

Little Miss bows to Super Sundays

Our heartfelt congratulations to the University Women's Club of Georgetown for demonstrating last week the extent of public interest in what amounts to a landmark cultural activity for local youngsters.

All 500-plus tickets for the club's forthcoming Super Sundays Series for children sold out as soon as they became available last week, indicating two important things: that there is widespread community interest in semi-professional, sophisticated shows for kids that combine entertainment and education; and that the new library-cultural centre should indeed be commercially viable.

Involved in fund-raising for the arts complex from the start, the club was among the first groups in line for permission to use the new theatre facility. With inspiring speed, its members mounted an ambitious triplet of shows by performers from out of town, each one carefully chosen to benefit its young audience.

The stories that will be told by the National Tap Dance Company Nov. 22 and the Lampon Puppettheatre next April reinforce some of

humanity's most noble virtues: personal courage and determination, independence, creativity and true friendship. In January, multi-instrumentalist Eric Nagler shows the small fry how they can create music using any old object at all.

We have to admit that much of our delight over the immediate success of the Super Sundays concept stems from our view of the Little Miss Halton Hills pageant held at last year's Georgetown Fall Fair. It looks as though the pageant will not be part of this year's fair because of a lack of volunteer organizers, and that suits us fine.

As we've stated here before, competitions of this nature — even something as superficially harmless and fun as the Little Miss pageant — tend to bring out the worst in human nature, and widespread public acceptance of contests which collectively foster inter-personal comparisons and the exploitation of young "innocents" should not be tolerated.

It reassures us that local apathy, always an unfortunate problem for the fall fair board, has this time chosen Little Miss Halton Hills as its target.

AND THESE PEOPLE WANT A CLEAR ANSWER AS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN ON DEALING WITH THE CURRENT CRIPPLING INTEREST RATES.



McDonald study aftermath a 'whopping anticlimax'



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald
Perhaps it's a simple case of being in the wrong business, but I just can't get in the spirit of this journalistic party that's in full swing over the report of the McDonald Commission on RCMP wrongdoing.

And it's not for lack of trying. I not only skimmed over the 1,800 word report itself, but I've also buried myself under the avalanche of newspaper stories which seem to have swept away everything in its path, including the Kent Commission on Newspapers.

Does somebody out there really want to read 10,000 words about the McDonald Commission's findings? At the risk of exposing poor personal judgment, I think it's the most overblown event since Prime Minister Trudeau's pontifications on the Just Society. It's a whopping anticlimax to the commission's public hearings.

It was at those hearings that all the juicy stories were told about alleged

RCMP wrongdoing, including illegal wiretapping, letter-opening, barn-burning and surreptitious entries. And it was at the hearings that we heard charges and counter charges about how much, if anything, the prime minister and his cabinet knew about the incidents. There were exciting suggestions of cover-up, of approval in the highest offices, of complicity. Those were some of the questions that gripped us in the commission's heyday of hearings.

FEW ANSWERS
There aren't many clear-cut answers in the commission's final report. What the prime minister and his ministers were told about the illegality, if anything, and how they reacted remains very much a matter of personal memory or opinion. At one point the commission report says that Trudeau and some of his ministers were told that the RCMP had been committing illegalities for 20 years, but that there was no evidence the ministers were given specific details of any illegality. In other words, it's just a rehash of everything we heard over the last three years.

Former Tory solicitor-general Allan Lawrence says he could give us specifics, except that he is prevented from doing so under the Official Secrets Act. And that, too, is a rehash. It's now patently obvious that we will never know, in precise details, just what information was exchanged between government and RCMP officials.

But short of the government advocating terrorism, I am not convinced this was an issue that gripped the nation anyway.

DOUBLE STANDARD

And I am equally convinced that many of the other specifics that seized the commission were not subjects average Canadians discussed over their breakfasts. Even that over-riding question of whether our security service should be run by the RCMP or civilians was not something I heard much about in social conversation.

While it now is fashionable to criticize the RCMP for overreacting to Quebec separatists — and the McDonald commission joins this chorus — it's easy to forget the uncertainties that existed 10 years ago when the FLQ was in full flight and mail boxes were being bombed. You didn't hear many complaints about police over-reaction in those days.

