

# Georgetown Herald

Published by Home Newspapers Limited  
22 Main Street South, Georgetown, Ontario  
W. C. BIEHN, Publisher

PAGE 4

GEORGETOWN, ONT., JUNE 19th, 1969

## EDITORIAL COMMENT One Day Not the Answer

Despite the success of Saturday's litter day, it isn't the answer to a problem which seems to affect Georgetown even more than most municipalities.

Like the Listerine commercial, our town has everything but it lacks that final touch—a regard for neatness, as a result, our streets are constantly littered with trash.

Perhaps the best solution is an education program in our elementary schools—an emphasis in health classes on what to do with the bottles, pop cans and chocolate bar wrappers which make our main thoroughfares and shopping plazas so unsightly.

One thing which was accomplished by a band of public spirited men on Saturday was removal of hundreds of bags of trash which can never again deface our streets. Add to this, collection of discarded furniture and appliances, in a special pick-up by the town's work force, and we have avoided despoiling some of our rural scenery where a portion of this might have been deposited and the mayor's campaign can be rated a real success.

Mayor Emmerson does not intend to stop at this one day.

Already he is looking ahead to another litter chase day, with variations.

Another time we would suggest that general appeal be made to the public land that our younger citizens be enlisted in the clean-up.

The possibility of enlisting such groups as Scouts and Guides in a regular litter patrol along the highway should also be investigated. The prevailing wind, which blows garbage to its last resting place along the Dominion Seed House fence, means that a clean-up like Saturday's lasts only briefly. Perhaps Scouts and Guides could arrange a weekly schedule to keep this looking the way it did on Sunday.

We still look forward to the day when we can boast that Georgetown is the neatest town in Ontario. It's a project which costs no money, yet can be a valuable selling point in clinching the deal on some of those industrial locations for which we are always looking.

## Unsatisfactory System

A system of paying for neighbourhood improvements by a local improvement tax has some points in its favour, but in general is not a good basis for taxation.

There was, a couple of decades ago, this was popular in Georgetown.

Such things as sidewalks were installed only when a proportion of adjoining property owners agreed to foot a third of the cost. And for every successful venture there was one where improvements were not made because the necessary majority would not agree to pay their share.

It made for a somewhat piecemeal system where parts of towns had good roads and sidewalks, others second-rate. And the town still had to foot the whole bill when it came to a question of a sidewalk needed past an expanse of vacant land, for certainly no owner was going to pay for such out of his own pocket.

A ratepayer group in east George-

town has a point in calling for a return to a local improvement system, in that they have already paid for their own walks, roads and other services in the purchase price of their homes. The town requires subdividers to provide these, and the cost, is eventually born by the buyers.

And yet, as Councillor Ric Morrow pointed out to them at Monday's council meeting, they are receiving benefits for other services which earlier residents have bought and paid for—a swimming pool and arena, library, main traffic arteries, and so on.

This tends to equalize what on the surface appears to be unjust.

We can see no way in which a return to L.I. would be anything but a detriment to the town in general. No one would want to return to a system which found a well-surfaced street next to a mediocre one, sidewalks in one area and none in another.

## Impetus to Urbanization

Heavy increases in farm property taxes are accelerating the urbanization of the beautiful rural areas in this part of Ontario.

It is a problem for which there seems to be no solution, other than for a central government to acquire some of our farm land before it is completely gobbled up by urban sprawl.

We cannot expect a farmer to keep operating when his tax burden makes it so difficult to make a living comparable with men in other fields of endeavour.

Nor can we expect him to turn down the huge offers which subdividers and land speculators are offering for district farms.

If we are to save some of our farms, provide a green belt between communities,

there is only one answer. Public money must be used and the farms acquired by the state.

It is equally as important as other conservation measures—river dams, public parks, reforestation in which various public bodies are engaged.

It is a tragedy of our times that people are leaving the larger centres for smaller ones which provide more of the amenities of life, only to find a few years later that they are becoming part of another metropolitan mass. The problem cannot be left to individuals to solve, nor to small municipal bodies. It is so important that it must be a priority for provincial and federal officials. And every day of inaction, another dozen farms disappear forever.

