

Best interests

One has to consider whether or not a by-election to replace the Esquimes seat left vacant by councillor Tom Hill is warranted.

Town council argued that a by-election would be in the best interests of the people, noting that the longer three year term should be a factor in choosing an area representative.

An appointment is not the best way to start a political career because one has to face pressure from people who might say he wasn't fairly elected, a councillor maintained.

New issues in the rural area since the last election underline the need for a by-election, added Mayor Pomeroy.

However, an appointment for the Esquimes seat would save time and money for both the town and taxpayers.

Although a new election might produce a candidate who is more qualified than an appointee in becoming the newest town representative, we have no guarantees he would do a better job.

The people have become accustomed to taking risks in choosing candidates in an election

and we can only hope councillors will represent our concerns fairly.

The town should choose either Jake Kuiken or Peter Norton, (the two candidates in the Ward 2 riding last Nov. 8) to replace the seat left vacant by the late Tom Hill.

The town would be choosing a man who wanted to represent the riding. Moreover, they would prevent each of these men from spending more of their time and money in yet another election bid.

The taxpayers would not be inconvenienced by another election night at the polls, nor would they have to foot the estimated \$9,000 bill required to hold the by-election.

We argue that an appointed councillor would be more careful, knowing that his term would be looked upon unfavorably by his critics if he differed substantially from his constituents' views.

Choosing a candidate to replace Tom Hill is not an easy task and no one will be able to emulate his spirited character.

Nevertheless, we have no guarantees a by-election will serve the interests of the people better than an appointment.

Social concerns and micro-chips

Having revolutionized just about everything else in our lives, it's not surprising that the micro-chip means so much to the future of libraries.

As Halton Hills chief librarian Betsy Cornwell pointed out last week in an interview with The Herald, computers (even locally) are already speeding up the book circulation process. In the very near future, they'll provide access, in a library setting, to vast banks of information far more extensive than found on the book-filled shelves of most libraries.

Computers, and their cousins--video display terminals and word processors, are the most innovative means of spreading information since radio and television.

They were enormous, awkward Rube Goldberg contraptions when they were first constructed in the 1940s and speculation as to their widespread, home-use was left largely to science-fiction writers.

For everyone involved with computers and planning their proliferation,

equal time must be given to answering some of the social concerns so often ignored in the turbulence of high speed technological change.

How much will public access to computers, most likely through the library system cost? Will user-fees be attached or will service be shared by the taxpayers?

If the individual pays, does it mean free access to information will be limited to those who can afford it, who Mrs. Cornwell referred to as an "information elite"?

The prospects of widespread computer use is exciting and opens up possibilities as limitless as the imagination. Home computers are being sold as fast as they can be placed on the shelf, but unfortunately some of the social concerns are being left far behind.

In a public setting, the social questions become all the more important. Perhaps balance between traditional methods of information gathering and micro-chip technology is best in the long run.

Editor's notebook

By DAVE ROWNEY

The Herald printed a story last week dealing with a series of statistics gleaned from the 1981 Canada census.

While statistical stories can often seem dry and uninteresting, they do print a picture of the society in which we live. The picture it gave us of Halton Hills was, in many ways, what we had expected to see.

One of the most fascinating results of the census on Halton Hills was the growth (or lack of it) over a five year period: a misery 713.

While uncontrolled growth can be seen as threatening to a community, Halton Hills has gone from the sublime to the ridiculous. In order to move ahead, it has been well recognized and documented that our tax base must grow to help support new programs, assist residents to

pay for current town projects and help to stimulate local business.

The Canadian average for a monthly rental payment is \$296 while in Halton Hills the cost is \$367. While rent controls provide a means for low income families to survive tough economic times, they have most certainly stunted growth in construction proposals for suitable rental units.

Due to a lack of supply of rental housing in town, prices have escalated to an unbearable rate for many young people starting out for the first time in the work force.

