

# 1918 Herald fire found newspaper making the news

By J.M. ROWE  
Herald Special

Another spring had arrived in Georgetown, but the war still dragged on. Yet every business in town was booming. Even when the woolen mill burnt to the ground last month, everyone knew Mr. Corke would rebuild. He had to, Canada needed the production. The village council knew how important the business was and prepared a by-law to give municipal funds to the Corke Woolen Mills as quickly as possible. A vote on the matter was needed though, which necessitated publication at least three weeks in advance. Council hurriedly put together the text of the by-law. It was finally finished on Wednesday, April 23, 1918. Joe Moore picked up the text from the Town Hall up on Guelph Street.

As Joe scanned the sheets on his way back to the Herald office he smiled to himself. This would take at least three columns, times three weeks - a goodly account.

Not that the Georgetown Herald was suffering - far from it. Joseph Matheson Moore had prospered as editor and publisher of the Georgetown Herald since he had bought a half interest from the former publisher, R.D. Warren. His new house on Factory Street, near the park, was only seven years old and it was one of the finest in the neighborhood.

When he got to the office he immediately picked up the telephone and asked the girl to connect him to the Aetion exchange. The Aetion operator rang the Free Press office

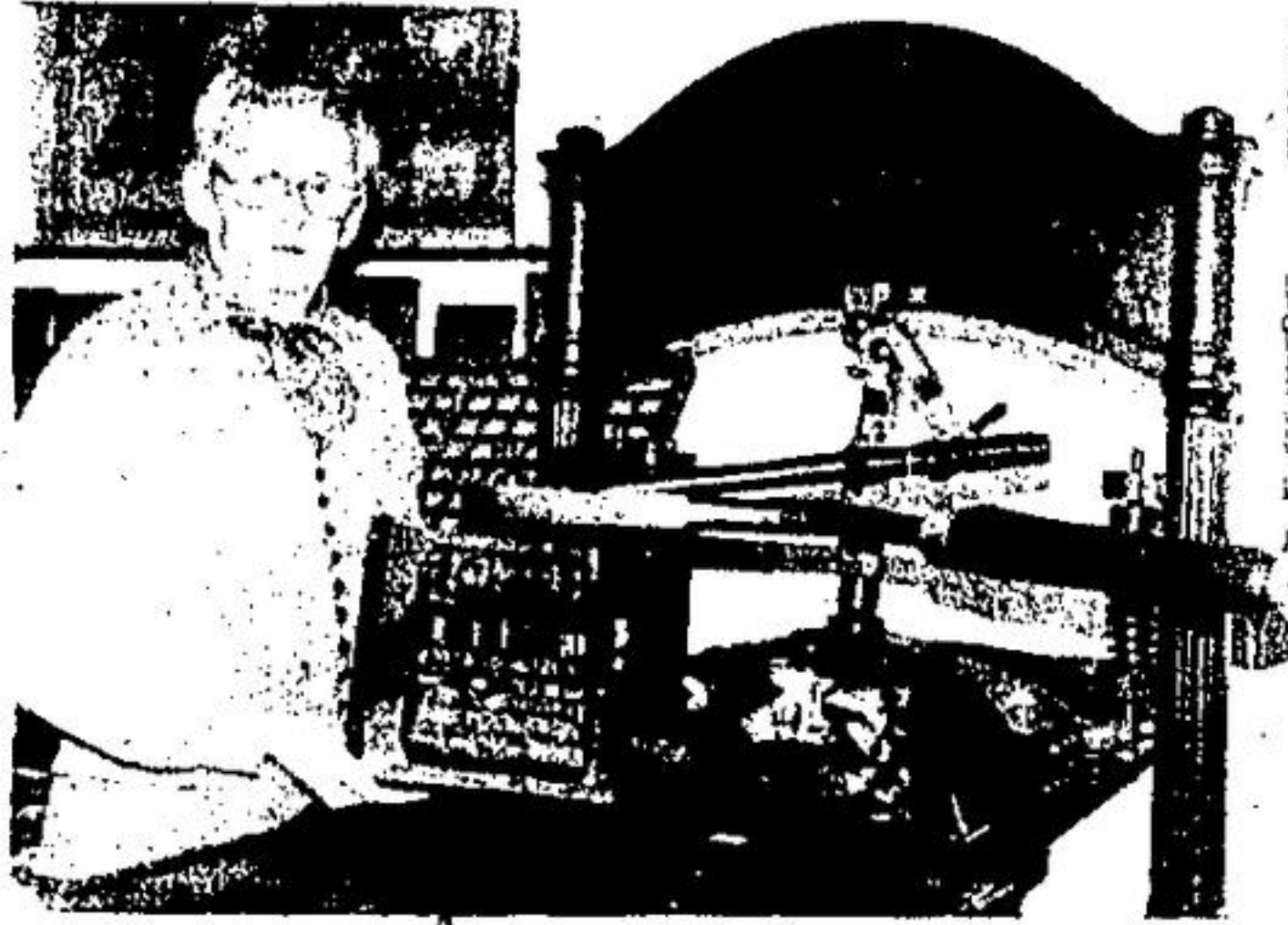
on Mill Street for him. He arranged with H.P. Moore to have the linotype operator set up the by-law for him later that afternoon, once the Free Press was ready for the Thursday morning printing.

