in North Halton.

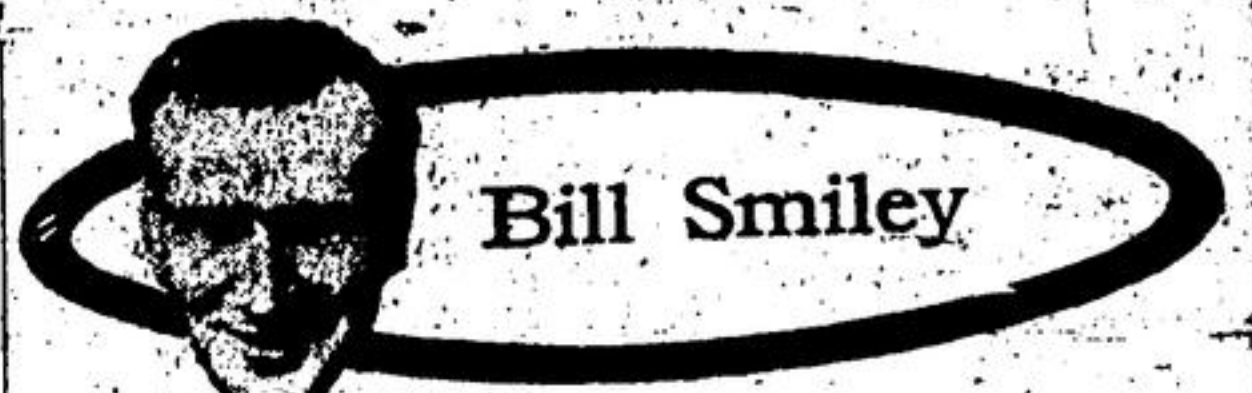
The letter asked assistance from a layman to set up chairs and tables for the clinic, and aid the department in issuing certificates to animal owners.

Reason the clinic is set up for North Halton is that animal centres in Oakville and Burlington have veterinarians to administer anti-rabies serum.

From April 1, 1968, to February, 1969, there have been 39 positive cases of rabies in Halton county.

● Last year, more than 8,000 children were adopted through C.A.S. in Ontario.

● At last count, 75,000 children received service from a Children's Aid Society in one year.



MEET MY MOTHER-IN-LAW

For years, the mother-in-law has been the butt of jokes with a touch of bitterness in them. They have been pictured as domineering, interfering women, ruining the grandchildren, breaking up marriages. They have been caricatured as unwelcome visitors who criticized, made trouble and generally were a great big pain in the arm. And often with good reason.

It wasn't roses all the way. She went through the depression and the mortgages, and those rending decisions about whether the last 50 cents available was going for a music lesson or dress material for the girls or feed for the hens.

And she didn't go through it patiently and submissively. She was too Irish. She complained like hell. But she didn't whine. Her complaints and common sense (this is one thing that is seldom attributed to the Irish, and should be) produced results.

Despite her fire, she had a wonderful way of coming to terms with the situation, whether it was emotional or material or spiritual.

She bore three handsome children. She was pregnant, and terribly sick with one of them, when she got word that her young husband had lost an arm in a threshing machine.

She learned that one of her daughters was going to marry a broken-down fighter pilot, with a total income of \$30 a month, and no prospects. Most mothers would have fought like a tigress to avert, or at least postpone the marriage.

She gave encouragement, though her heart must have been sore, and it was then that I fell in love with her.

My instinct was right. When my wife attacked me, she attacked my wife. When I wrote a bum column, she told me. When there was sickness or trouble, she was right there, with ancient charms and cures that worked.

She was not a pious woman, thank God. She was a virtuous woman, and a real Christian. She fed tramps, gave strength when it was needed, and love without stint.

Dying, she didn't whimper to God. Most of her thoughts and words were about those she loved. She didn't want to leave, and fought to the last breath.

Life is going to be different without Granny, but I have a feeling she won't be far away. She couldn't stand it. She'll be around as long as those who loved her are.

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