

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1978
A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited
103 Main St. South, Georgetown, L7G-3E5, Ontario
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Second Class Mail Registered Number—0943

Please watch out for our children

The big day has finally arrived, and all across Halton, thousands of students will be making their way back to school.

Some will be dragging their feet, reluctant to draw an end to the freedom of summer holidays, while others will be walking eagerly ahead, chattering about their new teachers and new courses.

Whatever the case, the odds are the last thing they will be paying attention to is the traffic. As they step out into an intersection to cross the street, their lives are in the hands of every driver on the road.

Students have an excellent safety program in the schools. They learn caution, common sense and the safe way of getting from place to place. And they practice what they learn.

But all it takes is just one moment of forgetfulness — that moment when you see your best friend across the street, waving at you, and you start across the street without looking to see what's coming. Just one moment, and it's over.

It's up to the drivers to maintain extra alertness, particularly during those times just before and after school, and during lunch hours, when children are on their way to and from school. Every child on the side of the street should act as a signal of danger to a driver. Children are unpredictable and it is the driver's responsibility to be prepared.

Perhaps the best suggestion to any driver is to drive as if all the children you see are your own. Watch over them as if you were their parent, and return them safely to their real parents at the end of the day, to talk about the exciting day they had at school.

And for all those who would disclaim any responsibility for watching out for someone else's child, ask yourself — when a child dies as the result of a moment of forgetfulness, does it matter that he or she ran out in front of you, and it wasn't your fault?

Election will make or break region

When challenged by critics of regional government, Halton regional chairman Ric Morrow likes to recall that it took Metropolitan Toronto ten years to develop its strained, interborough relationships into a successful, relatively unified format. It usually goes without saying that Mr. Morrow predicts the same future for regional government in Halton, which is now closing out its fourth year of existence.

But Mr. Morrow is leaving politics, as has Darcy McKeough, the architect of regional government. Halton voters, who will have no direct say in choosing Mr. Morrow's successor, can only speculate, and in most cases hope, that the new chairman of regional council displays Mr. Morrow's optimism about the future, and the perseverance and drive needed to make that rosy future a reality.

While most members of the current council either actively support regional government or are reserved about openly condemning it, there are those who have no qualms about putting their parochial attitudes on record. As evidenced by council's recent rejection of a third plea for uniform water rates, the majority of members regard regional meetings as something akin to an international policy conference, where the delegates are empowered by their countrymen to hold out for the best possible deal for the motherland regardless of the cost to one's "allies."

One regional councillor, Carl Eriksen of Oakville, recently laid it on the line when he announced his opposition to regional government to his colleagues.

"I'm only here to keep the monster in check," he told regional council.

Already, there is one new candidate for regional council who is confidently brandishing his intention to take care of none but his own constituents if it comes down to such a choice.

Halton Hills voters, and particularly Acton residents, are about to see Coun. Pat McKenzie retire from the regional scene after four years spent imploring his Oakville and Burlington colleagues to vote for the good of the region as a whole.

Parochialism continues to divide Halton citizens. Those in the north see the south turn its back on their needs and conclude that regional government won't work. And while there are still a few years to go before the growing pains cease, as Ric Morrow would have us believe, the forthcoming municipal election will decide whether Halton's divisiveness continues to its inevitable conclusion, or whether internal boundaries can be forgotten and the rifts sealed closed. Only when south Halton embraces the needs and objectives of the north will Darcy McKeough's regional government start to work here.

Provincial agencies could be axed

BY DEREK NELSON
Queens Park Bureau
Of The Herald

Recent stories out of Queen's Park speak of some fascinating ways the provincial government is thinking of saving money.

One of them listed five provincial agencies that might get the chop in any tough restraint program.

They were TV Ontario, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (the fabled OISE), the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the Provincial Savings Office and the Ontario Economic Council (OEC).

In an interview before his resignation as treasurer, Darcy McKeough poo-pooed the necessity for making such massive chops.

And neither the Liberal nor New Democratic Party opposition have ever carried their complaints about government spending to the point where they'll name the cuts they'd make if they were in power.

But still there's a germ of an idea there. TV Ontario ran a \$20 million last year, most of it a waste of money.

DUPLICATION
TV Ontario is the broadcast network for

the Ontario Educational Communications Authority (OECA) which produces and distributes so-called educational programs.

There are endless hours of French-language programming, which simply duplicates what Ottawa has the CBC's French network for.

There are the usual overseas propaganda films, such as (to pick the last one I saw) Development In The Magreb, which coupled a hymn of praise for "socialist" Algeria with a violent attack on "capitalist" Morocco.

The last time OECA hit the headlines was over a Richard Nixon-styled enemies list that circulated in their bureaucracy and lumped provincial politicians into friend or foe categories.

Yes, TV Ontario could be basically cancelled with few even noting its passing. OISE would save another \$10 million if it were axed.

And that's good. OISE has long chafed up a record for producing esoteric, out-of-this-world reports and programs. Ivory tower is one of the kinder epithets applied to it.

