

The Oakville Record

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Then and Now in the Town of Oakville

by MRS. FALCHION
 "Curiouser and Curiouser" exclaimed Alice in Wonderland, but if the present residents of Oakville and those of seventy odd years ago could change places the famous remark of Lewis Carroll's quaint little character might be used very appropriately.

The twenty-eighth day of September, 1857, was evidently an important one in the annals of Oakville for on that date by-law No. 19 was passed to establish a common seal for the town and is described as follows: In a shield quarterly 1 a ship azure or blue representing "Commerce," 2 an engine, the distinguishing manufacture of the town, 3 a sheaf meaning a wheat sheaf upon a golden field (for agriculture), 4 gales (for red) an oak tree proper, indication of the original state of the country, its stability and present prosperity surrounded by, for a crest "a beehive" with motto over it, on a ribbon "Industry," supporters a deer on dexter and bear on the sinister side standing upon a scroll bearing the words, "Commerce," "Manufacture," "Agriculture," on the margin of seal "Town of Oakville" (above) "Corporation" (in base).

Evidently the town was growing because on December 23rd of that same year it was necessary to appropriate twelve hundred dollars for the erection of a "lock up," and it was agreed that the sum of four hundred dollars be raised by taxation in that year and the same sum in the years 1858-1859.

Swine were causing trouble and they were forbidden to run at large on public street, squares or unenclosed land within the town and the pound-keeper could for each "poundage" charge fifty cents and for every day following, if not claimed, twenty-five cents. After four days notice they could be offered at public sale.

In 1863 the little town, evidently felt the pangs of growing pains very much as the municipal council advised for tenders for the grading and constructing of a side walk, four feet wide, from the Temperance hall to the railway station on the north east side of Dundas street. This no doubt accounts for the familiar name "The Station Road".

In 1870, geese running at large upon the streets caused the passing of another bylaw by the chief constable was empowered to issue a summons against the owner and upon conviction could be held liable to a fine of not less than four dollars and not more than five for each offence. Query no. 1: How did the constable know whose geese they were. (Even

in those early days dogs wore a tag, but did the geese). Query no. 2: If such were the case, how was the tag attached and who did it?

In 1873 George King Chisholm who was then mayor conveyed to the town the square known as George's square for the purpose of being dedicated to the public use as a public park and pleasure grounds for the use of the inhabitants generally, and shall be for all time used for no other purpose.

In 1880 the land now known as the municipal tourist camp was purchased for eleven hundred dollars to be used with other lands as a place for excursions for the Trafalgar Agricultural Society and to be used as a park. The existing debt of the town was then six thousand dollars.

In the year 1888 a committee of three was appointed by the council and also a harbour master for the supervision and general management of the harbour. Fines were to be imposed upon any person or persons who should throw overboard or discharge any ballast, refuse or rubbish of any description in or upon the harbour property. Tolls had to be paid from one dollar for one thousand cubic feet of square timber down to five cent for a barrel of apples and a hundred pounds of nails. Butter, ashes, coal and stone, and innumerable articles had a special rate, and every steam boat touching

SPLENDID SHOWING OF HOUSE OF REFUGE

Reeve W. H. Morden reports that the inmates of the House of Refuge have made a most creditable record in producing their own food on the 50 acres under cultivation. This year 1,000 bags of potatoes were grown and practically all the eggs, meat and milk required were produced making the institution almost self-supporting.

There are 82 old people accommodated and the need of a new building is becoming imperative. In view of existing conditions it has been decided to postpone construction and arrangements have been made to take care of the inmates in their present quarters.

ORATORICAL WINNERS MEET IN MILTON

The Halton Educational association will hold its annual meeting in Milton on Tuesday, October 27. An interesting event will be the competition amongst the oratorical winners of the

at the pier paid fifty cents but vessels under five tons paid nothing.

In 1892, the small boys and perhaps some of the larger one, and maybe a girl or two were playing "hooky" and so for their sins, it was decided to appoint a truant officer, to be paid out of the general funds of the municipality at the rate of thirty dollars a year, payable in two instalments in January and July.

