

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Close to Schools?

"Close to schools and shopping" a familiar term in real estate advertising is fifty per cent outdated in Georgetown.

There was a time when a house close to an elementary school, commanded a better price and sold more quickly. New residents with young children wanted to live near a school for obvious reasons. And if they could locate in a district where both elementary and high school were in a few blocks' range, they were happier still.

Now that an elaborate transportation system has followed the trend to specialized schools, the 'close to schools' advertising is relatively meaningless. It is now quite possible to live right beside a school, and have your one, two or three children shoot off in different directions each morning.

We can't quarrel with the theoretical advantages of the new system. More specialized teachers, more reference books and teaching aids are certainly possible with the trend to lower, middle and senior pub-

lic schools.

But aren't we overlooking the advantages we have eliminated with this modern development?

Wasn't it always an advantage of living in town to have your children home at the noon hour, back home within a short time after school ended for the day?

Aren't we depriving our young people of the feeling of belonging which attendance at one elementary school gave our generation? That fierce loyalty to school and staff, an anchor which lasts late into life?

As our Norval correspondent said last week, discussing the possible closing of the Norval school: "The old way would do much for the community spirit."

Today we hear much talk of young people being 'alienated' of not 'having roots,' of feeling 'insecure.'

Could our forward steps in education be backward steps in another direction?

Forty Years of Service

The Lions Club of Georgetown will soon mark its 40th year as a Georgetown institution.

The hundreds of men who have passed through its ranks have made major contributions to the town.

The community swimming pool is one recreational asset for which the club was solely responsible. The Lions were heavy contributors to the memorial hospital when it was built. The Santa Claus parade has become a traditional part of the December scene. And Joseph Gignons Memorial Park, now in process of creation, will be another public feather in the club cap.

For these alone, Georgetown can be grateful to Lions past and present.

But there is much more.

While major public works are part of Lionsism, even more important is the unpublicized part, the helping hand which enables

the Lions to be called a service club.

The ticket selling, the work in refreshment booths, the money-raising events which require hours of the members' time, are not all designed for large community enterprises.

Behind the scenes there is much that goes on which won't and can't be publicized.

A pair of glasses for a child or needy adult. An operation in the days when there was no medicare. Food and clothing for a firestruck family. Summer camp for a child whose dad couldn't afford the holiday. Good works of which only a small committee might know the details.

These are the stuff of which service club work is made. These are the reasons why Georgetown can be proud to have such an organization.

Efficient Works Department

The efficiency of Georgetown's works department was never more evident than after last week's snowstorms which crippled many municipalities.

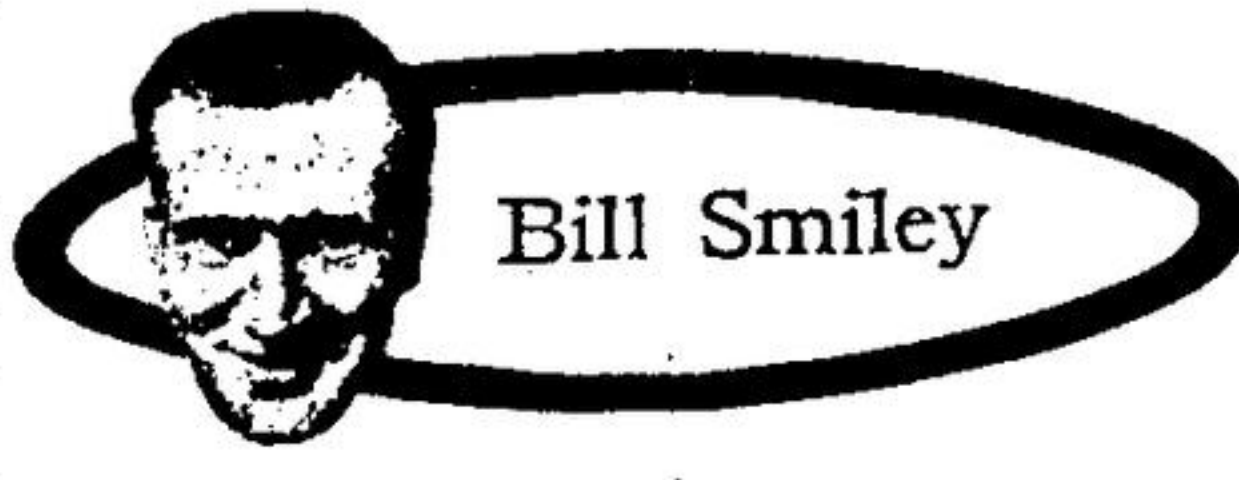
The town force rallied quickly to the chore of keeping roads open and there was little inconvenience to motorists. The downtown commercial area and the main thoroughfares were not only ploughed, but snow was removed as fast as possible, and a few days later one would hardly be conscious of the fact that one of the heaviest falls of snow in years had occurred.

