

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Two Sides

The question of conflict of interest is much to the fore in government these days.

Minor scandals in the provincial government have led to Queen's Park demanding that elected provincial politicians disclose any private holdings which could make them vulnerable to charges that these conflict with their public duties.

Members of the new Toronto city council have followed suit, and made public some or all of their investments. At least one metro mayor went further and disclosed the whole fortune of his wife and himself.

At Georgetown's Meet the Candidates Night last fall, pertinent questions were asked from the floor of candidates.

Halton Board of Education is discussing banning teachers from serving on boards of education. Some board members claim that because teachers are paid by legislative grants, they cannot be impartial as elected trustees. Nor should a member of the teachers' federation be able to take part in salary negotiations which can indirectly affect his own salary.

(Teachers cannot be members of the board which engages them, but can serve on another board.)

While one can argue that those who oppose teachers serving on education boards are justified in their claims of conflict of interest, it is a tricky question which cannot be dismissed in a simple way.

One could debate, too, whether a member of any union should be allowed to hold office as a councillor.

At some stage of his service, he will be taking part in discussions which set salaries and employment conditions for municipal employees who are members of unions. And the same argument could be used here, as in the case of teachers.

If all possible interest conflicts barred men and women from public office, the end result could limit councillors and members of appointed boards to a very small segment of society.

We could end with only retired or unemployed people, housewives, whose husbands had no conflicting connections and students, whose parents ditto.

It appears that it is impossible to set absolute standards, and we must continue to rely on the honesty of those who serve, or, if subterfuge is being used, on fellow councillors and the public to act as watch dogs.

Still Room Here

Georgetown can be thankful that, for at least a few years, we can dispose of our own refuse.

Metro Toronto is having major problems in waste disposal, and has been seeking solutions, such as carting it by train to rural areas.

Each prospective site meets with violent opposition.

A new landfill site, in Georgetown's industrial park, if approved, will serve Georgetown for at least a decade.

But Georgetown, too, may someday be faced with the same problem.

It is to be hoped that govern-

ment will be seeking more permanent solutions to a mushrooming problem in metro areas.

Emphasis on recycling of paper, metal and glass waste must be intensified.

Methods of compacting certain wastes into usable products must be studied.

And an affluent society must be encouraged in every way to discard a minimum of garbage.

We cannot allow desecration of lovely rural areas in the name of waste disposal, if other solutions can be found.

More High School News

Thanks to two enterprising young high school students, The Herald will keep readers better informed about interesting events at the school.

Larry Broadfield and Larry Bushey have volunteered to contribute such news, and their first efforts appeared last week.

Their items were well written and informative, and we look forward to many more.

