

Letters to the Editor

Roma closes her books on 'Good Neighbor'-'79

To the editor of The Herald: Here are the final few words on the Good Neighbor Service. Everything is now in order, with accounts paid to Preston's Lucky Dollar.

Dependable Janitorial Service, The Herald and The Independent, with miscellaneous items such as students' lunches, tags, bags for Kinettes, gas for pickup

vehicle all taken care of. This includes stamps also for letters that were going out. The amount of toys and gifts were overwhelming this year, although the amount of money

donated was considerably lower. However, there was enough to pay the bills, which is the important thing. Bills amounted to \$1,919.87, with close to \$100 in the bank. If there is anyone who still cares to donate to the Good Neighbor Service, they may do so by writing R. Timpson, 53 McIntyre Cres., and it will go to the bank to gather interest until next December.

I appreciate the valuable help that Grace Harrison gave me at the beginning of this campaign with the letters to the Professional and Business People.

Other donations of money and help came from Joyce Harman, Gail Collett, Pearce Porter (Lion's and Legion member) who signs my checks for the Service and also Laughton's Stationery and Boyd Lantz. No matter how hard we try to get all names on one sheet of paper, we miss some, so I finally have all names now. (I hope).

A lot of thanks must go to both of our local papers, The Independent and The Herald, which gave excellent coverage of the Service, with many stories and pictures of the hard-working Kinettes. Thanks, finally, to all of Georgetown and area who helped out in any way.

Roma Timpson



Letter from the Editor Paul Dorsey

Pets shouldn't be near traps

A retired trapper phoned last week to share some pertinent thoughts on the continuing controversy about the trapping of wild animals on municipal land.

While The Herald restricted its coverage of the town council session in which the subject arose to the actual discussion between members and humane society officials, the caller noted, it failed to add that the town also has a pet control bylaw.

The humane society spokesmen suggested to council that traps used by those seeking animal pelts or trying to control wild animal populations inadvertently pose a serious hazard to domestic animals and pets. The warning deserves serious consideration among those living in or close to the urban areas.

UP TO OWNERS

The retired trapper, who said he felt he should speak for all the still-active trappers in this area who seem reluctant to defend their occupation against consistent attacks from anti-trapping lobbyists, underlined the legal responsibility of pet-owners to keep an eye on the animals.

By municipal bylaw, he observed, owners of pets and domestic animals bear the onus to prevent their animals from roaming at large on public land.

Ironically, the fact so many dog-owners in the rural areas are negligent in doing so has created a painfully evident problem for livestock owners who pay the costly penalty. The irony lies in the fact that dogs have replaced wild animals as the major predatory problem facing most farmers.

Another case of hydroelectricity resource management versus the people: McLean's magazine recently related the plight of Eldon Wright, the Prince Edward Island property owner who is alone among his neighbors in opposing a 32-mile power corridor under construction by Maritime Electric Company Ltd.

At 55, Wright had planned to earn some money during retirement by tapping the 12-acre sugar bush on his property one of only nine in the province. Maritime Electric wants a

180-foot wide swath down the middle of the sugar maples; Wright took it to the PEI Supreme Court, ending up with a mere \$5,700 compensation, boosted by the court from \$800, but he still doesn't want a settlement.

MORE SUPPORT
There the matter stands, with Wright finding more and more support among his neighbors and fellow corridor "victims", whose properties have already become construction sites for hydro towers.

Locally, I'm told, though it's certainly not confirmed, that Ontario Hydro's Bruce to Millon transmission corridor is now approaching either side of Highway 7 as it runs between Acton and Georgetown.

Rumor also has it that Hydro deliberately planned to close the gap at that point because it will have the greatest visual impact there on the most people. One can interpret this through biased eyes as being Hydro's way of avoiding the stark confrontation between the average passing motorist and the huge, behemoth towers until the last possible moment.

We may never know.

Midget meet big news but press a no-show

To the editor of The Herald: As a committee member of the Fourteenth annual Georgetown Midget Tournament, I was very disappointed that your sports editor was not at our opening ceremonies. I was told by Bryan Turner (committee chairman) that he contacted your sports editor personally, and he said he would be there for the opening game on Tuesday, January 8. Pictures were to be taken at this time, but unfortunately no one from your paper showed up. Our Mayor Pete Pomeroy made it to the opening cere-

monies, even though he had a previous commitment.

I realize that your sports editor can't cover every hockey game in Georgetown, but other than the Bantam Tournament, this is the next biggest tournament in town. In my opinion, as far as sports coverage is concerned, your paper is fast deteriorating. This may seem like a little thing to your paper, but it is a big thing for the people who are involved. It takes a lot of hard work by many, to make minor hockey available to the boys of Georgetown, and other

towns involved in tournaments.