After tea, Joe Moore went back to the Herald office to find R.D. Warren there. Warren looked over the type for tomorrow's publication, noting the profitable government advertisements concerning the war. There was a four column space for the by-law. They could fill in the extra room in the morning.

Warren owned the building, as well as having a half interest in the paper. The Herald shared the upper stories with Dr. Watson, the dentist. While downstairs, a barber shop shared the premises with the Bell Telephone Company. The Bell offices would soon be vacant however. They had already begun the move to the old Bank of Hamilton building, opposite the Knox Church.

Warren helped Moore check and secure the office for the evening. Joe Moore offered to drive them both up to Acton, his boyhood home, in his motor car. After dropping the by-law off, they enjoyed ample time to dine. The 3 1/2 column by-law was not typeset until 11 p.m.

It was doubtless late when Joe Moore rumbled down Main Street, Georgetown, past the Herald building on his way home. The by-law was laid out in type on his back seat.



GET THE LEAD OUT-This is a picture of an old press probably used around the time The Herald was first printed in Georgetown. The photo was taken at Black Creek Pioneer Village where a number of old printing presses are on display.

The Esqueing Historical Society is making an effort to build up their inventory of old pre-1918 newspapers from The Herald. A fire destroyed most of the copies before 1918. (Herald file photo)

Minding the switchboard on a Wednesday night in Georgetown was not very exciting. However, the night operator had a few jobs around the office since the equipment would soon be hooked up at the new office down the street. Suddenly, she smelled smoke and realized the

Barber Shop next door was on fire. She didn't know who to telephone, so she ran out onto the deserted Main Street.

With not a soul stirring at one in the morning she lifted her skirts and ran up Main, onto Cross Street and

into the Town Hall. Miss Norma Millar helped her heave the bell pull. The village awoke to hear the dreaded sound of the tolling bell - a fire was burning!

Joe Moore, barely an hour in bed, was awakened by his wife Amy. The Herald must cover any fire in town, even if the whole town was dressing hurriedly at that very moment to "cover" themselves.

What emotion must Joseph Moore had felt as he soon realized the source of the fire.

The fire brigade was already at work with their modern equipment connected to the hydrant, pouring water on the blaze. As they watched, Moore heard the tumbling crash of the heavy printing press as it smashed down from the second floor to the basement.

But Joe Moore was not a man to give up. The town depended on him, and so did the Corke Woolen Mills! As Georgetown drifted home to bed, he arranged a temporary office in the bowling alley across the way. Then he drove back to Acton, with the by-law safe in the car.

With commendable enterprise, Joe Moore worked diligently all day in Acton and with the help of the Free Press, printed a single broadsheet, two pages. The Thursday evening edition of the Herald for April 24, 1918 was delivered as usual, to the complete surprise of Georgetown.

