

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Not Like It Was

Towns like Georgetown are starting to lose something of their entity as a composite community even before regional government gives them the death sting.

On January 1st, two functions which have been exclusively local for generations were assumed by the county government—assessment and welfare. Georgetown no longer has a resident assessment commissioner and department. Nor does it have a local welfare officer.

A year ago we lost local public, separate and high school boards, were replaced by new county boards, and Georgetown employees shifted to a new central office at Milton.

Strangely enough, centralization of one civic function which, on paper, should have worked, was a complete failure when it was tried here some years ago. Council decided at that time to abandon local police in favour of the Ontario Provincial Police system. In theory, this should have been a good thing, but the reverse proved true. There was endless bickering between

council and the OPP force, culminating in an upheaval and a return to a municipal force, engaged by council and subject, first to them and later to a board of police commissioners.

Now, barring a radical change in Ontario government thinking, our local council will disappear, possibly at the end of 1970, if not a year later, and the bulk of our municipal functions will be directed by a regional council, comprising Peel and Halton counties.

It won't be all bad — but it won't be all good, either.

There is much to be said for officials who have offices in the community they serve, who have a more personal approach to problems. We don't think we will get quite the service that we do now.

The argument that it will be cheaper is one which only time will prove. We have seen no statistics so far that indicate any sharp reduction in school costs from the system which the government adopted a year ago.



IN THE WAITING ROOM

OUR ECONOMY

Forecast New Labelling Packaging Laws for Food

The Trudeau government may go down in history as most business-linking minded government of all time. Within its short span of life to date it has set up more boards and commissions, more crown corporations than any other administration.

The end is not yet in sight. More agencies are in the works designed to observe, counsel and regulate. One of the main promoters of business regulation is Ron Basford whose department of Corporate and Consumer Affairs has collected under its wing nearly all existing government agencies having to do with business.

Basford sees a high public demand for services from his department. In a speech last week he said: "Consumers are getting restive. Public interest in consumer problems is widespread. This can be seen in the growing time and space devoted to consumers on television and radio as well as in newspapers and magazines. All levels of government have been involved and both at the federal and provincial levels there have been insistent demands for reform of the laws affecting the welfare of consumers."

MORE REGULATIONS

Clearly that means more government regulation and more laws governing the varied process by which raw materials are moved from producers to processors and by which finished goods are moved into the hands of consumers.

To the extent that this means updating of rules out-moded by modern technology this can be good for all concerned. To the extent that it involves more officials studying the performance of all sorts of businesses laying down more regulations and standards it is apt to be irritating — for a time at least to some.

Currently Basford's department is looking at packaging and labelling practices. Its researchers have come up with the forecast that 10 years from now the average food market will contain 20,000 items. Right now the average is 8,000 and 20 years ago there were only 1,500. Most of these are pre-packaged. The package has replaced the old-time grocery clerk. The housewife gets no information except what's printed on it.

This says Basford, opens the way for unfair competition between suppliers and a poor deal for consumers. Hence you can look for new packaging and labelling laws. They'll be designed to put the consumer in a better bargaining position, somewhat like what she was in a half-century ago when she could taste an unpackaged food product as well as see it before she bought it, when she had a good-will-minded storekeeper to talk to instead of a hurried impersonal cashier running a cash register.

EFFICIENCY GAP

The theory seems to be that business has grown more efficient in getting the quality and price of the goods it offers for sale and the consumer has become less efficient in judging the quality of the product or the fairness of the price.

To the extent that business has abused this new advantage the consumer is getting cheated. Most of the abuses that exist, it is conceded, are not deliberate and are outside the scope of present law. So more laws are contemplated to call the abuses to the attention of all levels of business and to crack down on those who don't correct them.

Consumer goods represent only one of many areas of business into which government is looking with a view to intervention. It gets more notice because it's the special responsibility of an energetic young minister in charge of a new department

Other phases of business are coming under the scrutiny of other departments.

FDR AND BENNETT

The Trudeau government would appear to be the most business-conscious and the most zealous for business reform that has held office since the early 1930's. That was the time when President Roosevelt launched the 'new deal' in the United States and Conservative Prime Minister R. B. Bennett launched his reform program in Canada.

Roosevelt went on to greater glory and a long stretch in the White House. Bennett was defeated at the 1936 election and most of his business reform laws were thrown out by the courts. Some of the principles he championed have since been applied in other laws, but until Trudeau appeared, no prime minister seemed anxious to move strongly in the direction of regulating business.

