Georgetown Herald

A Division of Home Newspapers Company, Limited
22 Main Street South, Georgetown, Ontario
WALTER C. BIEHN, Publisher

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Locking The Barn ....

If the Ontario Department of Education had listened to the old saw about locking the barn after the horse is stolen, things might be a bit rosier today.

After several years of rushing ahead with inexpensive innovations and encouraging teachers to think the public purse is a bottomless pit, the inevitable is here. School boards are being told to cut budgets, effect economies and stick to per pupil ceiling. And school boards, imbused with what seemed like no limit on spending, are antagonistic.

And well they should be, for it is doubly difficult to drop something once started, to tell teachers the golden age of guaranteed high yearly salary increases is ending.

We don't argue that change is necessary, but today the department of education has been a leader in the theory that change is good for its own sake, and that little of the past should be retained.

We see it in architecture -- cities are busy tearing down fine commercial buildings which could be remodelled. California-style homes are the rage in our country whose climate isn't meant for them. Schools of the old Chapel Street type are old hat and our new ones must have huge glass areas, only to be covered with expensive drapes.

The financial pages of our daily newspapers make enlightening reading. Firms with luxury offices, computerized equipment, lavish expense accounts, report losses today when it was profits yesterday. Hardly encouraging to investors to buy their stock.

Planners and coordinators are taking over what once was done by common sense. When municipal councils contemplate action today, instead of putting their own brains to work on it, they engage a consultant, whether it is to hire an employee, make a change in zoning, renumber streets or decide what to pay a staff.

We hope that the education department is serious in its attempt to hold the line on costs. If too many changes, too many frills are going to bankrupt the province, it will be scant compensation to know that we have the best educated breadline.

New Look Next Week

The Herald will pass another milestone in it more than a century of history next week.

We will be using offset reproduction for the first time and readers will note a decided improvement in visual quality, particularly in clearer pictures and neater advertisements.

Until the fifties, the paper was printed on an old Campbell flatbed press, which older residents will remember. In those days the shop was located in the present Henry's Clothing Store and the old press could be seen from the street as it ground out four pages at a time. In 1928 progress brought a typesetting machines for news copy until then, had been laboriously set by hand, each letter a separate piece of metal.

Moving to our present location, a newer printing press was acquired, and a typesetting machine for the larger type needed in ne headings and ads.

Some years ago, increasing number of pages and copies printed, forced another change. The printing press was scrapped and the Herald printed on a high-speed machine, first in Guelph, then Oakville and later at Brampton. Unfortunately, reproduction quality suffered in the transition, for it is hard to beat the quality which a flatbed process gives.

The Herald will continue to do the bulk of the work in our Georgetown shop. Instead of producing a dozen pages from the original type, which then are converted into metal columns for the Brampton printing, we will now produce proofs of each page on paper. Sent to Orangeville these will be photographed onto metal plates for the final printing.

One major change is that we must have copy material to Orangeville earlier, and cooperation of advertisers, and those submitting news items is being asked. Adjusting to our new deadline will ensure that the weekly Herald issue will be timely and topical.

TURNING BACK TIME

"SEE YOU AT THE DRUMMERS' SNACK"

The Drummers' Snack was an annual day for celebrations in Georgetown. This Drummers' Snack day crowd is gathered in Georgetown Park about 1910.

IN THE MAIL BAG

Snow Covered Walks Plague This Mailman

52 River Drive,

Dear Sir:

I would like to tell the public what it is like to be a letter carrier in Georgetown.

I have never seen so many snow covered public sidewalks in my life as I have here. As I understand it, there is a by-law stating that snow must be removed from all public sidewalks as soon as possible after a snow fall. I have customers who have not shovelled their walks or driveways all winter. They park their cars on the road and expect the mailman to plough his way through the mess they are too lazy to clean up. I also have steps that are a glare of ice. When I refuse to deliver to customers like these they phone the post office with phone calls threatening they will get the whole street to sign a petition against the mailman if he crosses the snow covered lawn.

This subject was talked over with the postmaster who in turn talked to the town foreman but to no avail. He could, within the town formula, there is no way of forcing the public to clean their walks.

I feel that if a small fine was imposed on anyone not clearing their walk the next time and a larger fine each time thereafter, we would have snow situation repeated. With walks not being cleared I have worked at the rate of 6:30 p.m. not even finishing my route for that day in twelve hours.

Come on, people, let's clean our walks. If not for ourselves how about our neighbour.

Attached is a reply from a lady told to clean her walk.

"Had writer's cramp yesterday? Should have had because you know as well as I that most people never shovel snow. We have lived here for 15 years and try to keep the snow shovelled, and for a number of years I tried to push a baby buggy or pull a sleigh through slush.

Why don't you let us get to the root of the problem and have the town enforce the by-law?"

Jack Picard

Cats Can Be Useful But Not Very Often

Well, I've got the snowmobilers of Canada on my back, almost unanimously, after a recent column which suggested mildly that the machines are instruments of Satan at best, the finest tool for noise-stink pollution since the automobile took to the roads.