Although our Mayor Peter Pomeroy was short of time because of his full schedule, we held up the start of the tournament waiting for the promised press coverage. I realize something could have intervened to prevent your sports editor from being present, but surely he could have gotten someone else to take the picture of the opening ceremonies.

Yours truly,
R.J. "Zeke" McCandless,
Georgetown.

VIEWPOINT

Drop-out's dilemma

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH
Herald columnist

Last week, we wrote of the need for certain basic rights to be given to babies and small children, to protect them from misguided parents and arbitrary court decisions in which the very young have no rights whatsoever.

This week, we will look at the opposite situation, in which the parent is left without rights in favor of the child, a disservice to parent and child alike.

Anyone who has witnessed the raising of teenagers dreads that magic number "sixteen". All of a sudden that darling child, who for 15 years you have cared for raises his or her banner of rights: "I'm sixteen now and you can't make me do anything."

What a sad state of affairs that amounts to. The confused parent, who has been concerned with the educational progress of their offspring for 15 years, is suddenly faced with a grim situation: "I'm 16 and I'll quit if I want to."

NEW ROAD

Who would argue the point that age 16 is the beginning of the road to adulthood and certainly not the end? Now we are faced with a law that is not to the benefit of the youth, nor the parent, nor the employer, nor the country at large.

As a matter of fact, the only group which benefits is the teachers, who can throw to the winds all those who fail to conform and grovel at the feet of pompous benefactors.

The next step after quitting school, according to our young soldier in life, is the "right" to leave home. How many of you reading this cried buckets of tears knowing what the world was about and realizing how ill-equipped your young rebel was for the step he or she had taken?

How about an alternative: if our government, which supposedly bows to public pressure and creates these laws, instituted an across-the-board work and school program which no 16-year old could quit, many teenagers may realize that, at age 16, they're too young to make a decision that will affect them for life; such a decision should be made by those with experience.

LITTLE ROOM

In Canada today, we have little room for the uneducated. If we likened education to a moving train, only the surest of foot, the fleetest, the strongest, would be able to leap aboard and even then, due to the great crowd on the train, few who leaped aboard would reach their final destination...

The saddest thing about this law is that we pay both financially and emotionally for our folly. Sixteen-year olds who can't find employment make up much of the list of vandals. Take the story of Bob B., a recent court case here in Halifax. Bob came from an unhappy home. While his mother was on holiday in England, he left home and his severe father to seek his fortune. He soon learned the laws of our jungle: without money you don't eat; without the necessary skills to earn money, no one wants you. When you're hungry enough, you'll take what you need. We

call it stealing; I call it survival. Of course, he was caught and sentenced to reformatory. This was a first offence, but his mother wasn't available and his father wanted nothing to do with a thief, so the court had no choice. After serving his time for the theft, Bob was released, a 16-year old boy with \$2, no place to go and no one to account to.

STILL HUNGRY

Is it so unlikely what happens next? Bob spent his \$2 and was still hungry. Father didn't want him and he didn't want father; mother was gone and the rest of the family lives in England, so he went to welfare. Welfare wanted to know why he was in "their district" (you starve by district) and gave him the grand sum of \$2.50 before sending him on his way.

After two days without food, experiencing the desperation of being alone and ill-equipped to fend for himself, Bob tried to steal a car at knife-point from a motorist who was kind enough to give him a lift.

The motorist was not about to give up his car to a shaking 16-year old, however, and soon Bob found himself back in prison.

This time, he was held in a main prison for four months before his case came to trial. The judge, working within the framework of the legal system, had no choice but to sentence him to an additional six months for such a violent act.

If that youngster had been able to work at a paying job through the educational system, we could say with virtual certainty that his life would have taken a different direction.

Independence and money, almost synonymous, are the prime motivators for leaving school; with a paying job within the school system, the lives of these youngsters could change drastically.

As far as it goes, it costs far more to pay for society's mistakes (through prisons, health services, social services, etc.) than to prevent these mistakes in the first place.

TRUE JUNGLE

We are wrong to throw our young people into society, a true jungle without the tools for survival.

We have other laws in existence that are a disservice to our youth and a discredit to society as a whole:

Drinking laws; by lowering the drinking age from 21, we lowered the age of abuse. You cannot compare the emotional maturity of a 13-year old with that of an 18-year old.

