

Georgetown Herald

A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited

22 Main Street South, Georgetown, Ontario

WALTER C. BIEHN, Publisher

Page 2 GEORGETOWN HERALD, THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1972

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Less Secrecy, Please

When Georgetown's new council starts meetings in the new year, we hope for less secrecy in conducting the town's business.

The past year, particularly, has been noted for its number of committee-of-the-whole meetings, barred to the press.

We do not think there is any deep, dark plot to keep back information from the public.

And we realize that a closed meeting can have advantages to a council in allowing members a better chance to solve differences and present more of a united front to voters.

But the effect on the press in reporting matters of public interest can be disastrous.

A reporter is faced with a situation at open meetings where he has no background on which to draw. When motions are being discussed, he is in the dark about what has gone before, hears only snatches of the subject, and cannot present the whole picture in the news columns.

There are times when 'in camera' meetings are necessary.

We do not dispute these when discussions are being held on personnel, or on matters where the town may be appearing in court in legal suits.

But we cannot believe that there are as many such discussions as the number of private meetings would indicate in 1972.

Not So Merry Christmas

News of the impending closing of production facilities at one of Georgetown's major industries is scarcely happy holiday news.

Directly, it affects a couple of hundred employees, who must find other work in the new year.

And indirectly, it is a blow for the town at large, closing potential future employment for others, and abandoning production in a plant which was one of the most modern in this area.

It is some consolation that General Fireproofing will retain its building as a sales, showroom and distribution centre, although employment in these areas will be much less than it is with a production line.

One cannot argue with statistics, however, and if a

company cannot make a profit on its production, there is only one thing to do.

Georgetown has weathered industrial catastrophes in the past, closing of such businesses as the Provincial lower papermill, Dayfoot Shoe, Brill Hosiery, Sykes Tool, Essex Cabinets, Clay Products, Federal Sales, Plax, Henry Davis Wood Products.

These have been replaced by companies like Varian Associates, Eagle Signal, Twin Cee, Inmont, T. D. Williamson, Clay Equipment, Glen Knitting, Baltimore Aircoil, Economy Forms.

It is an example of why a community cannot coast on present industry, and must constantly be on the alert for new.

News From Ottawa

Halton's new member of parliament, Terry O'Connor, has started a column, which he is sending to all newspapers in the county, to keep constituents informed of his activities in Ottawa.

His first column last week, and the follow-up in this issue, indicate that Mr. O'Connor is a first class writer who can put words together in an interesting way.

Readers, no matter of what political persuasion, should enjoy his columns and we look forward to those which will follow, if he can keep up the interest standard indicated in those published to date.

Our last Ottawa news notes were from another member, Rud Whiting, who represented Halton well, and became a private citizen again following Mr. O'Connor's win

at the polls this fall.

When two good men seek office, only one can win.

We shall miss Mr. Whiting.

He gave his best to the job, and handled the difficult job of looking after the business of his constituency, while also doing his share in the major business of Canada.

A politician must be prepared to accede to the wishes of voters, and accept the fact that more people want another party, and another person to act for them at Ottawa.

Mr. O'Connor seems to be an excellent replacement to continue the tradition of strong Halton representation in the federal government.

In the Mail Bag

"Town Can't Handle What They Voted For"

9 Jessop Court,

Dear Sirs:

I would like to make a few comments on the Georgetown elections and the letter in your Mail Bag Dec. 7 issue. I agree with S. R. Harris in stating you were remiss in not presenting the issues. I'm glad to see there are others who feel the same as I do.

I would like to quote a few sentences of his if I may:

"Some people would argue that a newspaper does not have the right to choose sides or commit itself to a course of thought or action. The Georgetown Herald, however, has not even commented on the different issues in this election nor has it made any attempt to search out the opposing viewpoints or to analyse them."

I disagree that you "did not have a course of thought or action." You deliberately omitted the platform of such good, honest, hard working candidates such as Joan Smith and printed instead garbage such as — "The Georgetown Volunteer Firemen endorse ... when you knew a statement was issued by the Fire Chief denying this. Also that piece of junk by the real estate gentleman (?) against Phil Siddall. If not being a Lions member or coaching little league hockey was all they could gather against Mr. Siddall, he must be just about the best man we have on council. I think by the results of this election you attained exactly what you set out to do."

