

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Honour . . . and Cash!

A \$3500 cash increase in salary voted by county council to the warden is one more nail in the coffin of honour versus cash for public service.

The position, traditionally for a one term period only, is one to which all municipal politicians aspire.

Just as it is a lifetime honour to have served as a municipal mayor or reeve, it is just so much more so to join the ranks of county wardens.

A \$10,000 salary, plus the \$3,000 or more which a municipal reeve is paid for his localized duties, now makes it one of the most attractive plums available in the county.

If one accepts this new concept of executive pay for the position, there must also be a change if outlook is the public is to get anywhere near its money's worth.

Presently a warden must win a local municipal election to become a municipal reeve. He must then jockey for the top county post when this is decided at the start of a new council's term.

And no matter how good a job he does, he has two hurdles in future if he is to continue in office. He must first win another local election. And he must overcome the tradition of passing the warden's position around from municipality to municipality.

A \$13,000 county position is one which should be held by the best qualified man, and retained for a much longer period than one term, if a man is giving us value for our money.

If, as the salary now implies, the wardenship is to be a full-time job, it should be vied for on a county-elected basis.

Some of the People

If two movies drawing crowds are a criterion, then either an old adage has changed, or people have drastically lowered their idea of what they consider good entertainment.

You can fool some of the people some of the time, and you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time' has been a popular saying.

But Hollywood has belied this with two movies on which we wasted our money and time.

Most disappointing was 'MASH' highly touted by movie critics as a superior production.

If the amateurish, heavy-handed satire in this is indicative of what movie-makers and critics think the public wants, and if the public happily shells

out to sit through it without protests, we're getting what we deserve. We endured half an hour or so, then departed chalking our \$2.50 up to experience.

'Owl and the Pussycat' was another bag.

Here there was no pretention of art. It was an out-and-out attempt to lure patrons with sensationalism. Ridiculously overacted by Barbra Streisand, it included everything vulgar, even the famous word she passed on to Canada's prime minister.

Our movie foray was not altogether lost.

A third 'Lovers and Other Strangers' proved that an adult movie could be produced and acted with good taste. But, sadly, we viewed it in a half-empty theatre, while we stood in line for the trash.

Maybe Up, Maybe Down

A property reassessment, currently in progress in Halton County, will standardize a tax system which has grown over the years in a rather helter-skelter manner, to the advantage of some and disadvantage of others.

Properties are being assessed at market value.

At present, each municipality has its own system, using varying percentages of market value, with an equalization attempted at county headquarters in an effort to put all county residents on the same basis.

It will be a long procedure, and the new provincewide system will not take effect before 1972 at the earliest.

In Georgetown, where assessment has been no more than fifty percent of market value, there will be a sharp rise in assessed value.

Whether this will mean an increase in taxes is another matter.

In individual comparisons, it will depend on whether your home is presently assessed on a lower basis than others of equal value.

Collectively, if Georgetown is improperly assessed, compared with other Ontario municipalities, it could mean a difference in government grants, one way or another, to the detriment or benefit of the local tax rate, in the long run.

MAIL BAG LETTERS

MUST INCLUDE NAME

The Herald Mail Bag column could be even bigger if those submitting letters would remember that name and address must be used with any letter printed.

Several received in the past few weeks have been unsigned.

— or the writer has only given a name with no street address.

If Martha Lucas, for one, will submit an address, we will be pleased to include her letter in a future issue.

The editor, of course, reserves the right to edit or omit any libelous or not in good taste.

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THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

\$16,000 FOR SNOW REMOVAL

ACTON — Acton paid \$16,000 for snow removal during the three month period when snow fell deep and often. The figure includes \$6,000 for labour and \$10,000 for trucks to haul the snow away. The figures do not include the cost of sand, oil and gas.

MORE INDEPENDENCE FOR DEAF

MILTON — In an effort to put more responsibility on the shoulders of the young adult students a "Mature Students in Residence" plan has been introduced at Ontario School for the Deaf. The new program was designed to give students of 18 years of age more independence and responsibility relieving staff of some of the pressures.

TWO CENTS PER TON GRAVEL LEVY

CALEDON — A resolution requesting county council's support in Caledon township's efforts to assess a levy of two cents a ton on gravel hauled out of township pits was endorsed by Peel's General No. 1 committee. The recommendation will be forwarded to county council. The money will be used to rehabilitate the old pits, reforest them and also maintain roads leading to the pits now in operation.

