

Citizen of Year well deserved

Double congratulations on Friday night's Citizen of the Year Awards. First to the deserving recipients, the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service, and second to the Georgetown Lions Club.

We could and, in fact, have editorialized about the fine, fine role the GVAS members have and will continue to play in our town's life. To add any further plaudits would simply become repetitious.

The only word that we could add is that they're constantly on the prowl for new members. It's a demanding task for which there are never enough volunteers. If you're interested, give Andy Fenton a call.

One very loud round of applause we would like to lead would be in congratulations to the Lions for their organization and support of the Citizen of the Year Awards.

The speculation and thought created by those awards is tremendous. It turns the town's eyes inwardly once a year to assess the tasks that are being done by our fellow citizens.

We do it, in fact everyone does it. We try to guess who the winner of the award is going to be. In doing so we've realized that making that final decision must be terribly difficult because the number of suggestions that were tossed around our office far out-numbered the 15 suggestions officially submitted to the Lions.

The speculation that award creates is a big plus in generating true community involvement and spirit.

Our only other thought on the subject of Citizen of the Year Awards is, thank goodness the GVAS finally have won. They've been our bet for the past two years.



Miller, minister of sick

Provincial system must concentrate on health

Thanks to a Georgetown reader of the Mount Forest Confederate our attention was drawn to some unique comments offered by one Mount Forest resident to the province's hospital spending cutbacks. Mount Forest's Louise Marshall Hospital board have been ordered to cut back their spending by \$12,000.

This particular Mount Forest resident wrote a letter to health minister Frank Miller in which he said "The health system has to be turned around. We're spending three billion on sick, and until we start spending half that amount on health, we're lost. We have to spend more on preventative medicine, health maintenance, and health education.

"We might be better to cut back beds in all hospitals by half in order to have programs to keep healthy people healthy.

"If we keep spending money on the sick we're going to go over the brink.

"Sure we can probably hire nurses for \$2.50 an hour, but who's that going to help. It'll keep the hospital doors open but it's not going to help anybody. That's what you'll get...you'll get service at \$2.50 an hour.

"The theme is health, we're spending less than two percent of the budget on health. Mr. Miller is the minister of sick not the minister of health. And that's got to be turned around."

Viewpoint

Why do we care only about baby seals?

by Gerry Landborough
Are you one of the people who gets a deep down "gut feeling" when it comes to the brutal, senseless slaughter of baby seals? Or do you feel that there is too much fuss and uproar made over the annual seal hunt?

Regardless of what your personal convictions are, the following should be of interest to you.

We personally abhor the seal hunt and everything it stands for. With synthetic fur available where only the experts "know for sure", sealing for fur should be considered primitive and archaic. Sealing for meat can't hold for the taste does not appeal to the masses. Sealing as a livelihood cannot be accepted because most sealers in Canada spend the off season on welfare and I can't see why they can't make it a full-time practise.

Anyone who has witnessed the pathetic sight of a mother seal returning to lie beside the carcass of her skinned pup could not justify this inhumane practise. The men who are "sealers" are dehumanized as men who

go to war. They become accustomed to the killing, the brutality, the blood and the cries from the helpless animals.

These men have stopped "feeling" for the helplessness of the seals and it becomes just a job.

Brian Davies crusades for the International Animal Welfare Fund against this inhumane and brutal slaughter and is to be commended for his dedication and compassion. We support the I.A.W.F. and have empathy for their crusades and beliefs. The fund owns a \$250,000 helicopter. We have received pamphlets and posters and brochures to help in the cause all of which cost a lot of money. Here's the point.

Though we are moved to tears at the sight of the inhumane slaughter we are also moved to tears at the sight of inhumane human more to brutality against baby seals than to brutality against baby humans the Federation for Animal Welfare has funds while our own Children's Aid Societies do not. Ironic isn't it?

In Quebec a mother has been charged with criminal responsibility in the death of her four year old son due to second degree burns over 60 percent of his body. She placed him in a scalding bath. It wasn't the first time but this time he died. No one will write letters of protest proclaiming the brutal, inhumane treatment the child received. He was only one of hundreds of thousands who are abused every day in life in "inhumane situations". No protest letters here. Why? Is one form of brutality any less than the other?

The Children's Aid Society was originally formed to protect those who are unable to protect themselves. We see pictures of compassionate men throwing their bodies over baby seal pups lying helpless on the ice; helplessness against senseless slaughter.