I'm also tired of hearing about east end, west end, old town, new town. I thought this was Georgetown and it's about time the so called old town realized that what the so called new town fights for we all get as a town not divided sections.



BILL SMILEY

Man's Inhumanity Goes On and On

There's a typical Canadian tragedy in the making right now, and it may be too late to avert it, unless there is a hue and cry that will rattle the halls of parliament.

I use the word "typical" because it has happened again and again in this country, and we have lived to regret it. Prompted by political or pecuniary motives, Canada has gone a long way toward destroying its very self and the things that make it most dear to the average Canadian.

I am referring to pollution and the disturbance of the balance of nature. In the name of progress we have fouled our own nest, time and again, until an outsider would think we enjoyed living in our own mess.

Item. Lake Erie, with some friendly help from our old buddies, the Yanks, has been turned into a vast cesspool, which is almost unreclaimable.

Item. Paper mills and other industries have been pouring their poisons into Lake Superior for years.

Item. If you took a drink of water out of Hamilton bay, you'd probably be rusting within twenty-four hours.

Item. Huge industries continue to belch into the air over our big cities, until you'd think there was a continual fall of black snow.

Item. Two of our magnificent rivers, the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, are being run, open sewers.

That's a very brief sampling. And now that idiot Bourassa, prime minister of

Quebec, in an attempt to save face after mishandling everything from the FLQ kidnappings to the unemployment situation, has launched the James Bay Project.

Maybe you don't know much about it, and it's all so far away that it's like a flood in China.

But that's what we thought about all the other signs of "progress," is it not? "Oh, they'll never pollute the Great Lakes. They're too big. So dump the garbage boys, and flush out the tanks."

"What? Pollute the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence? Impossible. Too much running water. Why should we build a sewage disposal plant? Let 'er run into the river."

"Don't be stupid. Squawk about the big plants polluting and there won't be no jobs for nobody."

We've said it all, and heard it all. But what heritage are we leaving behind for our children, and theirs? A great big pile of you know what.

Letting Bourassa and his boys play around with the James Bay project is like letting a couple of bright science students play around with a nuclear bomb.

Here's the picture. The Quebec government plans a hydro project in the James Bay area, one of the last great wilderness areas in eastern North America. It is a mammoth scheme. Some estimates place the cost at \$10 billion. Yep. Billion. Where is that kind of money going to come from? Plan is to tinker with up to

terested enough, to take a look at the proposed development map of Georgetown and see what's planned for the downtown area.

— Mrs. J. Anderson



SNOW WONDER

ten dams and seven rivers which run into James Bay. The damage to the area affected, 170,000 square miles, larger than the whole United Kingdom, is incalculable.

The sub-soil, known to be unstable, has taken hundreds of years to build up on the solid rock. The tremendous weight of water in the artificial lakes — some of them 70 miles long — could cause earthquakes, landslides, who knows what?

The lakes themselves are big enough to affect the climate of the whole area. Worse, the change in fresh water flow into James Bay could delay the spring breakup in the Bay, and make winter longer. This could affect the temperature of the water flowing out of Hudson Bay, which joins the Labrador current going south, and this in turn could make the whole eastern seaboard colder.

Project this a little further and it could affect the entire fishing industry on the Atlantic shores.

And worst of all is the callous disregard of the native peoples of the area. They are Cree Indians, who eke a meagre living from the fish, geese, and moose of this bleak area. These people have never been conquered, never sold their land, and never ceded it by treaty. They are to be uprooted and transplanted.

So we have the ironic spectacle of the federal government on the one hand creating vast new national parks, and on the other, condoning, if not approving, the possible destruction of another vast area. This is not progress. This is rape.

And for what? Sure it will create temporary jobs in Quebec for a large number. A few people will become wealthy.

But it will do nothing for the long-term unemployment situation in Quebec, where unemployment seldom goes below ten per cent. In a few years the jobs will be finished, a few guys at push-button will be left, and the U.S. will have another source of power. At what cost?

GEORGETOWN HERALD
Established 1865
Telephone 877-2201

WALTER BIEHN
Publisher

GARFIELD MCGILVRAY
Production Manager

TERRY HARLEY
News Editor

FRANK MULLIN
Advertising Manager

AILEEN BRADLEY
Accountant

Anne Currie, Valerie Curuso, David Hastings, Myles Gilson, John McLemments, Joan Davis, Joyce VanBelinder

CARRIER CIRCULATION
Mr. and Mrs. N. Eyre
Telephone 877-4067

Single copy 15c
Mailed subscription \$7.50 yearly

O'CONNOR'S OTTAWA



I outlined briefly last week some of the background of the North Atlantic Assembly meeting which I attended as a Canadian delegate in Bonn, West Germany. This week, I would like to set out some of the lighter, less ponderous aspects of the trip.

In true Germanic tradition, the conference was run with utmost efficiency, meetings starting crack on time, bells, buzzers, and lights indicating and recording the delegates wishes, and simultaneous translation in English, French and German of every word spoken. Our meetings, both committee and plenary, were held in the "Bundestag", the parliament buildings of the West German Government. Security was extremely tight, with the buildings surrounded 24 hours a day by machine-gun toting soldiers, dressed in field fatigues. On one occasion, I left my identity badge in the hotel. I talked and cajoled in faltering German, attempting to gain entry, but eventually gave up and trotted the few blocks back to the hotel to retrieve the badge. I had the feeling that Willy Brandt himself could not have got me through the security checks into the conference without that magic little plastic button.

BUSTRIFF

On another occasion, on the one morning off, the delegates and wives were treated to a bus trip to Cologne. Our convoy of four buses was preceded by two police cars, followed by one and paralleled by another, all with lights flashing and horns hee-hawing in true "Mission Impossible" fashion. As we travelled through Bonn, along the Autobahn and into Cologne, the police, with finely executed military precision, ran a moving blockade of all entrance and exit ramps to the highway, supposedly to ensure security and a quick passage.

I feel we saved all of about seven minutes on the trip and undoubtedly attracted much more attention (with attendant security problems) than if we had all walked along the middle of the highway led by Ted Kennedy.

STIFF UPPER-LIPPED

However, not to be critical, the German government was a most solicitous and gracious host, and of course was attempting only to discharge its responsibility of returning the delegates home with all the limbs and faculties with which they arrived.

The British, especially the members of the House of Lords, were generally very stiff-upper lipped. However, two elderly Lords, during one long plenary session, were wont to fall into a snoring sleep, side by side. Oc-

casional, very occasional, applause from the speaker brought their heads briefly and simultaneously snapping up, only then to nod slowly back down, chin's again resting on wilted bougainevias.

NO PAIRING

Well, as much as the trip was a working affair, it did provide a brief interlude after a long and arduous election campaign. However, the serious and, I suspect, nerve-racking business of operating a minority government lies ahead of us. We are advised by the party whips that there will be no "pairing" permitted, that is, the practice of a member agreeing with another member across the aisle to not vote unless both are present to vote. This type of arrangement, long a parliamentary tradition, allows for members to be absent on government or committee business without jeopardizing his party's voting strength in the House.

Thus, most of my time after January 4, will be spent close to my Ottawa office. However, anyone with a problem, idea, comment or who simply wants to get in touch with me, please stop by or call my hiding office at 326 Lakeshore Road East, Oakville — 844-0222. I will try to contact you the same day.

In the Mail Bag Grateful to Stranger Who Got Involved

14 Elgin St. Georgetown, Ont.

The Editor, Georgetown Herald.

Dear Sir:

In this day of "not getting involved" I would like your readers to know about a man who did.

A couple of weeks ago, my two boys along with two

other boys were involved in a car accident on the way to a mid-week church service. I was already at church because my children were walking with friends. Unfortunately the boys never did get there as they were struck from behind by a car.

My youngest boy was lying on the road screaming for his mommy. While the police were going about their necessary duties in a case like this, a man in a truck came along and heard Alan screaming for his mom. He found out from Paul where I was, and came to get me. He took me past the street where the accident was to make

sure that the ambulance had left, and then he took me out to the hospital.