Sometimes we are too prone to take for granted the work which men in the public service do.

We expect that, whatever happens, our daily routine will not be interrupted.

It takes a storm to realize that, while we hole up snugly in a warm home on a winter night, others are out doing their job so we can drive to work next morning.

Men who earn their livelihood this way are often criticized, seldom praised. They deserve a pat on the back now and then.



Bill Smiley

Winters of Memory All the Colder

There's nothing like a solid stretch of really cold weather to remind you that Nature still packs a mighty wallop, despite all man's ingenuity in trying to keep his chin covered.

We've had a dandy around here — day after day of below zero temperatures. Even though they have been bright, the sun and about as much effect on the atmosphere as a fried egg, sunny side up.

Everyone enjoys the first couple of days of such a spell. We all feel like hardy pioneers when we stomp in out of the cold, eyes and noses running, and exchange such inanities as, "That's a real snapper" and "cold nuff fer ya?"

But after a week or so, it begins to get to you. You begin to remember those stories about people who go mad in the rainy season, or when the sirocco is blowing.

It doesn't affect the kids. They love it, bundled to the nose and full of warm, red blood. Most of the elderly hate it, and visibly shrink. It doesn't bother the outdoor enthusiasts, because they keep warm doing something. They can't lick it, so they join it.

It's the ordinary, simple everyday householder like me who begins to feel the pinch, and develops a deep gloom. When you turn the key in the car and it just groans like a wounded buffalo, before expiring. When you look up at the ever-thickening ice on the roof and remember you've just had your living room redecorated, and know it's going to cost \$30 to have it chipped off. And finally, when your downstairs facilities don't work, and you realize with horror that even in this day of oil furnaces, inside pipes can freeze.

And the oil man cometh. And cometh and cometh. This is the time when you should stop and realize how lucky you are, instead of bending everybody's ear with your petty woe. You should remember how it used to be.

Like most Canadians, I was brought up on cold winters. Earliest recollections are midwinter Sunday morning. My mother would take my kid brother and me into bed with her where we'd help ourselves to the breakfast in bed she always got Sunday mornings, and listen to with fear and fascination to her tales of winter on Calumet Island, in the Ottawa River. The

best was about the time Lady, the dainty little mare, went through the ice, and the dreadful time they spent trying to rescue her. I think she died.

Then there was my dad. He hated winter and made no bones about it. It was Depression times, and the coal bill was an albatross around his neck. He was a mild, gentle man, never known to say anything stronger than 'shoot'. But inside him was some of the wild despair of his Irish forefathers.

When he'd go down to fire up the furnace, I'd get my ear up against the furnace pipe and listen with delight to language that should have given me curly hair, interspersed with the occasional clang when he'd bent the furnace out of sheer rage.

I spent a winter in northern England, with arctic and often non-existing heating equipment except in the pubs. Sheer, clammy misery, except in the pubs. I spent another in Germany on the Baltic Sea, with very little food and almost no heat. Not much joy there.

