

Sleds, slides & toboggans

Such an ordered society we have, where even parks are fenced in.

Susanne Moodie would love it. Reminding her of those English gardens back home.

Cedarvale Park now has wooden fencing around its parking lot and up the hill leading to the Eighth Line entrance.

The fencing was harmless until unsuspecting children returned one day to find that their favorite toboggan hill had been rendered unsafe and unusable.

That doesn't mean it wasn't safe before. In fact, the reason the parks and recreation department fenced the hill was in response to some complaints about near-misses from straying tobogganers.

The hill is also unusable for extra parking, but the recreation department solved that problem by adding a back parking lot further down the Eighth Line road.

But it still leaves a dilemma for the kids. They've been provided with an alternative toboggan hill, but it just isn't up to standards.

If the parks and recreation department want kids to use the new run, they're going to have to make it as luring as the old one.

That might entail a little hill grooming, building a ramp start or flooding some of the slower sections.

After all, it's part of the responsibility of the recreation department to encourage physical participation, not limit the opportunities for children to play.

UN Youth Year

1985 has been designated as International Youth Year by the United Nations.

It's a promising sign. Perhaps more of the concerns of youth will be highlighted in the coming year — so much of our future depends on theirs.

International Youth Year also gives us an opportunity to see and appreciate the good things that teens do for the community. Generation gaps may exist, but that shouldn't blind us to the positive things our youths contribute.

In Halton Hills our youth haven't been ignored but there is more that can be done by residents.

One of the problems in a small community is finding enough excitement for a growing adult.

The community can work together to provide more opportunities for teens by establishing weekend night drop-ins, youth groups, sports leagues, dances and concerts.

Businesses can help by recognizing the potential of an untrained youth in consideration for a job. You'll find enthusiasm in a young worker and at the same time give a teen the break he or she needs to be a contributing member of our society.

It's not an easy time to grow up. Ronald Reagan or his surrogates seem bent on talking tough at the expense of a calm and peaceful atmosphere in world affairs.

Job opportunities for youth have never been more scarce. It's a gamble in choosing a career, without fully knowing if that particular job market will bottom out by graduation time.

The obstacles are not insurmountable, but it takes understanding and a genuine willingness to help by the community to assist our youth.

Faith, not fear



CLERGY COMMENT

By DR. JOHN M. DRICKAMER
Immanuel Lutheran Church

The new year has just begun, and all of us face it with various fears. We do not know what the coming weeks and months will bring. But those who believe in Jesus need not fear this or any other new year. They can face the future more in faith than in fear. For God's Word and promises never change. His grace and help are certain.

I was recently involved in a panel discussion about nuclear war. One panelist spoke in desperation. His message was doom and gloom. He was only hopeful that he would die in the first nuclear exchange.

When it was opened for questions, a woman asked me: what would I, as a pastor, say to people who were fearful about nuclear war?

The answer is simple. People should trust God. God is still in control of the affairs of this world. God will direct all things for the benefit of those who believe in Christ.

I also suggested that people pray for world peace. The most powerful thing any of us can do for world peace is to pray for it in Jesus' name. We should also pray for continued freedom, especially the freedom of religion. We would not have that under

Communism. God is in control. That is true on the large scale and on the small scale. It is true for nations and for individuals. It is true for peace and war, life and death, health and sickness, employment and unemployment, prosperity and poverty. In all these things we should trust God and commit everything to Him in prayer. It is not that we should do nothing. We should do our best in whatever lies before us. But success or failure depends on God. Is that good news or bad news? If God is angry with us, it is bad news. If God is pleased with us, it is good news. Which is it? It is different for Christians than for non-Christians.

What is there in human history or current events to give an unbeliever hope? Nothing. If he is aware of God's existence and God's law, he can only be afraid that God will punish him. To be realistic, the unbeliever can only face the future in fear.

But Christians believe that God has forgiven their sins because of Jesus' death on the cross. They believe that God is pleased with them for the sake of His Son. They need not fear the future. Peace or war, feast or famine, health or sickness, life or death, believers know that God will turn everything to their benefit, especially to their spiritual and eternal benefit (Romans 8:28-39). In life or death, we belong to the Lord (Romans 14:8). His mercies are new every day and every year (Lamentations 3:22-23). May the new year be blessed in this way for all readers!