The C.A.S. has so many cases of child abuse that they no longer throw a cloak of protection over helpless human offspring. No one walks the city-core streets with a mantle of protection for 10- and 12- and 13- year-old hustlers, drug addicts, and alcoholics.

No one sends funds "comparatively" to

fight the brutal slaying of human young.

Why? Everyday in life here in our own community "little ones" are beaten and burned and made to suffer savage punishment without anyone writing letters of protest. At a local nightclub a boy who was 12 at tops sat with his parents and drank a beer and a half with a few cigarettes in between. His parents obviously approved of the situation. Who protects him from his parents? Or does he need protection?

For the abused and brutally treated human offspring there are no little old ladies to wring their hands in sympathy, no young people to march in condemnation, no fat wallets to help fight the cause.

If we ever tried to paint all abused human offspring green it would be St. Paddy's Day every day of the year. Why?

Meanwhile all handwringers and bleeding hearts take some of your precious righteous indignation and take a good look around you.

Even an ostrich can't keep his head in the sand indefinitely.

Good use made of arena this past week

Anyone who questioned the propriety or purpose behind setting aside the use of the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena for the entire spring break for the International Bantam Tournament was, we hope, on hand sometime during the event to witness the kind of impact that very special event had once again, on our community.

The arena was a constant hive of activity. The stands were constantly filling and refilling with fans, players and coaches. School buses loaded with players were frequently seen on their way to and from the Legion and the church hall where the hungry masses were being fed.

Hockey talk was about all you heard throughout the week. Conversation concentrated on how Georgetown, Leveck or Acton were doing. Or which team, Toronto or Detroit, looked stronger.

People who probably have never been in the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena were there rooting on the teams on which the boys they were hosting were on.

The town was alive, thanks to the Bantam tournament.

To state that better use could

have been made of the arena by providing public skating throughout the entire week is a pretty weak excuse for knocking the tournament. It would have been very nice to have had a second arena to which youngsters wanting an afternoon skate could have gone to, but that wasn't possible this year. In the future, it may be with the possible provision of a second ice surface.

The best commendation that could be made about the tournament's benefit to this community was provided by one fellow we were talking to. He had been passing through Peterborough Friday evening and had heard a lengthy report on the radio about how the local Peterborough team was doing in the Georgetown International Bantam Hockey Tournament.

That kind of publicity is awful hard for a town to buy.

If it does come down to the town's recreation department having to recommend certain activities at the Gordon Alcott as "special events" worthy of a special grant to decrease the overall of ice time the Bantam tournament should be near the top of the list of recommendations.

On Parliament Hill

RCMP worried about staying in business

By Stewart MacLeod
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald
OTTAWA—Since there were no girls magazines lying around, I settled down in front of the fireplace the other night with a book about morale problems with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In terms of relaxed entertainment this would normally be on a par with a Nigerian telephone directory, but it just happened that I had spent a long social evening with two veteran RCMP officers.

They had been chatting informally about things that bugged them in the force, so it actually was an interesting exercise to see what a formal inquiry had to say on the subject. And the most interesting aspect of all was that the biggest worry facing these two Mounties was not even part of the formal report.

We'll get to their concerns later. In the meantime, it's worth noting that the inquiry, established in 1974 to deal with surfacing morale problems in the force, resulted in a 229-page report containing 135 recommendations.

The study was headed by County Court Judge Rene Marin, and during the course of the inquiry, submissions were heard from 2,500 members of the public and the RCMP.

The commissioners also travelled to the United States and Europe to talk with other police forces and governments.

There is no doubt about the depth of the study.

Perhaps the most notable recommendation concerned the establishment of a federal police ombudsman who would hear public complaints about the RCMP. At least a press release from the solicitor-general's department said it was "the most important" suggestion. But so far as internal morale is concerned, most of the recommendations dealt with a more humane system of discipline.

Military Discipline
The commission found that the military system of discipline has changed little since the force was established back in 1873. There should be a less punitive mentality, says the report.

The three major recommendations for improving morale in this area were: To repeal the regulation which allows an RCMP member to be jailed on the authority of a commissioned officer; to repeal another rule which forces an RCMP member to make a statement when accused of a non-criminal offence; to permit an RCMP member, appearing in "service court", to be represented by a civilian counsel.