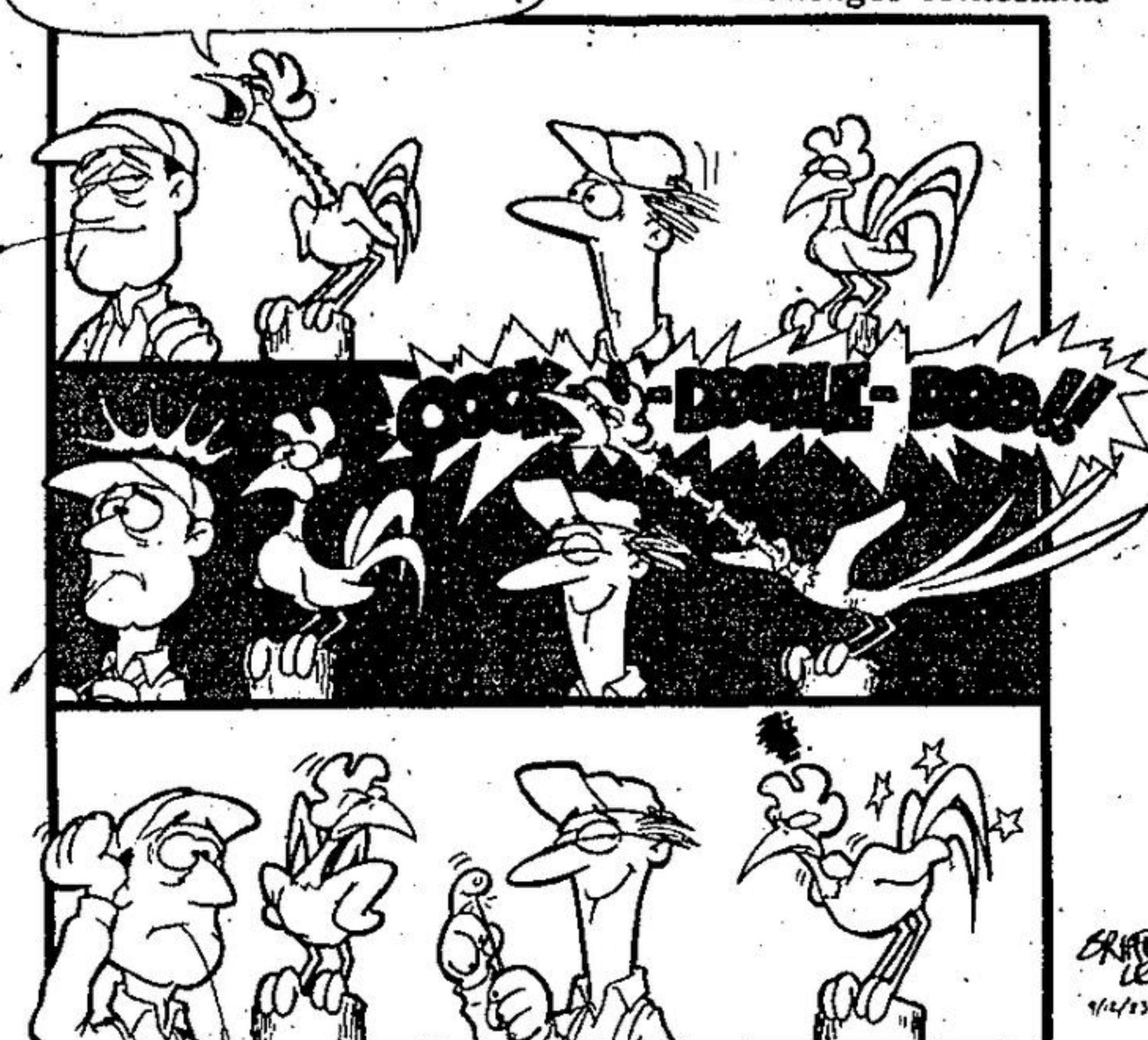
When we talk of employment in town it seems our male youth, like their counterparts in many other cities or towns, just can't beat the system.

The "you got to have experience first" syndrome has forced many young men away from Georgetown and Acton due to a lack of opportunity in many fields.

An 8.6 per cent unemployment

News item: Acton Fall Fair daylight rooster crowing contest challenges contestants

COCK-A-DOODLE-OOO!



