

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Hockey Dilemma -

With Legion officials breathing fire, and Georgetown Recreation Committee faced with operating the arena with as little cost as possible to taxpayers, a battle over ice time fees seems to be shaping up.

For years, Legion Branch 120 has been subsidizing Saturday morning minor hockey, last season to the tune of \$7.50 an hour for ice time.

An announced boost to \$15 is something Legion officials won't pay and the Branch says this may force them out of sponsorship entirely.

If this should happen, the town would be faced with finding another sponsor, or with either dropping the sport entirely or footing the total cost of the Saturday league.

The Legion is one of the largest and wealthiest organizations in town. It is problematic that any other group could take over.

Dropping so popular a sport would be

unthinkable.

And if no sponsor were available, the Recreation Committee would have only one alternative - to carry on the league on its own, either footing the bill from the town treasury, or levying a fee for players to compensate, at least in part, for the expense involved.

Perhaps the best solution would be to arrive at a compromise.

If the Legion would carry on at the \$7.50 an hour fee, or a slightly higher one, there could be a player charge added to make up some of the extra expense, and the town could bend a bit and add an extra grant.

Whatever it is to be, we hope there will be a minimum of feuding and recrimination in arriving at a speedy solution to the problem. Minor hockey is such an integral part of Georgetown's winter, that it is unthinkable that it will not carry on.

Pay For All ? -

A policy of paying all persons appointed to serve on town boards and commissions has been proposed by Reeve Morrow.

It would replace the present system where some are paid, some not.

And, while it would cost the town more, it would appear to be only sensible.

The days are long gone when public service was repaid in prestige and the desire to serve one's community.

It was not customary in the forties for any appointed or elected official, from mayor

and council down, to receive even token payments.

Today, with substantial payments to council and school board representatives, hydro and police commissioners, planning board and committee of adjustment members, it would seem only proper to extend this to those on other appointed boards who still serve the old way.

At the same time, council should look into payment for volunteer firemen and ambulancemen, who serve a most important function in the municipality.



The Credit winds through 'Pine Valley', Norval.



BILL SMILEY

Trees Are For The Birds

For years I have been a tree-lover. Not that I knew anything about them, or ever planted any. But I did know the common varieties. And I did have a feeling that they were something special in a world steadily growing more ugly. I had what you might call the "only God can make a tree" syndrome. There was something mystic about trees. I have written ecstatic columns about the trees around our place: the matronly maples; the magnificent oaks; the towering spruce; the virginity elms; the lilacs; the single butter-nut.

I have sat in my backyard and watched them by the hour, deeply moved by the human qualities I gave them. Even that dirty great cedar that drips mucus or something all over the clothesline.

I have been fascinated by the clunking of acorns falling, by the sweet, longing whispers of my two elms, by the muttering of the dowager maples, by the solitary arrogance of my spruce, which I have to crawl under to get into my tool-shed.

But I'm beginning to have doubts, like a priest who has been swept away by something he doesn't quite understand, and then discovers that there's something rotten in Denmark. If not in his own backyard.

That smart you can't quite hear outside my window is a chain saw. The operator is hacking up one of those brooding oaks which came crashing down during yesterday's summer storm, and indispensable of indispensable, the TV cable

wire, both for myself and my next door neighbour.

All I'll get out of that is a bill for \$100 and twelve bucks worth of fireplace wood, too green to do anything but smoulder.

I'd just got back from a long drive in 90-degree heat, logged in all the junk from the car, and settled in the backyard with a cold drink and the evening paper when nature took one of her whims.

For a few minutes, it was enjoyable. The wind came up. The lawn chairs went flying. The acorns rattled, and leaves and twigs hurried down on me. I even went in and called the girls to come out and enjoy the storm.

Then the trees started to twist and dance. Even the mighty oaks were writhing like tormented creatures. I love storms, but when the rain came I dashed for shelter.

