

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Premier Leslie Frost was on hand to congratulate Hugh Leslie, 28, of Georgetown, tractor plowing competition winner at the International Plowing Match at Alliston. He received an all-expense paid trip to the British Isles. For the second year in a row, a Georgetown district farmer won top honors in the trans-Atlantic tractor competition at the International Plowing Match at Alliston.

Opposition to the building of one central high school to serve the five communities in North Halton was forcibly expressed by Milton council at their meeting recently. Members passed a motion which favored operating two schools, one at Milton and a second which would be built in the northern part of the country.

A Norval man, Keith Webb and his sister, Mrs. Murray Laird, were greatly interested in a recent issue of the Montreal Standard, which featured a story on their Prince Edward Island home, the house Green Gables in L.M. Montgomery's famous Anne of Green Gables books. "Green Gables" is where the Webb family lived, was directly behind L.M. Montgomery's home and the well-known author was a cousin of their mother.

OPPEXPANDS
North Halton detachment OPP will have more miles to patrol, a new office and a much larger force when an expansion program now underway is completed. When Highway 401 opens westward from Highway 25 at Milton, the force will be adding another 9.7 miles of four-lane highway to their patrolling area.

A one-mill county-wide levy to cover the cost of a new combined courthouse and county administration building was advocated by Mr. Dewey, spokesman for a 14-man delegation from the Law Association at County Council in Milton last week.

The possibility of direct access to Highway 401, possibly from the Ninth Line, was discussed at this month's Industrial Commission meeting. With this in mind, Stan Hall, MPP for Halton, will be invited to the next meeting. In addition, the possibility of locating the new police college here will also be discussed.

Construction on the new Baptist Church to be erected on Maple Avenue began last week. The architecture of the church is to be colonial in style, having a portico with four colonades down the front.

OFFICIAL PLAN
Graduate students in conjunction with a course they are taking at the University of Toronto will be much in evidence in Georgetown for the next month or so. Some twenty men and women will be engaged in the preparation of an official plan of the town which will embody a wealth of information. They started to work on Monday, following a welcome extended by Mayor Hyde and Reeve Sargent who, with other councillors and municipal officials, met with the group in the council chambers.

A number of residents on Raylawn Crescent want to plant trees to beautify their street, according to Warren Smith, who wrote council asking permission for the planting. Council accepted the offer gratefully, with the proviso that the work should be done under the supervision of the town engineer.

Georgetown will have a new police cruiser soon. Tender of Scott Motors for a 1961 Chevrolet was accepted last week by council. The cruiser will cost \$2,800 and will be the same color as the Toronto accident squad. The present cruiser is being advertised for sale by council.

STRIKE AVERTED
TEN YEARS AGO—A threatened strike of Georgetown's work staff was averted Tuesday after an all-day meeting between council and union negotiators. A strike, which would have begun Wednesday morning, was called off when the 24 men, members of Local 73, Canadian Union of Public Employees, met and decided to accept the town's offer. They will receive a ten per cent increase in salary, retroactive to April 1 when their two-year contract expired.

Goosie-Gander is dead. The Toulouse gander, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Asbeck of Norval, died early Saturday. Mrs. Asbeck said yesterday that at 47 years, he was the oldest gander in Canada. Wild geese are considered ancient if they reach their 20th birthday.

One fatality, 13 injuries and \$35,000 in property damage to 12 vehicles was the tally after a light plane, flown by William Stephen Wood of Guelph hit high-tension lines near Campbellville on Highway 401 Tuesday evening. The 1939 Taylorcraft, single-engine with pontoons, was following the highway east when it hit the lines and flipped on to the shoulder of the highway. The tangle of 12 vehicles ensued when a bus had to stop to avoid the live hydro lines, and the others started piling into each other.

A ratepayers' association has been formed in Esquewaug. At the moment, the association consists mainly of residents adjacent to the dragstrip, but they plan to merge with other groups who are interested in improving local government, according to a spokesman.