Two years later the town felt decidedly important and a clerk was appointed at a salary of one hundred and seventy five dollars yearly. A treasurer at one hundred dollars, an assessor at sixty five dollars, but, one man, who might have been the famous character of Gilbert and Sullivan's opera "The Mikado", Pook Bah, was for the munificent sum of four hundred and seventy five dollars per year expected to act as town constable, tax collector, harbour master, health inspector, truant officer, pound keeper and caretaker of public buildings. One naturally inquires, when did he sleep and did he ever have an afternoon off?

It must have been a healthy town in those days as a medical health officer was appointed at a salary of five dollars a year. In 1894, Robert McGowan was given the contract for the electric lighting for the town for a term of six years, there were to be 25 or more 6 ampere lights for two hundred nights in each year, to burn steadily from twilight until 12.30 next morning. Much water has passed under the bridge since then—such a contrast to our brilliantly lighted streets of today.

BURLINGTON WON FROM OAKVILLE

Friday, October 16th, the Oakville High school rugby team played Burlington on the latter's home field. Evenly matched, the teams battled back and forth and it was only in the third quarter that Burlington managed to score two points against the local boys.

With five minutes to go Oakville staged a rally that brought their rooters to their toes, but it was of no avail as Burlington made a snappy tackle and ended Oakville's chances.

The local team were not in as good form as when they played Grimsby but just watch the boys on Friday in their return game with Burlington at Victoria Park.

OBITUARY

In the death of Mrs. William McKnight, which occurred at her late residence, Wilson street, on Monday morning, October 19th, Oakville loses another of its highly esteemed citizens. The end was not unexpected as

ST. JUDE'S ACTIVITIES

Last Sunday was observed as children's and young people's day in the Church of England in Canada. Services of special interest to the young were conducted in St. Jude's church by Canon D. Russell Smith. He was assisted at the evening service by Charles Dickinson, Victor Holmstead and Harry Wiffen, active members of the A.Y.P.A.

The St. Jude's men's club held a successful meeting last Thursday night when Rev. G. H. P. Grout gave an interesting address. President Alex. Marshall announced that P. O. Cameron will be the speaker at the next meeting. His subject will be "Religion."

ST. JOHN'S Y.P.S. ELECT OFFICERS

The Young People of St. John's church had their annual election of officers on Monday night when the following were chosen:

- President, Robert Beggs.
 - Vice-president, Christina Izatt.
 - Secretary, Jessie Thomas.
 - Treasurer, Maurice Lunau.
- Conveners of committees:
 Christian Endeavor, Norman Caswell.
 Missionary, Doris Ashbury.
 Citizenship, Morley Keegan.
 Literary, Herbert Merry.
 Athletic, Harvey Lyons.

Next Monday evening the society will go to Burlington where a round table conference on "Methods" will be conducted. All the societies of the southern section of Halton presbytery will assemble in Trinity church hall.

MUSICAL ASSOCIATION REVISE CONSTITUTION

The Halton county public schools musical festival, association met in Milton recently and adopted the first basis of their constitution. The principal feature of the new constitution relates to membership in the association which will be composed of one representative appointed by the school board of each rural school; two representatives of the school board of each town or incorporated village; one representative from each branch of the Women's Institute; Home and School Club; I.O.D.E. and Council of Women and all the supervisors of music in Halton schools. The annual meeting will be held on the last Wednesday of May each year. This year, however the festival will be held on the first Friday in May. An innovation in the festival itself will be the addition of vocal duets, trios and piano selections to the list of competitions. Elimination examinations prior to the festival will be discontinued and all contests will be held the first Friday in May beginning at 10 a.m. The

Trafalgar Council Have Busy Session

On Monday, October 19th, the regular meeting of the council of the township of Trafalgar was held.

J. H. Winnett appeared before the council to protest against the methods used by the tax collector, who on August 11th seized goods in payment of 1930 taxes despite the fact that Mr. Winnett had already paid \$25.00 and promised the balance the first of October. Mr. Winnett felt that the threat of seizure made in March, when he was abroad, was premature and that the attitude of the collector was unjustifiable in view of the conditions explained to him.

