

The word for 1975: You

By Gerry Landsborough

I always approach the New Year, the same way I approach my first day at the beach. Everyone is in up to their necks, and when I wet my big toes at the water's edge it feels unbearably cold. Someone will always yell "It's great once you are in for awhile." And sooner or later, I'm bound to take the plunge and go in up to my neck so I can join the fun.

I start each new year the same way. We look back on '74 and, while there is always progress and some good to recall, the overall picture remains the same.

We have equal numbers of experts telling us that things will get better, "Things will get worse," "We are witnessing the end of democracy," "Democracy is entering the golden age," "Man will always survive," "The end of mankind is at hand"...and so it goes.

The new year again becomes a year of choices. So many experts reflect on '74 as though it were a year of surprises, instead of a year of logical conclusions. We might look upon the people of the world as so many mice on a treadmill. The trainers—the politicians—stand apart.

War is with us always. Sometimes the location changes for variety but as long as there are those who will willingly carry a gun in some blind sense of patriotism, controlled by trainers who stand outside the cage, war will always be with us; accepted as a proper means of settling differences.

Hunger and famine are also products of our own stupidity. Having spoken with many who travel the world, we are continuously told of tractors that rust in fields, and grain that sits rotting on docks because there is no transportation to deliver it where it is needed. Countries where famine is a part of life are spending precious borrowed dollars on nuclear technology. It does not take an expert to predict, that, as long as these conditions remain the same, hunger and famine will always be with us.

Even here at home we continue down the fool's path. We complain of rising prices yet we continue to buy. Again it does not take an expert to see that as long as people buy rising prices will continue. Strikes for higher wages, and greater winter layoffs go hand in hand.

So many of us sit back and say "what can one person do? It has always been this way." Again, it does not take an expert to show "what is accepted, will continue."

If I could give a magic formula for 1975 it would go something like this. We all have choices; each new day presents 24 new ones. Each one of us, as individuals, makes his own choice every hour: choices of acceptance, of inaction, or, the hardest choice of all, of action. An action, no matter how small, creates change, and change, because it is unknown, is something we all fear. Not everyone is a banner waver or a front row

Thumbs down on home plan

Halton Hills will likely not take part in the \$10 million Ontario Home Renewal Program aimed at helping low income home owners to improve their properties.

This town's finance and personnel committee agreed Monday night to advise town council not to apply for participation in the provincial program. The committee's recommendation echoed an earlier recommendation by regional council that the province not be taken up in its offer of assistance.

In explaining the program, clerk-administrator for Halton Hills, Doug Pritchard, noted that the program's \$10 million was to be used by home owners to upgrade their properties by such means as improving deteriorating plumbing systems or upgrading electrical systems. The money, he

pointed out, could not be used for building additions or carrying out renovations.

Persons who prove they are eligible for the program through a means test could receive up to \$7,500 which is provided by the province through the local municipality. The person must then repay the loan in periods of up to 20 years in length by monthly payments made to the municipality.

The committee was in total agreement that the program threatened a great deal of work for the municipality with no offer at all of reimbursement for the time spent by local officials in administering it.

"There's no way," said committee chairman Harry Levy, "that you can accept monthly payments for 20 years without any cost to the taxpayers."

Besides said councillor

Russ Miller, "there are not that many people in this municipality who would need it. A fairly new community like ours doesn't need it."

Mr. Pritchard pointed out

that only one person had enquired about the program, but when he was told that he could not build an addition with the money, did not bother any further with it. That one

enquiry was the only one received, said Mr. Pritchard, in all the region.

The committee agreed not to continue any further with the program for the time being.

No crossing guard at corner

There will be no adult crossing guard at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Guelph Street.

The works committee meeting held Monday night discussed the possibility of re-instating a guard at the post office to handle the volume of children using that route to get to Howard Wrigglesworth Public School. But they decided not to.

A letter from Mrs. Roger Darling of Normandy Boulevard expressed concern for

children using that route to get to school.