John Mileham, the Georgetown motorcycle jockey who went to Spain three weeks ago as a member of the Canadian motorcycle team, arrives home Sunday. The Canadian team was eliminated from the Six-Day Trial in El Escorial after one day's running over terrain so tough that Mileham said in a postcard home he thought in the warm-ups that his tires would last only a day.

Traffic on Highway 7 was tied up for over two hours in Norval Tuesday morning when a tractor trailer, loaded with 20 tons of gravel from Indusium Quarries, flipped over, spilling the stone and its own diesel fuel all over the road.

DETENTION CENTRE
Construction of the province's new Maplehurst Regional Detention Centre in Halton County should be underway by next summer. The Department of Correctional Services hopes to call tenders next spring and have construction underway by May or June.

ONE YEAR AGO—Months of uncertainty and speculation have ended with the arrival here Saturday of two Southeast Asian refugees, representing the first of as many as 11 Vietnamese families who have found generous sponsors in Acton and Georgetown.

A petition bearing more than 110 signatures has informed the town in no uncertain terms that the residents of Horby do not want a drive-in theatre built in their neighborhood, as was proposed three weeks ago. The town's general committee Monday night referred the petition, as well as a submission by resident John Klymak, to the planning department for an inclusion in a report being prepared on the proposal.

Georgetown residents will be able to ride an in-town bus service to do their Christmas shopping during the months of November and December, thanks to the local Chamber of Commerce. The bus system will service the town's major shopping areas as well as the residential districts, and will operate Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Who is planning administration for arts complex?

It is with some relief that we read of a new committee being set up in Halton Hills to co-ordinate fund-raising efforts for the new library-theatre-art gallery complex being built in Georgetown.

It is with increasing alarm, however, that we hear dire warnings from individuals within the arts community to the effect that inadequate or late planning for the centre's administration could turn this \$1.2 million facility into the region's biggest white elephant.

We do not wish to dwell on a distinctly negative possibility: the Rotary Club's Rex Heslop, co-chairman of the new fund-raising "umbrella" committee, told The Herald last week that the centre's administration is a matter to be considered by the new town council following the Nov. 10 election.

Seven weeks into construction and three weeks from the election, we believe so great an issue should be topic of discussion for council candidates right now.

Mr. Heslop admitted last week there are still no estimates available for the new centre's operating costs. Some members of the local arts community are very concerned that rental fees for the centre's 300-seat theatre will be far too excessive for non-profit groups like the Georgetown Little Theatre to use the facility outside its actual performances; in other words, GLT rehearsals may still have to take place outside the complex.

Concern has similarly been expressed in off-the-record interviews with The Herald about the continuing lack of any plans for the centre's administration. Will an outside professional be hired to run the facility? Will separate boards be set up, one to run the theatre, one for the library and one for the art gallery-multipurpose room? Will Tom Shepard run the show? Will select individuals like Mr. Heslop and Rud Whiting stick around to form the nucleus of an administration committee?

Clearly, so sophisticated a facility demands a trained, professional administrator; we doubt that any Halton Hills resident could step into that position

without some preliminary additional coaching from outside experts.

Of even greater concern to local ratepayers in general is the total lack thus far of any clear indication as to how much the facility will cost them. They've been told about the public fund-raising drive in which they'll be asked to donate some small amount, but what will the additional charge be next year when council boosts taxes to cover its share of the centre's cost?

Once an administrator is chosen, an arts centre staff must be hired to help operate the facility's often complicated lighting and sound facilities, theatrical backdrops, etc. With a mere handful of exceptions, there are no properly trained individuals among the various groups which will use the complex.

Finally, there is some concern about the extent to which architect Keith Wagland has managed to incorporate recommendations given him by an architectural advisory committee. Largely through the Halton Hills Arts Council, all concerned groups had their chance to suggest what kind of equipment and areas should be featured in the new facility, and their suggestions were numerous. Has Mr. Wagland covered their needs in his final design or, as has been indicated to us privately, have there been many such items deleted for lack of space and funds?

