### theHERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

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# Spot check 'ends' don't justify seasonal 'means'

The Christmas season is also, ironically, the spot check season: it's somehow paradoxical that the time for holiday cheer is also supposed to be a time for self-restraint.

And while no one would fault the police across North America for implementing programs ostensibly designed to reduce the number of drunk drivers on the roads, we readily criticize the rationale behind such moves - these are at best bandaid pseudo-cures for a social problem that in fact has little if anything to do with the majority of highway accidents and fatalities and injuries.

At worst, these forms of regulation constitute narrow-minded confrontation politics and an affront to the basic human right to privacy: witness current court actions challenging the legality of police spot checks. Yes, Virginia, there are those who maintain that a true democracy precludes giving police the authority to stop vehicles on simple suspicion of driver intoxication.

To be sure, motorists everywhere must be cautioned again and again to act as their own "police force" while partying during the Christmas season and throughout the year. Driving instructors and schools must demonstrate to young people and other new drivers how alcohol can have a devastating and often imperceptible effect on some individuals' ability to handle a car. Government at the federal and provincial levels should develop incentive schemes to get more holiday celebrants into cabs and streetcars when they're out on the town; right now it's just too convenient to hop behind the wheel

of your own car. But in our view, the police themselves have a simple, dual role in the scenario of drunk driving: accident prevention in the case of clearly intoxicated drivers and grim as it sounds, accident care and clean-up after the fact.

The average cop on the beat can accurately say that if even one life is saved by Christmas spotchecks, the program is worthwhile. But this is emotive rhetoric and not logic. A recent ministry of transportation survey found that roughly 80 per cent of highway mishaps are the result of drivers not paying attention to their responsibility behind the wheel; alcohol had nothing to do with their shortcoming.

Does it not follow then that driving instruction itself must be reassessed and poor driving habits either headed off or corrected. How many times a week do you follow a motorist who fails to signal for turns? Not only required by strict law, proper signalling is a matter of both common sense and courtesy, but many people ignore these basics as they roll along, clearly preoccupied by something other than their driving.

It is terribly unfortunate to us that modern society's first response to such problems is legal prohibition. Everyday motorists thus end up with something akin to a criminal record for failing to police themselves and their own driving habits.

Police forces in Halton and elsewhere begin their annual spot check programs this week. Given the legal circumstances, motorists simply have no choice but to obey the current code of authority: if you drink, don't drive.

But let's keep in mind that the true picture is not as black and white as those seasonal advertising reminders from the ministry of transportation.



### Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

### Filed under 'Misc.'

We're "departmentalizing" at The Herald; new items this week:

In the Quirks of History Department, home of Rex Heslop Sr.'s "Blueprint for Decentralization" and other misplaced musings, a September, 1944, letter found at the bottom of yesteryear's mailbag, no doubt addressed to the late Mary biehn, wife and business partner of former Herald editor Walter, who was then at war overseas:

"To the Lady Editor, Dear Madam: I wish to call to your attention a little discrepancy which has happened recently in your valued paper...Why is It when a Canadian-born soldier has an honorary award of distinction given him, it is crammed in the smallest space and typed in the very smalled (sic) type available, while a student in the next column is in large blocked headlines? Was it because he was not a town boy?!! This is getting undesirable publicity and even disgust in the community.

How many distinctions have been awarded in this district to date? Toronto people wouldn't stand for such a thing. Fortunately, his mother does not worry over the slight done, but when asked her opinion, simply stated, 'Well, it might mean a lot right now to have the approbation of the town and community where he has been brought up, besides being a member of the local Lorne Scots regiment..'

Why ever was the citation even printed? We all feel there is something not quite right about the whole matter and we want to know the reason. It has been suggested by members of the community that we send copies of last week's Herald to Toronto papers and military organizations just to get public opinion on the matter, and settle the matter properly and see if our own hometown paper has really given a gallant soldier his proper recognition ...(to) which he surely is entitled.

