

Tip of Smiley's hat to those who bore with him

I seem to have been writing quite a bit about community newspapers lately, but it hasn't been deliberate. So, if you'll forgive me, I'll write one more. Unless you want me to tackle, once again, Jim Ross of Exeter, who is furious at me because he pays more in income tax than I receive in salary, if you can figure that one out.

Recently received a monthly statement from the syndicate that carries my column coast to coast. Started looking over the old familiar names that have been running this column for 20 years or more, and got a bit sentimental.

They run from Nova Scotia to Hay River, NWT, and if I ran a quiz, I'll bet half my readers couldn't spot, by province, half the newspapers.

But my personal relations with many of their publishers go back a long way. Never hear from most of them, but bump into them at the odd convention, and renew the old bonds.

I'll just mention some of the real old timers, who have stuck with the thin gruel and thick porridge of this column for more than two decades.

Dutton Advance, Hello, Herb Campbell. I know you're semi-retired but hope you're still stroking a golf ball.

John and Randy, Neepawa Press; George and Sandy, Eatevan Mercury; remember that fishing trip in North Saskatchewan? Are you all alive and as

by
Bill
Smiley



well as can be expected? Remember the big fish dinner in my three-bedroom cabin, when the rest of you, including Barry Wenger of Wingham, were crowded into little cabins?

Liggle did I know that Irwin MacIntosh and wife Barbara, when we saw them courting at a convention about 30 years ago, would wind up as Lieutenant-Governor and His Lady of Saskatchewan. Irwin was with the North Battleford News and Barbara's father was with the Creemore Star if memory holds. And they wind up entertaining the Queen!

The Blenheim News Tribune, the Bolton Enterprise and the Bowmanville Statesman are old customers, and I knew well their owners at that time: Russ Scheerer, Werden Leavens, and John James. Where are you guys?

Port Perry Star. I know Harry Stemp is still around, but where is Peter, the fluteplaying lino operator with a vast amount of Norwegian good humor and common sense? Say the word Pete, and we'll have another round of golf, with an ambulance in close attendance.

Where is Gene Macdonald of the Alexandria News, who could get a party going in a mausoleum? Not a word for years.

I know Don McCuaig of the Rentrev Mercury is out to pasture, cutting wood, catching trout, but let's have a word, old buddy, from the depths of the Ottawa Valley.

I've never seen a copy of the Creston Review, the Parkhill Gazette or the Glencoe Transcript, but they've been old friends for decades.

And what's this about you, Andy McLean, selling out the Seaforth Exporter to a young upstart, after 112 years in the business?

Andy was a man who looked middle-aged when he was young, young when he was middle-aged, and almost juvenile as he grew older. Last time I met him and his charming wife and their daughter, Susan White who is going to carry on as editor, I thought the McLeans were indestructible.

I suppose that any day now, I'll hear that Mac and Val of the Tilbury Times will be hanging up their hats while still in their prime. (In fact, Mac, I think you're already slipping. Had a letter sent along by your son Terry, who said he'd found it on your desk but you obviously hadn't dealt with it.)

Perth Courier, Winchester Press, Meaford Express, Wheatley Journal, Yorkton Enterprise, Swift Current Sun,

Lacombe Globe, Lachute Watchman, Exeter Times-Advocate, Atikokan Progress, Glencoe Transcript, Oxbow Herald, Weyburn Review (th, Ernie), Westport Mirror (th, Your TV Repair Man), Orangeville Banner, Hanover Post. And all the rest of you guys who have put up for years with the beatings and blurrings of this writer. Thanks.

You represent something I admire and respect. You work under continual stress to produce a product that is valuable rather than sensational, controversial rather than merely inflammatory, optimistic rather than depressing.

Hang in there those of you who are left, and you young fellows, carry on the traditions.

You may not be the New York Times, but you are probably more important to your community than it is to the world.

Last note: George and Elda Cadogan, veterans both, hope to see you again before we hit the wheelchairs. Love, Bill.

Be fit--

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AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person who is resident in the municipality and who wishes to make representation relative to the application, shall make their submission to the Board in writing prior to the date of the hearing, or in person at the time and place of the hearing. (Copies of written submissions will be forwarded to the applicant.)

Liquor Licence Board of Ontario
55 Lakeshore Boulevard East
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179-02459

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