MY SOURCE

You're what keeps me going
you bring me back for more
you're always so dependable
I know just what's in store

—By MÄRLOWE C. DICKSON.

HOCKEY HOSPITALITY



Georgetown showed the visiting Swedish hockey team what it means to feel welcome. They held a special banquet in their honor Saturday. In the picture (top left) Terry Dixon of Georgetown and Thomas Ryding of Sweden admire the cake baked for them by the Georgetown hockey moms. In the other photos, the Swedes receive mementos of their trip and GMHA president Wayne Pries presents a trophy for his hard work.

Fyfe and ...

The first town meeting

By RICHARD E. RUGGLE
By the end of 1820, after a year and a half of settlement, Esqueping had a population of 424; there were 144 males over 16 and 90 under that age; and 102 females over 16, with 88 under 16. Those figures were recorded at the first town meeting held in Esqueping, on New Year's day, 1821, at the home of Joseph Standish.

The legislature had provided (1793) for town meetings to be held, as they were in New England, whence most of the population of the infant province had come. These town (that is, township) meetings were usually held early in January, and here the ratepayers elected various officials for the coming year.

The meetings were a step towards local democracy, though the officials elected in the Upper Canadian townships held less power than their counterparts in New England, or than the appointed Justices of the Peace at home.

It has been asked how anxious

people were for that measure of democracy, since it was often difficult to find persons willing to stand for office, and those who declined to serve after they had been elected were subject to a fine of forty shillings.

The Esqueping meeting was able to recruit officials at its first meeting — whether willing or not. James Frazer was elected Town Clerk. The assessors were Joseph Standish, at whose home the meeting was held; and Thomas Barbour.

Thomas Fyfe was given the job of collecting rates. Fyfe's farm, at lot 7, concession 9, must have been one of the more prosperous ones of the district.

When the census of 1842 was taken, six households had house servants and four had farm servants; Fyfe's was the only one to boast of both. The first Esqueping post office was opened at his home in 1832, with Henry Fyfe as the first postmaster.

When Mackenzie came out to the Stewart farm on the Scotch Block in 1837, to press for the Reform cause, the

Tories managed to get Thomas Fyfe elected chairman of the stormy five-hour meeting. The following year, after Mackenzie had led his abortive uprising, the government seemed to think that Esqueping needed justice closer at hand than the lakefront, and Thomas was appointed one of the two first magistrates in the township.

Local government was based partly on the model of an English parish, where the church officials were responsible for things like poor relief and public works, as well as for the care of the parish church.

As in a parish, so in the township two wardens were chosen: Charles Kennedy and John Stewart. When the system of local government was changed at mid-century, the title of warden was retained for the reeve elected to chair the county council meetings for the year.

A major responsibility was the oversight of roads, and to that end six pathmasters were elected. But of that, more in the next article.

Gloomy thoughts for 1985



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

January is a gloomy month, so let's think some gloomy thoughts about the future of our society.

And let's start with some end-of-session comments from Liberal leader David Peterson, whose job as Opposition leader forces him to look at the negative side of everything.

Peterson spoke of the "social and cultural infrastructure" of this province being under assault, of "hundreds of under-privileged citizens lining up for food", of strained systems such as "over-crowded hospitals", post-secondary institutions "in disrepair", and "thousands of unemployed young people".

He spoke, too, of the "neglect of services" which could be seen in the statistics showing "28.5 per cent of all roads are inadequate", or the "economic distress" of children's aid societies, or the stalled hospital expansion programs and the strikes by various public sector employees.

It was a dark view of life here in

Ontario.

And yet, as Peterson himself would be the first to acknowledge, it is only a partial view, for by any objective standard we live in a land blessed with prosperity, health, civility and comfort.

This province provides not just the good life, but the civilized life, as close to a secular Garden of Eden as humankind has ever seen.

The question then becomes whether we can keep it.

