

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Election Afterthoughts

Perhaps second only to a Georgetown election of twenty odd years ago, when 80 per cent of the voters went to the polls, this year's civic election generated a great deal of interest among residents.

A contest for one or more of the top offices always ensures that voters will be more aware than usual of issues. And when a topical question like addition of fluoride to the water supply is also included, it is surprising that even so, almost half of those registered the merits of this or that contestant.

Also for the first time, there was television coverage before election day, and

not only could interested voters size up candidates in person at nomination and meet the candidates night, but those who have Cable TV could see them in action on the tube.

There were definite platforms by many of the council aspirants, so different from the days a few years back when election advertising was routine . . . "Your vote and interest is respectfully solicited . . ."

All in all, it was an exciting week or two and, besides electing those to guide municipal affairs for the next two years, it created a feeling for their community and an awareness of civic matters among many of our newer residents.

Poll-arization

An issue which seemed to get magnified out of all proportion was that of polling booth location.

Originally it was customary to use houses in various parts of town along with available public buildings. The system gradually failed. It was difficult to find houses which lent themselves to voting, difficult to persuade a householder to turn his house into a public building for the day for a nominal fee.

Two years ago, council decided to drop the use of houses as much as possible, using only those which still were satisfactory and replacing others with public locations churches, fire hall, ambulance building, etc.

It seemed to work well in 1968, so it was repeated this year.

Then the storm broke. When polling

locations were spotted on a map, it appeared that people in Ward 3 particularly were some distance from their voting locations. Dire tales were circulated about how housewives were isolated, commuters arriving home from work would not be able to make the 8 p.m. deadline. It was pointed out that although Ward 1 was well served for many, Moore Park would have too long a walk.

The fact that all candidates offer rides to and from the voting booth tended to be ignored. The Jaycees hired a minibus and babysitters, only to find that it was teapot tempest, and the takers were few.

Perhaps another year, council will be able to come up with a better arrangement. Meanwhile we think a few people owe an apology to a hard working town clerk who, as returning officer, has many extra duties to perform at election time.

No Need to Be Lonesome

Now and then we hear newer residents thinking Georgetown is an unfriendly town.

If so, there's only one person to blame.

When we were a town of two or three thousand, a newcomer was a novelty and drew attention.

Once over the 10,000 mark, and with new houses popping up like mushrooms, the novelty was over. We have reached a city-like status, and that's how it's going to be from now on.

From here on in, newcomers are on their own and if they want to get in the local swim there are opportunities galore.

If it's public service, we have an active Red Cross, ambulance brigade, cancer soci-

ety, service clubs, Legion branch, minor hockey, baseball and soccer clubs, sororities, to mention only a few. Each church has its men's and women's organizations. There is no better way to make friends than to join up with one or more such organizations.

For sociability, there are golf and curling clubs, horticulture and naturalist societies, sororities, lawn and indoor bowling clubs, bridge, darts and cribbage clubs, barbershoppers, senior citizens club.

We could go on and on. You name it, we've got it.

A Georgetown-sized town gives the ultimate in living, if one just makes an effort to belong. The hand of welcome is out, you just have to make the effort to grasp it.



magnificent moon-landing achievements should inspire Man to extend his spiritual horizons

... what better time than Christmas, to begin?

Two years ago three human beings spent the first Christmas in space — the first Christmas that Man has spent away from the planet that has nurtured civilization since time began.

A few short months later two other human beings set foot on the virgin moon — the first time that Man has explored a world other than his own.

Tomorrow promises to bring Man in direct contact with other planets; someday perhaps the very stars will become the venue of Man's exploration.

He is reaching for the very Heavens.

Technology — Man's technology — is conquering the universe.

There is talk of science — Man's science — unlocking the secret of life itself.

All of which prompts many thoughtful people to ask — particularly at a time of year when we celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace — whether Man is reaching too far, attempting to usurp the role of the Creator.

It's an age-old question. Science vs. religion. It was asked of the Wright Brothers, who upset the known natural law that if God had intended Man to fly, He would have given him wings.

It is a question that has engaged eminent scientists and philosophers. Albert Einstein wrote that "science

without religion is lame; religion without science is blind."

The conclusion, generally, has been reassuring. Cornell University's first president, Andrew Dickson White, put it this way:

My conviction is that science, though it has evidently conquered Dogmatic Theology based on biblical texts and ancient modes of thought, will go hand in hand with religion; and that, although theological control will continue to diminish, religion, as seen in the recognition of a Power in the universe, not ourselves, which makes for righteousness, and in the love of God and of our neighbor, will steadily grow stronger and deeper.

But this was before the moonships Apollo.

The implications of manned space flight are so enormous that the theological questions inevitably rise again.

Man understands the world. It is finite. Only God understands the universe. It is infinite.

Or is it? Will spacemen someday explore its outer end, chart its boundaries, map its wonders with the precision of the surveyor's transit and mapmaker's compass?

Is creation in danger of becoming Man's handiwork? Most of our nation's astronauts — the men who have actually ventured into the void — are religious men. And obviously they have seen

and felt nothing to shake their faith in the one Creator of this universe who are now beginning to probe.