I'd suddenly remembered a storm at the cottage, when I was a kid. Same thing. Purple sky. Dead calm. Sudden wind of cyclone force that knocked over giant pines like toothpicks, and a torrent of rain. One 80-foot pine snapped about half-way up and smashed through the roof of the cottage.

It wasn't so bad this time, but one of my oaks, with a girth of about 40 inches, lay there like a stricken bull. It had destroyed a fence, several smaller trees. Fortunately our neighbours had got the kids inside before the real fury of the wind broke, and no one was hurt.

This morning I talked to the hydro man who was stringing new lines. He said he and his mates had worked all through the night, in a driving rain, and laconically

remarked that it wasn't much fun.

But to get back to trees. They provide shade and they're pretty to look at. What else? They shower you with unwanted leaves in the fall. They suck up all the juice and prevent you having a decent lawn.

My two virginity elms have been raped by the Dutch disease and look just like a couple of gentle old maids who have been raped. It will cost \$200 to have them hosed.

My giant spruce is uprooting my garage at a rate of about two inches each year.

My cedar (it must be from Lebanon, I've never seen such a gawky thing in Canada) is little but a rendezvous for maling squirrels.

It would take wild horses, to make me cut them all down, but I'm beginning to think that perhaps trees are for the birds.

Milton, Acton Are Named Top Weeklies

Neighbouring weekly newspapers took high honours in competitions at the convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers association in Vancouver, B.C.

The Milton Canadian Champion was judged best all-round newspaper in the 3000-6000 circulation group.

And the Acton Free Press was first in papers of 2000-3000 circulation.

Both are published by Dills Printing and Publishing Company, established by the late Arlo Dills and now operated by his sons David and Jim.

Milton also was awarded second place for best editorial page.

Another county weekly, the Oakville Beaver, placed third for best editorial page in papers in the over-6000 circulation group.

Three Years' Write-offs Of \$165,838 a Worry

Chinguacousy Township is concerned about a three-year tax write-off totalling \$64,587 and will ask for provincial grants to offset losses.

In a report to the township council from treasurer Raymond King it was shown that tax write-offs on farm assessment for the past three years totalled \$165,838.

The amounts affecting various boards included \$85,518 for education, \$15,732 for the county and \$64,587 for the township.

"Of particular concern to me is the township's portion of the tax write-off," said the treasurer in his report.

"Consideration," he said, should be given by the province to providing sufficient grants to offset the total amount of the tax write-offs, otherwise, if the school board, for instance, were to absorb the amount of the education charge back that would produce a deficit and Chinguacousy in 1972 would have to bear part of that deficit as part of their levy."

96 APPEALS
In a breakdown of the three-year period, he said that there were 96 appeals in the 1968 assessment for taxation. The total farm value appealed was \$3,953,630 and the revised

assessment value \$1,413,795. The total reduction was \$1,639,835 and the 1969 tax write-off \$24,597.52.

In the 1969 assessment for 1970 taxation there were 208 appeals. Farm value appealed totalled \$6,066,510 and the revised assessment value was \$3,148,655. The reduction totalled \$3,917,855. The write-offs for 1970 totalled \$46,394.

\$12 MILLION
Appeals of the 1970 assessment numbered 426 and the value totalled \$12,562,560.

The revised assessment value was \$6,536,690 leaving a total reduction of \$6,025,870.

The 1971 tax write-offs totalled \$94,847.

Residential and non-farmland assessment is not included in any of these figures.

Mr. King told council that the residential and non-farmland amount of \$1,398,000 is still outstanding.

"As we have no knowledge of what will happen or whether any reductions will be made, no consideration has been given to these appeals."

The report was received by council and the municipal staff authorized to meet with provincial representatives.

Old Halton Drug Store Part of Pioneer Village

One of the earliest drug stores of Halton county has reopened at Westfield Pioneer Village at Rockton in Wentworth county.

