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## What is truth?

The matter of what is the truth is often not the simple decision that most people perceive it to be, according to University of Guelph psychology professor A.D. Yarmey. There are basic differences in the perception of the truth by the scientist and the lawyer, he notes.

"The scientist, assuming a fact is always an inference from the point of perception,

assumes we can never have a pure understanding of the world." The lawyer, on the other hand, "considers cross-examination the touchstone of truth", Prof. Yarmey says. Although the lawyer recognizes to some extent the built-in errors of the system, "once something goes into the court records, it exists."

In a soon-to-be published book, Prof. Yarmey explains the problems that are inherent in eye witness testimony. He points out that since perceptual experiences are private events dependent on the individuals' sensory and motor systems, they can never be shared. The closest we can get to another person's experience is through a report that may or may not be an accurate representation of the actual event.

An important factor in eyewitness testimony is memory, which is not, as psychologists once pictured, a blank sheet on which all experience is irrevocably etched. Memory theorists now believe that information enters the brain to be constantly transformed or recorded as it is subjected to interference and decay. Consequently, witnesses at court cases are constantly being influenced by all sorts of conditions, like police questioning, newspaper stories, and discussions with friends which may alter their memory of the event.

A further factor in eyewitness testimony must not be discounted, Prof. Yarmey points out, and that is the process of communication itself. Some psychologists go so far as to say that what we see in the world, and what we think and reason about these experiences, are dependent on the language of our culture. Certainly the words of the witness must be free of multiple meanings if the judge and jury are to understand the testimony.

The University of Guelph professor points out that scientific psychologists have a responsibility to show the relevance of their research to the courts and government. The application of research on how people perceive, think, and behave can provide useful insights for the law, he says.

Psychologists also have a responsibility to help the legal profession examine its own practices, Prof. Yarmey says. This can be done through sharing expertise of measurement and research techniques that can be used to assess some legal questions.

Prof. Yarmey, however, is quick to point out that the exchange of knowledge is not a one-way system. Scientists have much to gain from studying the operation of the law, he says. There is a danger that psychologists will overrate "the infallibility of their scientific evidence, forgetting that science is an artificial construction of the scientists which is not to be equated with ultimate reality."

## What is of value?

Of what value is a poet? Not much, most people would reply.

Even the least sophisticated may enjoy looking at a fine painting or listening to music or going to a show. So artists, musicians and actors — however far outside the mainstream of business and industry — are seen to have some value.

But poets? They don't give you facts, like a newspaper story. They waste paper — they don't fill each page with words, like a novel. They're not highly productive, sometimes laboring for days on a single phrase. And above all, they're hard to read — they bend the twist words, forcing you to struggle with meanings and images and sounds.

To try to see the value of a poet, consider the situation in the Republic of South Korea. You could spend your days accumulating facts and information about its repression, or its economic progress. You can balance intellectual arguments for and against its military dictatorship.

But when you read the poetry of Kim Chi Ha, Korea's imprisoned poet, you find these shells of partial truth have peeled away, leaving man's injustice to man exposed like a throbbing heart. Of torture and brutality, Kim wrote: speak, speak, with torn body, every wound as an open lip as an open tongue.

Poet Kim never murdered, raped, robbed or cheated anyone. But the lenses of his poems reveal too much truth. South Korean President Park Chung Hee has shut him away for life. He spent 19 months in solitary confinement with a single bare bulb burning night and day in his cell.

Poets like Kim Chi Ha don't just tell us things that are true. Instead they tell us discover truth for ourselves.

That's why societies need poets. For a people without poets is a blind people, stumbling towards social suicide.

## Was byelection repudiation?

By STEWART MacLEOD  
Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

In the wake of that byelection in Montreal's Notre Dame de Grace, it is tempting to think the Parti Quebecois has passed its peak and that Quebec is gliding easily back to the federalist fold.

Even Quebec Liberal Leader Claude Ryan, usually noted for his air-conditioned logic, is being uncharacteristically optimistic. He talked of the "total repudiation" of Rene Levesque's government by the voters in Notre Dame de Grace.

Ryan's candidate, Liberal Reed Scowen, swept the mainly English-speaking riding with apparent ease, collecting 12,707 votes, while Michel Gelin, the PQ candidate, was a distant third with only 2,347 votes. In between was an independent candidate, David DeJong, who won the support of 4,993 voters with his platform of "freedom of choice" regarding language.