Joseph Moore knew that the Herald had recorded the comings and goings of Georgetown for 52 years. And with the newspaper tradition dating back to 1852, he knew the Herald must carry on. With the help of the Acton Free Press, it did continue to publish, along with the Georgetown Leader (1961-1964) and the Independent (since 1973).

The Esqueing Historical Society has used the micro-filmed copies of the Herald and Independent for research for many years. As can be expected, very few copies of the Herald before 1918 are available. The Society has now decided to micro-film those copies which we have in our collection and to place the film for public use in the library. Although the Society does hold 109 papers dating up to 1918, it would like to make the collection as complete as possible. If anyone would like to lend or donate their pre-1918 Herald to the Esqueing Historical Society for about six months, it would be an invaluable contribution to the history and to Georgetown's future! Loans or donations can be made through Walter Lewis at the Georgetown Library, Jean Ruddell, Christine Bishop, Mark Rowe or any other member of the society. The Esqueing Historical Society meets tonight, Wednesday, at 7:30 at the Dominion Seed House.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above story was constructed from evidence found in the April 24, 1918 Herald, and the May 2, 1918 Acton Free Press.

## the HERALD Community

### Newman and Laidlaw showered by friends

By Kay Wilson  
Herald special

NORVAL - Congratulations and best wishes to Debbie Newman of Georgetown and Wayne Laidlaw of R.R.2 Norval, on their approaching marriage at the Maple Avenue Baptist Church in Georgetown.

Many showers have been held in honor of the young couple. Jean Dunlop hosted the Laidlaw family, assisted by Helen McCormack, Sherry and Sharon Dunlop.

The Frazer family shower was held at the home of Gwen Laidlaw assisted by Beth, Jean and Carol Anne Laidlaw.

Tina and Dawn Newman, sisters of the bride, held a family and neighbors' shower at the home of their mother, Monica Newman.

Maple Avenue Baptist held a

church shower in the hall and Debbie's girlfriend entertained school friends. All were miscellaneous showers.

A beef barbecue was held for about 200 friends and neighbors early last fall. Terry, brother of the groom and Barb Laidlaw and Mary Lou, sister of the groom and Bob Vetro hosted the evening at the Gord Laidlaw apple storage facility.

Debbie is the daughter of Geoff and Monica Newman of Pennington Crescent, Georgetown and Wayne is the son of Gord and Rosie Laidlaw of R.R.2 Norval.

Debbie is employed at the Georgetown Independent and Wayne is in partnership with his dad Gord and brother Terry in their farming enterprise at R.R.2 Norval.

### Muriel Miller was avid euchre player

By KAY WILSON  
Herald Special

NORVAL-Georgetown and area people were shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Muriel Miller who died Jan. 7 at her home in Georgetown.

She is the beloved wife of the late Ernie Miller and dear mother of Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller and his wife Gerry. She is the loving grandmother of Randall Miller, Laurie Inglis, Sherry Mit-

chel and Bradley Miller and loved great grandmother of Rachel, Reanne and Ryan Inglis and Chad and Corey Mitchell.

The funeral service was from St. Alban's Anglican Church in Glen Williams Jan. 9 at 2 p.m. Interment was in Greenwood Cemetery, Georgetown. Muriel was an avid euchre player and was often one of the George Burt carload at the bi-weekly euchre games at Pinegrove School. Sincere sympathy is extended to Russ, Gerry and family.

### An Iberian holiday for visiting couple

NORVAL-Norval Women's Institute President Norine Van Lecuwen welcomed the members in her home for the Jan. 7 meeting at 8 p.m.

At the beginning of this new year the ladies decided to give Georgetown and District Hospital building fund and the Peel Memorial Hospital building fund each \$50.

The roll call was "how and where would you like to spend your dream vacations." The answers were all interesting from the 10 members attending.

