

OUR READERS WRITE:

Flower Power bridges generation gap

Throughout the past decade citizens of Acton and surrounding district have been shocked, appalled and frightened by all mediums of communications. Many have been glad to leave the sizzling sixties behind, even though the solarizing seventies could be another step in the seemingly ever-widening generation gap of human dissension.

Will the minis, the maxis, the pots, the protest, the wig, the war, continue or is it really that bad?

During the 60's the Kelly Nursing Home had two generations internal and two in the community to bridge. Fifteen hundred years of humanity under one roof were approaching the end of a decade with mixed emotions regarding the future in the next.

Would they wear laurels for their previous pioneer efforts or would generation one and two disregard generation three and four?

The foundation for the aforementioned bridge was well on its way in '69 as Beryl Newton, of Hwy. 25, Mary McKay, of Hornby, Mrs. A. Shoemaker, Miss Dorothy Simmons of Acton United Church and the Rev. Stan Smith of Boston, Presbyterian church spent countless hours of their spare time bringing peace, happiness and joy, thus welding together the bonds of humanity in generations three and four.

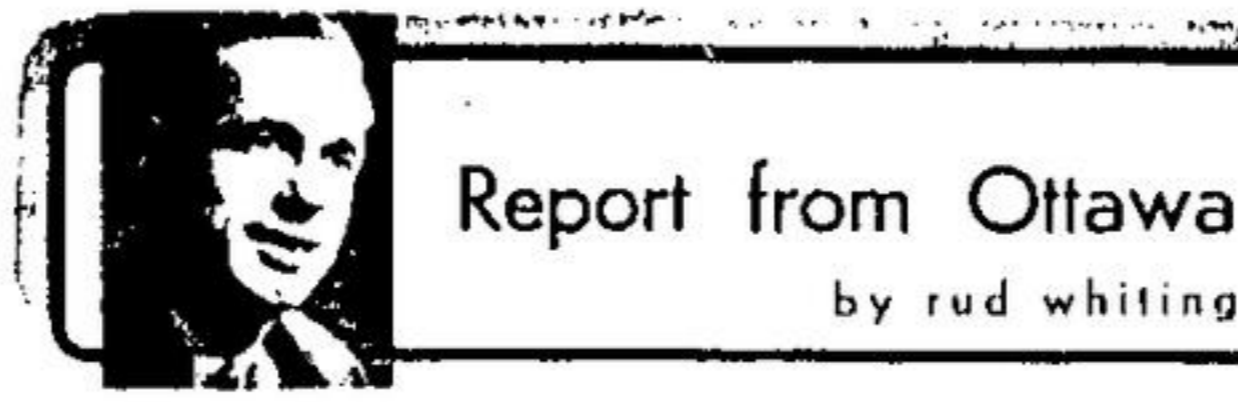
Flower power from the Rotary Club, Acton; Lakeside Chapter, I.O.D.E., Duke of Devonshire Chapter, I.O.D.E., Third Order of St. Francis, Elsie Syme, Blue Spring Flower Shoppe; Cohen Interior Decorator began the paving and the ever-increasing excitement showed what flower power really is.

The Churchill church group sang Christmas carols for generation four and the imposing seventies began to look meek. Mrs. Allen and children of generation one spent several hours singing favorite carols and a Christmas skit followed by personal visits to many of those forgotten by their families but remembered by their community.

Bill Yuindt and Staff, Acton Pharmacy, laid a path to the new decade with fast, efficient and courteous service to the Kelly Nursing Home, the air of confidence came from the Medical Centre as only dedicated and caring doctors can instill within the aged.

If the solarizing seventies can produce a generation gap full of flower power like the sixties there are many of generation four who will be referring to the new decade as the safe seventies.

Katherine Kelly
Hwy. 25, Acton.



Report from Ottawa
by rud whiting

Rud is opposed to legalizing marijuana

My mail in recent weeks has been concerned with the White Paper on Tax Reform, inflation and the possible legalization of marijuana.

Despite the wide discussion which prevails on taxation and inflation, the deepest concern, especially among parents with growing families, centres around the use of drugs and especially marijuana, according to the letters coming to my office.