That makes up about one quarter of my readers. This week I shall alienate another two-quarters of them by giving my unvarnished opinion of cats.

Cats, like snowmobiles, have their uses. They're handy to have around a farm, where they help keep the vermin under control. They have, in the past, been just the thing for the proprietors of some chicken palaces, when the price of chicken was high.

There were some in prison camp presumably to keep down the rats. Their numbers were diminishing with increasing speed until the German camp commandant issued the edictum: "Prisoners will cease and desist killing and eating of long-eared rabbits." He had a sense of humour, which is more than you can say for a cat.

Then, they are useful, when kittens, for putting on calendars. And finally, I'll admit they provide company of sorts for lonely people, who pamper them, stuff them with tidbits, and turn them from sleek felines into bloated, contemptuous parasites who take over the best chair in the house, shed hair over everything, claw the rug and upholstery at will, and want out at five in the morning.

If I should grow old and lonely I would prefer a snake as a pet. Like cats, they just sleep and eat. They also eat mice. But they don't come fawning and whining and rubbing fiercely against your legs when you're getting their food out. They don't want out in the middle of the night. And they don't get *pregnant every six weeks.*

It's a well known fact that cats have no love for anybody. Not even for other cats. A beautiful female will marry any flea-bitten, one-eyed, torn eared philanderer who comes along. And tom cats are just plain sex fiends.

In some ways, cats are like children. When they're kittens, they're sweet and cuddly. And always making a mess. When they grow up, they mooch unashamedly, stay out half the night, sleep half the day. And are always making a mess.

My wife isn't fond of cats, and I loathe them. But we always seem to be stuck with one. Daughter Kim picks up a stray kitten and brings it home. With the deepest misgivings, we adopt the scrawny little wretch. They're always female which we don't find out until too late.

Then Kim breezes off somewhere, and we're guardians and grandparents. There's no parleying about birth control. Kim insists that her protegee must fulfill her function as a female. After the drama of the delivery, and the period of nursing, we have a hysterectomy performed. And in about four months, the slim, sleek, pretty young thing is a great fat cat, knocking off tins and tins of cat food and producing nothing except extreme irritation.

Try to get her to put her out when you think it's 'time' and she darts upstairs and under a bed. Have you ever tried crawling under a bed to catch a cat who doesn't want to go out into the snow? It's a good way to give yourself a stroke, from sheer rage.

Leave her outside and she darts between your legs when you're bringing in armsful of groceries, and high-tails it to safety under another bed, or down cellar, the door of which your stupid wife, or husband, has left open.

The solution, of course, is to have her put away. But somehow I've never been able to accept euthanasia. After all, you don't kill your kids, or even your parents, just because they drive you wild.

Many will not agree with me. But I got off to a bad start this week. All set to go to work Monday morning. Cat in back kitchen, with an odd look on her face. Threw her out. Went into the downstairs powder room, and there was the evidence. Not one but two distinct evidences of massive diarrhea.

It's the only good thing I can say for them. At least they know enough to go to the bathroom.

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A Division of Home Newspapers Company Limited
Georgetown — Ontario

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Leslie Clark — Dave Hastings
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Brian Genoe

IN THE MAIL BAG

Agrees With Editor Reduce Property Tax

173 Brentwood Road North
Toronto, 18.

Dear Sir:

Congratulations on your editorial 'Here's a Platform' in your February 11 issue of the Herald.

It is long past the time when something should be done to at least reduce the property tax for education in our province.

I am very interested in your proposal for a historical society in Georgetown suggested also in that issue. I hope you are able to get it started and that it will be a success.

(Mrs.) Edna Beaumont

SMILE

When the quiz master asked a contestant to "name something beginning with the letter M which you need to make mayonnaise," the girl answered, "Mother."

WITH A STRAIGHT FACE

● A welfare state is one run for the benefit of everyone but the taxpayer.

● You can tell when you're on the right road -- it's upgrade

● Too often a clear conscience is the result of a bad memory

● If you can't stand solitude, maybe you bore others too.

HUNTERS GUN RARELY A FACTOR

Did you know that the killing of a bird temporarily reduces the population of that species by one, while the permanent removal of a nesting shrub or tree in site reduces the production potential of that species forever.

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

DISCUSS PROPOSED FIRE HALL . . .

ERIN — A delegation from Erin township fire department met with Erin township council recently. Chief Bob Cheyne, Deputy Chief Wayne Knight, and Norm Cunningham presented plans for a new cement block fire hall which would cost in the neighbourhood of $18,000.

START EXPRESSWAY IN SPRING . . . .

GUELPH — First phase construction on the city's four lane link to Highway 401 will begin this spring. A contract will be awarded April 7th for the Hanlon Expresssway and work will begin immediately on the stretch. There has been much criticism directed at the expressway's construction because of its feared effect on Hanlon Creek.

OKAY $1,337,000 EXPENDITURE . . . .