NEWS ECHOES

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

1960

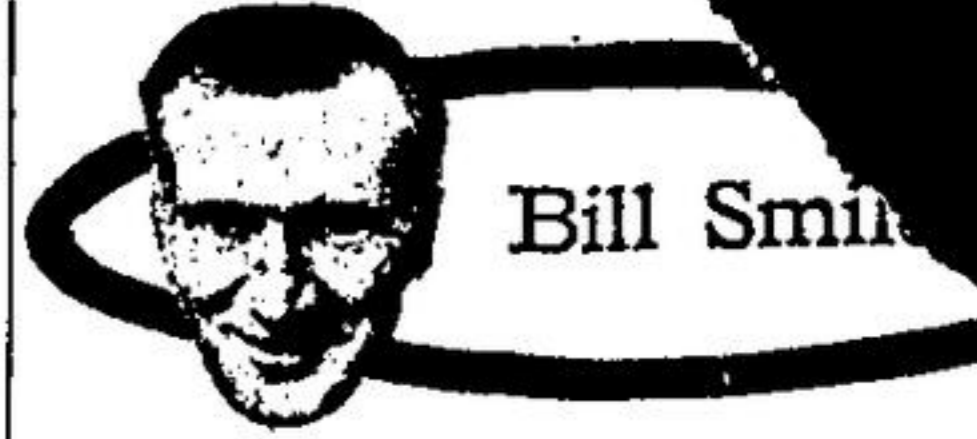
- First chairman of the new Georgetown High School District Board is Fred Masterman. He was chosen Monday for the post when the board held its inaugural meeting in the high school.
- Judging has been completed and six prizes awarded in the Chamber of Commerce's Christmas outdoor lighting contest. The six winners are Frank Golden, Wilfred Hyde, Clarence Heslop, E. W. Binkley, Roger St. Cyr, and Thomas Ferguson.
- The familiar "click" of stone bumping stone, a sound too long absent from the ears of local curlers, was revived here last weekend when the new North Halton Curling Club opened. The new four sheet rink carried a stone for the first time Saturday. By Sunday it was a beehive of activity as veterans and novices alike tried their 'eye.' When completed the building will house the golf facilities now located in the old club house.

1950

- Provincial Constable Ray Schissler has been transferred to the detachment at Simcoe and his position here has been taken by Constable George Fyfe. Cst. Fyfe has been at Brantford for the past year. His wife and youngster will be moving to town as soon as accommodation is located.
- Georgetown's new liquor store opened last Saturday. The store is located on Mill Street in part of the Tom Hewson building. J. Arnott Early, former town assessor who served overseas as a major with the Canadian army, is vendor of the new store, and Jim Ritchie is employed as clerk. The store will serve a wide area between Guelph and Toronto, being the only liquor outlet between these two cities.
- The announcement was made this week of the forming of a partnership between Elmer C. Thompson, well-known local insurance and travel agent, and John R. Barber. On Monday, Lt. Col. Barber joined the firm which Mr. Thompson established here 27 years ago.

1940

- The keenest contest in some years for the reeveship of Esquesing Township was held on New Year's Day when William A. Wilson, deputy-reeve for 1939 defeated Nelson A. Robinson the present reeve, by a majority of just seven votes.
- The vital statistics for the Town of Georgetown for 1939: Births 10; Marriages 23; Deaths 14.



Smiley's Forecast

You probably have some predictions for the 1970's, as I do. Let's see how they match. Remember, this is for the whole decade, not just 1970.

Let's get rid of the dirty ones first. There is going to be more and more racial trouble. And this means more and more violence, hatred, killing and cruelty, both physical and psychological. The whites are going to be beleaguered and are going to fight back ruthlessly, most of them.

There is going to be more and more pollution; noise, air, water, despite the strenuous efforts of a vocal minority to do something about it. The almighty buck will continue to dictate policy in this field.

Taxes will go on rising and inflation will go on inflating. The only solution would be rigid controls of wages, rent, food, etc. and no politician will have the guts to impose them. And if he did the public would raise a holocaust of hue and cry that would send him smartly back to his law practice.

The standard of living will increase, and so will the standard of dying. We'll have more things, and we'll kill ourselves faster getting them.

There will be just as many poor people in 1976 as there were in 1966 and probably more people talking about it, and doing less.

People will drink more and think less. The drug scene will make the Sixties look like a Sunday school picnic where somebody had too much lemonade.

The Vietnam war will peter out ignominiously. The Communists of North Vietnam will take over. There will be vicious purges. And then the Vietnamese will go about their business of rebuilding and living.

Millions of today's hippies will be sick with arthritis and kidney trouble, will be on welfare and wondering why they did it.

The Arabs will continue their efforts to wipe out the Jews and get some bloody noses in the process.

Husbands will continue to beat up their wives on Saturday night. Or vice versa.

Education will go through the lowest swing of the pendulum

in 100 years as the discipline of learning is replaced by having a ball, doing 'projects' and talking when you haven't anything to talk with, or about.

Canada will become a very junior partner of Uncle Sam, Inc. That is, if it first doesn't become a gaggle of minor republics with about as much international prestige as Monaco.

Sounds like a pretty sordid Seventies, doesn't it. But it won't be that bad. That's the big picture, and big pictures are often third rate, as witness most of the big-screen movies you've seen lately.

In the little, subjective world where the individual lives, it isn't all black. Babies will continue to be born and chuckle and have their little soft bodies blown on and be precious and funny and utterly delightful for a few years.