The use of drugs can be traced back to the beginning of civilization. We learn of opium, for example, being used for medicinal and religious purposes in the year 1550 B.C. Later, in the 10th century, the Arab traders introduced the drug to China where it was used as a remedy for stomach ailments and in times of famine it was used as a substitute for food.

In the early 16th Century, the Portuguese introduced the cultivation of the opium poppy in India. The Chinese punks that sailed around the Malayan Peninsula in the trade between India and China soon added opium to their cargo. This marked the start of what is known today as the "narcotic traffic."

Marijuana is not a true narcotic but is frequently called a hallucinogenic or mind altering drug. During recent months dozens of news clippings, editorials, and magazine articles have proclaimed the virtues of marijuana. But most writers and speakers - many eminently qualified - fail to present a full and objective discussion of the other side of the coin - the side indicating marijuana abuse is harmful to the health, safety and welfare of our society - and is in fact "a calling card to narcotic addiction."

If such writers and speakers give a complete distortion, they are indulging our communities in a very dangerous gamble. By presenting only the pro-marijuana arguments, the public has been deprived of the real, vital, and objective facts necessary to make an intelligent choice about marijuana.

When discussing marijuana, it is imperative to define the some times confusing terminology. The term "marijuana" embraces all the fancy and vernacular names you hear - the so-called "American Type", the so-called "Mexican Type", "Hashish", "Blang", "Ganja", "Charas", "Cannabis", "Cannabis resin", "Cannabud", "pot", "tea" or "weed".

The potency of the drugs

George Kerr to speak here on pollution

George Kerr, parapatetic Minister of Energy and Resources, who also just happens to be the Member for Halton West in the Ontario Legislature, will visit Acton on



GEORGE KERR

Thursday March 12, to speak on his favorite subject, pollution. Sponsored by Acton Y's Men, Mr. Kerr will address an audience at a dinner meeting at the Music Centre. The Public is invited but there's a limit of 150 tickets available at \$5 apiece. Co-chairmen of the event are

flowering tops of the marijuana plant. To a lesser extent, "hashish" is also consumed by users in both countries. But whether a person is using the so-called "Mexican Type" marijuana or the more potent "hashish", the potential for abuse is ever present. The only difference is that a user of "hashish" need not smoke as much to reach the desired result.

Marijuana differs significantly from the drugs in the opium family in that it does not produce addiction. However, it does result in psychological dependence and, according to an eminent medical scientist, Dr. David P. Ausubel, chronic users go to great lengths to insure that they will not be without the drug.

Deprivation may also result in "anxiety, restlessness, irritability, or even a state of depression" but these reasons, marijuana is more often said to be habituating than addicting, although recent analysis of the problem indicates there is little difference from a psychiatric

point of view. To many people, the thought of a large portion of our younger generation "turning on", "tuning in", and finally "dropping out" is a frightening one. There is no doubt that marijuana can offer some

individuals transitory pleasures. But in a world beset with problems, we need the contribution of all because our country cannot afford to have its greatest resource - YOUTH - dropping into a state of oblivion. Personally, should the question of legalizing marijuana arise, I shall oppose it. To me it represents a constant danger and the responsibility of every citizen is clearly defined.

Merge

At their joint annual meetings Saturday, the Halton West (provincial) and Halton-Wentworth (federal) Liberal riding associations were merged under one executive. Sen. Richard J. Stanbury addressed about 200 members who attended the meeting in Burlington.

As Theodore Roosevelt, a former President of the United States, once said "If you are going to do anything for humanity, the chances of success lie not in working with the man, but with the boy. The boy of today is the citizen of tomorrow"

Drop in centre should not be hang-out

The Editor, Acton Free Press

A drop-in centre for Acton should not be a soup kitchen for unemployed intelligence, should not be just a "hang-out" to keep young people off the streets, should not be a distribution point for drugs, gutter sex knowledge, meaningless grousing about the generation gap, nor time-consuming apathy.

It should be a centre of awareness, a centre of involvement and commitment. It should be a centre of culture, not the pseudo-sophistication of highbrow snobbery but the culture of man "now".

It should play the role of the old village square or meeting house or that of Hyde park. A place where young people can "sound off" about the problems of society and the world today; a place where young people can learn to commit themselves to the "now" problems not only of their generation but of future generations; a place where through argument, discussion, confrontation with their elders and their peers they can get a solid hold on the values they really want to hold on to or really want to discard, as no longer true or meaningful in today's society.