Gisela Malchin and Lilo Dahmert, convener for International Affairs were in charge of the program. Gisela, who had enjoyed an Iberian holiday in southern Spain last April gave an interesting talk and showed slides of her trip.

She and her husband stayed in a hotel at Costa del Sol and visited with their daughter attending the University in Granada at that time. Granada has the famous 13th century Alhambra Moorish Citadel with exceptional gardens surrounding it.

Other points of interest they visited were Cordoba, Gibraltar and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Life has a slow, relaxed pace and it is not unusual to wait 1 1/2 hours for a bus, but it always comes, Gisela said. The temperature in April was in the mid 20's and there is a two-hour siesta at noon.

The houses look very pretty with stucco painted white walls to combat the heat. During Easter week Gisela said the Malchins experienced outdoor parades and passion plays by the Christians. Spain is a Republic and still has a lot of Moorish people.

## Acton students brave winter's chill

Acton High School history teacher Mr. Black is planning several trips for the near future. March 12 to March 19 will be a very exciting week for many AHS students, as they explore the sights of Mexico.

This trip will include a visit to an island, a trip through a jungle, many visits to the beach and shopping for silver.

The next school trip will be to Washington in April. This trip is for the Grade 11 and 12 American



Acton High

By Lesley McCrystal

history students. While in Washington they will be doing a

### In the hills

#### Seeks input

The Ontario government is bringing a bill before the legislature that will allow municipalities to decide whether stores can be open in their area. At the present time certain stores are allowed to stay open while others must remain closed.

The Town of Halton Hills has no bylaws which control the hours or days of operation of any retail activity. The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce recognizes the need for informed opinion on this issue and is sending a questionnaire to local businesses.

The Council of the Town of Halton Hills is looking for direction on this matter and will be approaching the Chamber and other groups for their input. If you receive the questionnaire, the Chamber asks you to fill it out and return it to the Chamber Office.

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce is made up of over 250 businesses its mandate is to promote business in Georgetown.

For further information or if you like to comment on this issue contact the Chamber office at 877-7119.

#### A day away?

It's a funny thing about those urban folk. They seem to need a day away from it all - the hustle and bustle of city living.

To entice city dwellers to drive to Halton Hills to enjoy a reprieve from metropolitan living, a seminar is planned for Feb. 1 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Halton Hills cultural centre.

The free tourism seminar is being sponsored by the Halton Hills Tourism Committee, a group comprised of the Georgetown and Acton Chambers of Commerce, BIAS and the Region of Halton Hills.

Seating is limited so call 877-7119 for details.

#### Couples club

NORVAL-Fred and Marg Clarkson of Georgetown hosted 23 members of Norval United Church Couples Club for New Year's Eve Games of 99 and euchre were organized by Ken and Lois Reid. A buffet lunch followed, served by the Clarksons, assisted by Mary and Jack Crawford.

## Acton's Campbell Crt. overrun by unwanted cars

A Campbell Court woman in Acton said she and her neighbors are fed up with people parking their cars on both sides of her tiny street.

Suzanne Rediker asked town council Monday night to place no parking signs on her street.

A recommendation was made to ask town staff to study the problem and report back to council.

Cars are parked on both sides of the road and motorists are littering the street when they empty their ashtrays, she said.

Since October the Campbell Court woman said she has phoned police to respond to the problems of parked cars. At first the police responded, but lately they haven't come, she said.

"We're just a little perturbed... we don't think the crime rate is that bad in Acton that police can't come and


ticket a few cars."

Ms. Rediker asked council for either a no parking sign for the street or a no overnight parking sign.

She said most of the people parking on the street are from Kingham Road and that all homes on Campbell Court have a two-car driveway.

Coun. Norm Elliott asked Ms. Rediker if she realizes that if there is a no parking ban, it would have to be strictly enforced. For example, visitors to residents on Campbell Court could be ticketed for parking on the street.

She added that residents on the street pay taxes for living on the Court and should derive some benefit from it. When a snowplow makes its rounds, often it can't get through and residents have to wait until it comes by again at a later date, she said.



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