

THE HERALD, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1979  
A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited  
103 Main St. South, Georgetown, L7G-3E5, Ontario  
WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF, Publisher  
MICHAEL HOLLETT, Editor  
PHONE...877-2201  
Second Class Mail Registered Number—0743

# Theatre survey demonstrates plan support

Supporters of the proposed expansion of the Howard Wigglesworth Public School to include a theatre auditorium have to be encouraged by the responses received to their newspaper survey seeking public input on the plan.

According to members of the Georgetown Little Theatre group — the people responsible for publishing the newspaper advertising surveys last October — close to 98 per cent of the respondents to the survey favored the construction of the theatre-auditorium at the Wigglesworth site.

The GLT proposal is a good one and one that appears to be the most economical way of supplying the town with badly needed theatre facilities.

Basically, the GLT plan would incorporate renovations to the school already planned by the Halton Board of Education and modify the planned new gymnasium to include full theatre facilities with portable seating. The funding for the expanded alterations to plan would come from the town, Wintario and donations.

Halton Hills is lucky to have a thriving amateur entertainment scene that includes the GLT and the local choral society but they need a proper facility to perform in. We can only guess how much more the local amateur entertainment would develop with the proper facilities and adequate access to them.

The GLT have detailed the many problems involved for local groups if they use existing facilities. These problems range from inadequate stage and backstage facilities to poor acoustics and lack of availability.

It is to be expected with a survey like the GLT's that the majority of the respondents would be positive, people wanting the theatre built would be aware of the proposal and more inclined to take whatever actions they can to see it built. However, it is still surprising and encouraging that so many local residents have the foresight in these economy conscious times to realize the value in spending the money necessary to renovate Wigglesworth School.

Supporters of the theatre proposal will be approaching town council on January 15 to encourage to begin a feasibility study of the plan. Such a study is required by the provincial government grants can be considered. The town should begin the study immediately so there will be a chance of beginning the renovations sometime this summer, in time for the busy fall season.

And we encourage supporters of the proposal to attend the January 15 council meeting. Ever vote conscious, town councillors always seem to listen to proposals that are backed up by a roomful of supporters.



# Juicy tales from Ontario auditor detail government's misdeeds



**Queen's Park Report**  
By Derek Nelson

**Queens Park Bureau**  
OF THE HERALD  
TORONTO — Provincial auditor Norman Scott is the man who once a year recounts juicy tales of government mismanagement of our money.

In the resulting publicity surrounding such misdeeds an essential fact usually gets lost.

Scott is really talking about theft, about stealing from the taxpayer, even if it's not necessarily illegal.

Sometimes such theft is inadvertent, a tragedy of errors that comes from the size and complexity of government, or the stupidity of individuals.

The classic case in Scott's latest report concerns London Psychiatric Hospital, which

ordered coal supplies eventually costing \$173,000 — a single day before its furnaces were converted to oil.

Incidents like that happen, and while probably preventable are understandable. Private industry too makes such snafus, while the federal government has made such incompetence into a higher art form.

**FAR WORSE**

But there is a second kind of theft, which is far more culpable, even if not illegal.

Public money is a public trust, which should be spent with the reverence one would bestow on a church offering and was handling.

Instead the glitter of so much gold seems to drive some people mad with the lust to spend.

A couple of lovely examples are given by Scott this year.

One concerns a member of the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning. (Scott never names names).

She worked for \$110 a day, and charged the commission \$94,270 over three years. (By comparison a second commission member sent in a bill for less than \$20,000).

**HARD WORK**

The "working days" (and Scott uses quotation marks around the words in his report) included 51 Saturdays, 30 Sundays,

five statutory holidays and 13 days when the member was sitting for an additional \$95 a day on another government commission.

The same person accounted for an additional \$50,100 in expenses, a 61 per cent of all commission members expenses.

This may not be illegal, and even accepting the natural human tendency to go first class on other people's money, it is decidedly unreasonable.

Then there was the employee in the ombudsman's office who logged 12,383 miles in a government car, 8,700 of them on personal business.

With dry humor Scott noted "that no taxable benefit was included in the employee's T4 for income tax purposes."

**TAKEN BACK**

The ombudsman's office is notorious for ordering "working late" sandwiches from Winston's probably Toronto's most expensive restaurant.

The auditor also noted that the busy driver above was dismissed only to be re-hired again exactly three months later.

Scott made no further comment, although one wishes he had.

To an outsider it indicates the "old boy" hiring network continues to function in government. At our expense.

And that too is a form of theft.

# Acton's town hall should be preserved

Halton Hills town council could not help but be impressed with the support shown by Acton residents for the renovations of the town's beautiful and historic town hall.

For a while it looked as though the once proud old red brick building on Willow Street was heading for an ignominious demise at the end of a wrecker's ball. Probably the lowest point in the building's history came last year when the Ontario Ministry of Labour ordered the building closed because of its unsafe state of disrepair.