It seems to me there is a double standard at work. On the one hand we are highly critical of the police for being under-informed about political movements and parties, and yet we are expected to be outraged when they use questionable means to collect the necessary information. If the RCMP wants to infiltrate the Liberal caucus, which apparently it did, I don't see much cause for excitement. We don't seem to object when they infiltrate the Communist Party.

Despite its length, and its generally harsh treatment of the RCMP, I am surprised at the scarcity of real revelations in this report. Furthermore, despite all the incidents cited, I am left with the impression that the RCMP is doing a pretty good job.

RCMP report rekindles provincial Trotskyite case



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald
Under the Canadian system of justice the federal government is responsible for writing the laws and the provincial governments are responsible for enforcing them.

So Attorney-General Roy McMurtry has a tough decision to make as a result of the release of the McDonald inquiry into so-called RCMP wrongdoing during counter-intelligence operations.

He must decide whether to charge officers of the force whose conduct was judged unacceptable and illegal by the inquiry.

The McDonald Commission itself ducked the question of charges, leaving any such decision in provincial hands.

McMurtry has so far given only one hint as to his stance on the question of charges — and that when he twice stayed criminal proceedings against two RCMP officers, by two members of the now defunct Trotskyite League for Socialist Action.

In the early 1970s the RCMP mounted Operation Checkmate, an attempt to sow discord in Trotskyite ranks by such methods as alleging a leader was emotionally unstable. When the methods were revealed

in 1979 two Trotskyites tried to lay charges of forgery, and later extortion, against the Mounties, only to be blocked by McMurtry.

Partly the minister refused to proceed on the grounds an Ontario Provincial Police investigation said there wasn't enough evidence to win a conviction and if the Mounties won their case they might take it as justification for their actions.

That would indicate McMurtry is not going to prosecute unless the evidence is air-tight.

On the other hand, he also partly stayed proceedings because he wanted to see what new evidence and information, if any, the McDonald Commission was going to produce about illegal RCMP acts.

Now he has the additional data and once it is reviewed he will have to make a final decision one way or another on prosecution.

OTHER POINT
One suspects he won't have an easy task making up his mind.

There is, after all, more involved here than just a simple question of an individual police officer breaking the law.

The RCMP was not a secret society during the time these illegal acts were

being carried out. It was a police force with a clear chain of command and a political boss called the Solicitor-General of Canada.

Is it justice to prosecute the men who performed the acts, while ignoring the men who knew the acts were being done — maybe not in detail, but certainly in general outline?

NICE POINT
A comment by McMurtry on McDonald's proposal for a civilian security agency to replace RCMP counter-intelligence touches the point indirectly.

McMurtry sees "nothing magic" about shifting counter-intelligence responsibilities from police to civilians. The two real problems exposed by McDonald could recur.

One was poor political supervision — the Ottawa politicians "were simply derelict in their responsibilities," McMurtry said. The other problem was inadequately trained officers, he said.

Quebec has laid 44 charges against 17 Mounties, or ex-Mounties, in regard to their actions in that province in the 1970s, but that may be the result of having a government committed to destruction of federalism.

What decision McMurtry finally makes will be illuminating.



THIRTY YEARS AGO—Paid admissions to the Georgetown Fall Fair totalled 2,065, second only to the 1946 centennial year. Fifty cakes and 30 pies give some idea of the magnitude of the domestic science entries. The oldest person present at the fair was W.G. Gollop, 91, of Norval, who won the yearly Herald subscription offered for this distinction.

Georgetown's baseball midgets are in the running for a championship. They ousted Slaynor from the semi-finals when they took the second game 8-3.

Six students are enrolled in Georgetown High School for grade 13, and they're all girls! The former head of the Ontario Provincial Police detachment in Georgetown, Corporal Jack Sheffield is in Oakville-Trafalgar Hospital recuperating from a bullet wound. He was shot by his daughter Doreen, 16, Thursday evening after a supper table argument. Mr. Sheffield was against her keeping her summer job of telephone switch-board operator and dropping out of high school.