Their latest escapade is to produce a "journal of underdevelopment studies" call-



Statistics report forecasts better employment situation

By JULIAN REED
Halton-Burlington M.P.P.

As of July, the seasonally adjusted figure for unemployment in Canada was 927,000 (or 8.4 per cent). For Ontario, the seasonally adjusted figure was 309,000 (7.3 per cent). Against this background of nation-wide unemployment, a recent report by Statistics Canada is particularly interesting.

The report "Out of School - Into the Labour Force", concerns trends and prospects for enrolment, school leavers, and the labour force in Canada - the 1960s through the 1980s. It provides a general overview of expected changes in the man-powers supply from Canada's education systems, and possible implications.

Declining enrolment has been the norm rather than the exception for elementary schools since 1970; secondary schools are now experiencing the same decline, which will be felt at the post-secondary level in the 1980s. The sequence of the postwar baby boom, the subsequent precipitous drop in births, and the upturn since

1973 has created a wave and trough effect in population figures, which is seen to move through the education system into the labour force. For example, 4-17-year-olds, who were 29.0 per cent of the total in 1971, will decrease to 20.1 per cent by 1986, while the 25-44 age group will rise from 25.1 per cent to 33.1 per cent. School enrolment closely follows population trends, because of the compulsory nature of elementary and much secondary school education: at the post-secondary level, the size of the 18-24 age group is a determining factor. It has been projected that this latter age group will grow approximately 1.2 per cent annually to 3.4 million by the early 1980s, when it will diminish - to 2.7 million by the mid-1990s (a 21 per cent drop) - and increase thereafter.

The projected post-secondary enrolment in the Canada Statistics Report is based on the assumption that the enrolment rate will decline from 19.4 per cent in 1976 to 17.4 per cent in 1986, because of: (1) a labour market surplus of post-

secondary graduates in some disciplines, with consequent unemployment, underemployment and decreasing wages relative to other workers; (2) a diminishing demand for teachers in the 1980s as elementary-secondary enrolment continues to decrease and (3) continuation of the recent drop in the total proportion of government expenditures allocated to education (from 22.2 per cent in 1970 to 17.0 per cent in 1975).

A slowly increasing 18-24 age group, combined with a falling enrolment rate results in more or less stable post-secondary enrolment between 1977 and 1982 of about 613,000 students. The subsequent decline in the 18-24 age group is expected to cause enrolment to drop to around 550,000 by 1986. This is likely to continue into the early 1990s. Part-time enrolment has been excluded from the study, and it must be remembered that part-time students constitute a significant proportion of post-secondary enrolment: an estimated 24 per cent in 1975.

Phenomenal labour force growth due to emergence of the baby boom generation from the education system has been accentuated by a rapidly increasing percentage of working women (33.9 per cent participation rate in 1965 to 45.9 per cent in 1977) and high immi-

Beware of pre-election nightmares

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

The next time I take a vacation there will be no television, no radio, no newspapers. I won't speak to anyone who has any contact with the outside world. And, hopefully, I won't run into anyone who has even visited Ottawa.

Then, perhaps, I can kick these nightmares about the next election campaign.

Actually, I had thought my timing was just about perfect this year. Prime Minister Trudeau had just gone on national television, with rather humorous haste, to tell us we could all forget about an election "at this time" because Canadians would prefer that their government deal with important economic issues. He made it sound as though it would be a quiet, business-like operation by his cabinet colleagues and the rest of us could relax for the remainder of the summer.

Ho, ho, ho. What Trudeau did with his steely-eyed statement about our economic ambitions was to set off the greatest pre-election publicity blitz since the St. Laurent government tried to win re-election by raising old-age pensions to \$46 a month. The only light relief during the past two weeks was watching cabinet ministers trip over each other as they raced to their next press conference.

And this, of course, contributed to the nightmares.

FIGURES FRIGHTEN
You see, for those of us who face some involvement in the next election campaign there is nothing more frightening than economic complexities, which may have to be explained. That's why anyone has fond memories of that \$6-a-month increase in old-age pensions — we could understand it.

And that's why we had so much trouble in 1972 as former Conservative leader Robert Stanfield talked about "negative income tax" and later, in 1974, when he made a valiant effort to explain how price and wage controls would work. While the rest of us looked in bewilderment, Trudeau bought the entire package and implemented the Tory program. But that was nothing compared with what's coming. As a result of those nightmarish announcements over the last few weeks — announcements that seem to remove all doubts about a fall election — we are faced with a set of issues that will reduce seasoned economists to babbling wrecks. What the government has done, after the prime minister urged us to forget elections, was to bring down a series of financial and monetary measures that make most budgets look like petty cash vouchers.

And it has all been done on television instead of in Parliament. This means we don't even have the benefit of parliamentary debate to put things in focus.

It's no wonder the nightmares became worse.

PRICES UP
One of the things we are going to have to face is that 3.5 per cent cut in gasoline excise taxes. It seemed straightforward enough at the time, but two days later after the announcement the price of gasoline rose in Canada. It seems that many dealers had already paid the excise tax and had to recover it from consumers.

"We're totally buffaloes," was the comment from Shell Canada Ltd. if that company is buffaloes, where does it leave me?