The words are once again words of reassurance.

On his return from the moon, astronaut Neil Armstrong visited the Vatican, addressed the Cardinals and bishops at the Roman Catholic synod then in meeting. How, he was asked, had his moon walk affected his personal relationship with God?

"Today as I looked around this building," replied Armstrong, "and looked up at the ceilings, I saw the best of Man's art work and it left a profound impression on me. But as we traveled between planets and saw with our eyes the views that are rather poorly seen by means of television and film, I was profoundly moved by the best of God's art work."

The lesson of Man's first hesitating steps into space shines perfectly clear to these men. And, from all accounts, it runs something like this:

Man can learn to explore the universe, can achieve the ancient dream of breaking free of his own planet. But we cannot conceive of a universe that had no Cause, on an intellect that had no Creator.



IN THE MAIL BAG

Concerned About Snowmobiles Wants Immediate Legislation

35 Henry Street,

Dear Sir:
The enclosed letter is being forwarded to the local police, my member of parliament, the local newspaper, and Georgetown community television.

Dear Sir:

Much is being said and written about our environment. I am doing everything in my power to help improve, and prevent further damage. One cause of ruin is more prevalent this year than ever before, the small snow machine, called snowmobiles.

Legislation must be forthcoming in regards to this machine. They are now a menace. The machine itself is fantastic and when used where needed, as in surveying, trapping, bush work, etc., they are one of the most versatile pieces of equipment to date.

Yet these must be equipped with effective noise mufflers, and pollution control devices. They must also be banned from within the limits of cities and towns, they must also be banned from the streets and highways, and private property.

Three times within fifteen minutes driving I was nearly in collision with them as they were breaking the speed limits posted for cars and passing each other and racing down the streets of Georgetown.

These machines are even operated after midnight, waking people and generally disturbing what is left of peace and quiet in this generation of noise.

I am urging everyone concerned with these things to fight for immediate legislation.

Thank you,
R. C. Ollivier.

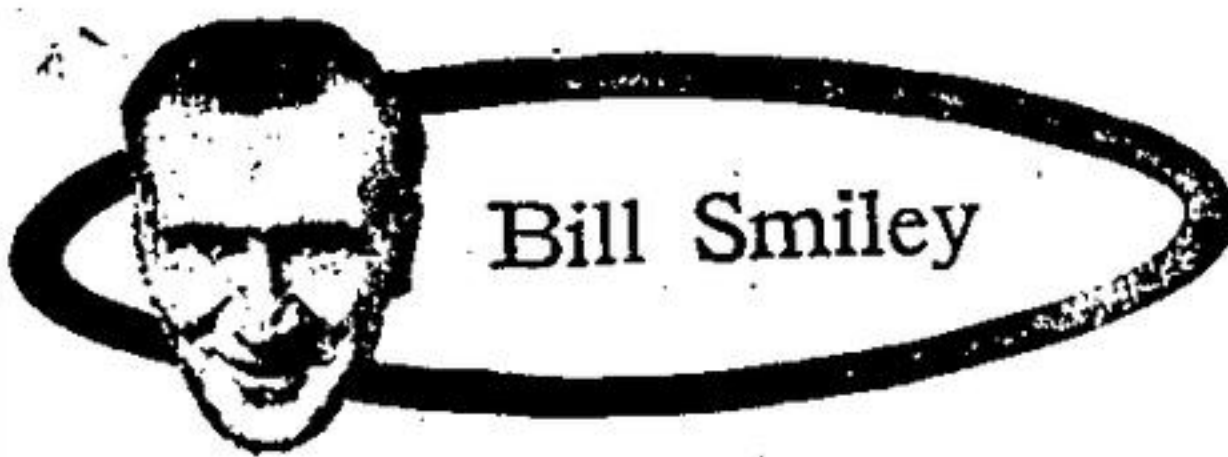
Big Brother Week

Big Brother Week will be marked the week of January 3 to 9, not December 3 to 9 as stated in a story in last week's Herald.

NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald of 10, 20 and 30 Years Ago

- 1960**
 - Tony O'Byrne, chairman of Georgetown's separate school board for the last two years will not seek re-election this year. Nominations will be held December 28 with election the same night.
 - Miss Gladys Fraser's "Spot on 7" in Georgetown will receive international recognition in the 1961 edition of the Duncan Hines Travel Book "Adventures in Good Eating" which comes out this month. "Spot on 7" is one of 4,500 eating places in North America recommended by Duncan Hines. That is only about two percent of the number of eating places on the continent.
 - A letter from a Hamilton hockey fan to the Ontario Fire Marshal's office has prompted an investigation into alleged fire hazards in the Memorial Arena. Monday, council received a letter from the fire marshal. The Hamilton man said he had attended a game here and found two exits padlocked, a back exit partially blocked with ice scrapings and general ignoring of the No Smoking regulation.
- 1950**
 - Praise for the school as a whole and for its individual teachers was contained in the annual report of Inspector L. L. Skuce, sent to the school board after a recent tour of inspection. Mr. Skuce pointed out the commendable manner in which acting principal Harold Henry carried out his duties.
- 1940**
 - The municipality of Georgetown had its 76th birthday Saturday, December 14th. It was incorporated as a village in 1864 in a by-law passed by the county council.