TALLEST DOWNTOWN BUILDING

GUELPH — Construction started last week on the tallest building in downtown Guelph. The real estate building will be a 13 storey complex with stores and offices on the first two floors and apartments on the remaining 11. The target completion date is October.

ENCOURAGING PIGEONS TO TRAVEL

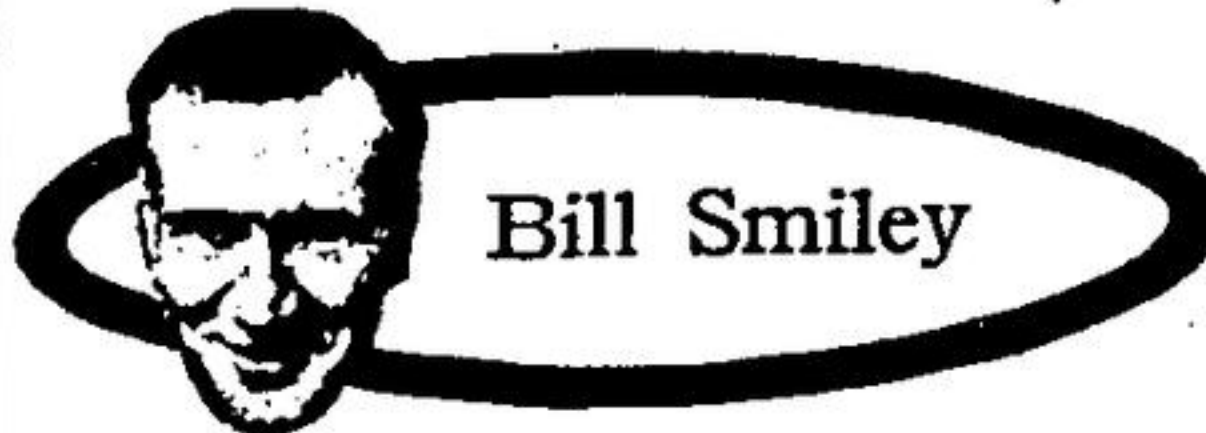
BRAMPTON — Brampton's pigeons will be picking up and heading out for Chinguacousy or Mississauga if Mayor James Archdekin and his council have their way. Mayor Archdekin has asked for authorization to allow the engineering department to buy bird repellent to chase the pesky pigeons off roofs and window sills of municipal buildings. Fire departments have promised to aid the project by offering aerial ladders.

URGED TO BECOME CITY

OAKVILLE — Oakville council last week failed to respond to a recommendation that it ask the Ontario government to grant city status to this lakeshore town. Councillor Richard Day suggested Oakville opt out of Halton County in favour of becoming an independent city. The suggestion came during a discussion on how to gain added voting power on county council.



HUNGRY HOLLOW



Bill Smiley

March Gets Smiley's Goat

One last boot in the behind for March, and then let us leave it and the whole perishing winter that has embattled this land, this year and move on to higher thoughts.

March is known for very little, beyond giving everyone the last, and worst bout of 'flu for the year.

However, we'll give it its due. One of its oldest associates is with Julius Caesar. Wealthy, dictator of Rome, outstanding general, and well on his way to becoming the first emperor of the mighty Roman Empire, he was a victim of March.

Big Julie was taking part in a procession during the Feast of Lupercal, which is neither here nor there. As the parade wended its way to wherever it was going, through the terrible traffic of Rome, which is still terrible, a seer (this is usually a chap who can't see, except into the future) stepped in front of Caesar's chariot. This is a custom, I understand, that is faithfully followed by pedestrians in Rome to this day.

Anyway, the old nut croaked in sepulchral tones: "Beware the Ides of March." Now, in those days, the Ides of March meant the fifteenth of March. This was just a few days away. And when a seer tells you to beware, you'd better be wary. Those seers don't mean you're going to wake up on the given day with a hangover, or even worse, a hang-nail.

Unfortunately, Julius was a bit deaf in one ear and also had his annual March cold and was coughing so loudly he couldn't have heard the last trump. So he missed the message.

Senate. The worst that could occur would be tripping over a cane, or being run over by a wheelchair, or bludgeoned to death by a speech.

However, that is all, as the saying goes, ancient history. The only lesson to be learned from it is that when you hear a seer, don't sneer. Especially in March, Ides of.

