

Our Readers Write

St. Patrick's contribution

Irish scribes were held in high esteem

Again this year Catherine Graham, R.R. 1, Limehouse, has a contribution especially for St. Patrick's Day.

In the early Middle Ages Ireland was renowned as a land of books. The scribe was held in high esteem. He was not only a learned man, but also a fine artist. The Book of Kells is a masterpiece of the scribe's artistry. This monumental work dates back to the ninth century and was created at the monastery of Kells (County Westmeath) by many scribes.

Today it can be seen in the library of Trinity College. It has been described as the world's most beautiful book. People who visit Trinity College have the opportunity of



seeing along with the Book of Kells the Book of Durrow and the book of Armagh. The book of Durrow is the oldest of these three books and was produced in the middle of the seventh century.

The book of Armagh is the work of a famous scribe Ferdoanach of Armagh and was written in the early part of the ninth century.

These three books are splendid examples of gospel books. However St. Columba's book, a very small one, containing 64 psalms, is also preserved and is still older dating back to the sixth century. It can be

seen in the library of the Royal Irish Academy.

Throughout the early Middle Ages Ireland sent books and the men that produced them all over Europe to the great seats of learning, Leige, Belgium; Laon and Rheims, France; Cologne, Germany and numerous other monasteries.

All felt the influence of the Irish scholars and the art of the scribes.

In 1455 Johann Gutenberg, Germany, produced the first printed Bible and from then onwards the old manuscript books of the Gospel were replaced by the printed word, and the art of the scribe became a thing of the past.

In the early part of the 16th century the Irish monks in exile in Louvain, France, published books in their own native Irish language. The first was an Irish catechism dated 1614.

In 1623 a young man by the name of Timothy O'Clery entered the Franciscan monastery taking the name of Michael. He was the last of the Irish scribes. Here along with his contemporaries they compiled a history of Ireland from earliest times to their time. This was known as The Annals of the Four Masters. This book is also preserved.

Since the change in the Church from Latin to English a new company has been formed in Dublin from amalgamation of the Talbot Press and Veritas Publications called Liturgical Books. They print their own books and send many to other parts of the world.

Quarry tells other side

Dear Editor:

We are writing with respect to the very misleading suggestion made by W. A. Dale in his letter in your columns of Feb. 12, 1975 in which he states "Consolidated seems to have deliberately adopted tactics designed to deplete the Speyside Association's funds by calling for 'hearings of discovery' prior to the O.M.B. hearing proper."

As anyone who has become involved in proceedings of the Ontario Municipal Board knows, it can be a very long, laborious and expensive process. It definitely is not the intention of Consolidated Sand and Gravel, Company to make the hearings, ordered by the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, into the zoning of our quarry lands near Speyside any more difficult than necessary for ourselves or for any other party. In fact, the aim of the preliminary investigations to which Mr. Dale refers was, to shorten the time used in the formal hearings.

We believe that our proposals for the development of our property provide the fullest protection for the special features of the Niagara Escarpment Region, and will result in a recreational area of vastly greater attraction and value to the people of Ontario than can be provided by the bulk of the property in its present state. A very scenic lake system is planned, which will provide fishing, swimming and boating opportunities on a substantially larger scale than at the already overcrowded Kelso Lake. These lakes have a double benefit in that they can also provide very desirable controlled storage of water above the Kelso and Milton Falls Reservoirs, and

the Milton Sewage Disposal Plant, to increase their value.

We have offered to donate the whole property in stages—including a significant acreage right at the start of the development—to the Halton Region Conservation Authority, or such other public body as may be found suitable. We know of no such similar offer having been made anywhere in the Province, and believe that our proposals deserve very serious consideration by the several bodies concerned with planning in this area.

There are obviously conflicting ideas on this subject, and the Speyside Ratepayers have undertaken to advance their views. Obviously, they represent a special interest group, who, naturally to some, apparently feel they are "saving what is left of the Escarpment" by buying up acreage in the area and building private homes thereon. Unfortunately, they seem to feel that anything they do in their cause is noble and virtuous, but any attempt to explain the company's story is evil and vicious.

We believe the majority of your readers will wish to have the matter thoroughly reviewed in an unbiased fashion.

Yours very truly,
Consolidated Sand & Gravel, Co.

I. L. Jennings, P. Eng.
Vice-President,
Consolidated Sand & Gravel, Co.

(Editor's Note: This letter was mailed Feb. 17, but was held up in the mail strikes. It arrived at the newspaper office on Thursday, March 6.)



CONSOLIDATED'S QUARRY at Speyside will be a recreational area featuring a lake when the quarry is eventually worked out. In the accompanying letter, Consolidated vice-president I. L. Jennings explains the company's plans.

Continuous urban sprawl

Anyone who is familiar with rural North Halton will have noticed the increasing number of dwellings along what are essentially rural roads. Urban refugees like myself, are seeking more and more, the pleasures of country living.

The long term effect of this kind of strip development is a continuous urban sprawl along all roads, and the loss of that rural setting which people so avidly seek.