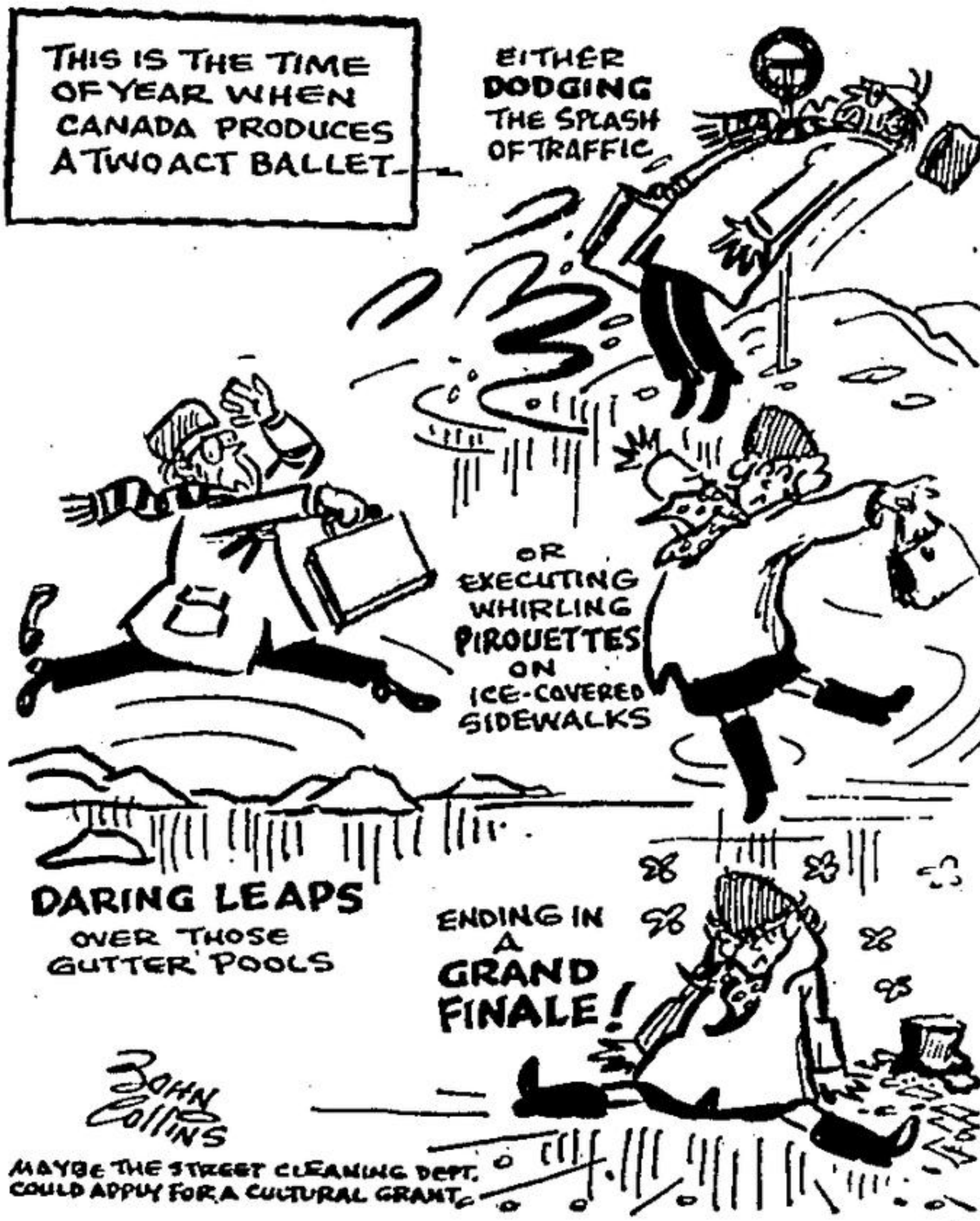
Contributing high school news is an excellent way for young aspirants to an editorial career to get practical experience.

The Herald's news editor is a case in point.

It was his contributions to a Herald high school column which led to Terry Harley joining the newspaper staff here, in what, we hope, has been a mutually beneficial exchange.

Writing in the school paper gave Mr. Harley experience and confidence, and attracted the attention of The Herald at a time when we were expanding.

If one or both of the two Larrys aspire to a career in writing, we hope that their experience as columnists will be helpful.



THE WINTER BALLET

Farm Editorial

Get Involved in Land Use Planning

by HENRY STANLEY
Halton Ag. Rep.

Farm people are the victims of urban and technological sprawl. Urban sprawl is evident along the roadsides of our County, with the multitude of rural non-farm homes. Technological sprawl is the spreading of hardware across our beautiful countryside—hydro, telephone, and gas lines and highways.

Choice land is a constantly diminishing resource, being consumed each year for non-agricultural purposes. Thus, the questions—Should we be concerned about the future of our land? Should farmers get involved in Land Use Planning?

Most farmers are confused about this topic. They never really get involved until an Official Plan is presented to them and a meeting held to discuss it. Most farmers feel that it is useless to try to change the plan at this stage and don't even bother to get out and discuss the plan. Farm people should and must become involved in these plans from the start. When they are being drafted, Land suitable for agriculture can then be set aside as such at the beginning rather than that which is left over when all other uses for land have been filled.

Many feel that "Land Use" planning must be done at provincial or at least the regional level. Municipal land use planning will not likely result in the best use of land as many of

the municipal councils have come under the control of the non-farm residents.

