

Governors Rule On 'Unseemly Exhibitions'

GAZETTE provides further explanation of the high costs, pointing to lights, water and sheds as the expenditures that exceeded expectations. It also described the work of Council President Fraser and Rink Committee Chairman Morton in persuading the freshmen to assume responsibility for shovelling the snow. A large group of students had to volunteer since the person employed to maintain the rink had enough to do without shovelling it. An advantage in the persuasion was the fact that Mr. Morton was also the Freshman Representative on Council. Within a short time all but one of the freshmen agreed to do the work, and the Council's decision to compel shovelling did not have to be used.

Cost continued to be the new rink's major problem. At the same time that students praised it the Council was forced to increase the expense ceiling to \$1400. Ominously, it neglected to provide for the raising of this money by either borrowing or cutting back other expenditures. It passed the rink rules early in January, 1975. One of the students responsible for the rink's operation was given power to change the schedule for its use. Also, as the end of its term came into sight, the Council appointed a committee to prepare a revised constitution.

GAZETTE, after pointing out that the Board of Governors were the true authors of the rink rules, publicly differed with the rules. Council had bound itself to accept the rules in return for permission to build the open-air rink on Dalhousie land. GAZETTE argued that the prohibition on skating while classes were held at Studley was an inconvenience for those with free periods in the morning and afternoon, while meaning neither less disturbance or less class-skipping. It was amazed by the rule on "Unseemly exhibitions of fancy skating" since figure skating was a sport to be encouraged in Nova Scotia. However, there is no evidence that this criticism resulted in changed rules.

The same meeting saw acceptance of a \$1.00 athletic fee from King's students, which was presented as all they could afford. However, Council made it clear that this would not be a precedent. The meeting also saw the first concrete move towards construction of an open-air rink. The committee working on the rink issue was given \$100.00 for preliminary expenses.

On November 12 a GAZETTE editorial welcomed the rink decision, saying that it would result in a more efficient use of the money allotted for skating. A.B. Morton was Chairman of the Rink Committee. The same issue of the paper reported that at the last Council meeting a major debate had taken place between the captain of the hockey team and the Council president over who was responsible for encouraging interest in, and development of, athletics at the university.

Later in the month Council decided to let its dishes be used by the Board of Governors without any charge. It also made the important decision to award tender for the open-air rink to Stewart Ford, Contractor, for \$460.00. The specifications as prepared by the Rink Committee were approved. The rink was the first capital project to be sponsored exclusively by the Council, although it had paid for the stands at Studley Field. Two individuals were made responsible to the Council for the work on the rink, while the committee continued its general work.

At the beginning of December the Council was faced with the rink's problems. The allotment for construction and operation was \$900.00, but it appeared that the total cost would be \$1,200. The Council had no extra funds to allot, so it decided that the sum should be borrowed, using the next Council's revenues as collateral. Also, the university would have to agree to guarantee the loan, again on the basis of the next Council's revenue from the fee. The Council also decided that the freshmen should be compelled to shovel the snow off the rink, once it was in operation.

One of the first items before the Students Council in September 1924 was the GAZETTE appointments. These were usually made in the spring, but GAZETTE had not submitted its annual reports in time, and the President and Secretary-Treasurer had filled in by receiving the reports and making temporary appointments.

Upon a request from faculty members the Council decided that if all repairs were made it would use football gate receipts to buy gym equipment. A special committee was chosen to consult with King's regarding collection of fees for use of Dalhousie facilities.

In October the special committee reported only that more negotiations were needed, and a new committee was chosen. Evoking memories of 1912, the Council granted the military the right to start agitation for the re-establishment of the Dalhousie C.O.T.C. (Canadian Officer Training Corps). Reviving one of its first capital ventures, the Council bought a set of dishes (for up to \$125.00) and decided to rent them for \$10.00 plus breakage charges. Finally, a committee was appointed to work on the latest cause, an open air rink.

The rink issue, which had been slowly emerging for two years, got a big push in late October when the GAZETTE called for the Council to start one immediately. It was pointed out that the high cost of renting other arenas would be eliminated, and a source said that the Board of Governors was willing to help.

In 1924 Thanksgiving was celebrated on Armistice Day (November 11) for the first time. In its November 5 editorial the GAZETTE welcomed this change. On that same day the Council met and voted to ask the university to hold Munro Day on November 11 also. This would mean that Dalhousie would have a holiday, and Dalhousie students could attend conferences and an away-from-home football game being held then.

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Canada Women Not 'Persons'

Believe it or not, only 45 years ago women had no legal status as "persons" in Canada. Today it is difficult to recall that up to 1929 five successive Canadian governments and the Supreme Court of Canada had insisted that Canadian women were not "persons" at all within the definition of the British North America Act.

What was to become widely known as the "Person Case" started in Alberta in 1916 when the provincial government appointed Emily Murphy as magistrate of the family court in Edmonton. The appointment, the first of its kind in the British Empire was a tribute to the outstanding role played by women in World War I. But from the day of her appointment Magistrate Murphy's rulings were challenged by male lawyers on the grounds that she was not a "person" under the BNA. The Alberta government acted speedily to enact legislation but the federal government refused to amend the BNA Act so that all of its terms of reference would include "female persons."

The question of the legal status of women kept surfacing until mid-summer 1928 when Magistrate Murphy invited four other leading Canadian women to join her in seeking clarification of the BNA Act. She had found a section of the Supreme Court regulations that permitted five citizens to solicit such information. The four other women were Nellie McClung, author, lecturer and a leading figure in the fight for women's suffrage; Dr. Hen-

rietta Edwards, author of two books on women's legal status; Irene Parlby, a member of the Alberta cabinet; Louise McKinney, a former Alberta MLA. The petition, signed by the five women, asked if the word "person" in the BNA Act included "female persons".

The Mackenzie King Liberal government of the day put their best legal talent to work to defeat the women's petition. They went back to Roman law, ancient English custom, and even argued that the BNA Act had been framed by men at a time when women had absolutely no rights. The Supreme Court of Canada (five male judges) ruled unanimously that it was bound to interpret the BNA Act as it was written and that women were not "persons."

The decision was appealed to the British Privy Council and on October 28, 1929, the Council overruled the Supreme Court of Canada. In its ruling the Council was sharply critical of the Canadian government for relying on antiquated laws and customs to deny equal status to women. It said that all constitutions must be subject to change and development through public opinion and custom.

Like all struggles in a just cause, the "Person Case" took many years and much effort. Murphy and other Canadian women carried on the fight over a 13-year period. In 1938 the Business and Professional Women of Canada placed a plaque in the parliament buildings commemorating the five

women who established the principle that women have legal status. Speaking at the ceremony, Neillie McClung said, "All women of Canada will be forever indebted to Mrs. Murphy for this definite victory for Canadian women which has clarified the position of women for all of time."

TAILGATING

"Take your living room with you" is the advice of the Canada Safety Council to all drivers this winter, and for Safe Driving Week in particular.

The "Living Room" referred to is the space between any driver and the vehicle in front. The Council emphasizes that this space is the only factor outside the vehicle that can be controlled by the driver. All other external factors depend on climatic conditions, other vehicles or other road users.

It is the No. 1 rule on any list of safe driving practices; it is common sense, especially on hazardous winter roads where ice can be encountered at any time. Even an imperfect driver can stay away from many potential trouble sources by maintaining a safe distance from the car ahead - two seconds travelling time is generally considered a safe minimum.

"Safe Driving Week" runs from December 1st - 7th. As our roads become more heavily travelled, and surfaces deteriorate, all drivers are urged to resolve that all safety rules will be observed throughout 1975.

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