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Your Weekly Chuckle . . .
By KEITH HUNTER

Ulcers are something you get not from what you eat, but what's eating you.



Angles 'n' Attitudes
William Bothwell

Dipping Into the Past
Man's frozen body found lying in snow south of Shelburne



125 YEARS AGO
Thursday, January 10, 1884

On Sunday morning last, as Thomas Torrance Jr. and another gentleman were returning from church in Shelburne and going up Coleman's Hill, about a mile south of the village, they spied what appeared to be the garments of a man lying in a corner just over the fence in a neighbouring field. They got out of their cutter and went to the spot, to find the body of a man frozen stiff, with a bottle containing a small quantity of whiskey and a cotton bag containing sundry articles by his side. They returned to Shelburne, announcing their awful discovery and notified Dr. Norton, coroner. A large number of citizens hastened to the spot and the deceased was at once recognized as Thomas H. Welsh, who arrived in town on Wednesday evening's train in an intoxicated condition and, after visiting several hotels and stores, had started southward from the corner opposite Jennings' hotel, doubtless intending to spend the night with friends. From the position of the body when found, it is supposed that Welsh had been directing his step to a neighbouring farmhouse for shelter and was overcome by the cold while in the very act of climbing the fence, and on falling down in the snow was unable to rise again.

100 YEARS AGO
Thursday, January 7, 1909

In municipal elections for the year 1909, Dr. T. Babe was elected reeve of Shelburne, defeating John Large by 161 votes to 106. In Melancton, a four-man race for reeve resulted in a victory for Thomas Oldfield. In other reeveship races, Thomas Sime won in East Luther, Thomas Hewson in Orangeville, J. J. Reith in Grand Valley and J. H. Hosick in Amaranth.

Dr. H. A. Bond, a graduate of Toronto University, who has spent six years in general medical practice, has sold his practice at Maxwell and removed to Shelburne. Dr. Bond, who comes well recommended, has rented Dr. Barr's office in the old Economist block, for the parliamentary term and will room in the same block.

Richard Sanderson was found guilty last week by Police Magistrate Pattullo, of Orangeville, of having purloined a pair of driving gloves from the pocket of W. H. Dynes, reeve of Mono, when the latter was in Orangeville last November attending County Council, and was sentenced to three months in jail.

Says the *Shelburne Free Press*: Much sympathy is expressed on all sides at W. A. Fenwick being forced

to make an assignment. He should have made an assignment last summer instead of being forced by his creditors into holding an auction sale and then allow them to ship in a lot of worthless trash to be sold at his expense and injure his business. Mr. Fenwick bought heavily for the 1907 Christmas trade, and it being a failure he was left with an expensive stock on his hands which was slaughtered at the auction sale to make money for his shark creditors. One thing to Mr. Fenwick's credit, he owes no one in Shelburne who has not been paid in full. He has been an upright and honest citizen and will retain the esteem of a host of friends who will be pleased to see him in business again in the near future.

75 YEARS AGO
Wednesday, January 11, 1934

The weather has been quite doing its share at keeping the work of grading and widening Highway 9 and placing culverts from Primrose east, from getting in full swing to the point where a full quota of men will be required. The Ontario Department of Labour requires Dufferin County labour to be used except for a percentage of skilled labour.

The Toronto-Owen Sound branch of the CPR is to have the latest in passenger seats from now on. It is thought that this move is made due to the fact that CNR recently put a parlour car on its Toronto-Owen Sound route. The new seats are said to be most comfortable.

50 YEARS AGO
Wednesday, January 7, 1959

The rabies epidemic in Dufferin continues to show a marked increase in cases affecting both animals and humans. Statistics prepared by the Dufferin County Health Unit showed that 109 cattle, 33 foxes, 12 sheep, four horses, three dogs, two cats, two skunks, one pig and one goat had been declared rabid, for a total of 167 at the end of the year.

25 YEARS AGO
Wednesday, January 11, 1984

Orangeville lawyer David Tilson was among more than 100 lawyers in Ontario who were appointed Queen's Counsel on New Year's Eve.

Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board is currently negotiating for a new site for a new elementary school on the Blind Line. Board Chairman Robert Hall says the site is just south of the Serra Residence (Good Shepherd Manor).

