

Room for optimism, caution

Election results: good, bad news

Monday's 29.5 per cent voter turn-out at the civic election polls in Halton Hills is comment enough on the extent to which apathy over municipal politics has been carried.

Two years ago, local voters outdid themselves by chalking up a highly respectable 49 per cent turn-out, their attention clearly fixed on the all-important mayoralty challenge of Peter Pomeroy and the related election issues of Focal Properties and regional authority.

In 1980, the young, incumbent mayor remains unchallenged, but the same issues are with us, one ostensibly on its way toward some form of resolution, the other still very much a topic for debate and heated controversy.

Although no one's able to pin down precise reasons, Acton voters were the only ones in town to confront the regional government issue by evicting their incumbent representative. Businessman Ed Wood departs after a single term on regional and town council, a term marked by quiet participation in otherwise rowdy regional meetings, but strong and sincere representation in matters of prime importance to north Halton taxpayers.

A councillor who worked hard from the outset of his term in 1978 to improve his own knowledge and understanding of municipal ways, Mr. Wood seemed to progress more swiftly in council matters than any other rookie in recent memory, quickly adapting the time-tested, emotive speaking style of council veterans to urge support for causes as diverse as the Acton town hall restoration and the equalization of regional sewer rates.

He shall be missed this coming term; we hope he can return again.

Despite his appearance in two Ward 1 elections, Acton's Dave Whiting remains an unknown quantity. He hasn't sat back in defeat, however, but instead studied harder

to make the grade. Clearly impressed by his improved comprehension of municipal issues, Acton voters this time gave him top marks.

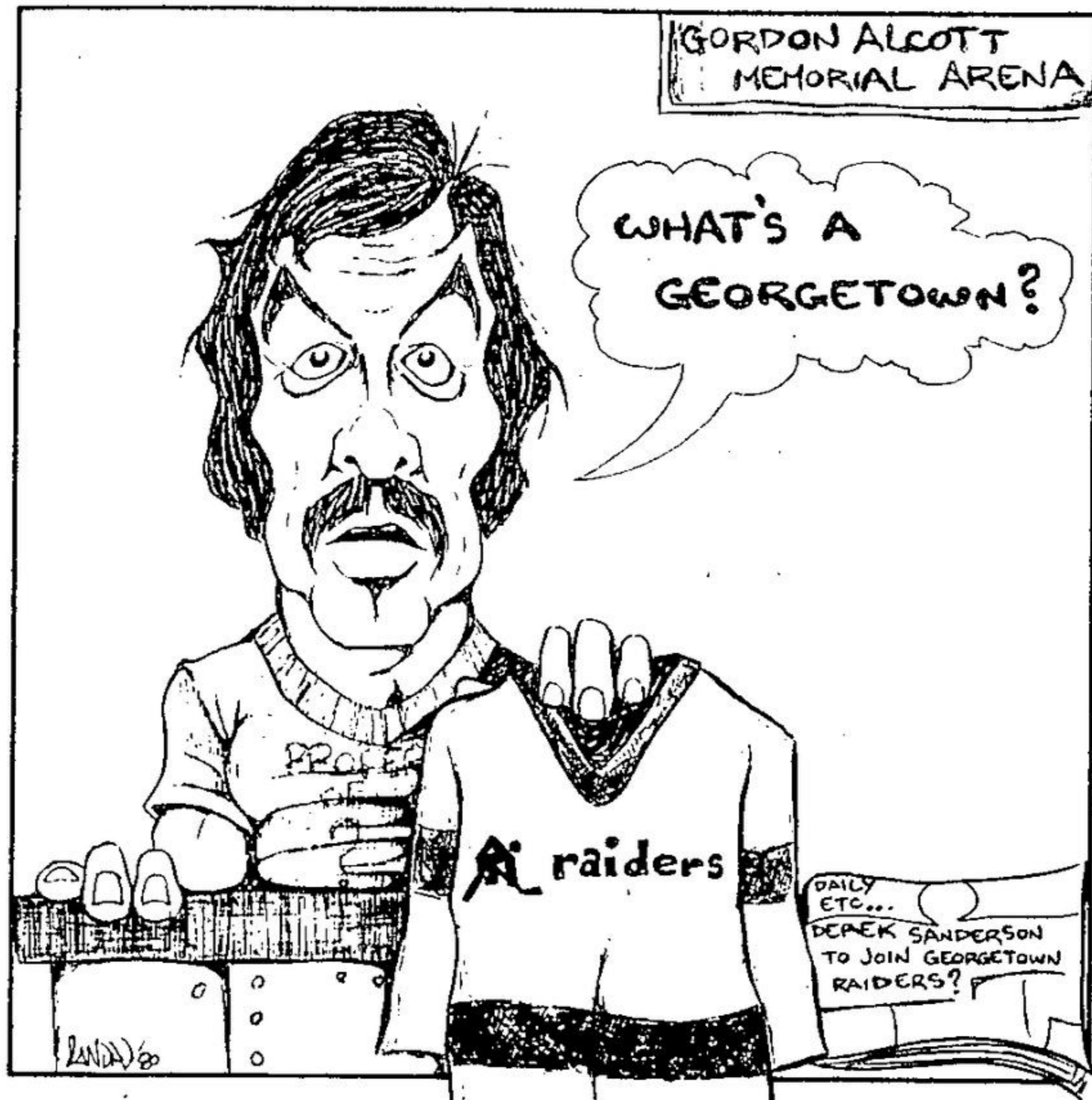
If Mr. Whiting can match his predecessor's rate of progress as a councillor, he'll be a formidable spokesman for a community still obviously concerned about its role in the overall regional scheme of things. We wish him luck, for there are those around the regional council table in Oakville who would offer even greater resistance to the less parochial ambitions of their northern colleagues.