A Herald ad shows round trip bus fare to Boston costs \$25.20 and to Detroit, \$11.70. Another ad shows men's wool-worsted suits costing \$25, boys socks at 39 cents, and ladies dresses at \$7.95. At Farnell's, a grocery store, Schneider's breakfast bacon costs 75 cents a pound, and Nabob jelly powder 25 cents for three packages. And, to keep you warm in those cool September mornings and evenings, Alberta coal is selling at \$17.75 a ton.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Council voted 5-4 against hiring a town manager for \$10,000 a year. "We're much too small a town to consider a town manager," said Mayor Ern Hyde.

At least 50 high school locker doors will have to be replaced for the new school year. The school board is looking for doors which are student proof and not necessarily fireproof.

Georgetown Hospital has been in operation for over a month and it has admitted a total of 153 adults and children as patients. And, 42 new youngsters can now boast that Georgetown is their birthplace. Until the new hospital opened, the large majority of births took place in Brampton or Guelph hospitals. As of July 31, the hospital was employing 117 full-time staff and three part-timers.

The Georgetown Anglers and Hunters Association have announced the date for their full turkey shoot as Oct. 14, to be held at their club at 2 p.m.

For the first time in the history of the George Dulmage Pro-Junior Golf tournament at Toronto Rosedale, a Georgetown golf team finished second in the tourney contested by 47 Ontario teams.

TEN YEARS AGO—Friday was the deadline for objections to a proposed rezoning of Maple Lodge Farms near Norval. The rezoning application was that the farm be designated industrial rather than agricultural so that its present use as a poultry farm would be conforming. One objector said that the proposed use would contribute to water and air pollution in the area.

Alfred Elliott, 90, missing from Peel Manor home for the aged since Aug. 21, was found Thursday in a cornfield behind the Manor. A policeman said it appeared he'd been in the field for some time. An extensive search by Chinguacousy Police, Peel volunteers, Manor staff and a local fruit grower in a light airplane had failed. A police dog was finally called in and only took one hour to find Mr. Elliott.

A new service is added to the Georgetown library. Movies, all kinds, are available for 25 cents with an additional \$3 charge if the projector, screen and sound system are needed.

At Sinclair and Duncan Streets, the newly completed St. Francis of Assisi Separate School (kindergarten to grade 6) opened its doors Thursday to over 200 students.

ONE YEAR AGO—Approximately 300 workers at Maple Lodge Poultry Farms near Norval walked out on strike Monday morning, crippling one of the largest chicken processing factories in the nation. Workers staged the company's policies on statutory holidays, vacations and overtime and life insurance. They wanted a two-year contract bringing the starting wage of an employee to \$7 from \$6.20.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy announced his intention Friday to campaign for a second term as mayor. He said he is particularly interested in having council complete urban boundary studies for Acton and Georgetown.

Saturday, the Georgetown Junior Falcons defeated Chinguacousy 2-1 in the semi-final of the Peel-Halton Cup. They've only lost one game in the league so far this season and their final game is next Monday against Streetsville, the only team which they lost against.

Mayor Pomeroy and library-theatre building committee co-chairman Rex Heslop received a commemorative brick from Unilock's Terry Galt. The Georgetown company donated \$3,000 worth of similar bricks to be used in constructing the new arts centre.

POET'S CORNER

Penny Stamps

My boyhood days penny postage it did pass
Today they strike for too much cash.
Have a job so they can way up in luxury,
Where the average man can't get to be.
Some folks live like Mr. Jones
Why starve someone else to bones?
Most people invest a lot of dough
Have a hard time to make it go.
The postal guys don't spend a dime
Except to have a special time.
Ask for more, they cry and whine
They are way above the line.
Inflation it will never end
Those ways do not help it to mend.
All people want to live,
Greedy people do not give.
If I had my way I'd cut their pay.
Close the postage 'til that day.
—By Albert Brooks
RR2 Acton



Letter from the editor

Paul Dorsey

Georgetown, 1919

Way back in 1919, Georgetown council still met at 7:30 Monday evenings, still beginning sessions with minutes and correspondence and still spending most of its time with minor matters of concern to individual citizens.

Copies of the Georgetown Herald dated April 9 and April 16, 1919 — five months after Armistice Day — came across my desk last week after a daughter of The Herald's present shop cameraman, Myles Gilson, discovered the dilapidated four-pagers inserted as padding for the cloth-covered lid of an antique toy box. The subscription tags name one O. McKay.