The store, which was operated by a Dr. Beattie, was located in Kibridge, now part of Burlington, and was built in 1870. Some years ago, it was removed to an adjacent site, and served as a garage, tool-house and storage building. The original site has housed another doctor's office for many years.

On May 1 a construction crew from Westfield Village labelled and numbered every board, door, window and timber in the building, that stood in the back yard of Peter Burns. A child patient of Dr. Beattie, now over 90 years old, assisted in locating the exact position of shelves, counter, business desk and doctor's consulting room.

The consulting room will be furnished with what was known as a dental chair - examining table, and a

parlor stove that was made in Hamilton. Dr. Rudolph from Brantford will be in the consulting room to describe the old drug store to visitors. The original sign will be over the front of the building.

Equipment for the building, including poison bottles, apothecary bottles and scales, pill rollers, colored globes, old patent medicines and prescription records were donated by druggists in Seaford, Norwich, Aylmer, and Woodstock.



Corn harvesting will quickly fill the silos.

You Must Share The Road

You can get a lot out of bicycle riding - peace and quiet and perhaps physical fitness.

But keep in mind, while you commune with nature or pedal the pounds off, just how vulnerable you are.

Bicycles have to share the road with cars and unfortunately many drivers may consider you a nuisance. You're on one of the smallest units on the road and it's not easy for the motorist to see you. Even when he does see you, it is a common error to misjudge the distance of a smaller object. It's important, then, to ride your bicycle defensively.

Although not considered motor vehicles, bicycles are considered vehicles under the Highway Traffic Act and as such the operator of a bicycle must observe the rules of the road, just as when driving a car. The Driver's Handbook provide information about the rules and the traffic signs with which you should be familiar.

For instance, you should obey all traffic regulations, lights, stop signs and one-way streets. Keep to the right side of the road and if in a group ride in single file.

Ontario does not require a bicyclist to have an operator's licence. However, a bicycle must be equipped with a horn, bell or gong, and if you are operating it any time when the Highway Traffic Act requires lights on vehicles it must have a white or amber light on the front, a red reflector or light on the rear and red reflective

material at least 10" long and 1" wide on the back fender; white reflective material at least 10" long and 1" wide on the front forks.

It's a good idea to keep your bicycle in excellent repair. The handlebars and seat should be adjusted to the operator's size (ball of the foot should touch the ground comfortably from a seated position) and tires should be kept properly inflated. Check your bike regularly to see if the brakes are in good order, to clean the wheel bearings and to make sure your wheels are properly aligned.

Controlled access highways are off-limits to bicyclists unless they live on land adjoining the controlled-access highway to which there is no other means of access.

Highways designated as controlled-access highways are: all the 400 series (400, 401, 402, 403, 405, and 406); the Queen Elizabeth, Ottawa Queensway, and that part of No. 27 between the intersection with the Queen Elizabeth and the intersection with No. 7 highway.

Bicycles may also be prohibited by municipal by-laws on a highway within a municipality where the speed limit is 50 mph or more. Where prohibited, signs are posted.

Although Ontario does not require bicycle owners to licence their bikes, some municipalities do require such licences of residents. So you should get in touch with local authorities to find out if you need a licence.

County Council Will Tour Road System at 100 mph

Peel county councillors, engineering officials and members of the press will inspect county roads at 100 mph and at 100 miles an hour, in a scheduled air flight over the county Sept. 2.

"Are the roads in such bad shape that we have to fly over them?" asked Streetsville Mayor Hazel McCallion.

"They are never as bumpy in the afternoon on our bus trips," replied Alton Reeve Ivor McMulla.

In promoting the flying ex-

pedition, Warden Louis Parsons said councillors would be able to see population densities, the route of the new Erin Mills Parkway, and do a complete review of the road program in an hour's flight. Cost of chartering the DC-3 aircraft is \$200 per flight. Councillors and press will be divided into two flights an hour apart late in the afternoon of Sept. 2. "We will be able to see where traffic congestion is at that time," said Warden Parsons.

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