

Halton's History

From the Herald's files

COFFEE, 54¢ A POUND
THIRTY YEARS AGO — The estimates for 1949 were prepared and a budget struck at a meeting of the board of education in the high school last Wednesday. This year the cost to the taxpayer for education will be \$18,200 for the public school, a decrease of \$100 from last year, and \$10,000 for the high school, an increase of \$1,500. The total budget for education is \$28,200. While educational costs have risen sharply, these have been offset this year by enlarged grants at the high school.

The weather this weekend was certainly a thaw and no fooling. This month so far we have had four days with a temperature below zero; previous to the date, there have been only two days registering below zero. A good description of the weather of the past few days would be that "we are having winter during the night and summer in the daytime."

Doris DAY made her first movie appearance in a film called "Romance on the High Seas," also featuring Jack Carson, Janis Paige and Don DeFore. The advertisements of the movie, being shown at the Roxy, describes her as "radio's rave girl."

A Dominion Food Ad has coffee, 56 cents a pound; head lettuce, two head for 29 cents; salmon, 41 cents a tin; grapefruit six for 27 cents.

UNIQUE CHURCH SERVICE
TWENTY YEARS AGO — "I'm most happy to declare this motion carried unanimously," said Mayor Jack Armstrong Monday at council, by a recorded vote, decided to apply to the county and Minister of Education to withdraw from North Halton high school district. The motion was made without comment by the councillors, who had previously reviewed all angles of the question and had indicated their desire to have Georgetown exert a closer control over its own secondary school affairs.

On Sunday evening a unique service for this area was held by the Presbytery of Halton of the United Church of Canada. The Presbytery chairman, Rev. Mair A.J. Walters of Port Nelson United Church, Burlington, conducted the service of Constitution for the new St. Andrew's Church.

Seeing the season's first crow yesterday leads Mrs. R.S. Carcaud, 21 Bairstow Crescent, to observe that spring must be just around the corner.

Born five months before Confederation, on February 18, 1867, Lt.-Col. Alex Noble, of Norval, is celebrating his ninety-second birthday this week. For 91 years, he has lived in "The Elms," the home his father bought in 1868. As a miller, he carried on business in Norval until 1919.

A cat which attacked nine-year-old Rene Leferink at her home at Limehouse Saturday has been sent to the Animal Disposal Research Institute at Hull, Quebec, from which a call has been received this morning, confirming the cat is rabid. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Leferink, Renee and a number of her young friends were skating and tobogganing near her home Saturday afternoon when the animal, a stranger to the area, rushed at her and clawed her leg.

Halton's nine fire brigades, entered under the name of the Halton Fire Prevention Bureau, received commendable honors in the nation-wide fire prevention contest held last October and conducted under the auspices of the National Fire Prevention Association. Halton received tenth place for Ontario and placed seventeenth for all of Canada.

SALMON IN CREDIT
TEN YEARS AGO — Georgetown Council delivered a jolt to the Halton County board of education Monday when they refused to pay the February requisition of \$131,000. Reeve William Hunter, acting mayor for the night, seeing Mayor Emmerson was at a hydro meeting in the city, pointed out this would make a total of \$150,000 asked from Georgetown for the first two months of the year.

Former Liberal Cabinet Minister Judy LaMarsh last week told a group of Halton County PC's their party made a mistake when it chose Robert Stanfield as its leader at last fall's leadership convention. Former Manitoba Premier Duff Roblin would better have reflected the views of Canadians after Centennial year, she said.

Ninety thousand coho salmon will be placed in the Credit River as a part of a Department of Land and Forests program to plant 150,000 coho smolts (yearlings) in tributary waters of Lake Ontario and Lake Superior this spring.

A couple who have spent all their married life in Georgetown celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. James Costigan were visited by a number of friends and relatives during the day to wish them further years of health and happiness.

Chargex, a credit card system in which four chartered banks are combining will be introduced in Georgetown later this year, probably in June. Those attending a dinner meeting of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday at North Halton Golf and Country Club heard Eric Latimer, Toronto regional manager, explain Chargex and how it operates. By coincidence, Georgetown's banks are all part of the Chargex scheme — Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Royal Bank of Canada and Toronto-Dominion Bank. Banque Canadienne Nationale is also in the plan.

METCALFE DELEGATION
ONE YEAR AGO — Halton Hills' controversial bylaw restricting year-round roadside parking to three hours during the early morning was again under fire at works committee Monday. Complaints from residents of two Georgetown streets prompted words of empathy but no action from the committee, which upheld last year's council decision to allow parked cars to be tagged or towed away so that streets would be clear for snow removal and street sweeping.