### IN THE MAIL BAG

#### Didn't Stop Berates Driver

R. R. S.  
Georgetown.

Dear Mr. Editor:

The person who killed our pet dog and never stopped on Friday evening, around 5.30, must be ashamed of themselves or have not got guts to come to see us.

They never stopped. They should realize there is a law against such things.

— Harry and Kathleen Presswood

### IN THE MAIL BAG

#### This Citizen Joined In Appreciated Litter Day

15 Normandy Blvd.

Dear Mr. Editor:

May I congratulate our mayor and council for initiating litter chase day and the Herald for its excellent publicity about it. Now that the special day is over what action can we expect from the citizens? Our streets will not stay clean for very long unless an educational program is carried out.

### IN THE MAIL BAG

#### Fatality Free Town Honoured

Georgetown was one of the eight cities and towns in the area served by the Hamilton Automobile Club (Halton, Brant, Haldimand and Wentworth counties) to be honoured by the Canadian Automobile Association for their achievements in the field of pedestrian safety.

Georgetown received a Special Citation Award for its pedestrian casualty record in the division for towns between 10,000 and 25,000 population.

Others honoured for outstanding records in their population brackets were Burlington, Hamilton, Brantford, Dunnville, Stoney Creek and Oakville, and Dundas.

— Mrs. Muriel Barr.



## JOKERS WILD

### HALTON EAST M.P.P.



## JIM SNOW REPORTS

On Monday, the Honourable Darcy McKeough, Minister of Municipal Affairs, announced the appointment of a council to make recommendations to the government on a policy for taxing working farms. The committee is charged with a three part task:

- (a) The definition of a working farm;
- (b) The appropriate basis for valuing farms for tax purposes;
- (c) The manner in which farms should be taxed.

When making his announcement Mr. McKeough quoted Provincial Treasurer Charles MacNaughton's budget white paper which stated: "Generally the government believes that the property tax on working farms should be considerably lower than on non-farm properties because of the limited ability of working farms to pay taxes out of current income."

Mr. McKeough said the appointment of a committee is a first step towards developing a policy for taxing working farms which will be equitable in relation to other classes of property, and will not impose an undue burden on the farm sector, as the land remains in agricultural use.

Representatives of the Minister's Department as well as the Department of Agriculture will be on this committee and also will be included several farmers and representatives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. The committee is to report by October 1st 1969 in order that the government may immediately consider implementation of their recommendations.

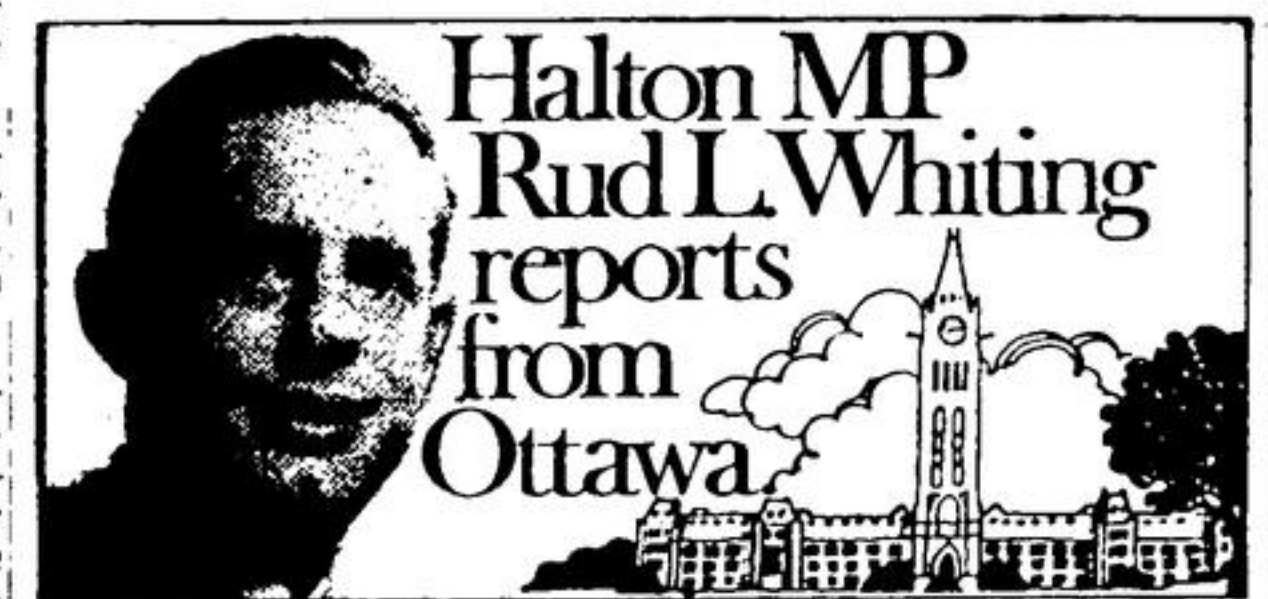
The Prime Minister has announced that as there is no hope of the legislature completing the business on the order paper in the reasonable future, that the legislature will be recessed for the summer months on June 27. By this date we will have set a record breaking session of 118 days, 8 more than the previous record set in 1967. In his summer recess announce-