I've talked about old Herald's here before, but I've never had a good opportunity to peruse one so old. The Herald's own back files go back as far as that same year, earlier issues (to 1866) having been destroyed in a fire, but these bound copies are also in a bad state of repair, and we threaten history each time we open the book.

Here's some interesting tidbits from the April 9, 1919, copy:

"Messrs. John Ballantine and W. Long asked (council) for the privilege of building a sidewalk in front of their houses on Union Street."

Other typical items involved water service and fire protection for Maple Avenue, a water pooling problem at Main and Wesleyan Streets and a request from the "Citizens' Committee" for funds to purchase watches for local World War I veterans. Council's response:

"Moved by LeRoy Dale, seconded by W.F. Bradley, that this council, owing to the financial and legal aspects of the situation, feel that they cannot respond to the wishes of the Committee to raise \$2,000 to procure watches for the returned soldiers by direct taxation. This Council feels that any gift or subscription given by the people should be of their own free will and volition. Carried unanimously. L. Grant, Reeve."

The issue contains more of those wonderful old editorial comments (probably by publisher J.M. Moore):

"(There is) no doubt that a great amount of the degradation, ruin and crime among the young springs from the habit of night prowling, corner loafing and kindred acts by both sexes in city, town and hamlet all over this broad country. Any person who keeps his or her eyes open knows this. Hundreds of boys and girls are out at night and we all know that many influences for evil and few for good surround them continually. The curfew

restriction may be derided as old-fashioned and puritanical, but the fact remains that there is vastly less night prowling in towns that have a curfew ordinance and enforce it."

The Herald then examines the "annual police report" out of Toronto, "an illuminating document on the status of public morals":

"There is a notable increase in all sorts of theft and other crimes. This includes 1,104 autos stolen — a comparatively new industry in the predatory world — and the substantial sum of \$209,102 was collected for breaches of the Ontario Temperance Act. Defaulting husbands were very unwillingly forced to pay \$18,425 to their dependents, and no comfort is obtainable from a decrease in houses of ill-fame of various sorts. Altogether, it is not a consoling document from a moral viewpoint. On the contrary, it indicates much uphill work yet ahead for those laboring on behalf of fallen humanity."

For you discerning shoppers out there, of course, the old ads are something else: a six-room frame house on John Street with a fruit garden for \$2,600; bed couches with springs and mattresses from Jackson's on Main Street for \$24; 100 acres of workable land with a solid brick, eight-room house for \$10,000; or how about 100 pounds of granulated sugar for \$9.98 at Barnhill's of Norval?

A new face on staff: Ani Paderian, from Downsview, was officially piped aboard the Herald last week to take over the junior reporter's job, which includes police, fire and schoolboard news, among other odds and ends.

A Carleton University journalism grad, Ani just spent three weeks writing, researching and directing a video film for the North York Board of Education on technical training. During her own school years, she freelanced for Ottawa's CFGO-AM radio and last summer served as information officer for the Youth Secretariat's Experience '80 program.

Ani's fluent in English, French and Armenian and has already moved to Georgetown. We hope you'll greet her warmly.

Ani replaces Astra Pape, the Georgetown girl who astounded us "veterans" on staff by signing on as a mere summer employee, then doing a fine, professional job of writing and photography. I told her she didn't need to return to Ryerson's journalism course this fall, but she's decided to anyway. Something about wanting to take over Sharon Dunn's or Valerie Elia's job on the CBC evening news. Beat of luck, Astra, and thanks.

In a recent article concerning a shortage of volunteers needed to run the North Halton Contact Centre in Georgetown it was incorrectly stated that Centre is looking for people to man the crisis phones for a single three-to-four-hour shift each month. Actually, volunteers are needed at the centre to take three four-hour shifts per month. Since articles concerning the volunteer shortage appeared Sept. 2, Centre spokesman Jutta Pettigill says about eight people have offered their services. While the response is welcome, at least 25 volunteers are needed to ensure that enough workers are ready to help strike-ridden callers. More information concerning the Centre's activities is available by calling 877-1211.

Contact Centre needs you!