Peterson's pointed comments about governmental (perhaps, societal) shortcomings is one answer. The fact is, even as we as a people plunge deeper and deeper into the embrace of the nanny state, more and more "problems" are discovered.

All require more government action. All cost more money.

Yet politicians already know that our economy is growing too slowly to produce the revenues to pay for the solutions to earlier "problems" discovered by politicians of by-gone days.

BLINDSIDE

This blindness to a financially-strapped future that we have already contracted for is matched only by our lack of historical memory and our unwillingness to see the world beyond our boundaries in the damning light of

reality.

The Globe and Mail's iconoclastic writer Richard Needham put it this way: "High school and university students live, for the most part, in a dream world — a Cloud Cuckoo-land where there is no poverty, no war, no competition, no risk, no challenge; where there is and always will be lots of entertainment, lots of money, lots of leisure, lots of booze, dope, cigarettes and hamburgers. For this I can hardly fault them or their teachers; most Canadians live, or are trying to live, in such a dream world."

WHERE NEXT?

What few seem to grasp is that in human existence the material paradise ordinary people here enjoy is unnatural, a blip on the radar of time, built, in the main, by individual effort within and behind military security without.

Today we've reversed that approach, passing our lives within the Holy Mother State to "solve" our "problems", while we pretend the world without would be "safe" if we'd only be "reasonable" and "negotiate" a "peace" with foes whose philosophic existence is predicated upon our socio-economic extinction being an historical necessity.

Such absurdity... and for how long?

The outlook is not good

Even though Prime Minister Brian Mulroney hasn't revealed the source of his information, there is little reason to doubt his claim that the New Democrats now are more popular than the once-mighty Liberals. In the course of one of many year-end interviews, the prime minister tossed out the information that "for the first time, the NDP is running ahead of the Liberals and (NDP Leader Ed) Broadbent is running ahead of (Liberal Leader John) Turner."

The comment, say Tory insiders, was based on internal party polls which, they claim, show a dramatic plunge in Liberal fortunes, even from the party's dismal showing in the Sept. 4 general election. One gleeful Conservative strategist said the polls showed the Grits to be a "disaster area".

Even allowing for a somewhat subjective viewpoint, that would appear to be a predictable assessment, given the fact that the Grits here reduced to a humiliating 40 seats in the

September election and have done little since then to signal a resurgence. In fact, they have done very little.

And while we don't have access to those internal Tory polls, we do have that November Gallup poll which showed that, while the Tories enjoyed 60 per cent popular support, the Liberals had dropped to a dreary 21 per cent, only four percentage points ahead of the NDP.

That is not much of a gap, considering the fact that, just a year or so ago, there was a 25-point margin between the two parties. In the election, the Liberals held 28 per cent of the voters, while the New Democrats had 19 per cent.

To further bolster the accuracy of the prime minister's year-end assessment, he also gave that opinion poll which showed that, in terms of a prime ministerial choice, Turner trailed Broadbent by nine percentage points — 11 to 20 — while Mulroney coasted along at 46 per cent. That was a devastating bit of news for the struggling Turner,

who already faced an enormous rebuilding job.

There can be little doubt that the prime minister has a vested interest in the sinking fortunes of the Liberals, and he can be expected to exploit every discernible decline in their popularity. He knows full well that, regardless of the current condition of the Grits, they still pose a far greater electoral threat to him than the New Democrats.

It was only four years ago that the Liberals swept 74 of Quebec's 75 seats and despite the astonishing Tory turnaround in September, there is obviously a great deal of residual Liberalism left to be built upon in that province. The New Democrats, on the other hand, have never come close to electing an MP in Quebec.

BLEAK OUTLOOK

A principle reason for the prime minister's unconcealed glee over Liberal misfortunes is the fact that, unlike the New Democrats, the Grits are capable of fighting back from virtually any ideological position.

Halton History

THIRTY YEARS AGO—A major water program, continued improvement of town roads and the possible joining of the two Maple Avenues are improvements forecast by mayor Jack Armstrong in his inaugural speech to council.

