

LOCAL OPERATORS COMPLAIN . . .

'Skip' interferes with local 2-way radio communications



LIFEGUARD LISA WOODS watches visitors to Terra Cotta Conservation Area cool off in the unique, round, one-acre pool.

"Skip" makes Halton radio operators angry, but there's nothing they can do about it.

"Skip burns me up," said The Saint (Bill Ewin of Georgetown). "We get all these American guys coming through and saying things like 'Hey, Johnny Canuck! How's everything in that big, cold country of yours up there?'"

Popsicle Stick (Dave Fishburn), Dr. John (John Henselwood), One Eyed Jack (John Stevens) and Green Machine (John Hodskins) are upset about skip too, because it interferes with local communications.

A natural phenomenon, "skip occurs when your radio signal is reflected from the layers of ionized atmosphere surrounding the earth," the Radio Shack "All About CB Two-Way Radio," publications says.

Skip enables American Citizens Band (CB) operators to reach their Canadian counterparts, General Radio Service (GRS) licensees.

Since Communications Canada (CC) regulations for GRS radios prohibit air transmissions beyond a distance of 30 miles, "talking skip" is illegal.

"There's nothing we can do about it though," admitted CC district manager for the Toronto area, Jack Brown. "There's no way we can catch everyone who talks skip," he continued. "I'm not saying it's impossible to enforce, but it's not easy either."

The only time Halton GRS users are not bothered by skip is when weather conditions are so poor their radios are practically inoperable.

"Americans can only reach us when the weather is really clear," said Dr. John, of Georgetown. "on bad days, I can't even get Popsicle Stick in Norval (two miles away)."

Besides skip and inclement weather, a third problem disrupts air communications and aggravates GRS licensees: overcrowded channels.

Toma Massena, a Georgetown volunteer firefighter, remembers having difficulty finding someone on the air to talk to three years ago.

"Now the channels are so crowded - especially with crazy kids - I don't even want to use it any more," he said. "It's a real fad now."

The other five GRS operators purchased

their transceivers an average of six months ago, and four of them own two sets.

"There's five CBers on my street alone," said Green Machine.

The CB radio craze hit North America - and Halton - like an epidemic.

Wives transmit the grocery list from the base (home) radios to their husbands with mobile (car) units.

COMMUTERS

Daily commuters to Toronto to work, Green Machine and Dr. John contact other GRS operators for traffic and accident reports.

The Saint said "I've got a friend in every town if I need directions when travelling."

One Eyed Jack, a service repair man, avoided numerous trips back to the office by contacting his employer on his car unit for messages.

Even 12-year-olds, at the minimum legal GRS operator age, have mastered the GRS 10-code jargon like veterans.

Two-way radios are the latest thing in adult toys.

One of the factors influencing the demand for GRS units is price. Sets are available for under \$150, and any 16-year-old can apply for a \$13 licence, valid for three years.

The GRS licensees interviewed agreed that word-of-mouth advertising is another reason two-way radio popularity has increased.

MEET PEOPLE

"Having a radio is a great way to meet people," said Popsicle Stick. He should know. He delivered mail to Dr. John for years, but they never spoke until they both bought two-way radios.

All transceiver owners interviewed said radios were fun. Yet the CC regulations state: "A licensed station should not be used for the following purposes: transmission of a frivolous nature, transmission of music or other material for amusement or entertainment, communication used in itself used as a diversionary or recreational activity."

Would enforcing these rules be any easier than prohibiting skip? How can CC ensure that radio conversations are restricted to the legal five minute limit, then followed by two minutes off the air?

Or that call numbers are given at the beginning and end of each transmission? Or

Who should pay for mailboxes?

Finance and personnel committee wants to know why Milton is charging Halton Hills \$29.85 for the replacement of two mailboxes on the Fourth Line.

The answer, apparently, lies with town engineer Bob Austin who requisitioned the funds, treasurer Ray King told the committee.

Mr. King commented he believed the funds were holdovers from the winter snow plowing program but could not confirm this Monday.

"I'd like to see an answer on this," Coun. Russ Miller said, "because it's not our responsibility anyway."

Mr. King added that previous discussions with insurance agents indicated the municipality may not be responsible for any mailboxes erected on public property and knocked down "but they usually pay for it if they do."

Committee chairman Coun. Emile Sykes questions the need for replacing the mailboxes when "surely the guy (driving the plow) can see a mailbox a mile away."

Coun. Miller noted that in bad weather conditions mailboxes on rural roads are difficult to detect.

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Chess Mess

This week's feature focusses on John Moore, one of our most active tournament players. A teacher at GDHS John started playing chess seriously when he came to Georgetown to teach four years ago.

More recently he scored a fine three and a half out of six at the Toronto Open missing a prize by only 1/2 a point. John's current rating is 1199.

The following interview was conducted with John Moore recently by a Chess Mess interviewer.