(Signed) Fair Play for All Sadly, I don't know the outcome of this odd, wartime tale: the letter I have in its original form; whether it was published and whether Mrs. Blehn responded I do not know. No doubt her editorial expertise prompted gentle acknowledgement of this "terrible slight" and generous coverage for the heroics of the young man in question. Unless Walter has an answer, we'll likely never know.

And in our Fun 'n' Games at The Office Department, another semi-humorous prose piece suggesting the real truth behind the workforce. It's from the same source that gave us "You Know It's Going to be a Bad Day When ... " two weeks ago. (We know who you are; we've located your Gesteiner; we're coming to get you.)

Now get out your calculators, pardon the artistic licence and follow along:

"WHO WORKS?" "The population of Canada is 22 million, but there are 7 million over 85 years of age, leaving 15 million to do the work. People under 21 total 10 million, leaving 5 million to do the work. Two million federal government employees leave 3 million to do the work. Another 500,000 in the armed forces leave 2,500,000 workers. Deduct 1,250,000 provincial and municipal workers, which leaves 1,250,000 to do the work. There are 250,000 people in hospitals, asylums, etc., leaving one million to do the work. But 700,000 of these are unemployed and 200,000 are on welfare or won't work, so that leaves 100,000 to do the work. Now it may interest you to know that there are 80,000 people out of the country at any one time and 19,998 people in jail, so that leaves just two people to do all the work. And that is you and me, brother, and I'm getting tired of doing everything by

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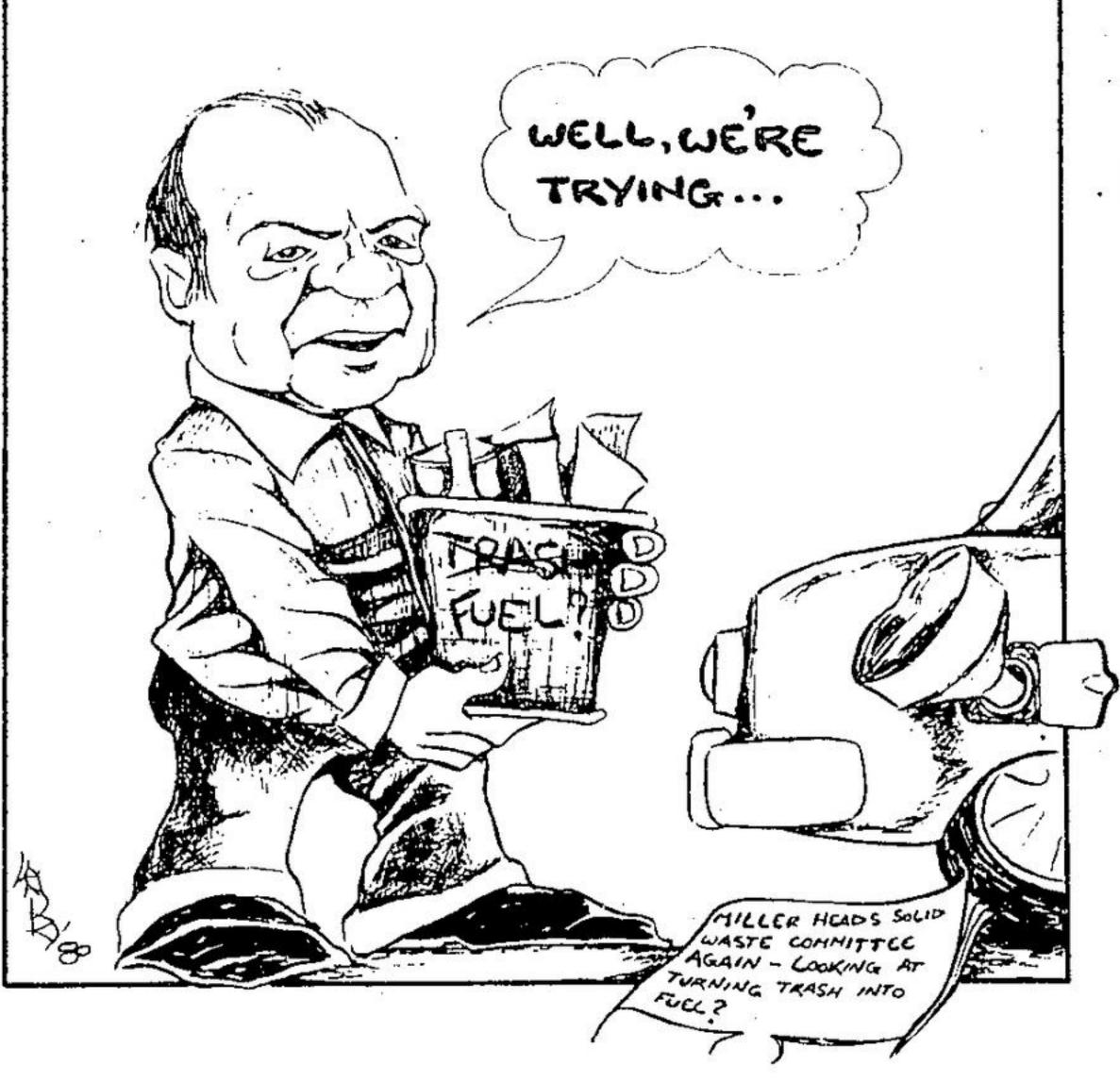
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## Leger's illness gave a chance to show personal courage