Elsewhere, we're sure incumbents John McDonald, Walter Biehn and Russ Miller - successfully returned to office in Wards 3 and 2 - will carry on their good works on behalf of supporters who've given them yet another vote of confidence.

Of their acclaimed colleagues, we maintain our reservations: there's a little exaggeration in Coun. Patterson's comment about these acclamations promoting carelessness among the unchallenged councillors, but we couldn't endorse his warning to Ward 1, 3 and 4 voters more - the incumbents you've returned so easily must be watched more closely than ever before. Their acclamations should not be viewed as the blessings of the electorate so much as privileged signs of endorsement for which they must pay a higher price: they must work harder to earn that generous support.

Ward 2's Pam Sheldon, replacing retiring Pat Patterson, is for us a signal of some fine things to come for old Esquesing. As was brought out during the campaign, she's been endlessly entangled in many facets of municipal planning for the rural area, has obtained a unique perspective on meeting traditional needs in the modern world and perhaps knows better than most what's best for the rural area that is so integral to Halton Hills' character.

The 1980-82 council: room for optimism and a need for some watchful caution.



If budget stumps Joe Clark, what can the media say?



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau

Of The Herald

It's probably inexcusable that an Ottawa columnist, paid to interpret current events in the nation's capital, cannot offer one intelligent item of insight into the budget brought down by Finance Minister Allan MacEachen.

But that's the way it is.

And Heavens knows I tried this time because, for once, I was determined to get an immediate grasp on the budget, something that has mysteriously eluded me in the past. For weeks prior to the budget's tabling, I read all the newspapers accounts of what it would likely contain. Yes, wrote one reporter, an export tax on natural gas was an absolute certainty. Yes, said another, MacEachen would be forced to put an export tax on electricity. Another said that personal income tax would be de-indexed. Taxes will certainly have to be increased, wrote still another.

All these valuable hints were carefully filed away in some obscure brain cells. I even talked to economists about the budget, something I've always avoided like a fresh outbreak of leprosy. As usual, they confused me but nonetheless I was mentally prepared.

What the finance department does

on budget day is to make the document available to reporters in a huge conference room nine hours prior to presentation. That room is guarded and no one is allowed out until the budget is presented in the Commons. There are no telephones or other means of communicating with the outside world. For nine hours it's you and the budget, interrupted only by background briefings by government officials.

NEW APPROACH

This year, for the first time, I decided not to take advantage of this long study session. I would enter the "lock-up" for only the last hour and become fully familiar with the document. It's like receiving your education by meeting other kids coming home from school.

"It's a disaster," was the first comment I solicited from a Television reporter.

"I could have been written in the Kremlin," says a western reporter.

"MacEachen is giving Premier Peter Lougheed an easy out," was the view of an easterner.

"What this budget does is create a confrontation," offered another.

"He has avoided a confrontation," countered still another.

After 3 minutes I was more confused than if I had read the document myself.

