

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Distinguished Service —

'A letter that brought sorrow to our office' was the way Esquering clerk Delmar French indicated the way township residents will feel with last week's announcement that K. C. Lindsay is bowing out of public service after 28 years.

Mr. Lindsay has served most of these years as clerk-treasurer, but has been gradually relinquishing his duties with an eye to retirement.

His tremendous store of knowledge of municipal affairs and of the township's history has been invaluable in his conduct of public business. And that he has been

able to pass on this knowledge and be available for consultation has made Mr. French's job much easier as he takes over the reins.

Mr. Lindsay has been a particularly good friend to the press. Always helpful in queries about municipal affairs, he has been equally cooperative in matters of historical interest and has often helped preserve in print items of history which would be lost in time.

The Herald echoes Mr. French's comments, with the expectation that Mr. Lindsay will have many years of happiness in his retirement.

Historical Society? —

Perhaps Mr. Lindsay would have some time to devote now to one of the editor's hoped-for projects — a Georgetown and District Historical Society.

We have propounded the idea from time to time, and several residents have expressed interest, but it's never quite got off the ground because no one brought the idea to fruition.

There are at least a dozen men and women whom we know who would be willing workers. What seems to be lacking is someone who will call a meeting,

offer to serve as president pro tem and get the organization underway.

Georgetown has such a treasury of history that it is sad to see it disappearing into limbo. As each year passes older residents grow older, move away, die. And as each one goes we slide farther back in recording Georgetown's history.

The duties of a weekly editor preclude spending the time necessary to organize. Perhaps some equally interested resident will take it from here. We'll gladly lend a hand.

Here's A Platform —

Aspirants for the P-C leadership, and leaders of the Liberal and NDP parties have missed a good bet in their campaigning.

While some have skirted the issue of municipal taxation by promises of relieving some of the education burden, none have got down to the real fundamentals — that taxing property for municipal revenue is outdated, unfair and should be completely abandoned.

Municipal taxation is a relic of the days when each municipality was an entity, with the power to decide what improvements it wanted and to assess residents accordingly.

Today, most of our municipal functions are ordained by senior governments. We must provide sewage treatment and

water, educate our young people, provide police and fire services, keep our roads in reasonable repair.

It follows that, when property is used as a municipal tax base, senior residents who own their homes and live on fixed incomes are paying an undue share of this, and could be forced to sell the properties they spent a lifetime acquiring.

Would not an income tax be the fairest method of obtaining the money necessary for civic services?

If a retired person has an income sufficient to be taxable, he would be paying his share. If not, he could spend his years of retirement with more peace of mind and a share of the good things of life, instead of squeezing each penny, dreading the next tax increase, as he does today.



"WHY BEN, YOU HAVE A GARLAND TOO"

Luxury For Dirty Birds In Van Wyck Back Yard

by Esther Taylor
in the Guelph Mercury

It's below zero weather, with nodules of snow, and you're a little old chickadee hankering for a warm bath. Do you take a snow cheque and wait for summer?

Not necessarily. Birds in the know head for the Frank Van Wyck garden on Bower Ave. where an electric-heated bird bath provides free drinking and splashing for Acton's feathered populace.

Ten years ago when the Van Wycks first hung out their first welcome sign to winter stay-at-home birds, they used 400 pounds of food, mainly chicken-scratch available from the local mill, and laced with sunflower seeds.

MORE SELECTIVE

Now with more bird-watching in the hospitality business and with several commercial mixtures available, snow chirpers are becoming more selective.

"They don't go for chicken scratch these days," says Frank Van Wyck. "It has to be millet and sunflower seeds, and of course suet."

Feeder birds visited the Van Wyck garden last winter, but most of the regulars are back this year, blue jays excepted.

"We have a couple of jays, but there used to be 20 or more at a time," Mr. Van Wyck said.

ELECTRIC HEAT

Two pairs of cardinals make scheduled trips to the Bower Ave. feeder and warm bath, which is kept at a comfortable dunking temperature by a special type of electric heater.

"I installed it five years ago, and it does the trick. The bath gets as much traffic as the feeders," said Mr. Van Wyck.