Bill Smiley

UTOPIA HERE—FOR OLDTIMERS

Canada's old age pensioners: Further excesses are in sight. Do you realize that the government is going to retain the cost-of-living escalator formula up to a ceiling of two per cent a year for pensioners receiving the supplement (but eliminate it for those who get only the universal old-age benefit.)

This means that even if the annual cost-of-living increase crashes down to a mere 5 per cent, these people will get their two per cent increase. It's incredible. The dawning of a new, golden age in Canadian socialism.

Can't you see all those male old-age pensioners when they get their first new cheque at the end of January? Straight to the pub and blow the whole 42 cents on an orgy, 2 draught beers and a tip for the waiter.

This will produce a moral degradation never equalled since the days of Dickens, when gin was so cheap you could get high for a penny, stoned for sixpence, and dead drunk for a shilling.

Can't you see all those old-timers lying around in snow banks every time their pension cheque arrives.

And what about the women. They'll be worse. You know! Women squander money. They're just as apt as not to go out and blow the whole 42 cents on a plastic dolly or a couple of rolls of pink toilet paper. There'll be no holding them.

That's only one of the faults in the white paper introduced by a benevolent government.

floating around in the hands of luxury-loving, devil-may-care old timers. Why don't we re-institute the work house, with cabbage the standard fare and meat, boiled horse hocks, every Saturday?

And what about those widows, wives of the disabled, and the disabled themselves? The white paper suggests that they will suffer an improvement in benefits. Starting in 1973. There goes another round of tremendous inflation. In 1973.

You'd almost think I had some misgivings about the white paper. I don't! It's almost as much fun as reading Alice in Wonderland. You'd almost think there were an election coming up, as one was when Mr. King introduced the baby bonus.

Surely the government isn't trying to distract us from the fact that unemployment is nearing the peak of the great depression. Say it isn't so, Pierre.

And speaking of the baby bonus. I wish I were young again. Babies used to be worth \$8 a month. Now they're worth \$16. Taxable. But it's also worth almost two cases of beer per month, perchance! This is going to mean a great deal to the families who always put the baby bonus aside as beer money. Six kids — twelve cases.

However, it is the time of year to wish everybody joy, and I do so. Including all those poor devils who make \$10,000 a year (and take home \$7,300). They can't send their kids to college because the kids can't get a loan because their parents are making so much money.

No points for working your guts out for years. Full points for filling your guts, at someone else's table, for years.

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

PLAN PARK AT CREDIT FORKS . . .

CALEDON — The provincial government may buy land for a park north of the Forks of the Credit. Most of the land is privately owned but the province wants it as part of their plans for the Niagara Escarpment. A passive park with nature trails, it would be developed according to an agreement with Caledon Mountain Estates which is awaiting provincial approval for a plan of subdivision involving up to 500 acres.

LARGE TOPS POLLS FOR MAYOR

ORANGEVILLE — Orangeville's 1970 municipal election put Victor E. Large in the mayor's chair. He won a contest with James Nottingham by 103 votes.

Large is currently Orangeville's reeve. Elected to council were Gord Bredin, Albert Horlock, Derek Morley, Jean Hamlyn, Mike Fletcher, and Douglas Stoddart.

ANDERSON STAYS IN OFFICE . . .

OAKVILLE — McLean Anderson is still mayor of Oakville. Anderson won the mayoralty last week with a 2300 vote margin over second running Allan Day as 41% of the electorate turned out to vote. Almost 12,000 voters went to the polls to return Anderson to the chair he has held for 5 years.

ASSESSMENT UP TO \$400 MILLION . . .

BRAMPTON — A complete review of market value assessment procedures used in Brampton to reach a new total assessment of more than \$400 million from \$77 million was revealed to town council at a special meeting last week. Brampton is the final municipality in Peel to be reassessed under the new provincial standards of market value on land and buildings.

ACTON VOTERS RETURN DUBY . . .

ACTON — Acton voters — 46.9 per cent of them — went to the polls last week and preserved status quo. Mayor Les Duby was returned to office for his eighth term with a 316 margin over challenger Bob Drinkwater. Only changes are Garnet Mackenzie as deputy reeve, stepping up to defeat Ted Tyler Jr., and new councillor Norman Elliott.

CITIZENS DEVELOP OWN LIBRARY . . .

CAMPBELLVILLE — Nobody can point a finger at Campbellville for being apathetic. In recent months everyone in town got behind an idea Mrs. John Robinson had to establish a local library. And now they have their community library containing 12,000 books in a small building on Main Street, a site that is already serving as a drop-in centre for every age.

MILTON — Fire in a CPR express truck Thursday morning held up traffic in the west-bound lane of Hwy. 401 for two hours and sent the driver to hospital. The express truck collided with the rear of a truck loaded with Christmas trees. John Bechtel in the express cab, suffered head cuts, a broken leg and other undetermined injuries. The CPR truck smouldered for five hours.

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