This was the first byelection since the Parti Quebecois assumed office in November 1976, and it is already being assessed as a resounding triumph for the forces of federalism. I see that one Quebec newspaper is referring to a "decisive endorsement" for Claude Ryan, the leader who declined to run in Notre Dame de Grace but who, nonetheless seemed to dominate the campaign more than Scowen.

### WRONG RIDING

Ryan had decided, perhaps wisely, that this particular riding, with its Anglo dominance, would not be suitable for a party leader who wants to represent the aspirations of modern Quebec. He was well aware of what Levesque would say about such a marriage.

In fact, Levesque didn't take long making his comments even without Ryan's direct entry. He said the election results showed

that among English Quebecers there is still an attachment "to an outmoded status quo and a refusal to participate in the evolution of Quebec." It was also "regrettable" that an independent candidate had done so well, he said.

The Quebec premier has always had this tendency to suggest that any vote against his government is basically a vote against the real Quebecois.

What the Liberals regard as the most significant factor is the fact that the French speaking community of Ville St. Pierre, which forms part of the riding, also voted in favor of Scowen. In the 1976 general election, the Parti Quebecois candidate won 15 of the 16 polls in the village. This time, the Liberal candidate won 11 of them.

However, this turn-over was achieved with only a minimum shift in voting patterns. Overall, the Parti Quebecois candidate collected 11.3 per cent of the votes, compared with 13.6 per cent in the general election.

That scarcely represents an irreversible trend.

### NEED RESTRAINTS

The Liberal party has every reason to be quietly pleased with this byelection. Whenever a candidate can muster 62 per cent of the voters to his side there are no causes for complaint. But all things being considered, perhaps the celebrations should be somewhat restrained.

First of all, it is worth noting that the Parti Quebecois was never given the chance of the proverbial snowball of winning the Notre Dame de Grace seat. Even in the 1976 election, when Bryce Macksey was being widely billed as a federal carpet-bagger from Ottawa, he breezed to victory under the Liberal banner. He collected 13,161 votes, the Union Nationale candidate attracted 8,732 and the Parti Quebecois candidate was third with 4,100. Macksey got little help from the party organization, and the then party leader Robert Bourassa, was considered a liability.

This time Ryan threw himself into the byelection campaign. He even went door-to-door on some streets, while his wife did the same thing on other streets. Furthermore, Scowen proved to be a highly attractive candidate.

On the other hand, the Parti Quebecois ran a lacklustre campaign, faced with the almost impossible task of selling its controversial language legislation to an English-speaking constituency. The PQ candidate had no chance.

Since Quebec federalists get such rare opportunities to celebrate, I suppose we shouldn't throw cold water on this byelection. But it's a far cry, and a far distance, from the next provincial election.

# Beer, baseball, biggest non-issue

By DEKEL NELSON  
Queen's Park Bureau  
Of The Herald

Probably the biggest non-issue to harry the government here in the past year is what is commonly referred to as "beer in the ballpark."

That's the catch-all phrase to sum up allowing the serving of beer in plastic cups at Toronto Blue Jay games here.

Toronto is the only city in major league baseball where a fan can't buy a beer. Some of the media in particular think that's terrible.

Opponents of booze like to think they can go watch a baseball game and have a choice about whether or not they'll have to sit beside someone consuming alcohol. They can anywhere else.

And some feel the government is worried

that if it gives Toronto's Exhibition stadium a beer permit it'll have to do the same for other stadiums in the province.

The final cabinet decision to ban beer was announced by Consumer and Commercial Relations Minister Larry Grossman June 28, which indicates how long cabinet dithered over the matter.

The public has responded to the ban with a medium to heavy mail flow to Grossman's office running two-to-one in favor of the government decision.

Which make sense. A beer at the ballpark would be nice on a hot day, but it's hardly crucial to a game of baseball.

### HIGH PAY

This is the summer of the committee here.

Not only are the three standing committees on social development, justice and procedural affairs meeting, but also select committees on Hydro affairs, company law, the ombudsman, health care and possibly the retail food industry.

That's fine, and indicates our MPPs are working.

But why are they getting \$50 a day for attending on top of their \$27,000 a year (salary plus tax-free expense allowance) for what in effect is doing their job?

### COUNTER ATTACK

Nothing better illustrates the rising anger amongst eastern Ontarians against Quebec's independence march than a bill introduced in the last legislative session by MPP George Samis (NDP-Cornwall).

It would in effect bar Quebec construction workers from jobs in Ontario in

retaliation for Quebec legislation barring our workers from that province.