BRAMPTON — Council's general committee has approved a 1971 capital expenditure for Brampton of $1,337,000. The approval was granted following receipt of a report from treasurer Margaret McLeod. She stated that it was her opinion that the municipality could adequately finance the projects contained in the five-year capital forecast.

UNHAPPY WITH BOUNDARY . . .

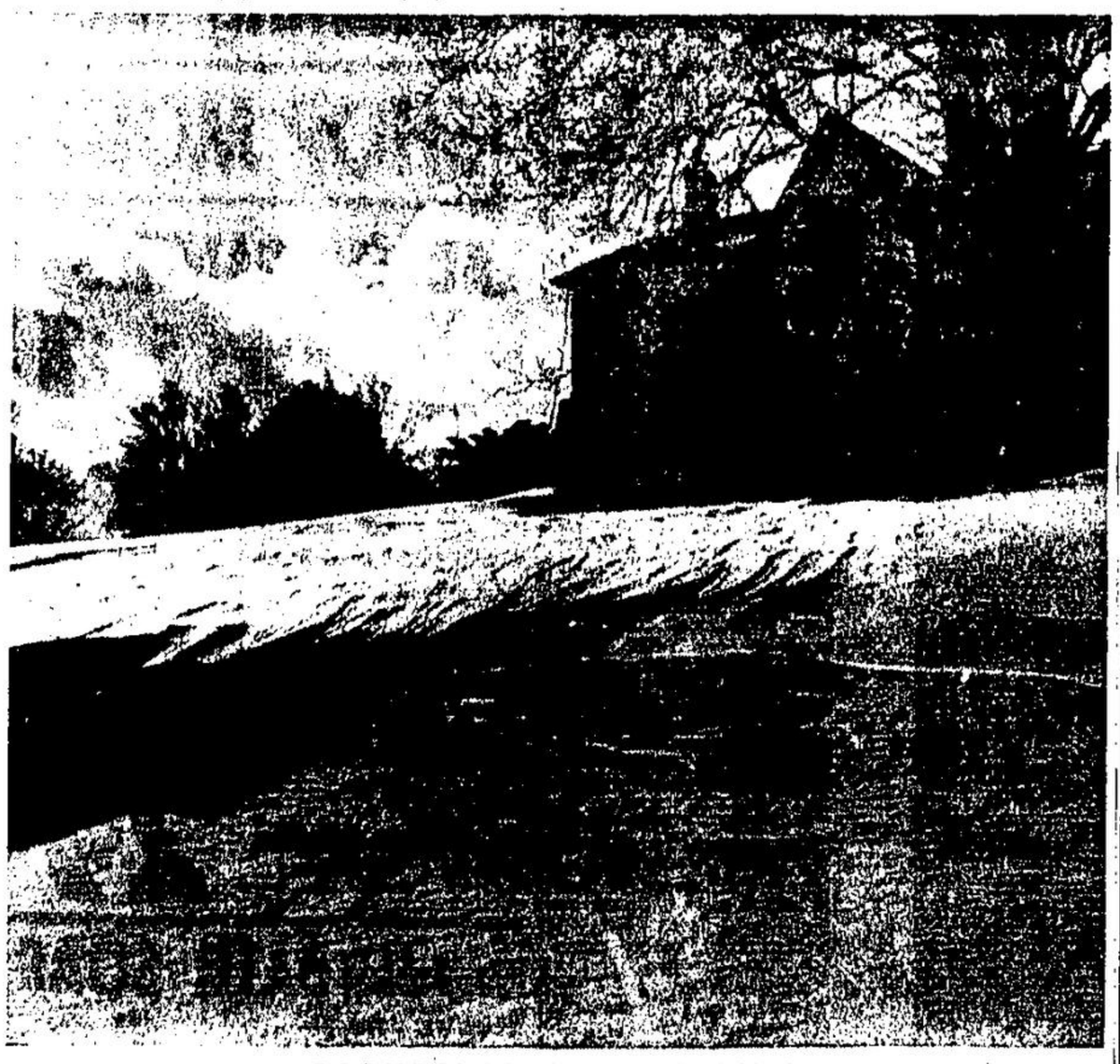
BRONTE — Parents of Eastview Public School pupils in Bronte are opposing a boundary change recommendation being considered by the Halton Board of Education. The parents have voiced alarm over an administration proposal to shift another school boundary which would take in 75 Eastwood pupils.

WOULD TAKE MAIN STREET . . .

MILTON — A Halton County roads committee proposal to take over jurisdiction and control of several streets in Milton -- including its Main street -- between Bronte and Ontario Streets -- ran into solid opposition when broached to Milton council last week. They will seek further information at Halton County Council's next meeting.

DUMP PLAYGROUND PROGRAM . . . .

ACTON — Acton parks and recreation board has decided to junk its traditional summer playground in favour of a co-ordinated recreational program geared to the interest of both young and old in the community. Hiring of a recreation co-ordinator and life guards for the swimming area at Fairey Lake are included in the new proposal.



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