While occasional progress updates from the building committee are reassuring and even encouraging, we cannot help but share the concern of others because of this substantial shortage of key information. The arts complex could become the town's finest community showcase accommodating and inspiring generations to come. Or it could become our most embarrassing example of poor municipal planning.

We sincerely hope that candidates in the coming election address themselves to these questions and attempt to bridge the credibility gap that has grown to divide factions of the arts community and to challenge ambitious plans for fund-raising.



Government is a big business, employment book shows

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

For those who may be having difficulty coming to terms with the sheer size of the federal bureaucracy — and who doesn't? — I have come across this handy little booklet called Federal Government Employment.

Being a bureaucratic document which doesn't manage to clear up all the intricate differences between "federal government statistical universe" and "general government employees," it still leaves a few unanswered questions, but nonetheless it offers convincing evidence that government is big business.

It's small wonder that the government occasionally misplaces a letter, or that one branch of government is not aware of events in another department. Unless you travel by bus in an Ottawa rush hour, it's very difficult to comprehend the immensity of government.

The fact that there are 422,000 "general government employees," as opposed to the 575,000 employees in the entire "federal government statistical universe" is not a mind-numbing fact because it's difficult to relate to numbers like this. But what struck me was the fact that the National Arts Centre which is, admittedly, a fair-size theatre, has 581 employees.

I've been there dozens of times and have seen only three ticket-sellers, five ushers and one parking attendant.

I can only assume that half the employees are stacked like cordwood behind the stages.

CIVILIANS ABOUND

Another statistic that surprised me was the number of employees in the



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

National Defence Department — 118,000. Since the strength of our armed forces is understood to be 79,000, I thought the department could get by with fewer than 39,000 civilians. But then I have no way of knowing what most of them do for a living.

Have you ever marvelled at how quickly the Revenue Department can catch an error — always in the government's favor — in your income tax return. Well, it may be due to the sophisticated computers they use. But on the other hand, it may be because the department employs 28,000 people in the spring season. And 28,000 people armed with the latest computers, can do a good deal of figuring.

Actually, it's not the big departments that surprise me with their numbers, although I did stop for breath when I realized that the transport department employs 20,143 people. That means that if they all travel by bus, it requires nearly 500 vehicles just to transport the transport people.

The Post Office Department employs 66,000, but they are scattered throughout every hamlet of Canada. As I said, these big employers are not the shockers, it's little-known operations,

such as the Privy Council Office, that are surprisingly large. The PCO, for instance, is more or less an extension of the prime minister's office, and it employs 829 people.

Then there is the National Capital Commission, a federal agency that co-ordinates the physical development of the Ottawa-Hull area. It finds employment for 906 bodies.

SETS EXAMPLE
And how about the Public Service Commission? Its chief task is to hire people for the public service, and it's not doing badly for itself. It now employs 2,634.

There is also the National Assembly, which looks after our tidbits of history. I had thought of a handful of elderly people working in a musty basement. But as it turns out, there are 752 people preserving our past.

As for the National Parole Board, I saw it in terms of the 10- or so board members who decide when someone should be paroled from prison. It had never occurred to me that there were 264 employees behind the scenes.

With 35 years having passed since the Second World War, it surprised me just a bit to see that the Veterans Land Administration still required 240 employees. This work force is not to be confused with the 4,555 people who labor for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

And lest you think that these DVA employees don't have enough to do, the department paid out \$395,000 in overtime during the first three months of this year. This may not seem like much when compared with the \$7,658,000 earned in overtime by transport department employees, but it's not bad for a shrinking department.

Making French equal would be a disaster to Canadian society

By PETER JACKSON

Trudeau wants the French language and culture to be made official for the whole of Canada — equal to English in every way, and Davis and the others seem ready to agree. This means that only people who are bilingual and bi-cultural will get the good jobs anywhere — business, education, the various levels of government, etc., and the other people will be second-class citizens. The stampede to learn French and

be bi-cultural has already started for the ambitious who want good jobs.