Evening grosbeaks back on the Acton beat this winter and reported in different parts of town flesh out the Van Wyck guest list. Besides downy woodpecker from the hopper, the yellow and black pan-handlers gobble seeds from a row of female soft maples.

"You should see the snow after the grosbeaks have been in the mail bag."

A Mother Praises Minister's Good Work

Mr. Editor:
I am glad there are such people in the world as a Norval minister who took my son to hospital after a car accident during the recent Tuesday-snow storm. Afterwards he came to tell me and to drive me to the hospital. He had spent the entire afternoon helping stranded motorists after cancelling a trip to Toronto because of the storm.

He was a young man and had the kindest face. And after all he did he came back to see how my son was.

His wife must be an extraordinary woman too. There are not many women who would share their husbands with the rest of the world. By the looks on their faces they are truly blessed.

Sincerely,
Nancy Mitchell

working out in the maples. Later, they love those seeds."

SQUIRRELS TOO

Less welcome but also untidy eaters, a pair of black squirrels come scrumping for sunflower seeds. "We don't encourage these characters," Mr. Van Wyck admits, "because they scatter the food around. Real wasters."

House sparrows must adapt to all Ontario birds, are catching on to the sunflower gunnicks. According to the Van Wycks, whose field glasses provide back-garden close-ups, sparrows have learned how to shell sunflower seeds, although their beaks are designed for husking.

The Van Wyck feeder quota of eight pounds needs refilling about once a week. Consumption to date this winter is 50 pounds of mixed and sunflower seeds.

ALSO FEWER BIRDS

Harry Helwig, another veteran watcher in the east end of town, who designed and built his own twin-hopper feeders reports fewer drop-ins so far this winter.

"We had twice as many birds last year. Some of the regulars are coming back but others like our Crossbill just haven't made the scene yet," Mr. Helwig said.

Mr. Helwig, a retired railroad worker confirms a drop in the jay population and he too has spotted sparrows shelling sunflower seeds. "They soon get wise," he says.

Also help to catch on are the Helwig squirrels, a tandem of black and gray rascals who shinny up the steel pipe to the revolving hopper and help themselves.

CRAFTY PAIR

"I chase them, because they frighten the birds. A lot of good it does. I've watched them from the picture window, as soon as I'm out of sight, they're back again," Mr. Helwig said.

A big oak, tamaracks and an apple tree provide ample perching facilities in the Helwig garden. High on the list of suet drills and favourites with Harry and Harry Helwig are woodpecker guests.

This week, they saw a predator in action. A sparrow hawk swooped down and orated with a starling. "He got a sparrow the next day. Three so far this week."

Cathy, 17, daughter of Bert and Mary Hinton-Lake Ave. started winter-feeding birds when she wasn't much bigger than a robin herself.

DAILY RITUAL

She's still in the hospitality business, making dawn treks out to the feeder, with daily supplies for her favourite cardinals and chickadees.

Cathy has one advantage over other snowbird watchers. Dad, a downtown merchant, sells the bird seed.

"We get it by the truck-load and it goes," said Cathy, adding that, "more and more people are feeding wild birds."

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

NORTHERN ELECTRIC LAYOFFS

BRAMALEA—Northern Electric Company has laid off more than 50 employees in the last two weeks and invoked a disciplinary crackdown described as "fantastic" by a local union leader. U.E.W. Local president Dave Monie said a proposed budgetary cutback could mean the layoff of more than 500 employees from various Northern Electric plants.

AVERT STRIKE AT PLR

MILTON—A strike at P. I. Robertson manufacturing was averted when Local 4070 of the United Steelworkers and the company agreed on an average pay hike of 26.75 cents an hour effective Feb. 1 and 24.5 cents an hour hike effective September 28 and running until September 28, 1972. Included was a little better than four cents an hour in fringe benefits and \$125 settlement pay.

NO POT IN DEPOT

ROCKWOOD—Rampant yarns of a hippie haven to be established in the CNR station put citizens in an uproar recently. Suggestions that some of the Kitchener hippies, recently evicted may be taking up quarters in the deserted station alarmed residents until it was learned that three U of T students were renting the building for office space during a brief planning study project.

