

EDITORIAL COMMENT

No Individual Santas

The provincial government's plan to keep green belt areas around major cities is commendable and still possible.

But it will take more than legislation to enforce it.

It is unfair to farmers to say they must reserve their land for farming in a day when fortunes are theirs for selling for residential or industrial developments.

Just last week a 50 acre farm near Milton changed hands at a reported price of \$365,000. As farm land, it could be worth a tenth of this.

A solution would be to value rural land at a fair price that it would bring for such purposes, acquire the land, then rent it for

farming, or sell it, with the buyer knowing that he is buying it for agricultural purposes.

Such a plan would need some ironclad rules, and a sharp eye to ensure that the public would not be hoodwinked. But it wouldn't be impossible.

One cannot expect individuals to be Santa Clauses for the greater good of Ontario's future.

Farm land, as a buffer zone and green belt between cities is just as important as conservation areas like Terra Cotta and Kelso, used strictly for recreation. And just as the public pays for conservation land, it should pay for farm land as well.

About Pictures

Occasionally in the past few years, two pictures of the same size have been inter-switched in a Herald issue. Once or twice, a blank has appeared where a picture was intended.

And last week, a picture was reproduced in reverse.

For those who wonder, here's the explanation.

The Herald is composed at our Georgetown plant.

Until recently the final printing was done in Brampton. Originals of pictures were sent there, reproduced in plastic on a scanographing machine, then glued to the metal plate for the final printing.

There was a margin of error. One week a shipment of pictures went astray and could not be located in time. The Brampton staff were not familiar with local

names, and, despite identification on the back of the original pictures, sometimes pasted them in the wrong slots.

The error margin still exists, with one new hazard. In the new 'offset' printing process, the original pictures are rephotographed, and the printing is done from a negative. And it is possible to reverse the negative.

Such was the case last week, when a picture taken at a Liberal picnic, showed party leader Robert Nixon and local Liberal Doug Fendley, shaking hands (left hands) while four others at the picnic looked on. The identification lines below the picture, named those in reverse order to the way they appeared in the picture.

This week we are reproducing the picture, as it should have been.

Fall Fair's Coming

School's in next week, daylight hours growing shorter, and warm summer days fewer.

But there is still one big attraction before we settle in for winter.

Georgetown's annual fall fair is coming - October 2, to be specific.

It is an eagerly awaited event in town and country alike, and only on a few occasions has it been hampered by bad weather.

Last year was one. A heavy rainfall that day made it almost a fiasco. The park ended up a sea of mud, many events were cancelled, and fair board directors and public were cheated of the results of weeks of preparation.

This year, we hope for a return to a fine fall day.

There is nothing which quite equals a small town fair when the weather has just a tang of autumn, with that soft fall air tinged with a hint of cold.

It's a visiting day as well, when former residents return to see their friends, and there is a reunion atmosphere in the park. Attractions may not be so glamorous as at the bigger fairs, but to a youngster a merry-go-round or a ferris wheel doesn't have to be giant size. And hall exhibits are much more interesting when you know the man who grew the vegetables, or the woman who produced a knitted article.

We urge every district person to reserve October 2 for a visit to the fair.



MAYBE THEY OUGHT TO CONSULT THIS THINK-TANK

Queen's Park

Stern, Gradual Approach to The Quarries Quandry

By Don O'Hearn

There have been few more troublesome problems before the government in the past few years than control of pits and quarries.

On the one hand sand and gravel are very vital to our booming development.

But, on the other there is no question that quarry operations have scarred much of our landscape and contributed noise and dust pollution and other nuisances which society won't stand for today.

POTENTIAL DANGER

The problem has been how do you go in and stop these overnight and how far do you go.

A drastic, immediate action by government could have been seriously detrimental to the economy.

A sharp increase in the cost of aggregates could have jeopardized much building and had a serious impact on employment.

Yet, at the same time there had to be control for the future.

Common sense called for a stern but gradual approach and this essentially is what the government has ended up by adopting.

FIRM POLICY

The new Pits and Quarries Act makes it clear that firm policy for the future will be that protection of the environment is an essential in pit and quarry development.

There will be insistence that this development is planned and that there must be rehabilitation so that it doesn't scar the landscape. Since the act went through the house, there have been two important developments.

One is that Mines Minister has announced that by this time next year he will have a dozen inspectors on the road policing quarry development. An essential, of course, of any good control policy.

The second is that an inventory is to be taken of the sand and gravel resources of the province.

One development out of this could be that in the case of more highly built-up areas, aggregates would have to be brought from greater distances to protect the quality of life in these communities.

BERNIER PROBLEM

Incidentally, new Mines Minister Leo Bernier was handed quite a bit on his platter when he was given this field to administer.

It is a complex field for any minister to try and grasp and then to defend in the face of the political complexity which has surrounded it. To Mr. Bernier's credit it seems that he is getting on top of the problem.

SMILE

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



BILL SMILEY

FAREWELL, OLD CAR

Well, it looks as though any more travelling I do before summer bids us farewell will be on foot. Kim passed her driving test today.

It was a pretty tense morning for both of us. She was afraid she might fail her test. I was afraid she might pass it.

Just to complicate matters, she turned up for her test at 9.30 a.m. only to discover that she was slated for 3.30 p.m. She claims it was my mistake, but knowing my daughter I have a good idea who made the error.