The Ontario government later followed with a similar bill, but have left it to slumber on a side burner. Samis' effort, a private member's bill, is equally unlikely to become law, but its importance lies in its introduction.

Samis, one of the MPPs most sympathetic to Quebec French-Canadian aspirations, a year ago fathered a bill, a declaration of principles about French language rights suggested by L'Association Canadienne Francaise d'Ontario.

One can be sure Samis wouldn't be introducing the construction bill, even "reluctantly" as he said, unless there was a lot of local pressure on the issue.

The bill is a sign of the times.

The legislature at its spring session sat 80 days. On one of these days it was vitally alive. As it happened this was its last day, Friday, June 23.

Vitally alive! Oh yes, it was alive at other times. But largely this was the liveliness of a fishwives' picnic. There was not much that was healthy about it. And nothing vital.

But then on this last Friday morning, the government made a statement about a new Ford plant. It had been negotiating with Ottawa to get the new plant here — a \$500 million job. And it had agreed to make a joint grant, an inducement, to get the plant.

Ottawa and the province, at that point, weren't in agreement on how the grant would be shared.

But the province had — finally — agreed to the inducement principle.

And, in a strong session, the opposition parties and the house agreed. Ontario should get the plant, at practically any cost.

Today, of course, there is one great problem. The economy.

It is such an overwhelming problem that pretty well everything else is very pale, relative to it.

The members at the session did pay some attention to some of these everything else. But watching them as, clothed in their roles and surroundings as legislators, they dealt with them you had picture of players in full football gear battling ping pong balls.

For there was nothing, except some talk and moaning, at the session until this last day about the economy.

Then at last we got into inducements.

### NEW GAME

Here was a solid step on the economic problem.

Not an overall solution, of course. Not even a potential dent in it of major size.

But it was a concrete move ahead, the first we have seen. And further it was recognizing, again really for the first time, one of the root and most perplexing facets of this province's economic plight.

The fact that Ontario has lost its old hole cards in the economic development game.

For most of this century Ontario has been in a preferred position as a location for new industry.

It has had a good work force, abundant natural resources and, above all, cheap energy (through Hydro).

Those advantages have mostly been lost. Our work force today is perhaps the highest paid in the world, and at that it doesn't have an abundance of basic modern trade skills.

Natural resources are still there. But they are more expensive to produce — and are meeting growing assault from the third world.

And the most significant factor, cheap energy, has gone with the wind.

Which means that Ontario must compete for economic development on an open market where it isn't a dealer any more. It is just a player.

And the game today is a bidding war. A game of inducements. Throughout the U.S. and particularly relevant to Ontario the northern states, there is a tremendous drive for new development and the bank-rolls are out.

In the west there is Alberta, and more recently Saskatchewan, avid for new industry and money in the bank to go after it.

### EYES OPEN

Bidding wars can be brutal things. They can even be most unhealthy.

But if they are the way of life of the moment and the need is critical, as it is for Ontario at this point, then there is little choice but to get into them.