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

As a Governor-General, Jules Leger didn't have the noble alcolness of Vincent Massey, the profound presence of Viscount Alexander, the athletic flair of Roland Michener, but when he came to serene courage, he was in a class by himself.

It's a pity that ill-health prevented him from leaving an even larger imprint on the country he loved so much. But what this same ill-health did do was provide him with an opportunity to demonstrate a personal courage that had never before been on public display in Canada. Never had a Governor-General, or any other Canadian public figure, had to relearn to speak two languages while being watched by an entire nation.

"These long months have brought me close to those who suffer," the quiet Governor-general said, slowly and carefully, two years after he suffered his first stroke in 1974. "They should not despair." At the time, he was spending 90 minutes a day with a speech therapist, battling once again to learn English, a language that he first learned as a schoolboy. Few of us will ever comprehend the deeply discouraging daily struggle he faced as he wrestled with just those simple words he would once again utter in public with his royal wife at his side, ready to complete each sentence,

Gaby, as she is known, is equally remarkable - a quiet small town Quebec mother who shunned the spotlight but, when the need arose, stepped in without a stammer. She even read speeches to open Parliament.

NOTKNOWN

When Jules Leger was appointed Governor-general, he was best known by many Canadians as a brother of Paul-Emile Cardinal Leger. It's true he had been a distinguished diplomat, but so had hundreds of others. The world diplomacy tends to be off by itself, hiding its performers under a grey blanket of harmless niceties. With few exceptions, career diplomats are not regarded as high-impact personalities. University teachers perhaps, but potential Governor-General?

And to make matters worse, much worse, Leger was to suffer that deblitating stroke, which robbed him of his speech, just a few months after assuming office. He could have quit, but that's not his style.

instead, he struggled gamely to regain his strength, and his speech, while opening the doors of Rideau Hall to thousands of Canadians who had

never before ventured inside its massive gates, "I think if one can, further Canadianize the position that is what I should like to do," he said in 1976. And that he did.

GREAT DEBT Quite apart from overseeing the

transfer of royal authority from the Queen to the Governor-General, Leger Canadianized his office in countless other ways. The walls of "Rideau Hall" were seen adorned with the works of Canadian painters, replacing those starchy portraits of former Governors-General. The old buildings of then rocked with parties, particularly children's parties, and two years after that first massive stroke, Leger and his wife were off touring every province and territory, always telling Canadians to have faith in the future of their country. And most of us didn't realize just how often he fought that message into Quebec at a key time in our history.