The people from many lands and cultures in English-speaking Canada, over the last 100 years, built (like our American cousins), one of the two greatest societies on earth, in history; where freedom, progress and opportunity for all who joined the society were raised to great new heights. This new society in the new world is different in many vital ways from that of England, France, and Europe.

The French-Canadian nationalists did not join or help to build our great new society in the new world. They spent their efforts trying to preserve their old European culture and society.

This great new, flexible, innovative, vibrant society will be destroyed by giving official and equal status to the backward French culture, where society is much more rigid, elitist, repressive and authoritarian, and where in France, people feel they have to vote Communist if they want even minor social change to copy the great American Dream.

There must be only One Canada, one national language, (with a regional language in Quebec), one common Canadian culture, (not English or French with subsidiary mosaics) — or no Canada.

It is better by far to be a first-class American with full equality and opportunity in a first-class society, than a second-class citizen in a second-class society as Canada will soon become.

English and French-speaking Canadians can only be united in one way — by building together, on top of our new society in the new world, a still newer and greater society, civilization, culture and language for the whole world, as previously done by the Americans, the British and the French of 500 years ago.

Vandalism report due soon but prospects of cure bleak

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

One awaits with interest the publication late this year of the results of a study on vandalism by a joint provincial-municipal task force.

According to Attorney-General Roy McMurtry's office here, no other subject produces more letters, telephone calls and municipal resolutions to his ministries than vandalism.

The hope one has for the task force is that for once blame for vandalism will be laid precisely where it belongs, on those who commit the act and their parents. People are responsible for their actions, and to some degree their children's actions.

The worry is that the task force will do exactly like most other such studies: accuse society, with the result that blame cannot be attached to any individual for the damages caused.

A hint of that comes in the first publication from the task force, an unofficial background paper labelled "some preliminary findings."

The key sentence suggests that "young people's acts of vandalism are a natural consequence of living in an environment that does not provide other more attractive ways of enjoying oneself."

NOWAY
So vandalism is a "natural" act that the lads and lassies indulge in because their "environment" is not "attractive" enough. Tripe. The task force's own student survey revealed



Queen's Park

By Derck Nelson

the two most commonly stated reasons for vandalism were boredom and fun.

Not that blaming society will necessarily be the conclusion drawn in the final task force report, but it is unfortunate that the first signpost points that way.

The preliminary findings otherwise do contain some interesting information for Provincial Court Judge Lucien Beaulieu of Toronto, who heads the task force, to ponder in coming months.

Children from homes where parents were strict; children who liked and did well in school (usually a consequence of the home); and children who expressed fear of being caught (also derived from the home), were all less likely to be involved in vandalism.

VERY STRANGE
The most striking statistic was that only 35 per cent believed the damage they caused cost anything,

and just 51 per cent saw vandalism as "quite" or "very" serious.

Can one then perhaps indict parents (and maybe schools) for failure to point out to youth who really pays in our society and the necessity for respecting property rights as the backbone of our human rights?

The preliminary findings note too that due to the low rate of apprehension (three per cent) for vandalism it is unlikely increased penalties, either on a juvenile or a parent, would reduce the incidence any.

Which may or may not be true.

MANY TIMES
The problem with vandalism is that it comes in many different forms, and the nature of the crime can change dramatically depending not just on whether it occurs in a rural, urban or suburban area, but even on the town.

So does the severity. The task force survey found "most young people" have committed acts of vandalism during the past year, as many as 88 per cent of all high school students.

Much of this was in the order of breaking bottles on the street, or scratching initials on a desk at school.

Less than one in five were apparently likely to commit more serious acts, from breaking windows to damaging vehicle tires.

Whatever solutions the task force deems wise, let us hope the one option rejected is the "build-them-a-clubhouse" route.

the HERALD
A DIVISION OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS COMPANY LTD
45 GUELPH STREET, GEORGETOWN L7G 3Z6
WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF, Publisher & General Manager
PAUL DORSEY, Managing Editor
DAVID BEATTIE, Advertising Manager
Phone 877-2201
Second Class Mail Registered Number 0943

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