

Canadian weeklies tell Senate

Weekly press represents community

"The nation's independent weekly press is synonymous with the independent community each represents. Yet, in coming of age, the weekly has thrived on change and crisis in the last 100 years, both editorially and technologically," representatives of Canada's weekly press told the Senate Hearing on Mass Media in Ottawa last week.

The brief outlined the growth to serve suburban areas of cities, the continuing importance of the weekly in the rural centres and the leadership the industry provided in the trend toward offset printing of publications.

The increasing number of journalism school graduates serving on weeklies is contributing to an increased depth of reporting skills and an increasing "number of escapes from urban media" are also

finding challenging roles in the weekly press.

"The industry generally is self-sufficient but, as in the past the seeds of regeneration must come from within. It has no need for a big brother to watch over its shoulder—pretending to teach an old champion a lesson in the basic ethics and morals of the fourth estate", the brief summarized.

It was suggested the weekly is the last strong voice of a community as schools become regionalized, churches amalgamate and regional governing bodies are set up. In Canada there are 24 federal ridings in which there are no towns greater than 5,000 and in 52 ridings there are no towns over 10,000.

CWNA President G. C. Craven predicted there would be more groups, mergers and

Zest for living . . . at 104

Henry doesn't feel much different

How's it feel to be 104 years old? Most of us will never know. But Simon Henry Baverstock does know and his answer was a simple one, "Well, I don't feel much different . . . not as good as I did when I was 20 but not much different."

"He's a grand old man," one of his roommates commented. Mr. Baverstock, a veteran at the Halton Centennial Manor is more than happy to be there and carry out his day to day activities.

"I'm no scholar," he'll tell you. For the better part of his life Mr. Baverstock lived in Elmvale, Sarnia, Michigan, Allandale and Alliston before coming to the Lowville area 22 years ago.

"I've been well used and I like it here," Mr. Baverstock says of



the Manor. He celebrated his 104th birthday last Tuesday. Wednesday he was understandably tired from all the excitement of the day before.

"There were lots of reporters and my family came from all over to see me," Halton's oldest man explained. While he is quite hard of hearing Mr. Baverstock moves around on his own will and still has a certain unmistakable zest for living.

Asked about his recipe for long life, Mr. Baverstock hesitated to spell out any single formula but admitted he always had enjoyed a smoke and the occasional drink. He also credits a lifetime of outdoor work.

His five children are Jack and Frank of Galt, Louisa (Mrs. A. Alpess) of Scarborough, Norman of the Town Line and Jim of Barrie.

Tickets on sale

Swim program next week

Recreation Committee officials report tickets are selling well for the indoor winter swim program which will take place at the Ontario School for the Deaf during the winter school vacation next week.

Free swimming is provided with no instruction.

Tickets went on sale at the Municipal Office this week.

Two periods of swimming are provided each of five days next week but attendance is limited to 60 swimmers for each of the hour periods. Admission will be by ticket only with tickets selling at 25 cents.

The program was initiated last year and tickets were sold out

quickly. It is expected the 120 daily capacity will be a sell-out again this year.

Free swimming is provided with no instruction.

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Exchange bills for \$33 on disputed water account

Beacon Chemicals Ltd. won a small fight with Milton Council's water department Monday. It all concerns an overdue water line and an overdue account for \$33.02 which council claims the firm owes, and which the firm vehemently denies.

Beacon had a two inch water line and according to the town's water rates, if you use 3,000 gallons and have a two inch service the rate is \$35.47. If you have a half inch service the cost is \$2.45 for the same minimum billing. Two years ago Beacon objected to the rates proposed and called the fee "most unrealistic." They offered to pay the \$2.45 but refused the additional \$33.02 on the account.

In a letter to council Monday, Beacon president M. S. Kernighan said if council continues to ask for payment, the town would be dunned for

use of the chemical plant's property for fireworks displays for the past three years. Co-incidentally, Mr. Kernighan's charge to the town for "use of property, wear on and destruction of grass by town employees and town's agents while discharging fireworks on July 1, 1967, 1968, and 1969," comes to exactly \$33.02 — the amount in dispute.

Councillors were adamant the water bill be paid and said the Beacon invoice should go to the parks board which sponsored the fireworks displays. The money isn't in the parks budget so council will likely end up paying the bill itself, as parks revenue comes from the council.

Councillor Charles Fay said Mr. Kernighan had plenty of warning to change his water service to a half inch line, and it was "well discussed with him, it was his move, not ours."