But from that lowpoint the people of Acton — spurred by the Acton Town Hall Committee — have rallied behind the town's beautiful landmark and managed to raise over \$8,000 towards the \$50,000 to \$75,000 needed to fund renovations. An additional \$186,000 will be provided in the form of grants to help finance the renovations.

The \$8,000 raised from Actonians is certainly an encouraging one and shows there is support for restoring the building within the town. However, the job is not done and we encourage more residents to get behind the building and contribute to the fundraising efforts even with a small donation.

We also think it would be a worthwhile gesture for some of Acton's industries to come behind the building and make a contribution towards the restoration fund.

At a time when the people of Georgetown are crying for a town centre it would be a shame to see the people of Acton lose such a perfect building to meet their own community needs.

And, of course, the biggest crime would be for the people of Acton, including future generations, to lose their beautiful link with Acton's historic past.

The building should be preserved.

# Tory is a poignant pointer, his statistics embarrass Liberals



**Ottawa Report**  
By Stewart MacLeod

**Ottawa Bureau**  
OF THE HERALD

During the final stage of Parliament's frantic race toward a Christmas recess, it was easy to pay scant attention to the scores of statistics produced by Dan McKenzie, the Tory MP from Winnipeg South Centre.

This seems like a good time to go back to them.

Since McKenzie is a Conservative, and since the government he so frequently attacks is Liberal, it's natural to assume the statistics form part of a partisan attack. But they go beyond that. That federal bureaucracy is so big that even the elected government can't follow its activities. And Liberal MPs are as concerned about this as the Tories.

It's just that McKenzie has such a poignant way of pointing a finger at the problem. And being in opposition also makes it easier for him to emphasize his points — by using such expressions as lies and concealment, deception, coverups and stupidity.

Liberals would prefer to talk about "administrative difficulties."

Anyway, the statistics dredged up by McKenzie relate to those outside contracts awarded by our government with unrestrained regularity. And while even McKenzie's unremitting research has failed to unearth a complete inventory, he did establish that, in 1975-76, at least 940 such contracts were awarded at a cost of \$225 million.

in these cases, such an appraisal is impossible. Many of the studies undertaken under these contracts are never even made public.

What continues to amaze me is how the government can justify so many outside studies while its own employees are spending so much of their time on inside studies. Presumably someone is conducting studies on the studies.

Why, you might ask, would Treasury Board feel the necessity to award a \$133,000 contract for a study "on the psycho-social factors affecting the attitudes, motivation and behavior of public servants?" As McKenzie said, "I don't know whether that study is just gathering dust on a shelf or whether any recommendations have been implemented."

Meanwhile, of course, there were other related studies going on. There was one, for \$24,000 for "an independent study of the pay scales and remuneration paid to the senior executive officer category in the public service of Canada and to make recommendations thereon."

That is something that would clearly affect the attitudes, motivation and behavior of public servants.

And here is another one, courtesy of McKenzie, for \$4,800 "to assist in the planning of a study of the public service pay system." For \$12,000, we have "independent studies relating to the identification of gaps and conflicts in compensation policy and directives and the method to be followed in overcoming such gaps and conflicts."

**MORE COMING**

Don't go away. There are more studies affecting the attitudes, motivation and behavior of public servants. Right here, for instance, is a \$6,000 study to "advise on ways and means of overcoming structural problems in the government's approach to management."

For \$12,000 there was a study undertaken on "pensions and insurance in connection with the personnel policy manual."

At \$7,280 there was "an independent study to be made of the problems related to

the compensation policy review project for the public service of Canada" and for a mere \$1,000 there was "consultation-management salary survey."

By this time, one would think the entire bureaucracy would be fairly well versed on the attitudes, motivation and behavior of the public service. But chances are we will never know.

"Are any recommendations being implemented," McKenzie asked in Parliament.

No answer.

"Does anyone know that?"

No answer.

"Probably the government backbenchers do not even know about these documents either," said the impatient MP.

And he was no doubt correct.

## Letter to the editor

# Library program good more should attend

Dear Editor,  
We wish to commend Sharon Naylor, Children's Librarian for the Halton Hills Public Library, for arranging for Jan Hubes to present a concert here on December 29. The concert was excellent. Ms. Naylor's ideas and initiative in programming for the Children's Library are an asset to our community.

We would, however, like to express our disappointment and embarrassment that members of the public did not support this concert by attending it. Where were all the

people who complain we have not enough cultural events here for our children? We would have expected that a free afternoon concert during school holidays would have played to a full house. You and your children missed an outstanding event.

We do hope that such programmes in the future will have more community support.

Yours truly,  
Nora Lipp  
Joanna Dobbin  
Ann Geh

# Halton's History

From the Herald's files

**TOM LONGBOAT DIES**  
THIRTY YEARS AGO — The death of Tom Longboat, famed Indian runner, recalls the days in his youth when he was a resident of Stewarttown and worked as a hop-picker on the farm of the late John Smith Esquire on the 7th Line. Stewarttown residents recall that he lived in the hotel operated by Mr. Brewer in the building which is now occupied by J. Sanford and Son. Much of his training was done here and it was always a matter of pride that in the days of his fame, Stewarttown could claim some share in his success.