We rushed up to the Commons for the debate, and while MacEachen was speaking to resounding applause from the Liberals, and hoots of derision from the opposition, I talked to a half-dozen MPs, all of whom had a different interpretation of what the budget meant. One Conservative said it was an absolute cop-out; another said it was the most sweeping nationalization in the history of Canada.

By now I had decided to wait for the early morning newspapers to let others straighten things out for me. I started - and for all practical purposes, ended - with the Ottawa Citizen.

Allan MacEachen has accomplished nothing," said an editorial.

"It emerges from MacEachen's first budget that he may be the first finance minister in two decades who knows what he's talking about," said a columnist.

STORIES UNHELPFUL

And another columnist said: "When he has doubt he does nothing. That's what he did last night - nothing."

But still another decided that "Allan MacEachen invaded the western provinces without even the courtesy of a war." But that didn't jibe with another view that the budget was "socking Eastern consumers."

Then I see that Alberta Energy Minister Merv Leitch has declared the budget to be "a massive and discriminatory tax on the resources and people of Alberta. However, on another page, Reinhold Lehr, president of the Alberta chamber of commerce, was breathing a sigh of relief. "We were a little afraid the federal government might intrude on the provinces... on the surface the budget doesn't seem to indicate that."

I turned on the television and there was a re-run of Tory Leader Joe Clark being hounded by excited reporters amid the hub-bub of budget night on Parliament Hill. "No comment," he was saying, perhaps the first opposition leader ever to be speechless on budget night.

That did it. If the leader of the opposition can't come up with a constructive comment on budget night, I thought, why should I keep trying.

We'll just give it a day or two.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

Starting out with a bang

The new man in The Herald's sports department has only been on the job a week, but thanks to a generous informant who shall remain nameless at least for the time being, has already stirred up quite a furor for himself with a tasty little journalistic bombshell about the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders' interest in Derek Sanderson.

Dave Rowney comes to The Herald staff from Ontario Place, where he's been helping the site operations manager co-ordinate staff employees for special projects, among other duties.

He's been there every spring and summer for the past five years while pursuing degrees in English and Journalism at Carleton University and the University of Western Ontario.

He's 24 years old and - this is no empty boast - he's burning with enthusiasm. All three Toronto daily newspapers perked their ears up last week when Dave revealed that the Raiders had approached Sanderson with a deal to join the intermediate club. Sanderson, of course, has been one of the brighter stars on the usually dim NHL Oldtimers circuit following two Stanley Cup seasons with the Bruins, and word had to leak out somewhere when the Georgetown connection was made.

"It's either one heck of a publicity stunt or Georgetown Raiders are serious about their offer to Derek Sanderson to play the rest of the season for the '...team,'" Robert MacLeod wrote in Globe and Mail Saturday.

MacLeod and his fellow Toronto media jocks were alerted to the possibility of 34-year-old

Sanderson ending his financial and personal woes with a low-key start to the Big Comeback by a wire service item gleaned from the Brampton Daily Times, a Herald affiliate. The Times, of course, had picked up on Dave's original story direct and in turn shared it with the wires, as is its duty as a subscriber.

And once that wire story hit the other dailies and radio stations, Raiders manager Dave Kentner and other team officials found themselves besieged, however briefly, by a flurry of frantic phonecalls from the Fifth Estate, Kentner told The Globe outright that his hopes weren't high about signing Sanderson, but stressed the team's sincerity in the midst of a singularly publicity-conscious season for the intermediate league.

Regardless of the outcome, the whole episode's a nice feather in Dave Rowney's cap to kick off his tenure at The Herald and it does me proud because I saw the new kid on the block respond quickly and effectively to what amounted to an interesting rumor. With or without the superstars, I think our Dave's going to make the local sports scene shine.

Okay, okay. I know every office worker in North America and virtually all their blue-collar cousins are sick to death of those endlessly-rexored, pop-culture morale boosters that amuse while they encourage in the midst of the nine-to-five drudgery. Circulated hand to hand among fellow employees and smirked over during coffee breaks, these humorously irreverent reassurances that "Everything's going to be just fine 'cause we all feel the same way as you do" and other anti-management and anti-routine leaflets insist on turning up like junkmail on my desk. The following was recently discovered lodged between "Columnists" and "Correspondents":

"YOU KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE A BAD DAY WHEN:

You see a 60 Minutes newscast waiting in your office;

Your son tells you he wishes Anita Bryant would mind her own business;

You want to put on the clothes you wore home from last night's party - and there aren't any;

You turn on the TV news and they're showing emergency routes out of the city;

Your twin sister forgets your birthday;

You wake up to discover that your waterbed broke, and then realize you don't have a waterbed;

Your car horn goes off accidentally and remain stuck while you follow a group of Hell's Angels on the freeway."