There were other recommendations dealing with pensions, transfers, promotions and grievance procedures. And no doubt all of these things affect morale.

The commission should have all the answers, considering the qualification of its members. Judge Marin was with the Law Reform Commission of Canada. Robin Bourne is an assistant deputy minister in the solicitor-general's department. Ross Wimmer is a Regina lawyer. Insp. D.K. Wilson heads the RCMP's commercial fraud section and he is also a lawyer, and Sgt. Robert Potvin was chosen by the men in the force. And since this highly-qualified group heard from 2,500 people and considered the findings, particularly when research was limited to conversation with a couple of Mounties.

Yet, I still wonder whether the inquiry got to the bottom of the morale problem, and, particularly, whether due regard was given to the fierce pride most RCMP men have in the traditions of the force.

Bigger Worries
These two officers I mentioned are experienced and reasonable men, and they said that their greatest worry—and they claim to reflect the views of many colleagues—is that

the federal government may force the RCMP out of the provinces and turn it into a smaller FBI-type operation.

The RCMP now is the provincial police force in every province except Ontario and Quebec, which have their own forces. And previously, Ottawa has contributed 60 percent of the cost with the provinces paying the other 40 percent. And even under this formula, former British Columbia premier Dave Barrett was seriously considering the feasibility of establishing a provincial police force.

Now Ottawa is starting to negotiate new contracts with the provinces, and the federal government wants the formula reversed so it contributes only 40 percent.

The annual cost per man in the RCMP is estimated at \$35,000, while the Ontario Provincial Police estimates its equivalent cost at \$25,000 - \$28,000. So with a new 60-40 formula, the provinces might even find it cheaper to establish their own provincial police forces.

And one of these Mounties said if RCMP strength begins to crumble in the West, so do all of the force's traditions.

"Internal discipline might be a problem," he said, "but we're far more concerned with the whole future of the force." Just thought I'd pass it along for what it's worth.

Years Ago

Ray Steele joins law firm

From the files of the Herald:

TEN YEARS AGO

With a modern day record crowd of 2,000 roaring in their cars the Georgetown Raiders overwhelmed Milton Merchants 4-1 to capture the hard fought for Ontario Hockey Association Junior 'C' semifinals series in Georgetown Memorial Arena last Sunday. Georgetown now meets New Hamburg in the league finals.

Extension of a free parking area behind one Main Street block has been requested by the Georgetown Parking Authority. Henry Helfant asked council to lease land from John Cardaro which, he said will allow 30 more parking spaces in the area. Rental fee would be \$60.

Debentures which the town must issue for its share of the purchase cost of Cedarvale School would bear an interest rate of 7 percent.

Nine Brownies of the 8th Georgetown pack flew up to Guides at the Holy Cross auditorium this past week. Elizabeth Catling, Debbie Caruso, Debbie Brick, Heather Hulme, Patricia Syme, Patricia Layton, Cathleen Heaney, Rosalie Spitzer and Anna Wilcox received their wings from Tawny Owl Mrs. A. Syme and Tawny Owl Mrs. Kay Collier.

In the CWOSSA Public Speaking Finals held on Friday at St. Jerome's High School in Kitchener, Richard Enright of Georgetown District High School was winner of the junior boys competition.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Council has unanimously rejected the proposed police commission budget. Finance committee chairman Ric Morrow told council that the police budget was \$86,200 in 1964, rose to \$240,000 in 1970 and the proposed budget for 1971 was 50 percent higher than last year. He did not name the exact figure.

The nickel and dime parking meters became legal this week with the final passing

of a bylaw authorizing their use. At the same time the period of free parking meters has come to an end. The nickel and dime meters replaced the penny meters.

Only Councillor Ern Hyde, a consistent opponent of the new meters, opposed the new bylaw. He stated that the fees are too high and the meters should not be in operation.

Bill Gillies, former deputy reeve and NDP candidate for Halton East will attend a school on policy and organization at Cedar Gen in Bolton this weekend.

Sykes Super Donuts opened this week at 130 B Guelph Street. The younger customers on opening day received free cookies while the older shoppers received yellow roses.

Coincidentally Monte Jackson was opening at the same time The Donut Nook at 133 Guelph Street.