Three men, all Esquering township employees, had a miraculous escape from injury on Monday afternoon while so working in the repair shop in the rear of the town township hall in Stewarttown. The men, Herbert Roshier, Ed McLean and Sam Milchem, were working on some of the township road machinery when a sixteen foot brick pillar which supported three heavy steel girders in the roof collapsed, spilling the girders to the floor. Only minor damage was caused to machinery.

A movement to form a district association of fire brigades was inaugurated in Georgetown on Monday when representatives of various brigades met in the Georgetown fire hall. Men attended from Milton, Brampton, Orangeville, Woodbridge, Inglewood and Etobicoke. The new organization will be valuable in establishing cooperation between existing fire brigades which as a group will be able to take advantage of courses of instruction and exchange information about fire equipment.

**MYSTERY EXPLOSION**  
TWENTY YEARS AGO — Many residents were mystified by a muffled explosion late Sunday afternoon which rattled windows and dishes here and was heard as far away as Terra Cotta. The detonation and accompanying "bump" came from the Armstrong pit near Limehouse where pit workers were dynamiting a large rock shelf. The chain of blasts in rapid succession was reportedly sufficient to crumble half an acre of rock, 24 feet deep. It was one of the heaviest charges of dynamite ever let off in any of the district quarries and the resulting concussion was similar to the one created when Avro Arrow shattered the sound barrier over town last summer.

Re-elected after an absence of four years, W.E. Wilson took the chair for the inaugural meeting of the Georgetown public school board Wednesday, January 7, held in the board room at Harrison School. As chairman, Mr. Wilson replaces R.C. Salter, who with C.J. McNamara retired from the board in December after nine years.

The flood of Christmas mail which continues to swell with every year reached another new high in 1958 as the local post office handled close to 420,000 greetings alone. Postmaster Harold Marshall who made the estimate based the figure on the recorded number of dispatched cards which approached the 210,000 mark, and constitutes approximately half the total.

The once-in-a-lifetime 29 cribbage hand was drawn today at noon by Mrs. Keith Hunter. Mrs. Hunter was playing with Mrs. John Beattie during her lunch hour at Smith and Stone when the perfect hand occurred.

The Jack Armstrong Trophy, presented to the local police department for inter-departmental revolver competition went to the top marksman on Tuesday December 30 following the final shoot-off in the revolver range under the police station. Emerging as the top shot was Chief Constable Ry Haley.

**DELREX SHOP ROBBED**  
TEN YEARS AGO — John H. Graham celebrated his 101st birthday Sunday and told visitors he couldn't see well enough to read or write, "but my appetite is good." Mr. Graham, born in Georgetown, said he still likes to watch hockey and football on television.

Thieves descended through the ceiling to make a \$5,000 haul from Delrex Smoke Shop in the Georgetown Market on the weekend. Most of the loot was post office property, stamps, money orders and some cash.

Veteran politician George Currie capped his forty-three years in municipal politics by being elected Warden of the County at Tuesday afternoon's Halton County Council meeting. He is the only reeve since 1930 to serve as warden twice; the last time was in 1936. It is seven years since Esquering had a warden, when the late Wilfrid Bird held the position and died in office.

Two sites both in the south end of the county, are being considered as the location of the long-awaited new home for the aged. The Halton Manor Committee of Management has proposed several sites but strongly favors two of them, said William Coulter, chairman of last year's committee.

The annual salaries of Halton county's top education officials including the figure of \$31,500 for the director of education, were approved by a narrow vote margin. J.W. Singleton recently appointed director of the new county board of education, therefore becomes the county's highest paid civil servant.

**GRAY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**  
ONE YEAR AGO — A steering committee is being formed to look into the need for a hostel for battered wives and their children following a meeting in Milton last week.

A discussion paper tabled by the Halton board of education last week attempts to come to grips with the problems associated with declining enrolment in schools. The report, addressing itself to the analysis of population trends, and current and anticipated problems, predicts a 6,000 decline in the Halton school population by 1982.

Georgetown's citizen of the year is 85-year-old Walter Gray of Church Street. He was chosen by members of the Georgetown Lions Club last week and will receive his official recognition at dinner in his honor February 24 at the Lions Hall. Mr. Gray was chosen because of his long record of service to the underprivileged in the community as well as his efforts on their behalf during his years on Georgetown council.

Georgetown Volunteer Firefighters had a party Friday evening in honour of one of their number who has been with them for 40 years. Although he was officially named Charles Ross Valentine, 63 years ago, he has a couple of unofficial names which seem more widely known by his acquaintances and friends than his proper name. It seems when he was a little boy his grandmother used to sing a song about a New York bank robber named Jimmy Valentine and young Charles wound up being nicknamed Jimmy.

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103 Main St. South, Georgetown, L7G-3E5  
WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF  
Publisher & General Manager  
MICHAEL HOLLETT  
Managing Editor  
ED PEARCE  
Advertising Sales Manager  
Phone 877-2201

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