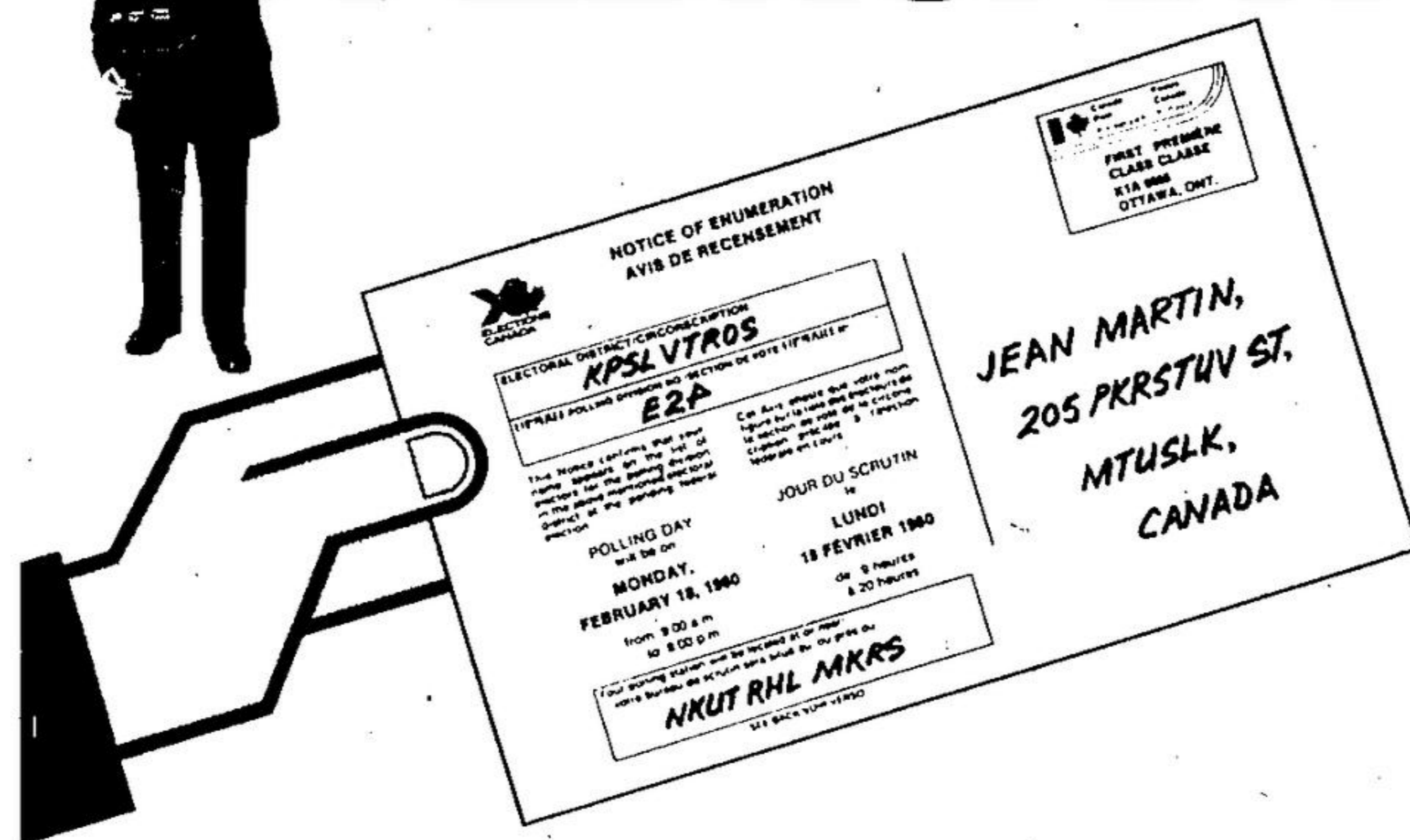
Prison terms, as opposed to restitution; vandals should be made to pay for their abuse, not their parents. Responsibility comes with "personal" awareness, not something seen through the eyes or the pocket-book of another.

The arithmetic of a crumbling society is quite simple: if Johnny can't read he won't stay in school; if he can't succeed in school, the chances are greater he won't succeed in society; if he loses faith in himself, he loses faith in society, and what Johnny has no faith in he attacks.

(KEEP FOR REFERENCE)

HAVE YOU GOT THIS CARD?

If not, you may lose your right to vote FEBRUARY 18TH!



IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR CARD- Check this list of phone numbers.....

IN GEORGETOWN, CALL MISSISSAUGA 791-7030

If you don't have the above CARD and live in a City or Town listed below, call (collect if necessary) the phone number shown.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?
Yes, if you are a Canadian citizen, age 18 or over, and were residing in Canada on December 31, 1979. You will already have received your Notice of Enumeration Card in the mail, if you were enumerated for the last General Election. This card confirms that your name is on the Voters' List for the February 18th Federal Election.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE RECEIVED YOUR CARD IN THE MAIL BECAUSE - Since last May 22nd...

- You've moved
- You've turned 18
- You've changed your name
- You've become a Canadian Citizen
- You were not enumerated for the last General Election.



ELECTIONS CANADA
Elections Canada is Parliament's non-partisan Agency responsible for holding Federal Elections, under the direction of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Mr. Jean-Marc Hamel.
Published by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada.