

Why do Canadians readily accept 'frustrating' metric methods? - reader

To the Editor of The Herald:

The switch to metric proposed in government was supposed to be done in harmony with the United States, Great Britain and Japan. Reagan has fired his metric commission and Margaret Thatcher has opted out. New Zealand, Australia and Japan are backtracking. Then why are we having this frustrating costly system forced upon us?

Government is making it mandatory — in other words, heavy penalties for non-compliance, confiscation of imperial scales and other equipment, fines from \$1,000 to \$5,000, six months to two years in jail.

The cattleman out west are saying "Put us in jail." Government is trying to "outlaw" our imperial measurements that have stood the test of time and been used in developing some of the greatest technology in the world. Government

is taking away part of our Culture and Heritage.

This metric madness is all done behind closed doors by cabinet orders-in-council without the input of Parliament; since when are matters of this importance allowed without Parliamentary debate? They never even took a cost analysis.

Système Internationale is the one which less than five per cent of the world uses. Metric does not mean standardization either. For example, a one-centimetre bolt from a Toyota will not fit a metric one-centimetre nut from a Volkswagen. Anything brought in from the U.S. in pounds will be double-handled to get to metric. Retailers predict major cost here as well as major cost to convert scales which cost between \$1,200 to \$2,000 each. Absolute stupidity, metric madness to cost taxpayers

between \$5 and \$10 billion.

Just a few more examples: \$100 million to convert acres to hectares; \$20 million to convert grain elevator terminals and producers; \$100 million for retail scale conversion; \$100 million to convert the dairy industry; \$3 million for the budget of one retail food chain with stores in Ontario only.

The list goes on and on: \$40 million has been spent already by a body of 96 bureaucrats in Ottawa with a budget of \$12 million per year and, just think, this will be going on for

another ten years. They have hired a cook and entertainer to demonstrate metric, to the tune of \$55,000 each plus expenses, on TV shows across Canada.

All this boggles the mind. The new auditor-general, Kenneth Dye, in a recent report condemns Ottawa for the waste and inefficiency. The S. I. metric is a product of the French Revolution. Let's get together and shove it back where it belongs or leave it to the private sector. Only one

group is forcing metric on the country and that's the government.

Come on taxpayers: fight back and exercise your power. Don't let them rob us of what is rightfully ours. This belongs to us. Write your Member of Parliament in Ottawa (Otto Jelinek in Acton and John McDermid in Georgetown) and forget the 30-cent stamp — it's free.

Incidentally, how many centimetres in a billion? Erma De Rose, Georgetown.

Letters to the Editor

Acton Lions letter describes club's local firehall interest

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is a copy of a letter to Mayor Pete Pomeroy submitted at a recent council meeting. Attention: The Honorable Mayor - Peter Pomeroy. Dear Mr. Pomeroy:

The Acton Lions Club has for some time now been aware of the fact that negotiations are underway to restore the town hall and likewise, to obtain a new fire hall for Acton. Several of our members have attended various meetings on these matters and kept abreast of the proceedings.

As we believe a decision will be forthcoming shortly as to the disposition of these existing buildings, we would like to make our intentions known. We would be very much interested in looking into the feasibility of taking over one of

these premises which, as you know, represents excellent potential for the many uses which we have in mind, such as Senior's Drop-in, Committee Rooms, etc. for all of Acton.

The purpose of our correspondence at this time is essentially to apprise you of our interest and to ask your consideration when future plans have been finalized. We feel

that the credibility which we have established through the successful fundraising and completion of the Acton Lions swimming pool several years ago would hold us in good standing with the public of

Acton and we would prove to be worthy administrators. We look forward to your reply.

Very truly yours,
Vince Whelan,
Secretary.

Simon Fraser
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

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Vial of Life coverage earns appreciation

To the Editor of The Herald:

On behalf of the Vial of Life Committee for the Georgetown Lions Club, may I thank you, your newspaper and your reporter, Chris Aagaard, for the excellent coverage given the Vial program.

After reading all of your articles I know I do not have to impress you with importance of this program. I am personally aware of two instances where the Vial was instru-

mental in the recovery of the victim of a sudden illness.

The Vials have been picked up by a number of Georgetown citizens and we are presently making plans to speak to the tenants of the senior citizens buildings as well as local senior citizens' groups.

Once again, my sincere thanks for your co-operation.

John MacIver
Chairman Vial of Life
Committee
Georgetown Lions Club

Holly Day raises \$1,637 for lung group

To the editor of The Herald:

The board of directors of the Halton Lung Association have asked me to express their sincere gratitude to your newspaper for the excellent publicity given our "Holly Day".

This was a pilot project for us and the success of it has helped us, a little, to build up a sagging Christmas Seal campaign. Citizens of Halton enjoyed buying our Holly and contributed a total of \$1637.00.

We continue to appreciate your considerable support. Sincerely,
Marg. Lamothe, co-ordinator,
Holly Day committee

Federal contract to firm

A federal contract worth \$344,186 has been awarded to Broadhead Garrett Company of Acton to provide the Canadian International Development Agency with vehicle components, the department of supply and services announced Thursday. It was one of 345 contracts worth \$10,000 or more awarded to Canadian companies in the week ending Jan. 1. Total value of the contracts was \$37.4 million.

Marian joins Bible college

Marian Cole of Georgetown is currently studying at the Briercrest Bible Institute, an evangelical and interdenominational Bible College dedicated



to training Christian leaders and lay workers, located at Carleton Place, Ont., 15 miles west of Toronto. It is Canada's largest accredited Bible College and is accredited by the American Association of Bible Colleges. All classes in the three-degree programs, in the two-year diploma and in the one-year certificate course are taught by qualified instructors at the college level.

Here's what UNICEF collection can do

To the editor of The Herald:

Every Halloween, some young people go out with their UNICEF boxes and "trick or treat". By doing this, they help provide basic services for children in over 100 developing countries. We are pleased to report that the children of Georgetown and outlying districts raised \$1,536.62 in 1981.

From UNICEF funds:

— 20 cents will buy enough antibiotic ointment to treat two children afflicted with trachoma;

— \$2.19 will buy a shovel for students to use in the school garden;

— \$22 will buy two first aid kits to be used in areas where no hospitals or clinics are available;

— \$140 will buy a pump for a village in Senegal in north-west Africa.

We would like to thank all the students of the schools and church schools, along with private organizations that participated in this event.

Our sincere appreciation to the staff of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in the Georgetown Market for both their kindness and understanding.

Georgetown, and the surrounding areas, once again have proved that they care about their brothers and sisters in far-off places. May we take this opportunity of wishing each and everyone of you best wishes for 1982.

Bud and Phyllis Livingstone,
Co-Chairmen

License bylaw changes

The town's licensing bylaw review committee has made a number of changes to the legislation passed in October. Bowling centre licences will now cost a maximum of \$105 per year, or \$25 for the first alley and \$10 for each additional lane. The bowling centre changes were prompted last November by Georgetown Bowl owner Rose Radyk who asked council to reconsider the onerous \$215 fee for her business which was obliged to pay under the bylaw. Arcades will be charged a yearly fee of \$300. Other changes included more clearly defining commercial public garages and major repair centres. Overlooked in the original bylaw, driver education vehicles will be now charged \$5 each.

THANK YOU!

Joe and Anne Hofstede would like to take this opportunity to thank all their customers for their valued patronage over the past 12 years. Effective February 1st, 1982, we look forward to servicing your appliance and antenna needs from our new location.

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