Many farmers fear the possibility of lower land value if their land is frozen for agricultural use. This eliminates the speculative potential which has always been looked upon as retirement income. On the other hand, others look upon this freezing of value as a chance to have reasonable farm taxes in the years ahead and an opportunity to pass on the farm to the next generation without having to pay high succession duties.

If we agree that there is to be an agricultural industry in Ontario in the future, then we surely must agree that land use planning is essential. Likewise, if the farmer is to remain in urban areas, he must have assurance of lower taxes. This means a uniform assessing base regardless of where the farm is located.

The whole question of compensation to the farmer for the removal of his land from the speculative market needs much thought. Should there be compensation? How could our government afford this?

These are only a few of the complexity of questions and thoughts involved in "Land Use" planning. The Land Use Conference organized by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, December 12 and 13, brought many of these to the fore. Now is not the time to just forget about this question. Now is the time for farm people to get involved, or accept the consequences.

30 - 58 in all - Tom's job of assigning us to committees, seats in the house, offices, etc. has required the diplomatic skill of an ambassador. As a result of winning our elections we are perhaps all guilty of becoming somewhat self-important prima donnas, used to royal treatment back home. There is nothing like a gaggle of 58 "me-firsters" to drive a man right around the bend. But Tom has managed to make everyone think he has been fairly treated. In any event we are now all too fully involved with the massive amount of work involved in being an M.P. to consider our own self-importance. If you have a problem or comment please call my office at 325 Lakeshore Rd. E. Oakville, 644-0222.

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

MILTON—Trustees of the 95 Martin Street Fire Fund have closed off the fund and distributed the final cheques to the five families burned out of their apartment building in the pre-Christmas fire. Treasurer Reg. DiCola said the fund reached \$5,020. Donations were accepted at the banks, credit union and trust company and many Milton stores displayed collection boxes. Trustees said one company donated \$500 and the Town of Milton \$250. The Dec. 21 fire left nine adults and four children homeless.

NASSAGAWEEVA—Members of Nassagaweeva township council passed three readings of a by-law last week allowing horse racing at Mohawk Raceway on Sundays. The by-law follows a successful plebiscite in December when Nassagaweeva residents voted 689 to 388 in favour of allowing Sunday racing at the Campbellville track. Council decided to send a letter to the Ontario Jockey Club reminding them they promised to station a traffic patrol at the main intersection in Campbellville during peak raceway traffic hours.

ACTON—Acton's Canadian National Railway station will be sold and moved to a different location. A small glass-enclosed structure will be erected there as a waiting room for eventual GO train passengers and will probably be used first as a pick-up station for the GO bus service running to the Georgetown GO train station. Mayor Les Duby explained a representative of the CNR had said the station will be available to the town or anyone else when it is advertised. It could not be moved without dismantling.

ROCKWOOD—Eramosa Township councillors have voted themselves a \$100 across-the-board increase despite opposition from new councillor Betty Lou Clark. Remuneration for the reeve was raised to \$1,850 per year, deputy reeve \$1,100 and councillors \$150 each. Council have a minimum of 26 meetings per year and further meetings will be an additional \$30 for each member of council. Council members will be docked \$30 for missing a meeting unless it is on council business.

HILLSBURGH—Fire believed to have started from a defective light socket in a downstairs closet left a young Hillsburgh family homeless last week. Mr. and Mrs. Barry Cleland and two children were victims of the Monday morning blaze which charred the inside of their brick residence and ruined furniture and other belongings. When she smelled smoke, Mrs. Cleland grabbed her two children, the age one and Devon, six, and went next door to phone the fire department while the right side of the house went up in flames. Firemen saved the other half of the house but there was much water and heat damage.

INGLEWOOD—Five pet dogs have been destroyed and two others quarantined by the Department of Agriculture, Health of Animals Branch, following a whirlwind tour of Inglewood by a suspected rabid fox. A spokesman for the branch said the five dogs had definitely been bitten by the fox and were destroyed at the request of their owners, who, in most cases, had small children at home. The fox got away and so no positive diagnosis was possible.