If he appeared aloof in his striped diplomatic trousers, he certainly was not aloof in Rideau Hall. The place was an oasis of relaxed serenity under his stewardship. And while many thought he should be using a wheelchair, Leger could be seen on the dance floor, urging his bum leg back into full activity. "It's a slow learner," he would say.

It's a shame that illness prevented the easy flow of wise words from this great Canadian, but perhaps there is even greater inspiration in his long silent struggle. In any event, we owe him a great debt.

provincial election, when the Conser-

valives ran as the John Robarts Party,

since the then-premier led his party in

popularity by long strides: (The Tories

work in the Conservatives' favor is,

paradoxically, the economic situation,

the belief that in troubled times one

stays with the tried and true helmsmen

rather than gambling on the unknown.

sentiment does not appear to be

So far, the "time for a change"

A second element that seems to

lost seats but still won the election.)

## Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO - "We didn't allow enough for expansion. Georgetown had the greatest growth in history last year," said Mayor Harold Cleave at Monday's nomination meeting in the public library. Mayor Cleave was explaining to the eighty-odd ratepayers present, the reason for an estimated \$6,889 deficit on the year's operations which is forecast by an interim statement of finances as of November 15th.

An estimated 1,000 children attended Brill's Christmas party on Sunday afternoon at the Roxy. The crowd was so unexpectedly large that Santa, who had planned to give a coloring book and a candy cane to each child present, had to cut the gift in half to make everyone happy,

Seven men are contesting the six council seats at next Monday's municipal elections. It will be the first time that council will be elected by general vote in place of the former three-ward system. All present council members are seeking re-election. Fred McNally, who served ten years as a member of the Public School Board, including a term as chairman several years ago, is making his first bid for a seat in council.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-"I have an optimistic view of 1961, and if there is any increase in tax rate, it should be only minor," said Mayor Ern Hyde as he addressed a meeting Tuesday night in Wrigglesworth auditorium. He qualified his statement by saying the tax rise would not occur unless a major project not presently foreseen should enter the

"Teenagers with nothing better to do," have been blamed by Police Chief Roy Haley for an outbreak of malicious damage which has plagued his department for the past two weeks. Chief Haley said unguarded windows seem to be the targets for vandals. Glass at a hydro substation on Mountainview Road and numerous other buildings throughout the town has been shattered in the senseless

Georgetown has a new band-the Georgetown Citizens Pipe Band. The new aggregation, which includes both men and women in its playing ranks, had its inaugural meeting on Thursday, boasting a membership of 10 pipers and six drummers. Suggesting that study be given to legislation

which would force owners of vacant property to keep the property in shape or have it torn down, Mayor Hyde found council in agreement with him A tenth term which will make his total service

twenty years, will be started by Graham Farnell on Georgetown Hydro Commission in January. Mr. Farnell, a Main Street merchant, was the only candidate unopposed for elected office this year in Georgetown. TEN YEARS AGO-Georgetown has a new industry

which plans to employ 100 people initially. Gage Stationery Ltd. began operations last week in the former Dennison Manufacturing plant at 71 Todd Road. Machinery is still being moved in for production of stationery and school products such as exercise books, scribblers, foolscap and writing Forty-four years in township politics is the

impressive record racked up by George Currie,

retiring reeve of Esquesing. The 80-year-old "Senator", as he is affectionately known around the township, has only been out of office four years since 1926 when he first ran for Esquesing Council. Fourteen of the 44 years he served as reeve, and the remainder of the time, he was either duputy reeve or councillor. A draft of Esquesing official plan will be

presented to the public at a public meeting early in the New Year. Their comments will be invited and perhaps amendments made, before the plan is sent to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval. Janet Laird, a pupil at Moore Park School,

won a \$25 bank account in a province-wide draw sponsored by G.H. Wood. Each of the winners will not only receive the \$25 bank deposit, but will receive an additional \$5 deposit on each birthday, October 16, for the next five years, provided the original deposit, together with the annual increments and interest, is left intact.