Grass fires sign of spring Bureau concerned about losses

There's one sure sign that Spring can't be far away; Halton's first grass fires of 1970 were reported last week in Oakville.

Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau, a county-wide group of men who work to prevent fires before they start, is once again getting concerned about the grass fire menace in Halton. In one recent year, Spring grass fires were estimated to cost the county's taxpayers over \$30,000.

Besides being dangerous, grass fires are illegal unless you have a special permit from the Air Pollution Branch of the Department of Energy and Resources Management, and permission of the local fire chief.

While many grass fires are accidentally set — a carelessly discarded cigarette or a bonfire that gets out of control are the most common instances — many of them are deliberately set by farmers and rural landowners wanting to get rid of dead grass in lawns and fields. Such fires create their own wind and can fan themselves out of control, firefighters report. They are virtually impossible to control unless the person in charge picks a very calm day, prepares for the worst with plenty of old brooms and buckets of water, and surrounds himself with an army of helpers in case the fire gets away on him. The best rule is:

don't light such a fire in the first place.

Fire Chief J. C. Cunningham of Georgetown, 1970 chairman of Halton Fire Prevention Bureau, says it is impossible to tell how many barns, sheds, outbuildings, woodlots and valuable trees have got in the way of a rampant grass fire. "But there have been plenty of them, all across the county, and more valuable property is being lost each spring through such carelessness," he adds.

Firefighters are hoping for a relatively "quiet" spring this year. They don't look forward to spending most of their weekends running around the country, beating out grass fires touched off by human carelessness. Give them, and your pocketbook, a break—be extremely careful with fire in the dry spring season, the Bureau urges.

Milton Council has confirmed the appointment of Const. Robert Innes to the permanent staff of Milton Police, following his probation period.

Mayor Brian Best has been authorized to attend the annual conference of Ontario mayors and reeves in Windsor May 10 to 13, with expenses to be paid.

Parking, store hours on 1970 agenda Chamber of Commerce rolls up sleeves

Directors of Milton's newly re-organized Chamber of Commerce held their first meeting last week and it was agreed right from the outset, there won't be any lack of work for the Chamber this year.

Major items expected to crop up on future meeting agendas are parking and uniform closing hours. Milton's Parking Authority has approached council with a \$110,000 plan for more off-street parking in the downtown area and the Chamber expects to throw its support behind the plan. New president Mrs. Mary Clarke reviewed the shortage of parking in the core area and it was generally agreed by the directors that something would have to be done soon to provide more free parking for shoppers on side streets bordering the Main and Martin St. area.

There is a possibility the angle parking on the south side of Main St. will be changed to parallel parking, which means the loss of half the present 65' spaces. Chamber directors will also look into the Parking Authority's proposal for meters in the shopping areas which would dispense a token redeemable for cash in the local stores.

Second major project for 1970 will be a survey of merchants to see if a standard set of store

hours can be agreed upon. Directors voiced displeasure with the present system whereby some stores are closed all day Monday, others on Wednesday afternoons. Retail committee chairman Bob Bartlett was asked to draft a survey and see if the merchants can agree on a standard store hours policy. Most of the directors felt shoppers would be happier with stores open all day, every day from Monday to Saturday, and suggested stores could stagger their staff holidays over the least busy days of the week.

The possibility of opening more stores on Thursday evenings, in addition to the regular Friday night extended hours, is also to be studied.

Membership chairman Ron Harris reported the membership campaign is progressing, with 57 members paid up to date. Chamber officials estimate there are over 225 stores, offices, industries and service groups eligible for membership and hope to have at least 150 signed up this year.

The Chamber is co-operating with a cross-town community group of service clubs and women's organizations, in sponsoring a community dance at Milton Arena in June featuring the Carlton Showband. Proceeds from the dance will be

used to develop a triangular parksite on Highway 25 at the north entrance of town.

Director Don Smith was named to chair a "ways and means" committee to gather fund-raising ideas. A delegate may be sent to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce annual meeting in Windsor in May, and members agreed to renew membership in the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Bulletins will be sent to members monthly this year, and publicity is already being lined up for Milton events through the Ontario Department of Tourism and Information. Other projects under consideration include formation of a town band, a name-the-park contest for the lands presently known as "triangle park", a summer carnival week, a downtown shopping mall, a lottery and a guide-book of information for tourists and visitors.

Regular directors' meetings were slated for the first Wednesday of each month and at least three more general membership meetings are being planned this year. Next general meeting is set for April 15.

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