Then there is that cut in family allowances. Heaven knows it's already complex enough, with tax credits and the like. But now we find out the plan can't be implemented until Parliament meets, and since we don't know where this will be, it's impossible to measure the effects.

It may never happen. "I believe many Canadians wanted a reduction of family allowances..." said Health Minister Monique Bégin. It will be interesting — but no doubt confusing — to learn how this conclusion was suddenly reached after the Trudeau government has spent 10 years raising family allowances.

And of course we all want to hear how it now is possible to eliminate 5,000 public service jobs after being told the bureaucracy was already pared to the bone. While they are at it, perhaps the Liberal politicians could also tell us how unemployment and inflation — the country's two major problems — will be affected by all these scatter-shot announcements. Some unbelieving Tories say there will be no effect whatever.

Perhaps we'll never know. The way the universe is unfolding we will be swamped with statistics and choked by confusions before we ever get to the polls. At least that's what the nightmares indicate.

Brampton school reunion Sept. 30

To the editor of The Herald:

As co-chairman of the Brampton McHugh Public School Reunion Committee, we shall be very grateful to you if you would publish the following information in your paper.

Any reader who has had an affiliation with McHugh School over its 55 years, either as a student, staff member, or parent, is extended a warm welcome to join us on the occasion of our Reunion on Saturday, September 30th, 1978, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the school on Craig and Elliott Street.

The Committee is collecting pictures, yearbooks, etc. of former years to put on display for the day.

If you can help us in this respect, please leave any materials with Mr. Al Smith, Principal of McHugh, by September 29th, clearly marked on the back with your name and full address, so that all articles can be returned promptly to the owners. It will be appreciated if you would spread the news of the Reunion to any others who just might not have received word of it. Thanking you for your cooperation.

We remain,
Yours very truly,
Gordon Alsop & Arnett Charlton
Co-chairman, McHugh School Reunion.

Bible Digest

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again." John 10:11,17

Our sins took the life of Jesus, our forgiveness depends on what we believe about it. "Christ died for our sins."

Looking through our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO
Enrolment at Georgetown high school has been seriously affected by the transfer of a majority of Esqueving students to high schools at Milton and Acton. This year's enrolment is 110, compared with 150 last year. Under normal circumstances an increase of about 20 would have been expected, so that the net loss in number of students to Georgetown is almost 60.

Fire which broke out in a windbreak at the Brampton Brick Company's plant on the highway near the Georgetown cut-off caused loss estimated at \$25,000 a week ago last night. A quarter of a million bricks, which would have been ready for market within two days were destroyed when water used to extinguish the fire poured on them. Brampton Brick Company is the town's oldest industry and was founded in 1860.

Georgetown Lions Club will be sponsoring the placing of waste containers in the Main Street district. The subject was introduced at the club dinner meeting in the

McGibbon House last night by Walter Diehn who explained that the plan would be to have containers made similar to those used in Toronto, and approach merchants and others interested in cleaning up the downtown district for donations.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
A Georgetown man will be spending the winter far from the beaten path. Paul Prust, who has been visiting for a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Prust, left town last Thursday for Montreal from where he was to leave by air for a position on the Dew Line, 100 miles north of the Arctic.

A motion by Coun. Harrison and McGilvray to extend parking meters another block on Main Street south found only Coun. Hyde in agreement with them, and the plan was defeated at last week's council meeting.

A delegation of some forty concerned parents, the majority from the Park district, flooded the Georgetown public school board meeting with enquiries last night for almost two hours. The meeting was scheduled for the

board room at Harrison school but had to be adjourned to one of the classrooms because of the size of the delegation.

Although few knew it, Georgetown had as a visitor last week a great man. By great, we mean great in courage, in human kindness, ingenuity, and resourcefulness and whose own personal safety was never considered when he was needed. We are speaking of Jan Molenaar, a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Hank Bouwman, 14 Riverview Crescent, from Nyvartal, Holland, who arrived in Canada in June. Mr. Molenaar was one of the top men in the resistance movement against the Nazis when they occupied Holland, being the director of displaced persons for the province of Ovarayssal. Simply the title meant that he was the number one man in helping the persons who were fleeing the Nazis.

TEN YEARS AGO
The Georgetown and Esqueving schools swallowed up 6,813 pupils Tuesday, and at

press time are suffering only mild indigestion. The record enrolments were general as the Georgetown public schools accepted 2,904; high school 1,310; Holy Cross 685; and the Esqueving township schools 1,914. The total is an increase of 769 over last September's figure.

Colonel Harland Saunders, known best to northerners for capturing chicken lovers everywhere, inspected his Georgetown outpost Saturday and found everything in finger-lickin' shape.

Armstrong Brother Construction Company of Brampton has started work on the "death corner" intersection at Hornby. The corner has been the scene of many major highway crashes, and one coroner's inquest into the fatality at the intersection urged that it be rebuilt. The intersection is at the corner of Trafalgar Road and the Base Line. The work is part of a program by Halton county to rebuild the north-south Trafalgar Road strip and develop it as a major traffic route.