Councillor Mike Armstrong appreciated the concern of Mrs. Darling but was of the opinion that, with the traffic lights at the intersection of Guelph Street and Maple, the children had a safe enough place to cross.

A study is currently underway to determine the need for traffic lights at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Delrex Boulevard, formerly Tyres Avenue.

Well known worker passes

Funeral services for Mrs. Annie Vannatter, an active church worker in Ballinafad and Georgetown, were held December 28.

Mrs. Vannatter was born in Lachute, Quebec, September 15, 1895 to Rev. and Mrs. N. Wadell. She attended schools in Aultsville, Williamstown and Webbwood, Ontario and later spent some time in the field of

nursing in Guelph.

Blake Vannatter and Annie were married in Ballinafad in 1921 and lived for many years on Lot 3, Concession 7 of Erin Township. After her husband's death Mrs. Vannatter remained on the farm caring for her father, Rev. Wadell. She then moved to Georgetown after his death and worked at Smith and Stone and Dominion Seed House.

Mrs. Vannatter played the organ in the Ballinafad United Church for many years. She was an interested worker with church organizations in both Ballinafad and Georgetown. She was an active member of Unit "F" of the U.C.W.

Mrs. Vannatter passed away on Dec. 25, 1974 in the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

She leaves three sisters, Nina (Mrs. F. Shaver), Ingleside, Mable (Mrs. H. McIntosh) Toronto, Edith of Portland, Maine and six nieces, and six nephews. She was predeceased by two sisters, Mary (Mrs. H. Hollenback, Olive (Mrs. C. Rozell), two brothers, Fraser and Leslie and one nephew.

Funeral services were held on the afternoon of Dec. 28 at the McClure and Jones Funeral Home, Georgetown, Rev. Martin officiated. Interment was in Greenwood Cemetery.

Ballinafad ball a big success

The Ballinafad New Year's Eve Dance, sponsored by the hall board, was a huge success. Tickets were sold well ahead of the dance and there was a capacity crowd. J. Tocher's orchestra provided music that delighted everyone there. Paper hats and balloons added glamor to the festive occasion. The highlight was the supper of fried chicken.

for the young folk. The weather for the holidays was ideal with enough snow and sunshine for all their outdoor activities.

Susan O'Connor celebrated her seventh birthday on Saturday with a party at her grandparents' home.

The first Sunday in the new year saw a fair number out to church. With the absence of the regular organist, Mrs. Ernest McKenry, Mrs. F. J. Shortill played the organ. During the next five Sundays Rev. Stiles will be giving a series of sermons entitled "Five Challenges to Christianity." The first one was given this past Sunday titled "The Challenge of Honest Doubt." The sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed this coming Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Jamieson spent Sunday at Angus where they visited Rev. and Mrs. Kelvin Johnston.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Burnett and family have returned home after spending the holiday season with relatives in Montreal.

It's back to school this week

Many visitors in Silverwood

Mr. and Mrs. Beene hosted a family dinner on Christmas Day. Twenty-two in all sat

down to dinner. Dec. 30 they drove to Midland to visit the Carneys and Beeneys and then on to Mississauga to visit more relatives.

Another satisfied reader

To the Editor of the Herald:

You ask me what I think of the Herald. It is the best printed paper that goes into my house, likewise the quality of the pictures. I congratulate you on your effort. The Toronto Globe and Mail is abominable in these respects and has been a day late for months.

I left Georgetown in 1910 and, until five years ago, often visited there but there is nothing left for me there (now that all the McGibbons have gone) except many nostalgic memories.

As you can imagine there is little of interest in the paper for me, as far as people are concerned, but it is a splendid weekly. I should add I knew Mr. Blehn and the two editors before him.

Mr. C.R. Van Dusen
Toronto

Asks Bodnar resign

To the Editor of the Herald:

At a public meeting held in Joseph Gibbons on Dec. 9, the Halton Board of Education trustee for Georgetown, Mr. E. Bodnar, asked that people bring their concerns to him.

At the same meeting a parent recalled contacting Mr. Bodnar last spring about a school problem, and, more than six

months later, Mr. Bodnar has failed to respond.