This kind man had compassion on a small boy. He also took the time from his busy schedule to taxi around a stranger.

Because of my concern for the children at the time, I didn't even thank him. I found out later that the man is Grant Baker who runs the Silver Creek Service Center. I thank God for Grant Baker and others like him, who will take the time to get involved.

Yours sincerely,
Gail Monaghan.



"The Faith of a Little Child" ... Let Us Attempt to Regain It

Almost everyone is familiar with the letter written to a little girl in the late 1800s by Charles Dana, Editor of the New York Sun newspaper.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." The words are famous all over the world, and have been translated into many languages.

In this year 1972 it epitomizes the same need to believe in the simple realities, not necessarily in the hard facts; sometimes they are immaterial, secondary to the spirit that is intended.

With the world full of torment and divisiveness, of raging wars and revolution, there is more need than ever today to hold to the Spirit of Christmas. Believe what you like about the divinity of the Christ, of the miracle birth, of the angels appearing to the watchmen, shepherds, of the Star that led the Wise Men to the place where He lay. Believe or not, no thoughtful person can discount the beauties of the Christmas Season.

It may be necessary to strip away the tinsel (though in itself it is only an embellishment to something possibly very real). It may be necessary to close your ears to the commercial din which descends on American cities and towns as early as October!

It may be necessary to overlook the feverish exchange of gifts that pyramid in importance or monetary value without any spiritual substance whatever.

It may be necessary to dig deep for the true beauty of Christmas, in our own lives and in the lives of those who touch us, day to day.

This year let the spirit of Christ "do its own thing", on its own precious terms.

Let us give freely of ourselves, without thought of return.

Let us put aside old resentments, old feuds, corrosive habits which splinter our souls.

Let us "run" to welcome our neighbor, of any color - or any persuasion - even the bigot, for he is the loneliest of all.

Let us be joyous, with hope that springs from faith that we and all mankind can work toward a new year with "goodwill to all!"

Let us work. And let us pray to that Great Spirit, Father of all, that He will guide us along our path, always.

For, as Charles Dana wrote to Virginia seventy-four years ago:

"The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see... Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond..."

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

OPTOMETRIST
L.M. Brown, R.O.
47 MAIN ST. N. Suite 1.
For Appointments phone 877-2671

Please present Health Insurance Card.

OPTOMETRIST
R.R. Hamilton, R.O.
116 Mountainview South Carrel Building

For Appointment 877-3971

Please present Health Insurance Card

WATCH REPAIR JEWELRY SERVICE
Accutron Service Centre

JOHN BOUGHTON
JEWELLERS
Certified Watchmakers

R. E. CLIPSHAM
Consulting Engineer
Ontario Land Surveyor
877-2211
116 Mountainview Road South

Evans Chiropractic Clinic
120 Guelph Street
877-7333
By Appointment

ALPINE HEALTH CLUB
SUMMER FUN IN WINTER
12 Wesleyan St.
877-9531

BARRAGER'S
Dry Cleaners and Shirt Launderers
877-2279
18 Main St. S. 166 Guelph
Free Pick-up and Delivery
All work done on premises

MASSEUR
KARL J. STREUTKER, REG. M.
119 Mountainview Rd. S. Georgetown
For appointment 877-1727

CHIROPRACTOR
G.W. Corbett, D.C.
69 Mill Street, Georgetown
For Appointment
PHONE: 877-4631

CARPET CLEANING
CARPET CLINIC
Professional Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning in Your Home or in our Modern Plant
Free Pick-up and Delivery

CARPET CLINIC
459-4140

MONUMENTS
POLLOCK & CAMPBELL
DESIGNS ON REQUEST
Inspect our work in Greenwood Cemetery
PHONE 621-7580
62 Water Street North GALT

WYNFIELD KENNELS
breeders of Irish Softers
Shetland Sheep dogs
Papillons
Boarding for all breeds.
17 Sideroad (Maple Ave. W.)
Georgetown, Ont.
877-9952