Trudeau shuffles cabinet, but leaves B.C. with only one voice

Ottawa Report

By Stewart McLeod

Having made the argument that Prime Minister Trudeau's cabinet shuffles may be attributed more to whims than any grand designs, it is therefore somewhat difficult to take issue with his strategies. How can you criticize a strategy that has no strategic intent?

On the other hand, how do you go about taking issue with a whim? Anyway, leaving aside whatever Trudeau had in mind when he shuffled his peers recently, the fact is he managed to leave the entire province of British Columbia with only one voice in the federal cabinet - that of Senator Jack Austin, who retained his difficult-to-define portfolio of social development. And that, for a province with a history of enormous influence in federal politics, is not very much. Prince Edward Island has long accepted the reality of having only one voice in cabinet, but it's an entirely new experience for the many-faceted British Columbia.

Prince Edward Island has about 123,000 residents. British Columbia's population is about 2.8 million, about 23 times higher. One voice doesn't go very

far, not when you consider the fact that Metropolitan Toronto has six ministers to itself.

TWO ARGUMENTS

It can be argued, of course, that since British Columbia didn't elect any Liberals, it really doesn't deserve to have any representation in cabinet. In fact, that argument has been used from time to time, and it also has been applied to Alberta and Saskatchewan, both remarkably free of any Liberal epidemics. It has been the prime minister's strategy, or whim, to reach into the Senate for cabinet material from these politically unfriendly regions. And after the last election, on behalf of British Columbia, he gave cabinet assignments to both Senator Austin and Senator Ray Perrault. Senator Perrault had previously been in cabinet as government leader in the Senate, but without specific responsibilities.

Now, although not noted as a sprinter, the senator became minister of fitness and amateur sport. And from what one hears, he did a creditable job, although the responsibilities weren't exactly akin to that of minister of energy or finance. He could beat the drum for physical fitness with the best of them.

But when the prime minister recently decided to complete his three-stage shuffling process, he unceremoniously dumped Senator Perrault, along with four others. The British Columbia minister was replaced by Celine Harvieux-Payette, who,

as you might have guessed from the name, comes from Quebec.

Now, British Columbia joined Alberta and Saskatchewan in having only one senatorial voice in cabinet, and all have the tier-two titles of ministers of state.

STRANGE MOVE

The only truly top-level minister from the entire West is Transport Minister Lloyd Axworthy from Manitoba. He is a duly elected MP, one of only two from his province.

If you accept the argument that provinces which don't give the prime ministers any elected cabinet material don't deserve representation in Parliament, then I suppose you can take the view that the West now is over-represented. But if you don't accept this argument, and think that Trudeau should actually be trying to prove that his government hasn't forgotten, or written off, the West, then the dumping of Perrault isn't easy to rationalize.

It's difficult enough for a government to sound convincing about its dedication to western interests when no less than 27 of its 36 cabinet ministers - come from Ontario and Quebec and another six come from the Atlantic provinces. But the job is well nigh impossible when that same government actually turfs out one of those western varieties. It's one thing to avoid inviting someone in; it's quite another thing to kick him out.

And it's clearly not a case of a minister performing badly in fitness and amateur sport. Who would ever know?

Money rates next to power

Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

As everyone undoubtedly knows, next to power it is money that politics is all about. And it is interesting to see how some players in the game were moving the verbal pawns about recently.

The most striking, of course, was Education Minister Bette Stephenson's repudiation of the two-decade-old provincial commitment that Ontario will provide a university education for anyone qualified who wants it.

It has now been re-defined to mean universal access to a post-secondary institution of some kind, say a community college instead of a university.

And the reason is money. Community colleges are cheaper to operate than universities.

It appears as though the province wants to put a ceiling on enrolment at

universities somewhere near current totals.

MORE CASH

The Colleges and Universities Ministry budget for this year is more than \$2 billion. In addition, such institutions bring in cash on their own through tuition fees and donations of various kinds.

Stephenson's comments arose after reporters questioned her about so-called funding cutbacks at York University (actually its budget is up \$10.7 million) that will keep students out of the school.

But the hefty financial increases the schools received this year are not easy to sustain, she warned.

"It is difficult to do it when there are limits on the amount of money made available by the taxpayer for this purpose," she said. And one of her advisers said that York was simply "playing politics so it can get as many bucks as possible."

Which is exactly right.

MUNICIPAL TOO

Meanwhile, over at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference, which was on at the same time, delegates were muttering about having the province pick up the whole tab for local education costs.

Municipal councillors have always

disliked having to send out the tax bills for education when they have no control over the spending.

But their fear now is that such spending is getting out of control, soaring at the same time that enrolment is dropping. And they don't want any of the blame to rub off on them.

Besides, they maintain the benefits of education, unlike sewers and such, aren't directly related to the property tax and therefore should be financed some other way.

They are talking about \$3 billion raised last year in property taxes that went to education.

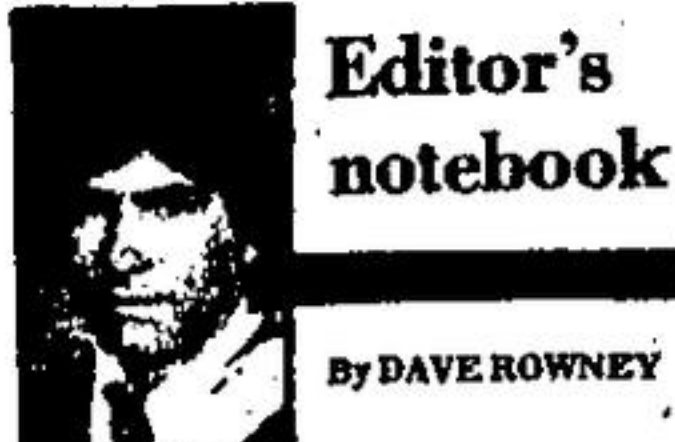
MORE CASH

If transferred to the province that cost would effectively double the education ministry budget, now at \$3.4 billion (not including the \$2 billion that goes to colleges and universities).

To put it in perspective, \$3 billion is already the size of the provincial deficit this year.

And with the education responsibility in provincial hands, councils could up their own taxes generously. But the time any transfer was accomplished the theoretical \$3 billion in savings ratepayers should enjoy, would have shrunk considerably.

Ahh yet, politics is certainly fun.



Are women activists doing their job?

figure (sure to be higher in 1983) has some serious implications for youth unemployment; it might also figure prominently in juvenile delinquency in the area.

For myself, the most earth-shattering result of the census was news that the average income rate for women was \$8,272.

Excepting the fact that many women work part-time because they want to spend more time with their families, or their income is considered supplementary to their husbands, this shocking average serves as an eye-opener.

This figure seems to prompt more questions on women's attitudes towards work in Canada, challenging women activists to come forward and continue in a more aggressive way their fight for equality.

A recent article in the Toronto Star quoted prominent females on current issues facing women today. Many still said equal pay for equal work and equal opportunities were at

the top of their lists.

One has to ask if women are as ambitious as men, and if they are, is the workplace putting a forcefield of prejudices before them, preventing women from advancing.

Are women's groups doing enough in the public relations field to encourage their own sex and help to create a feeling of equality around the workplace. Are they doing

enough to put pressure on their male counterparts to play fair?

Sunday, Sept. 18 is the date of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Run. If you haven't yet sponsored a participant or decided to run yourself, Acton and Georgetown representatives of the Canadian Cancer Society would be happy to hear from you.

Reconsider arts funding

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter to Susan Fish, minister of citizenship and culture, was submitted to The Herald for publication.

Dear Ms. Fish, Georgetown Little Theatre has been in-

formed that there has been a 7 per cent cut in funds for the Arts.

Let us again voice our concern when the Arts in general seem to be flourishing again. Please re-consider this development and we ask that funding levels to the Arts Service Orga-

nizations be restored immediately. A cut at this time will be a serious setback to the Cultural Fabric of this Province.