Energy Minister Hueben Baetz agreed to study the Bruce-Milton 500KV Hydro corridor after a meeting yesterday with members of the Interested Citizens' Group. Mr. Baetz has stated that it is his desire to improve communications between Ontario Hydro, the ministry of energy and the people.



Nothing to lose in Focal study

It's nice to know that S. B. McLaughlin and the town are still talking, in terms of settling the contentious Focal Properties dispute.

Last Monday night former regional councillor Ric Morrow made a surprise visit to the town council meeting where he communicated the latest state of negotiations with the determined developer.

Over a luncheon date with representatives of Focal, Mr. Morrow helped hammer out a deal under which the developers will pick up the costs of a feasibility study aimed at "redefining the boundaries of the Georgetown urban area."

The terms of reference of the study will be defined by a special committee of council and the study will look at the entire Georgetown area rather than just the Focal land.

Hopefully the report would serve as some form of master plan outlining the growth capacity for the town. While Focal have not agreed to drop legal proceedings entirely it's safe to say they will not be pursuing their lawsuit against

the town with the same fervor while the study is in progress.

It sounds like the town has nothing to lose with the deal. The study will cost them no money yet they will be totally responsible for determining the terms of reference for the report. If the study is well done it could provide the town with a comprehensive look at growth potential for the town and may even help solve other issues facing the town, including the library and theatre complex questions.

If the study does turn up a way where a compromise development could take place, to the satisfaction of all parties, it may once and for all end the dispute.

If the study recommends Focal not be allowed to develop, as Roy Booth said, the developers will have been put in the position of financing arguments against their own project.

Either way the town appears to have nothing to lose. They will be handed a free study by the developer with no guarantee that it will be favorable to Focal's position.

Agreeing to the proposal can't hurt the town.

Region's idea could save lives

Halton regional council voted last week to "temporarily shelve" a proposal to begin using a simple, three digit emergency number throughout Halton.

We hope the proposal doesn't remain on the shelf too long.

Oakville is already using a three digit emergency number and the experiment has been proven a success in London, Hamilton-Wentworth and Kitchener-Waterloo.

It's a good idea and one that would probably save lives. In Oakville, dialing the 911 number gives the caller immediate access to police, firefighters, rescue crews, ambulance dispatchers, public works employees and other emergency agencies.

For people in an agitated state, requiring emergency service, especially young children, the simple three digit number makes for much needed simplicity. With flames engulfing one's home or an unconscious relative, looking for the correct emergency number in the phone book or explaining what you want to a confused operator can be difficult.

The short, easy to remember number would cut through confusion and speed one's message to

the proper person when time matters most, during an emergency situation.

While the plan is a sound one

and one that should be pursued, there are some problems to be ironed out. It would seem that the region should have one standard emergency number to making publicizing it easier. However, the

emergency operators on the other end of the line would have to be different for each community within the region. Certainly, any time gained by the use of the emergency number would be lost if the same operator was handling calls for Acton, Oakville and Georgetown.

Let's hope that regional council acts quickly in establishing the emergency number, every moment they delay increases the opportunity for tragedy.

Blue February

Somebody was thinking when they declared February 14 St. Valentine's day. After all, it comes dead centre in the middle of February — to many the bluest, bleakest month of the year.

And so far this February has been as blue as ever with a record breaking cold spell and, too many, an even chillier bit of news, the demolition of the NHL All-Stars at the hands of the Soviet National team in the Challenge Cup series.

For these reasons it's kind of nice that two local groups have taken a cue from those clever folks who started St. Valentine's Day and have opted to hold pleasant events in the midst of the winter doldrums. The Lions chose last week to announce winners of their annual "Citizen of the Year" award when they announced the selection of Irwin and Joyce Noble and last night the local Hockey Heritage Council honored sportsman Roy Norton with their hockey heritage award at their annual dinner.

Now if we can only arrange for some 20 celcius weather for this month, we'd have no complaints at all.

The 'special status' concept is gaining new respectability



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

By STEWART MacLEOD
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... Now that the Tories have got their act together on sovereignty-association — the latest word is that they are not going to negotiate it — perhaps they can begin concentrating on a unified approach toward deficit financing.

Better still, they might consider dropping the whole confusing proposal and instead opt for surplus financing. It would at least provide for a real fresh start. And if, for one, could certainly use a fresh start.

From the moment that Conservative Leader Joe Clark went before a national television audience and said a Tory government would increase the deficit I have been in a state of convoluted confusion. Up until then I had understood the Conservatives to be violently opposed to the massive Liberal deficits. In fact, from various Tory comments, I had the impression these deficits were leading us on a rampage to ruin.

Harvie Andre, the Tory MP from Calgary Centre who is his party's Treasury Board critic, warned us that Finance Minister Jean Chretien was being overly optimistic in predicting a deficit of only \$12 billion.