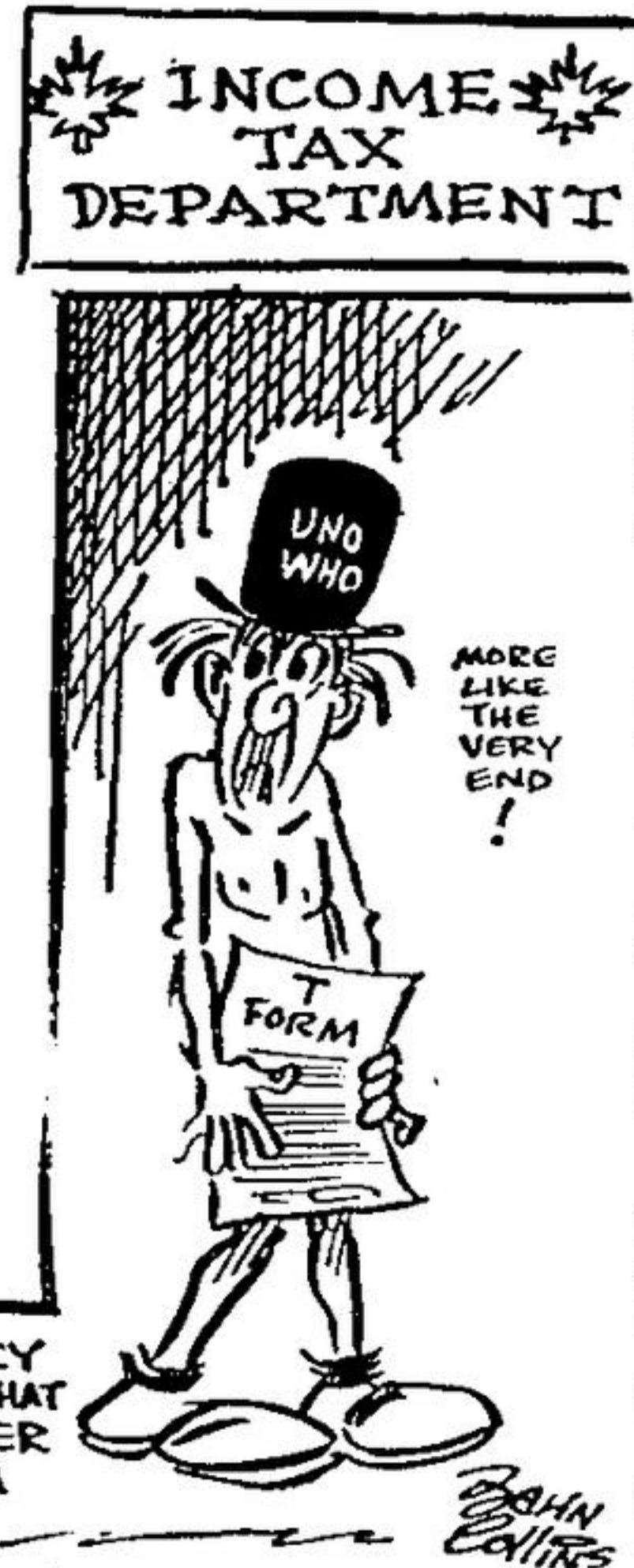
Then I got married. Our first place had two wood stoves. I'd hop out of bed, plunk my freezing baby in with his warm mother, and rustle up two fires. Then I'd take a roll of newspaper into the cellar, set fire to it, and untreeze the water pipes which froze solid every night.

Then off through the zero to the newspaper office, which boasted one of the last wood burning furnaces on the continent. You could see your breath in the place until about 11 a.m. We graduated to a coal furnace, which did nothing but produce in me the same violence and frustration my father had twenty years before.

INFORMATION CANADA IS AIMING AT THE YOUNGER GENERATION WITH AN ADAM AND EVE POSTER.



ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY HAS BEEN PRODUCING A SOMEWHAT SIMILAR EFFECT ON AN OLDER PART OF THE POPULATION FOR QUITE SOME TIME



OTTAWA POP ART

Pros and Cons of Terra Cotta Road

TERRA COTTA RD. — Its winners and Tony Zito is one of the losers.

Mr. Zito who has a stone quarry, is one of the men who originally asked that the road be fixed.

"In the fall you can't move around here," he said. "There are cars parked all over and the people walk over the middle of the road a great deal during the winter."

"They may have solved the problem but I've seen survivors around and I'm sure they'll fix that road soon."

Mr. Zito who grew up in Terra Cotta and the majority of people in the town want the road fixed.

"This place used to be beautiful but any more the people have ruined it. You can't swim in the water of the Credit and it stinks in the summer. The clubs are all dead. Why didn't somebody do something about the pollution and clinics?"

Government department had different views on the road.

