

Friday comment

Vandals aren't getting away with anything

We were disturbed this week to hear about the extent of vandalism that has gone on through the winter months in Little Lake Park.

In the end, this senseless kind of damage is a waste of everyone's time. We know that the crews that have to go in a clean up after these binges of destruction would rather be performing new constructive tasks to beautify the Little Lake surroundings rather than repair what was already there.

And surely, it must be a waste of time

for the people who commit these acts. We have never been able to comprehend what, if any, amount of satisfaction that could be derived from tearing up sod with a car, breaking of street lights or defacing of buildings.

And in the end it's an even bigger waste of the taxpayers money.

Not only the average citizens money, but that vandal's as well.

In the final analysis, they aren't getting away with anything.

Ottawa report

Canada faces

two crises:

economic, disunity

by Dr. P. J. Rynard, M.P.,
Simcoe North

One Hundred and Eleven years after Confederation, Canada faces two fundamental crises: first, economic and secondly, disunity. The first is the cornerstone and unless the economy of the country is resolved national unity will indeed be only a dream of the Fathers of Confederation which they so successfully carried out by uniting the Atlantic Provinces to British Columbia by steel—the railroad. The impossibility built by men with picks and shovels and mules drawing packs over rocks, plains and mountain terrain. They were a people whose courage and faith overcame all difficulties. Their dream became a reality. Through two world wars, our men and women fought, worked and put up with privation beyond the imagination of those who were, for one reason or another, unable to play a part. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, at the turn of the century, said that the 20th century belonged to Canada, and so it seemed, until the late '60s beginning with the first inflationary award of just under 30 percent to the dock workers and the Seafarer's Union, which was on strike. Mr. Pearson knuckled under to their demands. From that time on, Canada climbed the inflation ladder until it has reached disastrous proportions. Inflation in 1958 was 2 percent. In April 1968 inflation was 4.5 per cent and the latest rate ten years later is 8.7 per cent. In ten years, your dollar just purchases a little over 50 cents. It is no wonder that wages had to go up to meet this situation. It is no wonder that the working man needed more money.

During the Trudeau regime, starting in 1968, the average cost of a new N.H.A. dwelling was \$18,922 with a mortgage rate of 8 percent. In 1977 the cost had risen to \$40,515, with a mortgage rate of 10 1/4 per cent. To pay off this mortgage in 1968 a monthly payment of \$150 was required while in 1978 a monthly payment of \$400 is necessary. The dollar has fallen drastically. In 1962, the Canadian dollar was pegged at 92 1/2 cents by Mr. Diefenbaker. This was given great credit for our economic growth as it gave us a 7 1/2 cent advantage in trade increasing our exports and world sales. Then the dollar was let float by the Trudeau government until it climbed to

\$1.02 American reversing our trade balance and making all our goods more expensive and harder to sell abroad thus gradually pricing ourselves out of world markets. Canada has to earn 25 percent more of her dollar by exports than on imports or the country is in trouble. The hard fact of the matter is that Canada's sales industrially were dropping.

We could not meet this competition price-wise. Factories were closed and the unemployed ranks started to swell. Then wages went up as taxes and inflation rose. We then, had inflation and unemployment. We were printing more money than we were producing. Canada in the eyes of the world, was becoming a poor place in which to invest. Money was being withdrawn. In 1968, Canada was importing \$7.6 billion in goods and exporting \$4.5 billion or a deficit of \$3.1 billion. In 1977, we imported \$26 billion and exported a little over \$15 billion or a deficit of over \$11 billion. The deficit is over \$11 billion in fully manufactured products. This means approximately 800,000 lost jobs or \$8 billion earning power.

Mr. Trudeau boasts of creating jobs. Sure, the labour force grew but he was over 100,000 jobs short of meeting the unemployment growth. Today, there are more than 1 million people unemployed in this country. Now, the dollar has dropped to 86 cents and that gives us an advantage of 14 cents on every dollar if the industrial world will seize this opportunity and if labour will keep its costs down. It will give us a real advantage that will only last so long. Then, like Great Britain, we would find our imports were costing us a lot more.

So, quick advantage must be taken if we are to use this opportunity. You ask yourself why with our great natural resources we could not at least keep up with Japan, which has to buy nearly all its raw resources thousands of miles away from the country. This demonstrates beyond question, the worst mismanagement of the country, probably in history. Inflation, unemployment, disunity, capital leaving the country and a sinking dollar.