O'CONNOR'S OTTAWA



The party Whip, that sometimes disliked, always respected enigma of a fellow is generally little known outside of party circles. He is appointed by the leader from among the party backbenchers and according to tradition, is responsible for rounding up the members when a vote is called in the House.

The term Whip derives from British parliamentary tradition and originates from the whip used to round up the hounds during fox hunts.

However the job entails much more than keeping tabs on the comings and goings of fellow M.P.s and berating them into the House for votes.

WORD IS FINAL

He must have good political sense and be a supreme diplomat. He is usually involved in broad party organization, the appointment of members to committees, the allocating of delegations to represent Canada abroad and sometimes the stickiest job of all, the allocation to members of their seats in the House of Commons and their parliamentary offices. His word is final and the wary member knows that staying on the good side of the Whip is a necessary prerequisite to advancement in Ottawa.

There are many stories about past Whips and the lengths to which they have gone to guarantee maximum party strength in the House. Once, in the distant past, it is alleged, a Whip arranged for the kidnapping of an opposition member thus ensuring his absence during a crucial vote. In 1926 during the tense Mackenzie King - Arthur Meighen struggle a Whip hired a whole train to transport a single member to Ottawa. And it was a Whip who once had an ocean liner stopped to retrieve a member back to parliament for a vote. Present day shenanigans are somewhat less dramatic, being usually confined to hiding members behind curtains and pillars so as to keep from opposition Whips the exact party strength for the upcoming vote.

Our party's present Whip is the affable and totally un-



BILL SMILEY

Too Timid? Perhaps We Are

Is there anything new under the sun, despite the old adage? Not much.

I've just been reading a 12-year old essay by Henry David Thoreau, and it could have been written last week by anybody who dislikes, nay, despises government and what it stands for.

The author says that that government is best which governs least. Many Canadians, who are sick to death of government and its agents poking their inquisitive snouts into every aspect of the individual's life, would agree heartily.

Most businessmen would not only concur, but would raise a cheer for the sentiments expressed. Ask any man who runs a small business, if you want to get a blistered ear, what he thinks of government.

Thoreau suggests that the first purpose of any government is not to seek out and abolish injustice, but to perpetuate it. Ask any realistic politician, and he'll agree.

We should not necessarily cultivate a respect for the law, but for what is right, says Thoreau. He uses the illustration of an undue respect for the law, of soldiers marching to war against their common sense and consciences. This has been happening for years in Viet Nam.

There are three types of men, he says. First are those who unquestioningly serve the state with their bodies, such as soldiers. Next are those who serve the state with their minds — politicians, lawyers, officeholders — but not with their consciences. Finally there are the very few — martyrs, reformers, patriots in the real sense — who serve it with their consciences also, and are commonly treated as enemies by it.

The trigger for Thoreau's essay was his strong disapproval of the American government of his day on two issues, the Mexican War and slavery. The Mexican War was one of flagrant aggression in which the Americans moved in and conquered vast territories in the southwest.

It has always been a source of pleasure to me, when Americans decry British "colonialism" to remind them of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the Philippines, Panama and Texas. They have conveniently forgotten, in most cases, that

many of these "acquisitions" were a result of direct and violent conquest.

Thoreau spoke openly of revolution. "When a sixth of the population of a nation which has undertaken to be the refuge of liberty of slaves, and a whole country (Texas) is unjustly overrun and conquered by a foreign army (U.S.), I think it is not too soon for honest men to rebel and revolutionize."

Isn't the situation almost exactly the same today? Blacks are not legal slaves, but they are economic ones. North Viet Nam was not exactly overrun, but not for want of trying.

And what would happen to Thoreau if he expressed such sentiments today? Probably not much, because there is a growing, swelling anger against the stupid war among Americans of all walks of life.

But if he'd said it ten years ago? Or in the era of Joe McCarthy? He'd likely have lost his job, been harassed by the CIA and FBI, attacked by some segments of the press, and generally driven like a fox before hounds.