Ray Steele, formerly of Fort Frances, has now commenced the practise of law in Georgetown, in association with F.A. Nelson, T.F. Baines, K.A. Langdon, and J.R. Belleghem, in the law firm of Nelson, Baines and Langdon.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

The congregation of the Maple Avenue Baptist Church will hold its first service in the new church on Maple Avenue on Easter Sunday; exactly seven years since they began in the Odd Fellows Hall.

Council unanimously turned down a Delrex Developments proposal for release of remaining residential land in the subdivision.

A total of 36 teams have registered for the annual Bantam Hockey Tournament.

On Sunday, March 26 St. Paul's-Baptist congregation officially became St. Paul's Baptist Church. Rev. E.A. Pinkerton, extension missionary and minister of the church, conducted the service and was assisted by Rev. Harold E. Bridge, of Toronto, who directs the extension work of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec.

Don O'Hearn's and Susan De Facendis's columns were unavailable for this week's issue.

Is there any city you would rather live near?

by Stewart MacLeod
The federal government's urban affairs department has taken its first timid step toward trying to determine which Canadian city has the best quality of life.

And 83 pages later it concludes that "the search for a universal measure that summarizes the quality of life in urban areas is not likely to be successful."

In other words, the government has no way of determining the best city in which to live.

This first effort is not even particularly good reading - a somewhat stuffy document that's filled with such bureaucratic phrases as "redundancy among the urban indicators," "the rotated factor matrix," "indicators with loading factors" and something about "computer graphics."

But it's an interesting exercise, if for no other reason than it seems to prove that no amount of expertise can tell you where you should live.

What the department did do was to take the 1971 statistics and concentrate on 22 Canadian cities, comparing 32 factors affecting the economic, social, cultural and physical life in these places. It tells you all

sorts of things - except the best place to live.

Illegitimate Births
For instance, it's fascinating to learn that Regina has the highest illegitimate birth rate in Canada - 177 per 1,000 births. Halifax has the next highest, with 124.4, and then the rate declines through all the cities to Hamilton, with only 55.5.

But the question the department can't answer is how this affects the quality of life. Is it a measure of promiscuity? Does it mean that in some places more teen-agers are on the pill? What happens after the children are born?

The department acknowledges that even the definition of "illegitimate" varies a bit from province to province.

Another statistic indicates that Winnipeg might be the best place for drinkers. That city has 233.5 square feet of space, per 100 population, where alcoholic beverages are served. At the low end, right behind Ottawa, is Saint John, N.B. with 58.2 square feet.

But how this affects the quality of life presumably depends on whether you're a drinking person. And, also, they might put the tables closer together in Saint John.

Incidentally, the report lists these

drinking establishments under "social opportunities."

There are dandy statistics on "cultural homogeneity" and if I can ever figure out what they mean I'll pass them along.

Another comparative chart that doesn't impress me shows the voter turn-out for civic elections - ranging from a high of 58.6 per cent in St. John's, Nfld., to a low of 32.3 per cent in Kitchener, Ont.

"Voter turn-out," says the report, "is one measure of the state of civic participation." It also talks about how it reflects the "momentousness" of decisions.

Perhaps it also reflects on some crummy campaigns.

Most Hospital Beds

Just for the record, you might be interested to know that London, Ont., has the most hospital beds per 1,000 population - 14.8. St. John's and Thunder Bay have 9.8, St. Catherine's-Niagara has 5.4 and Sudbury has 5.3.

But Sudbury fares well in statistics on missing persons - only 16 per 10,000 population. London leads in this category with 109, Thunder Bay has 95 and St. John's

31.

And Regina leads all the other cities with reported criminal offences - 1,243 per 10,000 population. Going down the scale, Thunder Bay has 990, St. John's 828, St. Catharines-Niagara 578, Sudbury 547 and Montreal 458.

But even the report acknowledges that the figures can be grossly misleading. "A low figure can mean (a) that the crime rate is actually low, or (b) that residents have so little confidence in their police force that they do not bother reporting minor crime, or (c) that what one community reports diligently, such as soliciting for prostitutes, another community does not see as a crime worth reporting, or (d) that the police do not bother recording all the crimes reported."

Similar arguments could be made for the other statistics in this book, described by its authors as "a first foray, so to speak."

Actually, I was much more interested in how much could be found out. It seems it was a "spin-off" from other studies and exact cost calculations are impossible.

"But we hope subsequent books on the subject will be more readable," said one official.

That, too, will be a first foray.