The worst government, perhaps, since Confederation. Perhaps, the present situation is not all the government's fault, but a great deal of the problem could have been prevented.

Solar Energy: clean, inexhaustible

For a special kind of sun worshiper, Sun Day is on Wednesday.

May 3 has been designated as International Sun Day, a concept which originated in the United States and has spread to other countries. Dr. Chuck Ivey, a member of the Mechanical Engineering Technology Faculty at Georgian College, reminds us that the sun is "the only energy source that is truly non-polluting, predictable, inexhaustible and egalitarian." Dr. Ivey is involved in organizing a local chapter of the Solar Energy Society of Canada Incorporated.

The SESCO sees a dim future for present energy sources. Petroleum products are expensive and risky to transport. Long term use of coal creates pollution and hazardous climatic changes and nuclear power poses similar environmental problems. It's estimated that the

sun can meet five sixths of the world's energy needs by the year 2025. Solar heat accounts for 36 per cent of this total, and 20 percent comes from solar generated electricity. The remainder comes from biological sources—the use of trees, plants and animal waste as fuel.

How do you translate the sun's sunlight into warmth and energy for everyday living? Solar collectors and solar cells deal with the sun's rays. Wind turbines could generate electricity—the world would need five million of these to supply the demand. And scientists estimate that 15 per cent of the world's forests will have to be used as an energy crop. On the Georgian College campus, faculty and students have devised a concentrating collector employing air, and a flat plate solar collector employing water and operating in a

thermo-siphoning mode.

In the United States plans exist for an orbiting power station, the size of a small city, (24.8 kilometres) by five kilometres which would be stationed in a sun synchronized orbit, 35,200 kilometres above the earth. In that position, the satellite would remain in sunlight 99 per cent of the time, and thus would provide continuous power. It would be capable of producing electricity to light a million homes, or run thousands of factories, and would provide that power at a competitive price. It's possible that this satellite could be put to use before the end of this century.

The use of solar energy will not only result in a cleaner and safer world, according to SESCO officials. It will mean huge increases in employment, and greater self reliance for nations, areas and neighbourhoods. The Federal Government has begun to take the necessity for solar energy development seriously. Research and development budgets for this year are higher for renewable energy, and lower for nuclear energy.

Sun Day will be observed at Georgian College from 10 a.m. till sundown on May 3. If the sun cooperates, displays will be set outside the Mechanical Lab, with film presentations in adjoining classrooms.

The public is invited to participate, to observe and to learn.



Power Squadron

The Midland Power Squadron held its annual meeting Wednesday night at the Athenian Hall, and Hessel Pape, on the right, was elected to serve as squadron

commander. Beside Mr. Pape is Howard Neville of Sudbury, who is the Power Squadron's District Commander. Staff photo

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Board will hear physiotherapy delegation

Two members of Barrie Physiotherapy will make a special presentation to the Simcoe County School Board Monday, May 8 regarding an Emergency Care course for Simcoe schools.

in Area 6 schools and results had been favourable.

The May 8 special meeting will get underway at 7 p.m. at the board chambers in Barrie.

According to a report tabled at Wednesday's SCBE meeting, concern has been expressed in the past over the ability of school staffs to deal with emergency situations and to recognize symptoms and extent of head and spinal injuries.

Doug Freer and Terry Page of Barrie Physiotherapy have designed a course that involves eight to 10 hours of instruction and can either be carried out during school hours or evening hours.

The course would entail instruction in head and spinal injuries, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, soft tissue and joint injuries and injury prevention.

It was noted during the Wednesday board meeting that the course had already been tested

100 turn out to Block Parents meeting

More than 100 people turned out for a Block Parents organizational meeting last Tuesday. Constable Dan Gilbert, Midland's Safety Officer, reports that sub-committees made up of parents have been set up for each school.

"They will fan the program out through their own school area," he said. Application forms for block parents will be available soon, and Constable Gilbert is optimistic that the Block Parents program may be in operation by the end of June.

At that time, Block Parent signs should start appearing in neighbourhood windows. The only people who are allowed to display the distinctive Block Parent sign are people who have been cleared by the police department.

The cards are carefully monitored. When a Block Parent moves out of the city, the sign is returned to organizers. Faded or worn signs are destroyed and whenever a sign is shown at a public meeting or in the classroom, the word sample is written across the face. These precautions preclude the possibility that the signs may fall into the wrong hands.

The formation of a Block Parent program in our community is a good sign. It means more than improved safety for our children. It is a sign that our community cares.

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