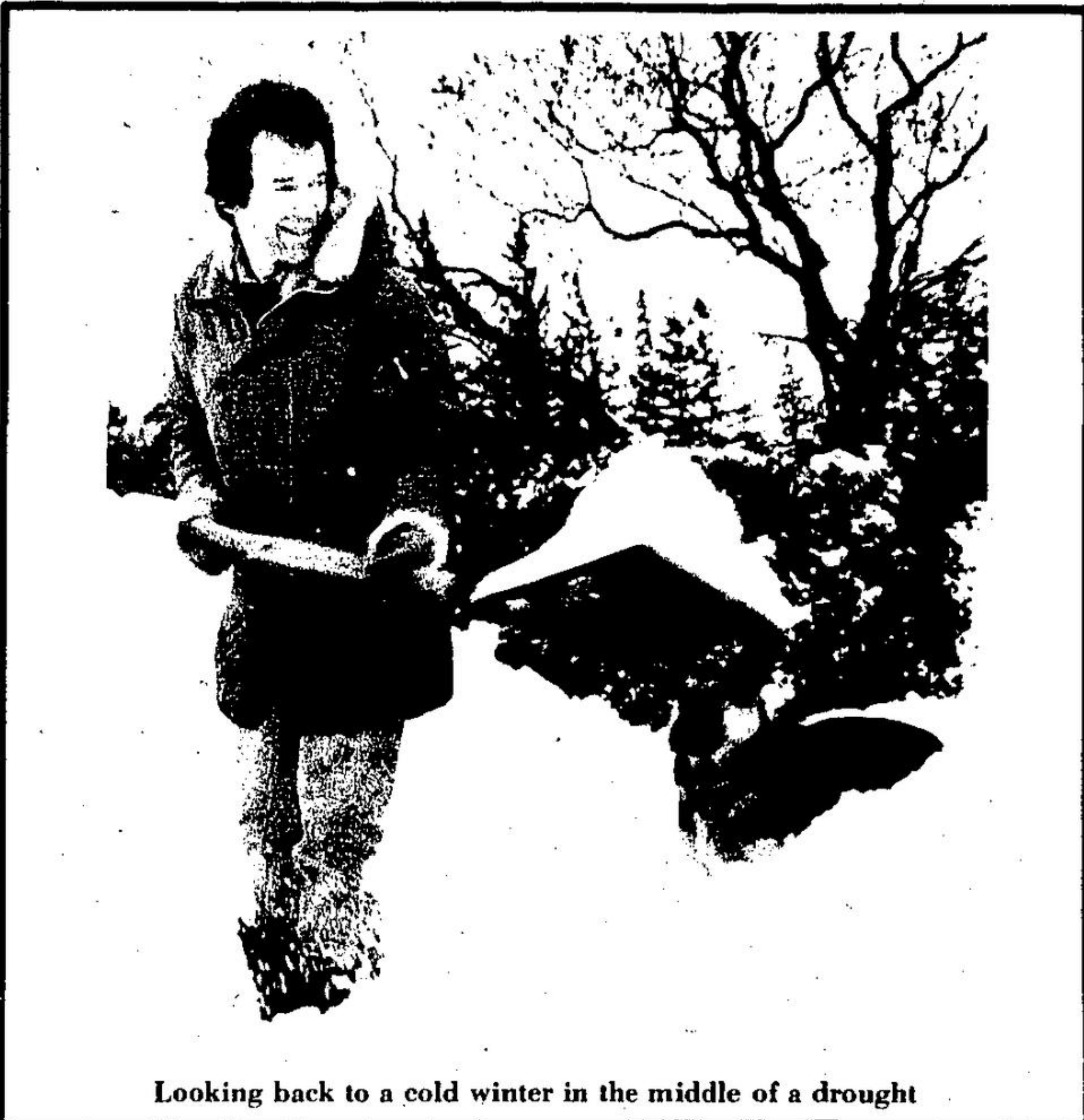
You play them as well as you can, of course, and as wisely as you can (always mindful of future health), but you play them. The government here wrestled with this for a long time and resisted it. Then on that final day of the session it indicated it was recognizing the facts of life.

It was the one reassuring development here in a long time. Eyes long closed may just be beginning to open.

## Bible thought

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:18,19,20

Be a part of this great commission - you can do nothing greater!



Looking back to a cold winter in the middle of a drought

## Hazards of daily living

When was the last time you read anything good about the world we live in today?

Judging by the conventional wisdom of our times, this must be the worst of all possible worlds. The family is breaking up; the deserts are spreading; our fish have been poisoned; violence is increasing; welfare is destroying the work ethic.

And the future — again according to conventional wisdom — looks even worse. We are threatened by too many people, too few resources, too many bombs, too little ozone, too much carbon dioxide, not enough food, an accelerating rate of change and a slowness to adapt. Having become the best-informed society in history about these hazards, we have also become, in the words of University of Detroit Professor Margaret Maxey "the most fore-warned, anxiety-prone, exhorted, and guilt-ridden of cultures."

Little wonder many people yearn for "the good old days", when life was simpler and easier.

What hogwash! Without denying that today's world has problems and that yesterday's had some values we seem to have lost, does anyone really want to go back to those "good old days"?

When average life expectancy was 45 years?

When you could count on at least one child in each family not surviving to its fifth birthday?

When kitchen wastes, ashes, household garbage, and toilet dregs were dumped in gutters and on sidewalks?

When the major insecticide used on almost everything was lead arsenate, and the most common red food coloring was lead chromate — both deadly poisons?

## Give blood tomorrow

Elks Lodge, No. 540 Halton Hills is sponsoring a Special Summer Blood Clinic to help maintain the Blood Bank level during the vacation period.

This extra clinic will be held Thurs. July 20 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Elks Hall on Mountainview Rd.

Elks members and the Red Cross will work together to promote this worthwhile cause to all Halton Hills residents who are not, as yet, regular blood donors.