This is the first really affluent generation, better educated, more sophisticated and worldly with endless opportunities for creative roles in society but they must learn through their own experiences, their own involvement to harness this power of freedom to positive, meaningful action, for the betterment of themselves and the world around them.

near or far, to waste it in negative and destructive apathy or mindless revolt for the sake of revolt with no cures for society's sicknesses; to just herd around vacantly looking for newer, far-out forms of amusement that require no effort, no challenge, no self scrutiny and no responsibility is a crime against the dignity and total meaning of mankind.

Is this the "Now" generation or the "How now, Brown cow" generation? Do they want meaning, and purpose and direction in their lives? Or do they just want to have the comforts of home away from home with no responsibilities, no challenges, no need to think or stand up and be counted?

If they are just a herd of mindless animals looking for a barn to shelter them from the discomforts of the weather and protect them from the responsibilities of being, then a drop-in centre would be the most criminal thievery that the community could commit.

But if it is truly a meeting place of the minds and interests and fellowship of people searching for meaning, searching for answers to "Who am I", searching for responsible adulthood and citizenship, evaluating change and progress at the grass roots level not as mere bystanders who "can't fight City Hall" but as the men and women of the future who don't want to throw out the baby with the bathwater, then there is no greater gift we can give than a drop-in centre.

Mrs. Gloria Browne
96 Churchill Rd. S.

Effects of gun bylaw

Georgetown, Ontario
Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1970.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Recently there has been much to do about municipal action being taken to abolish hunting and even discharge of firearms within Halton County. Being the son of a farmer and having the acquaintance of many more, I think I can correctly say that most farmers have no objection to the polite, reasonable hunter who asks permission to hunt over the farmer's land.

Any hunter worth his salt will not only ask permission to hunt someone else's property, but will also ask to be advised of nearby dwellings or livestock, so that he will know which direction is safe to shoot in, and which is not. A responsible hunter will also confine his shooting to those animals or birds which are "in season" at the time, and will not blast away at "anything that moves", as some so-called hunters have a reputation for doing. Since I do some hunting myself I have had the chance to see a goodly number of both types of hunters, and I can tell you, the careless ones aren't welcome to come back!

Hopefully, when the township's council passes any laws pertaining to this subject, they will be laws which clamp down on the irresponsible, "shoot-em-up" type, but do not persecute the responsible hunter (who often gets the blame for the other guy, and has to take it too!)

Several people, and it may surprise you to know who these people are, have suggested that new by-laws be passed, putting strength into charges of trespass, without a license, game-hogs, etc. Who are those people? The members of the Halton Gun Club Association, and other, similar associations, that's who. Several articles on the Association's proposed suggestions to Council can be found in local papers a few weeks back.

Something that farmers may not realize, is that if a "no discharge of firearms" by-law comes into effect, a landowner

cannot, legally, even on his own land, take out a gun and do away with any animal or bird that is bothering him or his domestic animals.

There are foxes, raccoons, wild dogs, etc., (any of which may be rabid) which can pose a definite threat to a farmer, his family, his animals or his crops. There are also numerous other animals which can annoy a farmer no end, chief among these the groundhog, which has probably caused more wagonloads of hay and straw to be split, than you could shake a stick at. This rodent has also caused some accidents of more serious nature.

However, shaking a stick, or your fist, at these oftentimes pesky creatures does no good at all, the draft of it won't even give them a cold. And as most who have tried know, shooting them and filling their burrows in, (to make the ground level again) is about as cheap and effective a method of control as there is, whether it is done by the farmer or a hunter he allows in. However, if a "no discharge of firearms" by-law is passed by the township council, farmers will have to look to other methods of pest control which will probably be less convenient, probably more expensive and perhaps more dangerous.

I think that most farmers of Esquesing and Nassagaweya Townships are in favor of hunting being allowed to continue, provided hunters show a little care and consideration towards the owner of the land which they are hunting over.

Also, in an aside, I suspect that one of the parties pressing for abolishment of hunting is just taking out that party's chagrin on hunters in general for an incident that was, for the most part, that party's own fault.

Finally, I urge all farmers to give serious thought to the consequences that could develop from such a law, if it were passed.

Sincerely yours,
Arthur Knowlton,
Georgetown, Ontario.

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