"Our projections... indicate that we would have a deficit this year of something like \$15 billion, maybe even higher than that, which is astronomical..."

BIGGER DEFICIT

After this dire warning, along comes Clark with this televised Conservative platform plank: "We're going to have to run the risk of a slightly higher deficit now, but it will be a different kind of deficit. It will be a stimulative deficit that will cause people to go out and do things. And what we've got now is a dead-weight deficit, one that is having no effect on the growth of the country."

Then he went on to confuse me about increasing the deficit in the short run to reduce it in the long run, and he said he would defy anyone to reduce the deficit without increasing it. Or something to that effect. In any event, most people, including Conservative MPs, were hard pressed to offer a full explanation about the party's economic program.

But I guess we should give Sinclair Stevens some credit for trying. Stevens is the Tory finance critic and if Clark discusses economic policy with anyone it would likely be with this gentleman. According to Stevens, there is nothing confusing about what has been said on the subject.

"Surely, the press and the public will eventually understand there is no confusion in this party."

LOWER DEFICIT

Perhaps so, but I am just about convinced that this time has not yet arrived. What convinced me was Stevens' assertion that Clark had never advocated an increased deficit.

While Clark, was explaining that he didn't have time to go into the matter in detail, Stevens was claiming that his

leader's proposal for stimulative deficit was taken out of context by reporters who wanted to discredit the party. "On a year-to-year basis, Clark and I and the Progressive Conservative party stand for a lower deficit."

That will be great news for Darcy McKeough, the former Ontario treasurer who said he sincerely hoped that Clark was misquoted about advocating a bigger deficit.

But hold on a minute. While Stevens said everyone stands for a lower deficit on a year-to-year basis, it's not quite clear where everyone stands on a month-to-month basis. And we haven't even begun to consider a decade-to-decade basis.

"Temporary to me is monthly and temporary to Mr. Clark is monthly," said Mr. Stevens. The increased deficit would show up in the statistics for one to three months after the first Tory budget, he explained, and then it would disappear before the year-end statistics were completed.

I'll need some help on this one.

Meanwhile, Clark entered the discussions again by explaining to reporters he didn't know just how long the increased deficit would last. "There is some question as to whether it would be a matter of three months or 12 months or five minutes."

I want to assure Stevens that I am not trying to discredit his party, but I humbly suggest he and his leader have a few loose ends to tie up here.

Opposition's silence on grants demonstrates complexity



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

By DEREK NELSON
Queen's Park Bureau
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TORONTO — Perhaps the best gauge of the government's massive grant scheme to help modernize the pulp and paper industry is the reaction of the opposition.

While the Liberals expressed "serious reservations" about the grants, which may be as much as \$100 million, they didn't oppose them.

Instead they listed a couple of conditions under which the grants should be made, mainly ensuring that the money will be spent here.

The New Democrats adopted a similar line, conceding that if "taxpayers' money is necessary to maintain this vital industry in our province" then the grants are okay.

However, like the Liberals, they would attach certain conditions to the grants, including gaining equity in the companies.

This cautious reaction, especially by the corporation-hating NDP, tells a story in itself.

MUCH DOUBT

No one is quite sure whether the public will interpret the grants as giveaways to the fat-cats (which would be the normal NDP response) or whether they'll be seen as a necessary part of keeping Ontario competitive in increasingly tough world trade markets.

In the one-industry towns of northern Ontario there is considerable anxiety about the pulp and paper sectors' future, as much of the plant becomes obsolete and foreign competition heats up.

The NDP is strong throughout the north, and a hard-line stance could cost the party their electoral shirts.

Current criticism of the grants centers around one objection: That the companies are making good profits and should be spending their own money on modernization.

GO ELSEWHERE

That begs the question of the long-term low rate of return in the industry, but even if it were true it's irrelevant.

There is no power to force one

companies to spend money on modernizing their plant. They are just as liable to pack their corporate bags for areas of cheaper labor and faster growing trees.

The provincial grants would be incentive grants. For every taxpayer dollar expended by the companies must spend three. That might be the edge to keep the industry humming here.

The pulp and paper sector is vital to Ontario. It is the sixth-largest employer, with 70,000 jobs affected, our third-largest exporter and fifth-largest manufacturing industry.

GOOD HEALTH
Either by giving grants or by remaining aloof the government is running a risk. On balance it's probably best to adopt the opposition viewpoint of general approval with an insistence on certain guidelines being imposed on the companies.

In particular any money spent on new equipment, especially pollution control machinery, must be spent in Canada.

For the long-term health of the economy it's probably best that the grants go ahead.

One can agree with Opposition Leader Stuart Smith, though, that it appears the government is acting in an ad hoc fashion rather than with an overall industrial strategy.

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