EIGHT YEARS FOR HOLDUP

HILLSBURGH—Two men found guilty of the July 29 armed holdup of the Royal Bank branch in Hillsburgh last year were sentenced to eight years in penitentiary in county court last Wednesday. Both men are from Orangeville. Judge J. D. Sutherland also granted an application by the Royal Bank to recover \$24,570 stolen in the holdup.

MAY BE THREE FIRE STATIONS

GUELPH—Construction of two new fire stations in Guelph will depend on how fast the two areas in which they would be located grow. Fire Chief Arnold Quillan stated in his annual report that a third fire station is required in the south of the city with increased expansion at the University of Guelph and proposed residential expansion there.

WOMAN GIVES BEAR FACTS

OMAGH—A woman resident of the Sixth Line near Omagh reported to police last week she had seen a large bear near her home. Police turned the report over to Game & Fisheries officers of the Department of Lands & Forests. A check of the area failed to reveal any sign of the animal.

NEWS ECHOES

From the Heralds of 10, 20 and 30 Years Ago

1961

● Frozen water sources are having their effect on township farmers. Freezing temperatures and the lack of snow have made water so scarce that tank trucks are being kept busy hauling thousands of gallons of water to farm wells and storage tanks. Some area farms are without water entirely. Those with livestock have a serious problem.

● Your grandchildren won't read about it in their history books, but two Ontario universities will remember Valentine's Day, 1961 as the date of the Battle of the Bed at Georgetown. According to police, McMaster University students were on their way to a new bed-pushing record when the current title-holders, Ontario Agriculture College, intercepted them here and made an effort to hijack the bedstead, Mac students had pushed it all the way from Huntsville. Ten carloads of Aggies ambushed them here but were foiled by the police.

● The Aquabat, which is basically a pontoon with wings, is the brainchild of Ron Clarke of 29 Prince Charles Drive. The product of Ron's spare time underwent early trials last summer and exceeded expectations. It is primarily designed for safe, speedy runs over smooth water, but handles well even on a choppy surface.

1951

● Council, on Monday, established a pay rate of \$1.03 per hour for the four town workmen. New employees will be paid 95 cents per hour for the first three months.

● Negotiations for the purchase of Mount Pleasant Church have been completed by two Georgetown women, Mrs. D. R. McLaughlin and Mrs. M. H. Moyer. They plan to use the building for a new industry, Kirk Kraft Studio, which will produce and sell handicraft products.

1941

● Although the town of Georgetown has not yet had a house-to-house canvass — 714 of the 1150 pledges, quota for the town, have already been received, John D. Kelly announced the news at the War Savings Committee rally in the Gregory Theatre on Sunday evening. Guest speaker of the evening was Sir Henry Drayton.

THREE FROM GEORGETOWN ELECTED

Three Georgetown real estate representatives are members of the new executive of Brampton Real Estate Board.

They were elected at the annual meeting at North Halton Golf & Country Club last week. Other officers include — Ab Arthur F. Johnson of Johnson Carney Ltd. is the new president; William Hunter, who has owned here and Mrs. Helton Atkins of the H. Fobert Real Estate firm, are members of the Board of Directors.