And the foul brown mud of March will gradually give way to the lush green grass of May, and the dead twigs of winter will become the green mist of April and the rich joy of June.

And the brutal winds and biting cold of February will inevitably turn into the broiling brown beach of July.

And the wheat and the peaches will turn to gold. And the potatoes will come up plump and firm and scabless. And the fish will be fat and the beef will be beefy.

And perhaps you will do something good and kind. And perhaps someone will say something that makes you think you are worthwhile. And perhaps you will have model teenagers (ahh). And perhaps you will grow in understanding and love. And perhaps your cat will not have kittens.

Personally, I think the Seventies will be like most of the other ages of man; black and white; grey and orange, blue and gold.

Well, all we can do is wait and see, chaps. But don't hold your breath waiting for my predictions to be wrong. Just carry on, and live each day as a precious gift which will never ever come to you again.

Happy Seventies.

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Registered Physiotherapist
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● Heat Treatments
● Electro-Therapy
58 REXWAY DRIVE
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JEWELRY CLOCK Accutron Service Centre

JOHN BOUGHTON
JEWELLERS
Certified Watchmakers
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● Consulting Engineer
● Ontario Land Surveyor
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DESIGNS ON REQUEST
Inspect our work in
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62 Water Street North
G A L T

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459-9052

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

SEE EXPANSION OF SHOE CORP.

BRAMPTON: One of Brampton's oldest established industries, Shoe Corp. of Canada Ltd. has been sold to Carrier Shoe Co. Ltd., Toronto, a wholly Canadian firm. Thus, 15 years after being sold by Brampton's Hewson family the company returns to Canadian hands.

TOWNSHIP OFFICES MOVE TO BRAMALEA

BRAMALEA — Chinguacousy Council has decided to relocate the township offices in Bramalea. Overcrowded conditions, lack of water and sewage facilities and the high cost of extra telephone equipment were cited by a staff member as making the move out of the Snelgrove offices necessary.

PLAN FILL LAKE TO CREATE PARKS

OAKVILLE — Oakville Council has decided to create new parkland by filling in Lake Ontario at points along the shoreline. The board said it would be too costly for the town to buy lake front property for park development. Council agreed with the report which recommended the first land fill project extend 400 feet out into the Lake.

INAUGURATION ON CABLE TV AT STRBETSVILLE

STREETSVILLE — Education Minister William Davis administered the oath of office when the new council held its inaugural meeting this week. The inauguration, which was taped by a cable TV company for later showing, featured the

Streetsville Secondary School band and a public school choir. The ceremony was at the Streetsville arena.

MILTON HOUSING WAS UP \$3,000,000

MILTON: Nearly \$3,000,000 worth of housing units were built in Milton last year, according to a report of the town's building department. Sixty permits were issued for a total of \$2,999,253 worth of construction from which \$5,745 was derived in fees. The permits in the main were for apartment suites and single family homes.

YOUTH BARRED FROM OWN HOUSE

ERIN — An Erin youth was ordered to stay away from his mother's home by Judge H. R. Howitt in provincial court last Tuesday. The 20 year old pleaded guilty to a charge of interfering with the use of a telephone in the house. His mother said she had ordered her son out of the house but he refused. Then when she went to call the Opp the boy ripped the phone wires from the wall. "He won't work, he sponges off me, and I am afraid of him," the mother told the court.

FIRE FIRE FINISHES FESTIVE SEASON

MILTON: Thousands of Christmas trees, collected from Milton homes, went up in smoke last Wednesday night at the town's second annual Twelfth Night tree burning ceremony at Milton fair grounds. At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Brian Best set the mountain of trees alight and the resulting pyre marked the end of the holiday festivities in Mil-

ton. Doughnuts and hot chocolate were available to warm the insides of the spectators.

CONOVER ELECTED EDUCATION BOARD HEAD

MISSISSAUGA — E. F. Ted Conover of Brampton is the new chairman of the Peel County Board of Education. Conover was acclaimed chairman for 1970 last week at a special meeting of the board. He replaces retiring chairman Glenn Grice. Conover, a former commanding officer of the Lorne Scots Regiment, has sat on the school board for seven years. He is registrar of the supreme court in Peel County.

SUPER HIGHWAY OR NEW HYDRO LINES

NASSAGAWEYA — A vague proposal by Ontario Hydro to place a hydro line through the northwest corner of Nassagaweya Twp. has left township councillors both puzzled and angry. The proposal led to speculation on the part of Deputy Reeve Gordon Agnew that the plan could be a cover up for a super highway to connect Hamilton to a new jet airport which could be built north of the township.

PROHIBIT SNOWMOBILING TOWN'S CHIEF ASKS

ORANGEVILLE — A recommendation has been sent from Police Chief Kent to the Orangeville council to have operation of snowmobiles prohibited in the town of Orangeville. The Chief said the snowmobilers drive too fast, on the wrong side of the road and go through stop signs. "They should not be allowed to drive in town except on their own property," he suggested. He said many complaints have been lodged about the machines trespassing and making too much noise, particularly after midnight.