Miss Charjotte McCullough invited Stone School Farm Forum to her home for its meeting.

One of Georgetown's senior residents, Mrs. W.D. Johnston will mark her 94th birthday next Tuesday at her home on Charles Street.

Members of Georgetown Fire Department will conduct a fund campaign for muscular dystrophy research in Georgetown this month.

Corporal Albert Carter, a member of the Canadian army who has been stationed in Antwerp, Belgium has been transferred to Germany.

W.E. Matlocks, of Acton, has been named registrar of the county of Halton.

Some 1,000 of the 10,000 employees at the A.V. Roe plant will be laid off at the end of this month because of a cutback in production of the CF-100 twin jet fighter.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—Council approved an application from Mrs. Leigh Johnston, Caroline St., allowing her to build on an empty lot there which had been zoned industrial.

Council expressed appreciation for the years of service on the Cemetery board given by Sam Mackenzie, who tendered his resignation.

Reeve W.F. Hunter was appointed to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Clerk Delmar French, Esqueping, reported only three cans of DDT mostly half full were picked up in the township round-up.

Ric Caruso, 6 Guelph Street, has been re-elected president of the Ontario Lacrosse Association.

TEN YEARS AGO—Julie and Larry Hughes, 33 Edward Street are the proud parents of Georgetown's first new born of 1975 with the arrival of their baby at 10:20 a.m. January 6.

Frederick Arthur Helson, a local lawyer and former Herald photographer was honored on the new year by being appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel by the provincial government.

Officers elected at the 1975 annual meeting of the Halton Hills Volunteer Fire Department were: Gord Inglis, as District Chief, Deputy Chief, Bob Hyde, Company One Captain, Bill Cunningham, Company Two Captain, Ace Bailey, Company One Lieutenant, Brian Pife, Company Two Lieutenant, Jimmy Valentine, and Fire Prevention Officer Craig Marchington.

FIVE YEARS AGO—Otto Jelinek announced that Prime Minister Joe Clark will be making a special appearance in Halton riding at a public meeting at the Holiday Inn (Oakville).

UNICEF in Georgetown collected \$1,937.97 from schools, churches and organizations involved in the "Year of the Child" campaign.

The Georgetown YM-YWCA is \$1,400 short of its fund-raising goal for 1980.

Georgetown resident Alphonse Larocque has become the first person in Ontario to request a trial in French in accordance with new legislation which became effective Jan. 1.

A trip for two to the Quebec City Winter Carnival awaits the grand prize winner in the Halton Hills Winterfest



By PAT WOODS
Herald Columnist

Norman Kunc has had cerebral palsy since birth. He is the author of "Ready, Willing and Disabled", and was the keynote speaker at the Independent Living Conference last fall.

Norman very effectively brought home to his audience that one's attitude to their disability can make the difference between acceptance and non-acceptance.

In several humorous personal stories he demonstrated that many people meeting the handicapped rarely see beyond a disability to the individual especially if it is a speech impediment (you can say what you want and it won't matter as the able person isn't likely to understand anyway).

He shared with us how he learned to cook an egg. Most important, he stressed, was that you eat a good breakfast before you start. This way the emphasis is on "learning" and there is no personal investment in the outcome.

After 30 minutes and four disastrous attempts, the task was accomplished. The eggs were not eatable but he had learned for future use how to cook and shell an egg his way.

This story pointed out that all individuals including the disabled have the right to fail — then try again.

In a workshop conducted by Norman, self esteem, its origin, and maintenance was the topic of discussion. He felt his disability (CP) and his identity as a child were merged. With the concentrated efforts of speech and physiotherapists to make him "normal", he was taught that it was wrong to be handicapped.

He learned that you should be the same as others and that acceptance comes with achieving this goal. Appearance is also more important than who or what you are.

Through role play we learned it is OK to be who you are — handicapped or non handicapped. The givers (speech therapists, physiotherapists and social workers) all experienced the feelings encountered by the receivers (the disabled). Reversing the roles gave the handicapped opportunity to experience some of the frustrations felt by the professionals.

All in all, each group derived a deeper understanding of the other.

POETS' CORNER