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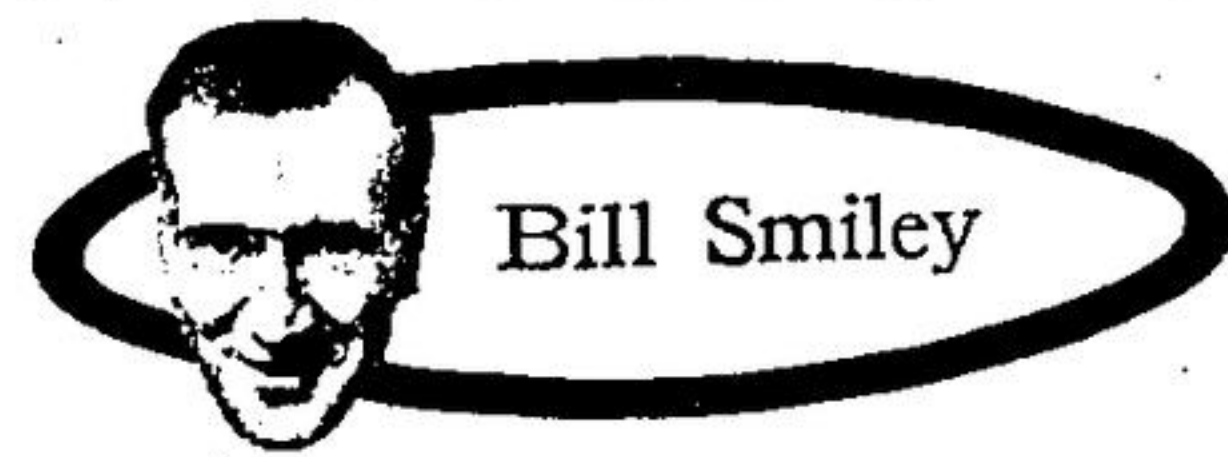
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Bill Smiley

FAT IN THE BACON WAS LEAST OF THEIR WORRIES

It's one of those wild, Canadian nights, with the wind howling like a pack of wolves on an LSD trip, and snow seeking out every crevice. My wife came down today and found a little kid frying manfully to shut our front door, which had been blown open. There was about eight inches of snow in the vestibule, and the furnace was grunting away like a hippo with a hernia.

It's the sort of night when you think with awe of our ancestors. In their draughty log cabins, and their sod houses on the prairies.

They were giants, compared to us pampered, doughy creatures, who whimper about studio, his piano, his advertising, his overhead. Nope. It is a clear case of the vicious and get-sick at the thought that we might not be able to get the car out of the drive in the morning or have power to cook breakfast, most of it out of packages. We simply can't imagine getting up at five in the pitch dark, lighting a lamp, building a fire, breasting it through three or four feet of snow to the barn or lean-to to see whether the animals have survived, feeding them, nuzzling to the bone, and coming back in to make porridge.

A tough life, but in some ways we must envy them. They didn't have to worry about 100 mg cholesterol in the eggs, too much fat in the bacon. They didn't have that demon of the alarm-clock, to tear their tender morning naves.

weren't geared to the clock, they missed some of the joys of modern life. They didn't have ulcers, because they had to do something about their pre-terms, not just worry about them.

They weren't constipated, because they didn't have time, in that cold. Their women weren't so neurotic, because they didn't have time to worry about cancer, gray hair and wrinkles.

It is a hard, brutal life, no question. But were they worse off than we? Maybe their kids had to walk three miles to school through the snow. But wasn't anybody trying to convince them that sniffing nail polish was the greatest.

And the same kids, when they hit their teens, were young men and women capable and independent. My grandmother died at 33. Fatigue and child bearing, as enough in those days. There were nine children. And my mother, the oldest, reared them all.

Most of our kids today could not raise a guinea pig without the help of two parents and a veterinarian.

I am presently trying to convince my daughter that the free-enterprise system has its ups and downs. She has some piano pupils. She thinks it is atrocious that she gets only half the fee the kids pay, a mere \$2 a half hour while the studio owner takes the other half, \$2.

picks her up and delivers her home, that it is his studio, his piano; his advertising; his overhead. Nope. It is a clear case of vicious capitalistic exploitation of the young.

And my mother hitched up the horse and buggy, or horse-and-cutler, and drove all over Calumet Island and half of Pontiac County, giving lessons at fifty cents an hour. And drove the long, dark, lonely road home.

It's not the money. Half a buck then probably was worth more than four dollars today. It's the attitude.

There's nobody to be blamed. They grew up in an era of comparative peace, when a strong back and a strong will gave you a life that was rewarding. We grew up through a division and a world war and sought security. Our kids are growing up in an era of violence and fear and rapid change and insecurity.

And perhaps the last are more idealistic than any of us, closer to the truth, with their slogan of "Love and Peace."

Georgetown Herald

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And maybe because they I point out to her that he