

When Bears Were Bears And Men Choked Them To Death

When men were men and bears were bears there was none of the namby-pamby stuff of merely seeing them.

Way back in 1827, Joel MacKinder relates, when the Oakville Hotel, which stands on the corner of Navy and Colborne streets, was being built, a bear that was a bear ambled out of the bush past a group of men who were erecting the framework. The men took after the bear which made off in the direction of the lake. It climbed a tree, leaning at an angle over the water. Nothing daunted Joseph Grant Anderson shinned up after it—seized it by the tail—dragged it down and choked it to death with his bare hands.

Mr. MacKinder recalls seeing the pelt, which made a dandy rug, on the floor of Mr. Anderson's

log house, which stood on the site of Mr. Finch-Noyes' present residence.

Along about 1855, when wolves still roamed the district and sheep were carefully fenced against them, Mr. Anderson heard a disturbance in the sheep pen. Accompanied by his wife, who held the lantern, he sallied forth to defend his flock. Sure enough a wolf was in the pen. Once more Mr. Anderson grabbed the offender and choked it to death.

Mr. MacKinder hasn't much respect for Oakville's current bear. He says he has met it two or three times and it is nothing more nor less than a big Newfoundland dog. After spending 90 odd years in the town Mr. MacKinder should know his dogs and his bears.

Oakville's Oldest Native Born Dies In His Ninety-Second Year

Watched First Railway Built Through Forest

Joel MacKinder, Oakville's oldest native born son died in his 91st year at his home on Pine Ave., Saturday.

Born in 1850 in a house on Randall St. just behind the St. John's United Church, Mr. MacKinder watched the town grow from a small pioneer settlement, surrounded by forest into a thriving community.

He loved to reminisce of the early days and recalled the time when there were still a few Indians in the district. The only road through the village was a mere trail hugging the lakeshore and crossing the 16 mile creek on a log boom where the piers now stand.

He witnessed the building of the first railway through a forest inhabited by wild animals and vividly recalled the days when Oakville was one of the busiest harbours on the lakes. Long lines of farmers' wagons, loaded with grain, and stretching from the harbour to the station were a common sight.

His parents were married in Toronto in 1833 and came to Oakville one year later. His mother, Mary Ann Cleary, was born in King's County Ireland and his

father, Joseph B. MacKinder was born at Tyd, St. Giles, Cambridgeshire, England.

In 1857, his father, a first mate, set sail in the ill fated "Tempest" for Australia. The ship was never heard of again and all hands were lost.

A carpenter by trade, Mr. MacKinder built many of the original houses and business places in town, and spent his entire life, save two years in the United States, in Oakville.

Active and keenly interested in world affairs he was philosophical in his attitude toward the problems of life and had a profound belief in ultimate justice.

One of his deep rooted beliefs was that the English speaking peoples of the world would become united.

Until quite recently he had enjoyed comparatively good health and every two weeks walked from his home on Pine Ave. to the business center to visit with friends. His round trip covering some three miles.

On Tuesday, Rev. D. H. Gallagher conducted the funeral services at his late residence and at the graveside in St. Jude's Cemetery.

Surviving are three sons, George, New Jersey; John, London, Ont., and Henry, Oakville; and two daughters, Mrs. Marion Copewell, New Jersey and Jeannette.

The priceless tale at left about Oakville's rustic past was found in The Oakville Record Star Dec. 18, 1941. There is no explanation about the Oakville bear that lived in 1941 nor what the beast is doing in town.

The July 11, 1940 Record Star mourned the death of Oakville's oldest native born resident, Joel MacKinder.

What governments wouldn't do about election promises! The federal government formally asked everyone to release it from its election promises in a referendum (sound familiar?) which might only prove how much more formal and polite governments were in those days. In Oakville 1,841 residents voted to allow the government to forget what it promised. Of the 2,506 who could vote, only 126 voted against the government. In Trafalgar it was much the same; 1,430 Yes votes and 167 Nos. In Halton, the vote was 10 to one. The editorial on the front page of the April 30, 1942 Record-Star concluded; "A vigilant Canada awaits the Government move to implement the people's will." By 1944, the same editor was calling the prime minister a "laggard."

The turbulent 1940s

THE PLEBISCITE

The government has decided to hold a plebiscite on April 27th asking the people of Canada to release them from all election promises.

The time for discussing the merits or demerits of the plebiscite has passed and Canadians must face the consequences of a favourable or an unfavourable vote.

At the time of the last election few foresaw the grim realities which confront us. Promises were made which now threaten to jeopardize our chance of victory. Voters were then told that there would be no conscription for overseas service.

To-day we face the gravest threat that has ever endangered our freedom. Nation after nation has tasted the bitter humiliation of defeat. Throughout the streets of Europe the tread of jack-booted Huns strikes terror in the hearts of millions. Hunger and degradation are their lot. Wherever the armies of aggression march, death, starvation and destruction follow.

A war policy based on defense is an open invitation for a repetition of all these horrors within Canada itself. The enemy must be met and defeated on foreign soil. If they are not, then Canada and the North American continent will become isolated and ringed with ruthless foes possessing superior man power and capable of outproducing us in the weapons of war.

We must throw every ounce of our national energy into the struggle. Every man and woman must be placed where he or she is most useful to the war effort, whether it be in the field, the factory, the army, the navy or the air force. Every weapon—every trained man must be available for service wherever the enemy can be most effectively met.

To vote "no" will indicate that the people of Canada are unwilling to assume their full share in the fight for freedom. It will bring undying shame and disgrace to a country which 24 years ago held its head high wherever men gathered.

To vote "yes" will release our government from the promise not to conscript men for overseas service and will enable Canada to march side by side with the forces of freedom in equality and pride.

VOTE "YES" on April 27th.

Brantwood Manor now offers

LUXURIOUS RETIREMENT LIVING



For further information and Brochure Call or write

- Choose your accommodation from a wide selection of suites, private and semi-private rooms
- Rooms are tastefully furnished and broadloomed with electric heating and air conditioning
- Walk-in-sit-down showers in bathrooms. Or, relax in our Jacuzzi, whirlpool baths
- Tastefully prepared cuisine served in our Bright and Airy Dining Room
- Complete housekeeping and laundry service provided.
- Hairdressing Salon, General and Cocktail Lounge, Library and Games Room, Sitting Rooms with T.V. and Kitchen facilities
- Recreation and Social Programmes
- One Block from Burlington Square Mall and Bus Service on Brant St.

Brantwood Manor Nursing Homes Limited

802 Hager Ave.

Burlington L7S 1X2

637-3481