ment to the legislature, Mr. Roberts said the session would resume in early September. The legislature is also being recessed for Monday, June 16, in order that all members of the Legislature may attend the Ontario Government ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway at Morrisburg, Ontario.

### HOUSING WAS TOPS

Cheaper housing was a main discussion topic at the mayors' and reeves convention in Ottawa. Reeve Wm. F. Hunter told council Monday.

Reeve Hunter represented Georgetown at the annual convention. He said there were many "hot sessions" devoted to Ontario's No. 1 problem.



IN THE DEBATE which followed the presentation of the budget by the Minister of Finance speaker after speaker made reference to the serious impact that inflation is having on the economy of Canada.

INFLATION MEANS a rise in the cost of living, to some people the answer lies in an inflation to other classes of property, and will not impose an undue burden on the farm sector, as the land remains in agricultural use.

Canada is a leading world trader. Our merchandise trade surplus increased by over \$800 million to \$1.3 billion last year, which is the largest surplus in peacetime history. In 1968, Canada recorded the smallest current account balance of payments deficit in 16 years (\$181 million). With Canada's most important trading partner, the United States, with whom we carry over two-thirds of our trade, a surplus of \$123 million was achieved in the 1968 trade account. In 1968, Canadian Exports increased by 19 per cent compared with an 11 per cent increase in world trade generally.

IF WE IN Canada can win the battle against inflation and so keep our prices competitive we can enjoy the greatest prosperity and the highest standard of living in the world.

## NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald's of 10, 20 and 30 Years Ago

1959

● Appropriate ceremonies marked the end of a \$125,000 mortgage when shareholders of North Halton Golf and Country Club gathered for a party Saturday to mark completion of the final mortgage payment to J. A. Wiloughby. Mr. Kenneth M. Langdon, who was instrumental in starting the club, was honoured with a life membership.

● Assistant principal at Chapel Street Public School for the past three years, Hazen Allen will be moving into the principal's office of the new Weber Drive school when the building is completed next fall.

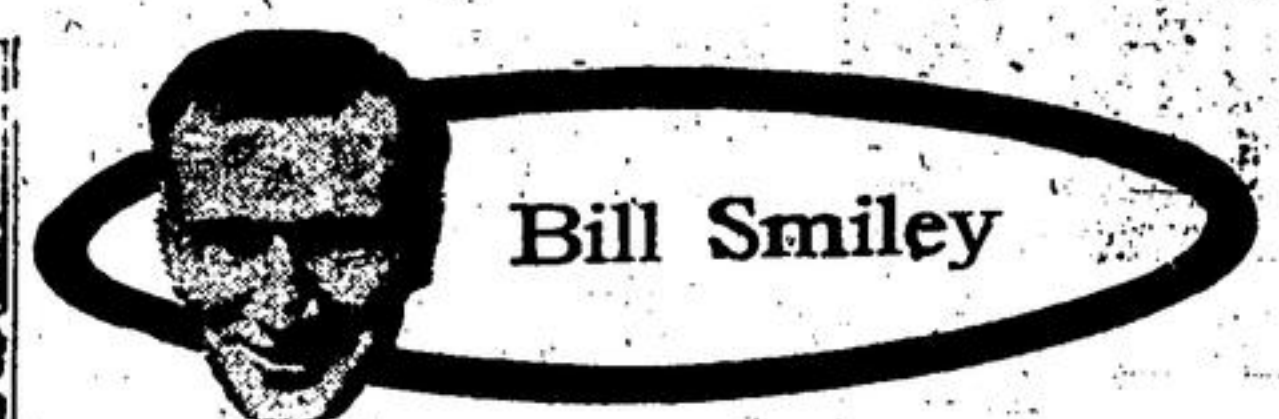
● An accident in the boiler room of Provincial mill on Friday proved fatal to one of the mill's employees George Kovacs of 61 John St. E. Mr. Kovacs was taken to Guelph General Hospital after flames from combusting gases burned him about the head and chest, while he was tending a furnace.