CM: Among Georgetown's top players where would you rank yourself?

JM: If you look at the ratings I'm about fourth.

CM: As a well known chess star what advice would you give to young beginning players?

JM: Just play the game a lot. I don't think they have to read that much, not at first.

CM: What openings and defenses do you consider the strongest?

JM: For white I like to play against the Sicilian, and for Black I like to play the Ruy Lopez. A lot of people wouldn't agree but those are the openings I like.

CM: Who do you consider Georgetown's best three players?

JM: Steve MacLeod is number one after that it's probably a tie. Brian MacLeod has strengthened a lot. Dave Nichols and Tony Smith are quite strong, there's about 1/2 dozen of us.

CM: Who do you consider to be the world's best player?

JM: I think Bobby Fischer was until he withdrew from the chess scene. I think he would beat Karpov. He seemed to have the ability to innovate. Karpov is very much a textbook player.

CM: What do you think of the school's team performance this year?

JM: They did very well. We did have some difficulty filling in the senior team at times.

CM: How would you describe your playing style?

Gift suggested

Dorothy Stone, designer of the Halton Hills shield, may receive a gift "in appreciation" from council, if a recommendation of the finance committee is approved by council.

Committee members Monday suggested the allocation of \$150 for the purchase and engraving of a silver tray for Miss Stone, RR 5, Georgetown.

Council has already approved an honorarium of \$500 for Miss Stone for the work she carried out in designing and seeking the approval of heraldry officials for the town's shield. She did not charge the municipality for her services.

Rev. Llewellyn assume duties

Summer 1976 marked exciting changes in the life of Rev. Hallet Llewellyn.

He officially took charge of St. John's United Church, Georgetown, July 1. This month he will conduct services at the Presbyterian Church; August he will be on holidays; September he will be back in the United Church pulpit.

After years of studying in Scotland, including six months of research with a professor at Munich University, West Germany, he is anxiously awaiting the confirmation of his Ph.D.

He preached at the United Church in Caledon for three years between working on his doctorate.

After a few weeks of living in Georgetown with his wife, 3-year-old daughter, he commented, "I like the size of this town. It's small enough for me to get to know the people, yet it's large enough to make living together exciting."

"I want to meet the religious needs of the people," he said, "but I can't do that unless I know them personally."

"It's up to the church to bring Christianity into a realistic perspective for people," he added, "if religion removes us from the real world—concerns about politics, the economy, peace, justice—then it's destructive. If religion gives us new hope and a zest for life, then it's constructive."

"There's a religious revival today," he believes, explaining that people in the 1970's are searching for the value of life in religion again because attempts of society in the 1960's to build a Utopia with material goods failed.

MRS. KIM

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Summer student jobs enhance the environment

Dragging everything from washing machines to bed mattresses out of the Credit River is all in a day's work for Ron Gilmer of Georgetown.

He was hired by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) as senior supervisor of the Experience '76 summer employment program for students.

A 23-year-old social sciences student, this is Gilmer's third season with the CVCA. First a laborer, then a foreman, his responsibilities as senior supervisor include allocating jobs to the 34 university and high school students he hired in the spring.

"Our goal is environmental enhancement," Gilmer explained, "we improve the land by putting it back into its original condition."

For example, next week one of the five work crews will break up a log jam under the bridge over Silver Creek.

GABION WALL

Completed projects include cleaning up the beach at Fort Credit, fishing debris out of rivers, and building gabions along the banks to curb erosion. One crew has undertaken survey study of Rattray Marsh in Clarkson and everyone will take a turn picking up litter along the highway.

"Ron gets right in there working with the rest of them," said CVCA information officer Joan Rollings. "Most of the supervisors we've had in the past have been the white collar, sit in the office types. Ron does a lot of manual work he doesn't have to do—he's got a good attitude."

"I enjoy outdoor work, and the projects are worthwhile," explained Gilmer. "It gives students more than just a summer job—they learn a lot, help the environment, and can be proud of their progress."

"I'd like to make the public aware of who we are, what we are and what we are doing," he continued. "The general public gets upset because they think the project is a waste of the taxpayer's money. It's not. We have to clean up the pollution because they make the mess."

POLICE SEEK EXHIBITIONIST

Police are seeking a man between 20 and 25-years-of-age in connection with an incident near Joseph Gibbons public school July 7.

The man, described as white, medium build, short hair, deeply tanned and dressed in jeans and a T-shirt exposed himself to four teenage Georgetown girls, police said.

The man apparently drove past the young women twice on a trail bike before the incident occurred.

Thank you

The Halton Division of the Girl Guides of Canada this week thanked council for the \$200 grant it received from the 1976 municipal budget.

In a letter presented to the finance and personnel committee, the Girl Guides reported that \$162.35 from Guide funds had been added to the grant and four patrols and one staff patrol have been outfitted with camping equipment.

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