Officials are aiming at 200 units as Halton Hills contribution to the daily requirement of 1,000 units of blood.

For Acton residents this clinic would be considered a regular donation, however, Georgetown donors are reminded that there must be 3 months between donations.

Elks and Red Cross ask that if you can't give this time, you bring a friend, a neighbour or a family member who needs that little bit of encouragement.

This is your chance to keep the Blood Bank ready for every need.

When the main killer diseases were not forms of cancer, heart breakdown or nerve decay, but influenza, pneumonia, tuberculosis, diphtheria and whooping cough?

When women and children were used as beasts of burden in mines and industries, and education was available only to the elite?

That's all within the last century, documented in Otto Belteman's book, The Good Old Days - They Were Terrible.

Or would you rather go further back in search of Eden, to times when feudal lords could arbitrarily ship any man off to war, or could claim prior sexual rights to his wife and daughters? Perhaps back to an age untram-

meled by technology, when humans cowered in caves or tents, shivering against cold, injury, animals, ignorance, disease and malevolent gods?

No, we may not yet have the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, and much more than material progress will be needed to achieve it. But let's not flagellate ourselves into thinking this is Hell, either.

The many hazards that preoccupy us now do so only because, for the first time in history, we have the luxury of recognizing them. At any previous time, they would have been submerged in the greater hazards of daily survival.

## Looking through our files

### THIRTY YEARS AGO

A Russian Grand Duchess, Olga Kulikovsky, and her husband have purchased the farm of the late W.J. Allison near Campbellville. The Russian family, which includes two sons and their wives and two grandchildren, have come to Canada from Denmark, where they have been operating a dairy farm. Mrs. Kulikovsky is the sister to Czar Nicholas II.

If plans of the Hockey Club, Board of Parks Management and Recreational Council materialize, Georgetown will have an assistant recreational director in the near future to provide coaching, particularly for hockey and baseball. The anticipated salary for the position, which would be a part-time one, would be \$1,500 and a majority opinion favors a playing coach for the Intermediate "A" team who could also devote some time to baseball in the summer as well as training coaches for minor teams.

At a meeting of the Lions Club in the park following the last ball game on Monday evening, future plans were made for the tennis courts which is to be built in the park. A discussion took place on ways of raising additional funds to augment the estimated \$800 raised on the lucky draw and variety show.

### TWENTY YEARS AGO

Five Guelph Street businesses suffered damage early Sunday morning when fire completely gutted Georgetown Creamery and most of the B and F Auto Body and threatened to wipe out an entire block on the highway before firemen brought the blaze under control. Smoke from the fire caused damage to Georgetown Meat Market and the Ornamental Smiths and water damage was heavy in the town garage. Firemen were on the scene within minutes of the call but had trouble containing the fire to the creamery as it spread rapidly along the roof into B and F Auto Body. At the height of the blaze flames were licking twenty feet into the air and were visible all over town. A quantity of butter was lost in the fire and two cars were almost

destroyed. Lockers under the creamery were untouched. Damage was estimated at \$15,000.

A complicated question of finance has delayed progress on Georgetown's planned new sewage disposal plant, interfered with plans of Delrex Developments for the construction of 582 homes, okayed by the town council on property adjacent to the Sykes Tool plant, and led to charges laid against the company by building inspector Joseph Gibbons for alleged infringement of the building bylaw. On May 30, the Ontario Municipal Board recognized the need for a new plant, but the town did not receive an okay for financing the estimated \$830,000 cost. On Monday council received word from the board that approval would be given to go ahead, with the proviso that the cost not exceed \$830,000 that Delrex post a \$147,000 bond, this money to be applied directly to the capital cost of the plant, and that no further capital debt be incurred by the town, other than for waterworks and hydro, until 1961.

### TEN YEARS AGO

Ontario Hydro has announced an increase in rates to its 500,000 rural customers — the first general increase in 15 years. The new rates will be reflected in bills mailed on and after October 1, 1968. The increase will vary from customer to customer according to classification and the amount of energy used. The average will be 9 1/2 per cent.

"It's quite apparent \$55 a week is not an adequate salary in Georgetown," said Mayor Joseph Gibbons during a discussion at Monday's council meeting on hiring a new municipal officer clerk. The mayor was questioning engaging an Acton resident for the job and said while this salary might be adequate in a town where lower wages are in effect, it will not attract a town resident.

At a brief meeting Monday night, Esquesing council took the first step toward a zoned township. They passed a motion setting up a seven-member planning board. The members of the board will be decided at a later meeting.



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