Other parents told of asking Mr. Bodnar last June to meet with a group of about 20 parents to discuss their concerns. Only after a letter and several calls did Mr. Bodnar finally meet with the parents in September more than ten weeks after the request.

My child was transferred from Park School in October at my request, but I was advised in a letter from Mr. R. Chapman, chairman of the North Halton Education Centre, that "no further transfers will be considered at any time in the future." This was a very clear statement, but it was totally unacceptable. A second letter from Mr. Chapman reaffirmed what he had stated in his first.

After two letters to Mr. Bodnar (the first was ignored) and another to Mr. Chapman, Mr. Chapman did a flip-flop and explained that he did not mean what he had written in his first two letters.

Since this event, I have written to Mr. Bodnar in

November and December, but again these letters have been ignored by him.

I would like an explanation of Mr. Chapman's first letter. If it was not intended to intimidate, then just what was the purpose? Although the "no further transfers" condition was dictated to me, it was not mentioned to other parents involved in subsequent, similar transfers. Why does the board allow this unacceptable discrimination?

Why do we have a board procedure which allows a child to be informed at school of her transfer before anyone in the administration has had the courtesy to advise the parents that the transfer has been approved?

Mr. Bodnar does find it unfortunate that the transfer was not effected exactly as I would have liked. I would suggest that the transfer was effected in a manner which no parent would find acceptable.

While Mr. Bodnar may ask that we bring our concerns to him, it is obvious that they have

a very low position on his scale of priorities. If he prefers to continue to ignore his constituents, rather than represent them, then he should follow the honorable course and resign.

John Ferguson
Main Street South

Bill flies through

BY DON O'HEARN
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

It is eight years since the first air charter group from Ontario was stranded in England. You remember it. There was frenzy for a few days while frantic arrangements were made to get the stranded passengers back to Canada. And you will remember the many incidents since when other charters were stranded, or didn't even get off the ground in Canada. And along with this the constant cry there has been for some regulation of the travel industry.

For a long time there was a ping-pong match between Ottawa and the provinces as to who should handle this regulation. But the cry has now been answered.

A Travel Industry Act was introduced, speedily put through the house and is now law. Its main provision is that all travel agents must now be licensed, but it also requires bonding and contributions towards an emergency fund.

As you may have gathered, not all of the agents are exactly in love with the new plan. In fact some 500 of them gathered in Toronto from across the province recently in a protest meeting. Their main beef was that they hadn't been sufficiently consulted, and particularly that the legislation had been put through the house without them having had the chance for official comment.

The government, however, says there was a great deal of consultation with agents in drafting the law, though there was one problem in that there was no single body which represented all agents.

Privately it is said that the travel people for the most part are pleased enough with the bill. Insiders say their great fear was that they would have to handle their clients' money in trusts as lawyers do. This would have called for a lot of bookkeeping and office expense.

The government, however, apparently has assured them that this is not to be required.

Incidentally this legislation was the first major achievement of former newspaperman Frank Drees, who now is parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Affairs John Clement.

No doubt you are aware that the week January 11 - 18th is National Education Week on Smoking.

In connection with this, the Halton Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association would advise the public that any literature required regarding smoking education is available to them by contacting the main office, 184 Balsam Drive, Oakville, 845-0858.

This is a service provided free of charge through contributions to the Christmas Seal Campaign.

Sincerely,
Mrs. J.V. Armour
Program Co-ordinator
Halton TB & RD Assoc.

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In keeping with the expanding activities of Halton Cable Systems Ltd., Mr. A.J. Jamieson, President and General Manager, is pleased to announce the appointment of Stuart C. Johnson as General Sales Manager.

Mr. Johnson will be responsible for sales, marketing and customer service in the Halton Hills and Milton areas. He has been a resident of Acton for the past twenty years and has been involved in sales and marketing in Acton for the past nine years. This appointment reflects the broadened scope of the company, and at the same time, recognizes their responsibility to these growing communities.

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