Creeping urbanization is a malaise that has dramatic effects on the natural environment if the disease is not arrested at an early stage. As an example, 15 Sideroad for two miles west of Speyside runs through what is, in essence, a wilderness area. Strip development along that stretch of road will have the effect of separating, much more effectively than the road itself, the wilderness area on either side. Houses at close proximity to one another with their attendant snowmobiles, pets and dogs would limit the number of safe crossing places for deer. By this means a large natural habitat would be broken into a series of ever-shrinking islands.

As long as planning by-laws allow property to be separated easily, the future of North Halton is certain. Its towns will become less and less well defined and its rural areas will disappear. Could the very naming of the community, The "Town" of

Halton Hills be a portent for the future?

Nor would such urban sprawl bestow any blessings in the form of lower taxes, in fact quite the contrary. More people would require more schools and create the demand for more services and better roads. The cost of these extra facilities could not be met by the increase in tax base alone.

To put a stop to creeping urbanization, by-laws are required which clearly specify what density should be allowed in each area. These density levels would be set to preserve or create towns, hamlets, open space and wilderness areas.

For example, a number of us believe that a reasonable guideline for 15 Sideroad West of Speyside would be a minimum of 400 feet frontage per lot. This guideline is somewhat academic for that particular area since land development controls will be placed on much of the property by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. These controls will not allow development beyond one house per existing separation.

As for the rest of the community, the Region should take the lead from the Niagara Escarpment Commission and set about PLANNING development instead of allowing it to creep up on us.

Wilson A. Dale
R.R. 3, Milton

Dog licenses due invoices sent out

Last year's blitz on the town by George Herrington of the Halton Hills' Animal Control for dog licenses, is proving useful to the town today.

Mr. Herrington went door to door to the homes of pet owners, getting people to purchase the required dog tags. The names went down on record, and were used to send out bills for this year's tags. In this way, the people with tags last year, are automatically billed for this year.

However, there are some people who are new pet owners, or who did not purchase a license last year. These people, will be approached by Mr. Herrington or his assistants. There will be designated stores in such areas as Ballinafad, Hornby and

travelling all the way to Ballinafad. Tags may already be bought in Acton and Georgetown.

At the present time, the animal controllers are concentrating on Espesing to round up dog owners.

It was estimated by Mrs. Herrington, that it would take three years to establish a complete list of dog owners in Halton Hills.

Potatoes

Potato eyes are beginning to sprout. Sure signs of springtime growth.

Peg Graham

Writer defends teachers

Dear Editor:
I read with interest the letter last week signed "A Parent", although I do not usually read letters where writers do not have the courage to sign them.

It is regrettable that the writer did not know about his subject before writing to your paper. His lack of knowledge was quite evident, as he indicated that school options are taught by volunteers while the teachers "opt out".

As any teacher will tell you, parent volunteers are invaluable for the assistance they give in options such as sewing. It is difficult for the teacher to try these lessons with no help, because with a group of students all anxious to cut, stitch, hem and dart, more personal attention is needed. This is where the volunteers are so greatly appreciated.

The letter-writer also mentioned the walk-out a year ago when some protesting teachers stayed away from their jobs for a day without pay. He intimated that the day should have been called a "professional" day, but surely if he has read his newspapers or kept in touch with schools, he knows that these days in the school year

assigned as "professional development days" are devoted to lectures, seminars, workshops etc. all designed to further upgrade the level of education being given to students today.

When he mentioned that today's teachers are "in it" only for more money and shorter hours, he gave the impression that he believes teachers only work during the school day, which of course is ridiculous. The many extra hours that are put in are all part of the work week, and the hours spent actually with the students are but a part albeit the most important.

Regarding increased salaries, we all resent when others want increases, especially if they affect our taxes. Yet don't teachers, too, deserve to make a living? Don't teachers also have families, expenses, food to buy? Should they be penalized because they choose to go on to higher education in order to teach? It would be too easy for teachers to rationalize that they could earn more as garbage collectors or other workers, but because they choose to teach is no reason to keep their salaries down.

Peg Graham

'Snow more

Snowmobile clubs are not planning any more winter events for this year. Do they know something others don't that snow is over for the season?

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Swimming lessons only at indoor pools

Swimming lessons in the cool hours of the morning with shivering swimmers will be a thing of the past this summer, when all swimming lessons will be held at the new indoor pools at Georgetown and Acton high schools.

In Georgetown, the outdoor pool will be used for recreational swimming only and will open at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Evening swimming will be at the outdoor pool in the hot weather but may be switched to the indoor pool, if evenings are cool.

Recreation Director Doug Collison saw no problem in the switch since the two pools are close together, and told Halton Hills administration committee a simple notice posted at the outdoor pool could tell patrons to go to the high school.

He said the staff in George-

town and Acton would be working at both the indoor and outdoor facilities. In Acton the staff would be at Fairy Lake.

He pointed out it would be ridiculous to have recreational swimming simultaneously at both indoor and outdoor facilities.

"We would cut our own throats", he commented.

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