Mr. Winnett states that if everyone in arrears had received the same treatment as himself he would not have made any complaint.

The council concurred with Mr. Winnett but explained that the matter rested entirely in the hands of the collector who was within the law in his procedure.

No Government Grant

A letter was received from J. A. Ellis, chairman, Provincial Commission of unemployment relief, stating that the application of the township for \$5,150 for relief work had been considered but the commission would not make any grant for this purpose.

Work on 6th Line

The work of resurfacing the lower part of the 6th line will be proceeded with immediately. The gravel will be hauled by local men who have undertaken to deliver it by truck from Dundas for the same rate as the railway. A number of unemployed will be taken care of in this work.

Miss Tailby Makes Claim

A letter was read from Miss Tailby making a claim for injuries received when she fell on Centre avenue. The application was referred to the insurance company.

Start Laying Main

The work of laying a water main on Centre avenue and Macdonald road will be proceeded with at once. G. H. Powers, engineer in charge, is to call for tenders immediately.

Sheep Killed

Payment was authorized of claims made for the killing of sheep by dogs—Pell Bros. \$6 and John King \$7. E. McKeown was awarded \$5 for shooting a dog caught worrying sheep.

5% Tax Penalty

A bylaw was passed imposing a penalty of 5% on taxes unpaid by December 10th, 1931.

Tax Collectors Appointed

The following tax collectors were appointed for 1931—Ward 1, Joseph Peacock; Ward 2, Geo. R. Thompson; Wards 3, 4 and 7, George King; Wards 5, 6 and Bronte, W. J. Sargent.

COLLECTING CARLOAD FOR WESTERN RELIEF

The ladies of St. John's United church are collecting a carload of food which will be shipped to needy people of Sunny Nook in southern Alberta. Norman Caswell, who supplied on Sunny Nook circuit during the summer reports that the need of food is urgent and that many of the people are experiencing extreme hardship.

The congregations of the Trafalgar circuit as well as several members of other local churches are cooperating by their contributions.

A refrigerator car will be on the siding of the local railway station on Thursday and Friday of this week and anyone contributing food can be assured that they will receive the heartfelt thanks of the western people.

The following extract is from a letter written by Rev. D. G. Renee, the Manse, Bengough, Sask., to Rev. E. Val Tilton, Burlington, acknowledging receipt of a relief carload:

"To express the sincere appreciation of the people for all your kindness is a difficult task indeed. They had nothing and we worked hard to try and leave no one in need before Thanksgiving. To see every child on the street eating an apple would have been sufficient reward to the good folk who filled that car. The distribution covered a radius of 20 miles. Catholics, Anglicans and all other denominations were served alike. We weighed out vegetables and fruit and one sack of potatoes to each small family and two sacks of potatoes to large families.

"The local hospital, the Lutheran and Anglican ministers, shared with the manse in your generosity.

"We are keeping a quantity of the fruit for Christmas, a sealer here and there to bring Christmas cheer, besides the sick folk.

"The good cheer and hope that your kindness has brought to Bengough will long be a cherished memory in the lives of us all."

COUNCIL CONSIDERS RELIEF GRANT

A special meeting of the Oakville council was called on October 15th to consider a letter received from J. A. Ellis, provincial commissioner of unemployment relief stating that the government would only participate in a \$10,000 relief appropriation.

The council were unanimous in voicing the opinion that this amount would be entirely inadequate to take care of the town's unemployed during the coming winter. Last year



Ken Gerrie

ON THE MOVE WITH "GERRIE"

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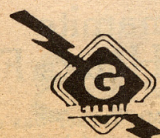
Gerrie Electric has been in Halton County for the past twenty-five years. We started out employing two people, we now have on our staff over thirty. We have expanded our location in Oakville three times.

Recognizing the importance of service and product availability to our customers, we opened a branch in Georgetown (1977) and further expanded in Milton (1978). In 1979 we acquired a company in Burlington (Sonny Electric).

Perhaps the most important feature of this growing company is the positive planning of management and a very high degree of enthusiasm of the employees all working together as a team for a brighter tomorrow.

Ken Gerrie

Ken Gerrie
President



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