Please forward all similar lists, warnings, reassurances and/or jokes to "Office Overload", care of this newspaper.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau

Of The Herald

Slowly but surely, Ontario is moving towards a society where jobs will be allocated on the basis of quotas reflecting people's sexual, ethnic, linguistic, color, or other origins.

The latest illustration of the shift in that direction was an illuminating exchange in the legislature between NDP Leader Michael Cassidy and Education Minister Bette Stephenson.

It is just one of an increasing number of incidents.

Cassidy complained the ministry skill-training programs sponsored by employers have registered only four women and 1,500 men. That's compared to five women and 605 men a year ago.

The program involves essentially industrial workshops such as those for auto parts manufacturing or tool and die making, and Stephenson said the training programs are equally open to men and women.

In response Cassidy took the quota route. "The 'statistics,' meaning the percentage of those in the programs who are women, do not show that, he said. He wanted "guaranteed places" or quotas for women.

NOT GOOD

Stephenson rejected the quota approach, but her reasons for doing so leave room for concern.

She said no quota had been set for women because "unfortunately, in many instances, setting a quota establishes a maximum rather than a minimum."

The implication is that if one could surmount this hurdle quotas would arrive tomorrow. Is she accepting Cassidy's premise that taking head counts is the way to determine if discrimination exists?

Thus we move from a society that ideally offers an individual equal opportunity to chase success to one that tries to guarantee equal results for groups of people - in this case women, but it could be any designated group.

To be fair, Cassidy also did tackle the equal opportunity angle, when he noted women applicants to the program had a higher rejection rate than men - and blamed it on negative chauvinist thinking among male officials.

(If true, that's a different matter, and one that Stephenson rightly said she would look into rather closely.)

OTHERS TOO

But the trend is unmistakable.

Quotas are coming, as few other recent examples demonstrate.

Last weekend the National Black Coalition conference here was told "affirmative action" programs should protect the jobs of "disadvantaged minorities" during periods of high unemployment.

Translated, that seems to mean males whose ancestors were pale-skinned Europeans should be laid off work first.

Then there was the recent Ontario Status of Women Council report which demanded that "historical imbalances in the occupational and salary status of women employees" be rectified by "affirmative action".

REAL ISSUE

That's a kind of an end-run endorsement of quotas, for how does one know there is an "imbalance" unless one has an idea of what a proper "balance" is?

The definition is usually given in terms of the percentage of women who hold certain jobs or receive certain incomes. In other words it is an attempt once again to secure equality of results.

But probably the surest signpost of the road down which we are going is the new Liberal constitution, where preferential treatment through "affirmative action" will be guaranteed groups who belong to "disadvantaged groups." (Charter Rights of Section 15).

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO - One of the largest crowds in history attended the Remembrance Day service Saturday morning. A parade led by the Lorne Scots Band marched by the cenotaph where after an introduction by Mayor Harold Cleave, three local ministers took charge of the service.

Curling is due for a revival in Georgetown this year. Last year the local club did not function very effectively because of a poor season for ice-making. At a meeting last week the club decided to use the artificial ice in the main rink this year and arrangements have been made for its use every Thursday.

With ladies' groups from four churches selling tickets, a total attendance of 700 registered at the Frigidaire cooking school which was held a week ago Tuesday afternoon and evening in St. John's Church Auditorium. It was the first cooking school held here in 15 years.

Pte. Earl Beerman was home on embarkation leave last week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Beerman. A member of the special service force, he has completed his training at Petawawa with the Princess Pats. The regiment is slated to go to Korea, but Private Beerman was not able to say whether further training would be taken in the U.S. before leaving for the east.

TWENTY YEARS AGO - The Georgetown and District High School enrolment will be doubled by 1968, according to a recent survey. The report which projects the estimated high school registration for each of the next eight years suggests the number of pupils attending will surpass the 1,000 mark in 1968 and will jump to 700 next year. It currently stands at 578.

A new contract has been signed with the National Union of Public Service Employees which calls for a nine-cent an hour raise, retroactive to April 1. A classification of employees has been established with rates of pay \$1.47 for operators, \$1.41 for semi-skilled and \$1.35 for laborers.