1949

● While work was in progress on the building of an addition to Glen Williams Public School on Monday morning, part of the present building collapsed. An excavation had been dug beside the senior room by the Acton contracting firm. Two workmen were on the scene at the time when, without warning, the bricks tore loose from the structure and the whole room collapsed in a pile of rubble. The workmen were able to jump clear.

1939

● A serious fire on Tuesday afternoon burned to the ground the barn of Howard Stull on the 8th Line. Threshing operations were in progress at the time of the fire, but the origin of the blaze could not be determined.



Bill Smiley

## TALK ABOUT WILD WEEK-ENDS

Having one 18 year old daughter around the place is enough to turn you white before your time, as I can verify. For most of last week, we had three and it's quite an experience.

One of them had auburn hair, brown eyes and freckles. This was one way we could tell our own from the others, who also had brown eyes. Another was that they were neat and tidy and made their bed and didn't spill things and didn't slouch around in ripped, faded jeans and my oldest shirt.

Early this spring, one of our history teachers organized a trip for his students, during the vacation, to Washington D. C., because they were studying American history. It was a success. They saw numerous historic sites and visited a high school in that city.

There they were warmly received. As kids will, they responded with, "Why don't you come to Canada and visit us some time?" You know how this happens. You're away from home at a wedding or something, meet someone you like and, vowing that you must see more of each other, throw out one of these meaningless invitations.

Then one day a strange car, full of strange people, pulls up at your house. A couple and four kids get out. Your wife's hair is up in curls. You have a two day beard and smell like a goat after mowing the lawn.

Yep, it's Elsie and Herb, the couple you met at the wedding, except that you can't remember their names. And they were just coming this way on a trip, and thought they'd drop in and say hello, and they've been looking all over for a motel and everything's full up.

Well, that's what happened. Our history teacher got a letter saying that 85 students and four teachers from the Washington school were arriving, as invited. All they needed was billets and a schedule of sight-seeing.

We arranged a program that would exhaust an elephant: historical sites, band concert, dance, boat trip, canoe rides. And billets. There was no problem there. Our own kids were practically fighting over the visitors. One girl, who

comes from a family of eight, snatched four of them.

Kim arrived at our place with the two prettiest chicks from that entire high school: Sheila and Caroline. It was 11 p.m. they'd been on the road since five a.m., and were not only tottering, but a little shy. But we got along fine, and showed them off to bed.

The next three days and nights were enough to kill anybody over 20. The first day they visited our school and completely disrupted the schedule, which everyone enjoyed thoroughly. By dinner time, our two guests had lost all shyness and were giggling and talking frantically about what they were going to wear for five different events next day.

Suggested curfew was 11 p.m. They went out with Kim and all three got in at three.

Remember, these were city kids. They were used to concrete and asphalt and apartments. And here they were in a small town with green grass and blue water everywhere. And houses on big lots, with trees and shrubs and lawns and lilac bushes.

Saturday night was the grand finale, with a beach party for the visitors and their teenage hosts. There must have been 500 at it, as every teeny who could get out to the beach gate-crashed the party. I know, because I took the girls out to it and promptly lost them in the happy, milling mob.

Party ended at five. Bus left at 6. In the a.m., that is. My wife kissed the girls. They gave us a thoughtful present, lugged all the way from Washington. I took them to the bus. Confusion and emotion were rampant, with tears flowing freely, and kids wildly writing down addresses.

I got a big hug and kiss from Sheila and Caroline, stuck them on a bus and headed home for a few desperately needed winks.

Four nights and three days of people meeting other people and liking each other, and learning something, and treating each other as individuals.

Perhaps I forgot to mention it, but the visitors were all Negroes.

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