Pickland Regal Maud, a heifer owned by Claude Picket of Georgetown, brought \$19,000 to top the Holstein Sale of Stars at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto. This is one of the highest prices ever paid for a heifer calf in Canada.

ONE YEAR AGO-Bruce McLaughlin, president of Focal Properties Ltd., is tired of fighting the community and has asked the people of Halton Hills to "suspend their disbelief" and seek an "air of co-operation". Referring to the controversy surrounding his proposed 1,740-home development south of Georgetown, Mr. McLaughlin told the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce last week that "it is time for us all to have the humility to back down from strong positions and commit ourselves to co-operation."

Gord Douglas, a well-known member of the North Halton Scout movement, has received the medal of merit for his outstanding contribution to the movement during the past 17 years. Mr. Douglas was presented with a letter Nov. 21 telling him he had received the award, but the actual medal will be presented at a later date.

In a letter to Onlario's minister of energy, Mayor Pete Pomeroy has again supported the request for an independent study of the controversial hydro corridor. The letter, in which Mayor Pomeroy explained that town council passed the official plan amendment allowing the construction of the 500-kilovolt corridor only at the direction of the Ontario Municipal Board and the Cabinet, went before the cabinet last week along with a petition from the Interested Citizens' Group.

## Carleton by-election victory favors leadership strategy



Queen's Park

By Derek

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

If the easy Progressive Conservalive victory in the Carleton by-election is any Indication, the question dominating the next provincial election is not whether the Tories regain their majority-but by how much.

That's not a prediction, but a hunch based on a close look at the riding's voting history in the 1970s. Conservative Bob Mitchell won

11,900 votes, Liberal Al Loney 8,400, and New Democrat Judy Wasylycia-Leis 4,100 out of 58,000 eligible voters. That's a low 42 per cent turnout.

The Tories attribute their trlumph to the leadership of Premier William Davis, and it is clear from their ilterature that Davis was the focal point of their campaign.

The party name is barely mentioned-it is "Bill Davis working for Ontario. On the other hand the Liberals

believe the Conservatives were "playing the French card"-anti-bilingual-Ism and anti-French-in a subtle but effective way in a riding where that issue is a factor.

OTHER SIDE Silli, balancing that, there was some thought that Conservatives. upset by the over-exuberance of Davis' bear hug of federal constitutional proposals, might protest by staying home voting day.

After all, if you're a loyal party supporter, you can send a signal to the government during a by-election that

In fact neither issue appears to have played a big role (although the turnout was lower than the average of the last three by-elections), and to the degree events were influenced, the anti-French aspect may have been cancelled out by the Tory betrayal

you wouldn't risk in a general election.

Just for interest let's assume local matters did not dominate in the contest, but rather broader provincial concerns. These could impact to the same degree in other ridings during a

general election. If the turnout were the normal 60 to 70 per cent, and the same split holds as in the by-election, the opposition is

in trouble

LOOK BACK It's worthwhile to compare past elections-the strongly tory 1971 general election, the anti-Davis tide in 1975, and the pro-incumbent 1977 general election-to the Carleton results.

into relative percentages). On these grounds it appears the Conservatives have regained their 1971

. (The raw votes to be translated

popularity in Carleton, with the Liberals improving slightly while the NDP sank somewhat. TORIES BACK?

Across the province that would mean a Conservative majority, and the question to be answered is why.

Obviously the Tories are leaning heavily on the leadership angle, since every poll seems to show Davis has a better recognition level and "confidence quotient" in people's eyes than Liberal Leader Stuart Smith or NDP

Leader Michael Casaldy. It is reminiscent of the 1967



How would you like to go home with \$3,000 worth of home entertainment equipment? That's just what Fjola Birke did Saturday after her key opened the special lock to the McDonald's "Panasonic Dream" package at the restaurant's Georgetown outlet. Pictured with Mrs. Birke are her son, Kent, and restaurant manager Finlay Arnold. Mrs. Birke's prize package included a 20-Inch remote control color television and a video tape system with five feature films and six blank cartridges.