Acton Theatre will be closed on November 26. Roxy manager Murray Harrison was informed last week. The theatre has been losing money for two years.

Perhaps the first person to use a telephone in Chingacousy Township was also the first one to call on the new dial system. Mrs. Herbert Taylor of Cheltenham, who was the township's first telephone operator at the switchboard installed over her father's general store in 1909, dialed the first call using no letters for the exchange.

Mayor Ern Hyde's 1959 Rambler was stolen Friday night and driven over a steep embankment near Hickory Falls. According to a police report, the car was taken from its parking spot near the Legion auditorium at about 6:45 p.m. and its whereabouts remained a mystery for about five hours. Finally a phone call sent police up the Glen mountain where the car was discovered a part way down a steep bank on the Eighth Line.

The president of Smith and Stone Limited, Brig. F.C. Wallace, DSO, MC, has been elected to the Board of Directors of Canadian Food Products Limited, it was announced last week. Brig. Wallace is president of Canadian Pittsburgh Industries Ltd., and a director of Canadair Limited, Salada-Shirriff-Horsley Limited as well as other companies.

The Georgetown Raiders will emulate chameleons and change color part way through the 1961 hockey season. Because of similarity of appearance between the Raiders and Dundas, who also wear red and white, the local club has ordered new blue and white uniforms and will be alternating their colors to contrast the opposition.

Advance poll arrangements may be established for future municipal elections in Georgetown. Town legislation does not now allow for advance polls, but council can amend the bylaw to permit it.

TEN YEARS AGO - The department of highways will allow traffic lights at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Highway 7, but it will not subsidize them, council was told Monday. A traffic survey, the second in three years, does not show enough traffic to meet department specifications for a subsidy.

Esquing Township will dispense with a long-time practise of printing the minutes of all council meetings, and the bylaws passed throughout the year. In the past, the printed copies were available at the nominations meeting. The decision Monday was based on cost, and the fact that all other municipalities discontinued the practice years ago.

Five downtown stores are still closed at press time as a result of smoke damage suffered in a fire Nov. 4. Some of the stores hope to be open today (Thursday). The stores still closed at time of writing are Buck's Fine Foods, the restaurant in the McGibbon Hotel, Holmes Five and Ten Cents Store, The Evelyn Shoppe and Barber's Jewellers. The fire started about 11:30 p.m. in a pile of garbage in an enclosed loading dock behind the hotel, burning the roof of the loading dock to some extent. Little actual fire damage was done.

It's not often that provincial judges are physically attacked in their courtrooms. But Judge M.J. Cloney was attacked last week by a wasp. All summer, wasps have been darting around the courtroom, doing little else but making those on trial, their lawyers and police a little edgy. Judge Cloney is the first casualty, having been stung on the right side of his face.

The new Norval post office opened on Nov. 3 with Mrs. Ormie Carter in charge, assisted by Mrs. Robert Crawford Sr. The post office was moved from Carters' to the former Carney Hardware store. The system now in use is for each family or business to own a box with a key. The mail can be picked up from the box at any time.

ONE YEAR AGO - Ignoring management orders to return to work Monday, employees of Smith and Stone Ltd. in Georgetown are continuing a wildcat strike launched Sunday night to protest recent changes in their new contract. Members of United Auto Workers amalgamated local 1421 are unhappy with a recent agreement which will see skilled workers receiving an additional \$1.50 an hour over the next eight months, but will offer nothing new to office employees and other members of production staff.

Halton MP Otto Jelinek has expressed hope that his new private member's bill, which suggests a reinstatement of the death penalty in the form of a poisonous injection for convicted murderers will come before the House of Commons early in the new year.

A fire at Georgetown District High School Thursday forced the evacuation of the building shortly after a series of planned fire drills was cancelled because of bad weather. The fire was set in paper stuffed in one of the toilets in a girls' washroom. Principal Mike Furlong said there is no estimate on the cost of the clean-up.

Halton regional councillors may be confronted directly by opponents of the region's plans to establish a major landfill site in rural Milton, whose lawyer has charged that public funds are being spent illegally on preparations for site approval.

David Estlin, lawyer for the 400-member Tremaine-Britannia Citizens' Group has written regional council pointing out that any efforts to proceed with the project are illegal until the courts have decided one way or another on the citizens' appeal against an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) ruling.