It speaks much for the growing lack of freedom in the U.S. (and elsewhere) that nothing serious happened to Thoreau at all, when he uttered these inflammatory remarks.

He did spend one night in jail, when he refused to pay his poll tax, on the basis that his job might buy either a man or a musket to shoot one with. But somebody paid his fine, and he was released.

Today we have the prospect of men spending years in jail because they refuse to go against their consciences. We have thousands of U.S. draft-dodgers in Canada, forsaking their home and native land for reasons of common sense (who wants to be killed?) or conscience.

John Buz, the folk-singer and anti-war individual, tried to take a similar stand by refusing to pay her income tax. The government merely deducted it at source, from the record companies who paid her royalties.

Thoreau advocated that, if there were an unjust law, we should break it. What do you think?

What would happen to an ordinary Canadian who said,

"I will pay to have my garbage collected and the streets repaired. But I will not pay one penny for 'national defence'. I don't want welfare unemployment insurance, Medicare so I won't pay a nickel toward them." The answer is obvious. That bold Canadian would spend the rest of his life in the law courts being punished by "his" government, instead of being allowed the simple, sensible alternative of opting out. Life is too short. But are we being governed to death? Oh, for a few Thoreaus in these timid days!

CORRECTION

Mrs. Evelyn DesRues was one of the Georgetown Liberal Association representatives at the Toronto and District Liberals Annual in Toronto. The Herald apologizes for misspelling her name in a news story last week. Ernie Zechman, president of the Halton County Liberal Association, was a special guest at the Georgetown group's January 11 meeting where members discussed the pros and cons of Wellington-Dufferin riding which would include Georgetown after redistribution.

SMILEY
An aspiring vocalist had just completed a lesson. "Professor," she asked, "do you think I shall ever be able to do anything with my voice?" "Well," replied her instructor, "it might come in handy in case of fire."

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ECHOES

10 YEARS AGO
Esquing council went on record as opposing the colouring of margarine. Monday night, January 21, 1963 at their council meeting. They endorsed a resolution prepared by the Halton Cream Producers which read: We strongly oppose any legislation that would allow manufacturers to colour margarine to resemble butter. A copy of this endorsed resolution would be sent to the Minister of Agriculture.

Advertising proclamations for special weeks and local events might be eliminated by a cost conscious council of 1963. For several years, councils have often acceded to requests for service clubs and charitable groups for insertion of proclamations supporting fund drives. When the Kinsmen club asked Monday, January 21, 1963 that the week of February 3-9 be proclaimed March of Dimes Week, council did so, but delayed a decision on spending money on an advertisement until the next week.

The principle of community enrolment in a medical and surgical benefit plan received endorsement by Georgetown council, Monday, January 21, 1963. But the vote harkened back to the previous year when a 5-4 split was almost the rule. The week of the 14th Physical Services Incorporated representative, Gerry Lynch asked council's blessing on a local selling campaign, which his firm would undertake and council told him they would wait a week to think it over.

A \$2,250 sewer cleaning machine, ordered by council on Monday, January 21, 1963 "would go a long way towards avoiding sewer back-ups" according to public works chairman Charles Hildebrandt whose committee recommended the purchase.

The North Halton Urban Board consisting of representatives from Milton, Acton, and Georgetown town councils, was about to meet representatives from the Bell Telephone Company to discuss a unified telephone rate for the north end of Halton county. "Probably the company would just tell us the reasons they can't set a uniform rate for our area," said a board spokesman, "but we would like to see if it can be done. It would probably take agitation on the part of subscribers before the company will consider it seriously."

20 YEARS AGO
Dr. Charles Herbert Best, co-discoverer of insulin and one of the world's great medical scientists, was presented with the Alpha Omega Achievement Medal during the dental fraternity's 45th annual convention dinner.

He had recently returned to his country home near Georgetown. After a 40,000 mile world lecture tour, Dr. Best told delegates that there is still much dental work to be done in all parts of the world.

Chairman Robert Saunders announced that