GAVE MORAL SUPPORT

A F. Reay deputy minister of the Ontario department of tourism and recreation said his department had lent moral support to the people who wanted to keep the road as it is.

"You only have to drive that road in the fall when the maps are red to see how important it is to the people of Ontario," he said.

However, he would not say if his department had any direct hand in the shelving of the county's plans to change the road.

A. T. C. McNab deputy minister of the department of highways, had more to say.

NEWS ECHOES

From the Heralds of 10, 20 and 30 Years Ago

1961

- At Monday's council meeting, deputy reeve John Elliott reported a bid of over \$2,000 already for opening frozen water lines. Many people are without water, pointing out that the frost had penetrated deeper than usual, this winter. Town engineer G. R. Bligh said that as of that day 33 were without water because of freeze-ups.

1951

- The Brewer's retail store is moving from Georgetown's downtown area to Delrex Plaza. Sod was broken Monday for a modern 3565 sq. ft. building. Revell Construction is building the new store which will open in April.

1941

- Monday night was a gala night for the Georgetown Lions Club when a banquet and social evening was held at the McGibbon House to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the local club. For the occasion the Toronto Downtown Club chartered a bus and came in a body to celebrate with the club they sponsored ten years ago.

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

REMAINED IN CUSTODY SUSPECT TRAP SETTING

ORANGEVILLE — An Orangeville man has been charged in connection with the setting of traps in the reservoir area east of Orangeville, and has been remanded in custody for psychiatric examination. OPP officials arrested the 42 year old man last week. Traps discovered on snowmobile trails through the area included large rorts, barbed wire strung throat high, and wire and copper tubing set in the snow to catch the snowmobile's skis.

MOTHER, DAUGHTER RESCUE FROM BRAMPTON BLAZE

BRAMPTON — A three storey Ellen Street house occupied by at least 13 persons was destroyed by fire Thursday as occupants clambered out of windows and down ladders. Two of the residents, a young girl and her mother, were taken to hospital for examination. The second floor was occupied by a family of four, but only the mother and daughter were home.

BEARDMORE, UNION SIGN TWO YEAR AGREEMENT

ACTON — Wage increases of 25c per hour the first year and 25c per hour the second year was one major clause in a new two-year labor contract signed between Beardmore and Co. and Local P-479 of the Canadian Food and Allied Workers, representing employees. Beardmore employees ratified the new contract by a large majority. Increases in staff premiums were another feature of the new contract which expires January 17th, 1973.

PLANT TO SERVE 28,000 POPULATION

MILTON — Expansion of Milton's sewage treatment facilities in three stages to serve an ultimate population of 28,000 was proposed in a preliminary engineering report to council Monday night. Council members agreed the use of the present site seems most logical. Members approved the engaging of Dr. Slater of Pollution Advisory Services Ltd. to provide professional advice to the engineers on treatment methods.

FIVE HOUR POWER CUT HITS NORTH OF ELORA

ELORA — Power was cut off in an area near Elora for five hours last Tuesday night. Parts of three townships were affected by the big blackout and several other areas were hit for shorter periods of time. Some 400 customers were affected by the blackout which was caused when trees fell across a main feeder line.

DENIES CLAIM POLICE HAVE PHONES TAPPED

OAKVILLE — Oakville police inspector Edward Heath denied this week that crime investigators in his department are using electronic wire taps to bug telephone lines. Heath said his department has no bugging equipment. Heath made the denial after an Oakville newspaper said police there had three telephone lines tapped.

OBJECTIVE 200 INMATES AT GUELPH REFORMATORY

GUELPH — The inmate population at the Guelph Reformatory will never again increase according to Allan Grossman, minister of Ontario's correctional institutions. "No institution will be built to accommodate over 200 inmates," stated the minister this week. The present inmate population at Guelph is 800. Official department plans call for a continuing reduction in inmates until the 200 prisoner level is reached.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Inspect our work in Greenwood Cemetery
PHONE 621-7580
62 Water Street North
GALT

SATURDAY RACES
Georgetown will be a mecca for snowmobile enthusiasts on Saturday when the Jaycees sponsor the international snowmobile races at Polar Bear Snow Trails. Top drivers will be competing.

REPAIR SERVICE
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