However, the chaps giving the tests managed to work her in at 10 a.m., when someone else failed to show up. So that meant I had time for only about ten cigarettes as I waited, pretending to read the morning paper. But it gave me a chance to look at the people preparing for their tests. Quite a cross-section. They ranged from a skinny 16-year-old boy who wanted a driver's license for his motor-cycle, to an old chap with a hearing aid and almost blind in his left eye. Both passed, but I hope I never meet either on the highway.

Then a couple of former students of mine walked in. They are the type who have probably been driving for several years without a license and have finally been nailed. They are pleasant lads, but while neither is dumber than an ox, neither is smarter.

Their procedure was typical. They filled out the application cards wrong, and had to do them over again. When Mike was asked by the officer where he lived, he jerked his thumb at Peter and said, "Two houses down from him", while the officer rolled his eyes. He wanted an address.

Then the pair sat down at the long table to fill out the written test. Ten minutes later they were sitting, brows furrowed, with about three out of forty squares ticked off. I tossed them a word of encouragement, "It might be easier if you could read and write, eh?"

Unfazed, they just grinned. Peter retorted, "Yeah, we shouldn'ta gonna sleep in all them there English classes". Fine physical specimens both, they'll probably make excellent but dangerous drivers.

I'm not implying that the driving tests are easy. They're quite tough. When I got my license, the job of testing aspirants was a political sinecure. The tester told me to arrive at his place of business at 6.00 p.m. He locked up the store, told me to drive him home, about eight blocks, I gave him two bucks, and that was it.

When my wife got hers, some ten years later, it was the same procedure. The police chief had her pick him up at the office, they drove around three or four blocks and she took him home to lunch. (At his place, not ours.)

Today there's a whole battery of physical tests, a written test on the rules of the road, and the actual driving test. A good many people are flunked, and I'm all for that. What I'd really like to see is a compulsory test for every driver about every two years, and a good stiff one.

Could you pass, Jack, with your colour-blindness? Could you pass, lady, with your total inability to parallel park? Could you pass, Grandad, with your arthritis? I think a great many of us would be put out to pasture. Anyway, Kim returned. I expected to see her with a face as long as a foot. She was beaming. My heart sank.

There's going to be a fight here every day until she gets back to school.

REPRINTS

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Doctor, Not Patient, Decides When House Call Necessary

34 Main St. S.

Dear Sir: With the recent constant bickering between the medical profession and its critics the public must be tiring of the same old arguments. However, I feel that your recent editorial "Emergencies Most Important" must be answered.

I object to a number of your comments, but to save space I will reply to three of them: house calls, working hours of doctors, and lack of an emergency call system in Georgetown.

Doctors still make house calls today, but there is a subtle difference. Today, unlike "the good old days", it is the doctor who decides whether a house call is necessary, not the patient. Virtually all minor problems and most major illnesses are best seen in the doctor's office or the hospital. The facilities available

are known quantities resulting in a more accurate diagnosis and higher quality of patient care. The only real disadvantages are patient inconvenience and lack of transportation. If a patient has a major sudden illness such as a heart attack, it is still much to his benefit if he is swiftly taken to the hospital. In such a case usually there is little real (other than psychological) value of the physician going to the house. The ambulance system in Georgetown is so efficient that often the ambulance could be at the house before the doctor.

House calls are inefficient. They take more time and much of the doctor's time is spent driving rather than practicing medicine. House calls cost O.H.S.I.P. more money (50 percent more than an office call).

Numerous surveys have been made on the number of hours doctors work each week. It all depends on the method of

calculation, but it varies between 60 and 80 hours a week. Today when a doctor works, he is usually working steadily. Twenty years ago, he often worked sporadically 24 hours a day with no specified rest period. Today he can rest between working hours knowing that there are probably some hours of uninterrupted sleep. Even so, most Georgetown physicians are on 24 hour, week long call, for their obstetrical patients.

This leads me to my last and most important point. This is where I feel that you have let the doctors down. Ever since the hospital opened, there has been a doctor on call in the emergency department. He is not required to be in the hospital at all times, but it is expected that he should be readily available.

With perhaps one exception, all the doctors in Georgetown in the past five years have arranged among themselves an emergency call system. This ensures that their patients are covered when they are on free time or away on holiday. There may be the odd occasion where there is a mix-up as to which doctor is taking another's calls, but there is never any problem as to which doctor is on call at the hospital.

I realize that you might have obtained your information from a usually reliable source (which was wrong on this occasion). I do know that it was not from either a local physician or the hospital administration. If your comments were left unanswered, the people of Georgetown would just go on thinking that there was no physician available in case of emergency.

I feel that either a retraction or suitable explanation is in order. Yours sincerely, A.W. Ashenhurst M.D.

FARM PONDS

Most farm ponds serve a number of purposes. They provide water for livestock, irrigation, spraying and fire protection. And a relatively low investment can increase the recreational value of farm ponds by providing good fishing according to agricultural engineering specialists J.P. Myslik of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

Government Erred, Reversed Names of Two Townships

R.R.1. Georgetown, Ont.

Ne. sauga y.onk - 16 Mile Creek having two outlets (that is having an island at its mouth)

The letter from the Lieutenant-governor to the Surveyor General dated April 2, 1819 naming the upper townships by the Indian names of the principal rivers draining them was apparently in error as the names were switched. It named the westerly township drained by the 12 Mile Creek, Nassagaweya instead of calling it Esqueping. Similarly the centre township (the present Esqueping) should have been called Nassagaweya. This shows that mistakes occurred in government offices even in those days!

In any event the Indian translation of the two names as shown in Mr. Jones' list would appear to be correct and the township names should have been reversed. Also Esqueping means "Last out Creek" instead of "Land of the Tall Pines". Yours very truly —Ben Casey