Another event for which March is reasonably well known is St. Patrick's Day, the 17th. Perhaps 'reasonably' is not the word here, since it is a celebration of one of the patron saints of Ireland (the other is King Billy) and who ever met a reasonable Irishman?

I'm almost pure Irish, on both sides. But let them keep their precious saints, both Patrick and Billy, in Ireland, where the bog-trotters can bash each other's brains in, their favourite sport.

Must say, it makes my blood run a bit cold, though, when some Canadian with eight drops of Irish blood in him decks out in a green tie and a shamrock and gets into that "Top o' the mornin'" routine.

THE MAIL BAG

WANTS CLEAN-UP FOR UNTIDY VACANT LOTS

149 Mountainview Rd. S.

Gentlemen: Enclosed please find a copy of a letter sent to the Mayor in connection with the Vacant Lots in the Mountainview Rd South and Delrex area.

We would appreciate it if you would include this in your 'Letters To the Mailbag.'

Thank you.

Mr. Wm. Smith, Mayor Town of Georgetown.

Dear Sir: We would like to see something done with the vacant lots on the corners of Mountainview Road South and Delrex Blvd., especially now that our new road is to be built.

In the past two years these lots have been used for accumulating garbage and various other debris as well as causing a tremendous amount of dust to homeowners living around this area. The vacant lots are also very unattractive and a definite depreciation to one's home if selling. It would only seem reasonable and logical that something be done with the lots BEFORE curbs and roads are put in.

We would therefore suggest that you contact the owners of this property, bringing to their attention our complaints and request them to . . .

1. Build Homes on these lots or
2. Sod the vacant lots.

Yours truly,
— Mrs. J. C. McMeekin.

TURNING BACK TIME



DRUMMERS DID THEIR THING ON DIRT ROAD MAIN STREET

Many of the historical pictures of the downtown area in existence were taken during the annual "Drummers' Snack", a parade and picnic staged by the drummers or travelling salesmen. Note the dirt road in this one showing Main St. South.

And it make me want to throw up, every St. Pat's Day, when a Jewish comedian starts tossing around the 'Begorrahs' or an Italian tenor, all misty-eyed, warbles: "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling."

It's as incongruous as a Canadian seventh-generation United Empire Loyalist making a big fuss about St. Wladislaw's Day, or Channukah, or Buddha's birthday. Each to his own, and vive la difference.

See how the month of March gets me worked up? Other months rhyme with something pleasant. June with moon and swoon. July with fly — to Europe or somewhere, September with remember. But March goes with such delightful connotations as starch and arch (as in fallen.)

The only other thing for which March is noted is the vernal equinox, the 21st, the first day of spring, ha ha. Vernal suggests green. Take a look out. Snow white or mud brown. Equinox is from the Latin: equus — horse; nox — night. Spell it nightmare. March, right? Adieu, farewell, auf wiedersehen and aux revoir, March. May you rot in July.

..ECHOES..

- 1961
- Construction of a 51,000 square foot addition to the plant leased by Standard Products on Guelph Street will be completed by midsummer and the present employment of about 40 men and women is expected to double by the end of the year, Tadeusz Englehardt, factory manager, said today.
 - Georgetown High School will become departmentalized next term. At a meeting of the Georgetown and District High School Board, Monday, a list of proposed heads of departments and acting heads was submitted by principal J. L. Lambert and unanimously approved. School enrolment and the volume of teaching periods necessitated the change to departments.
- 1951
- Two brothers sailed for Korea with the Canadian Special Force last week. They are Ron and Allan Edmunds, sons of Mr. and Mrs. George Edmunds of R. R. 1, Georgetown. They are members of the Royal Canadian Regiment. Mike Lorusso, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lorusso of town, is also a member of the group.
- 1941
- Two years ago last summer when Mr. and Mrs. Fred Laws were returning to Georgetown aboard the S.S. Aurania from a visit in England, they dropped a bottle overboard containing their names and address. Last week, Mrs. Laws received a letter with a Danish postmark. It was from a 16 year old boy named Smith Vang who had found the bottle on a beach near Vestmanhaven in the Faroe Isles. The islands belong to the Kingdom of Denmark and lie in the northern Atlantic.

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NO SPRING YET
No matter how much one loves Canadian winters, comes a time when we yearn for spring . . . and this year it's a late, late one.
Even a hint of a sunny warmer day and everyone begins to beam. Then, pow, more snowflakes. And it's April today.

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