Yours truly,
Jennifer Jackson,
Secretary,
Georgetown Little Theatre



THIRTY YEARS AGO

A fire which is still burning at the farm of Bill Hyatt on the Norval town line destroyed the third district barn in less than two weeks. The barn was fired by a freak accident shortly before noon today. Mr. Hyatt was filling his tractor with gas in a small building near the barn when the tractor caught fire. He steered it safely out of the building and into the yard, where a high wind fanned the flames. Fearing the machine would explode, he jumped off and the tractor took a sudden turn and ran into the barn, setting it on fire. Mr. Hyatt was able to rescue much of the barn machinery, although the plow and manure spreader were destroyed. A henhouse adjoining the barn also went up in flames. Georgetown Fire Brigade were called at noon and late this afternoon were still at the scene.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Nineteen tenders, ranging from \$13,800 to \$42,000 were opened Monday by council for installation of storm sewers in several locations in town. Decision on engaging a contractor was delayed for a week for recommendation of the town engineer on which contract to accept. Council voted financial assistance to the Fourth Brownie Pack which plans to plant flowers around the cenotaph as a project. Coun. McGilvray expressed criticism of conditions around the war memorial, pointing out that there is a garbage container, a mail box, street sign, highway sign and two newspaper boxes in front of it "I'd like to move the cenotaph to a different location," Coun. Harrison said. A letter from the public school board said extra accommodation might be needed in future for classrooms and asked if the council chamber might be available if needed. Council said this would depend on arrangements for use of the room for holding court and that if the room were needed for a classroom, they would try to see what could be worked out.

TEN YEARS AGO

Six candidates for Oct. 1 regional elections were acclaimed Monday afternoon when nominations closed at 5 p.m. with no names appearing in opposition. Three regional councillors were elected by acclamation. Ric Morrow is regional councillor for Ward 4, (east of Rexway Drive). Ernest Sykes is regional councillor for Ward 3 (west of Rexway Drive). Len Coxie is regional councillor for Ward 3 (Esquimes). Uncontested also were the school board seats. The three incumbents were re-elected with no opposition. Ernie Bodnar is the public school trustee for Wards 3 and 4 (the whole of Georgetown). Hartley Sherk is the separate school trustee for the same area and Tom E. Watson is the public school trustee for Wards 1 and 2 (Acton and Esquimes). A four-way race for mayor of the north should stir up interest in the elections. Tom Hill, current reeve of Esquimes, William R. Smith, current Georgetown mayor and Georgetown councillors Philip Siddall and William F. Hunter will fight it out for the top post.

ONE YEAR AGO

How two Acton boys drowned July 10 remained a mystery despite the testimony of 25 witnesses at a coroner's inquest held last Wednesday and Thursday nights. The inquest into the drowning deaths of seven-year old Brent Patey and Nick Dilmic at Acton's Prospect Park this summer left questions in the minds of the parents. "There are still some unanswered questions," Clarence Patey, Brent's father, said. "Nobody saw anything and to lose two boys in that span of time...I still don't have the answers in my mind." "I just don't understand how nobody saw them drown," his wife agreed. The boys had been dead for some time before separate searches of Fairy Lake located their bodies. According to pathologist Dr. Gordon Longfield, who performed post mortems on the two boys, it was unlikely either boy had struggled or surfaced after they went under water.

POETS' CORNER

SONNET II

I stand here betwixt heaven and hell
My left hand gripped so tightly it aches
Resolve and fear stifle my petty yell
My only future with an eager devil
awakes
Hold fast to your path, you'll win
Turn your back on blind chance
I know exactly where I've been
It's your life for which this weary heart
pants
Gather up all the love you can hold
Add to this measure all that I can give
You will for this moment have to be
bold
For many complete and happy years
you'll live
Think not of this measurable agent of
gloom
Give thought to yourself and for love
make room.
—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,
RR2, Beeton

SHARING HAPPY DAYS

Today was an excellent day
the rain only reduced
the outdoor activities
not the fun.
I shared the excitement
of being
with son John
and you
made manifest
by a 3x5 print.
John and I
reminded each other
of our love
for one another.
You and I
sat looking at one another
until sleep took you away.
Please keep coming back
day after day
like sunrise after
an interminable
nite.
—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,
RR2, Beeton