Orangeville gave an overwhelming welcome to a special one-hour Wintario program last week.

Everything's different, everything's the same

One of the joys of age is looking back. What we see around us is a reminder of what's gone on before. What we see is an evolution from past years. It is a real revelation to look to the stories of folk who have come to this country with nothing and have made a life out of it nevertheless.

A good example has been the family we've come know so well in Bolton, Ont. Our youngest daughter married a member of the Greek community. The three grandchildren have been a blessing for all of us. The youngest member of the Greek family graduated from York and worked with Karen at Dominion in Willowdale. He was one of four, all of whom have graduated from university having worked and made a successful life in Canada or the United States. The older ones have retired comfortably after satisfying careers.

I can look back to my own early years in southern Quebec. I have written about resting in the breeze off Lake Memphramagog. Here I was enjoying a nature to which my brother and I contributed many years ago. We remember the summers when we pulled out seedlings at the side of the road and planted them along the road into the family cottage. Now they provide the shade to make life most pleasant for the same generation 60 years later.

At the same time we can look back to summers spent at the grandparents' home nearby. The house was built by my grandfather and was 'home' for many years as the families moved around. Eventually the house was sold to my cousin's partner or more appropriately to his brother and his wife, Fred and Marion Montegu (The same names as my mother and father!) It was great to 'keep it in the family' and to watch the changes they made. Subsequently it was bought by a young francophone couple who made it so much more livable and who were anxious to have Anne and I see how the changes they had made while keeping the basic house that I had known so well.

The property had altered as well. The area behind the house had been a pasture. We carved


off one property from the orchard to make a home for Aunt Willa and family. That was the start of a new community which expanded over the years into the town. The pasture that Bob and I had known was now several houses and new roads, in fact it had become part of the town of Beebe. What had been open fields now was full of houses.

Similarly we were delighted when Beth's in laws, Frieda and Albion donated the family heirloom, the piano, to the Bolton family. Darryl had been brought up with it as had his two older sisters. Darryl remembers his grandmother having the piano in her home for many years. This way, it remained 'in the family'. It was to have been in Darryl's home at some point in time when he had space for it, but in the meantime it is available for the small grandchildren.

Our 'rogues gallery' is a wall of pictures. One of the most valuable is Mother with her first little great-grandchild, Christopher, a picture that was used as the centerpiece of her memorial service. Chris is now 6'4" tall and a graduate from Ontario University.

The pictures record many Christmases past. All the children are present, mostly as young people surrounded by wrapping paper. Those same people are all there in the current pictures, or at least 4 of the 5. We have Beth and Darryl this year but are lacking Colin and Yuka who spent Christmas in Yokohama. They were in last year's pictures and will be again next summer. Instead, are 7 grandchildren. We are accustomed to seeing changes, but it is remarkable how much is the same.

Christmas Eve we watched "What a Wonderful Life" then "A Christmas Carol" as in past years. Everything's different but everything's the same.



From the Global Classroom
Doug Skeates

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The '09 years

This space looks back each January at similarly dated years in other centuries. A century ago some people called that year '19-oh-9'. Others called it '19-and-9' or '19-9'. Few now say either '20-oh-9' or '20-9'. But the coming year, by any name, will undoubtedly, like the universe, unfold as it should.

The '09 years have been turning points, especially as concerns the development of the important institution of the Western papacy. By the end of the First Millennium the ancient Christian centres other than Rome had fallen under Arab Muslim rule. The bishops of Constantinople still balanced the influence of those of Rome but the schism of 1054 had left the authority of the latter supreme in Western Europe.

We begin this retrospect with the year 1009. Those who suggest that the European Crusaders attacked Palestine without provocation in the First Crusade (1090-99) should remember that 1009 was the year in which radical Islamists sacked Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Turks had replaced Arab rule in the area and had closed it to Christian pilgrims. Ninety years later, the liberation of Jerusalem - a continuing contentious issue - was the crusading aim.

In the year 1009 the Bishop of Rome, Pope John XVIII, died. His successor, Sergius IV, was chosen largely by civic officials and the city's most influential people. The College of Cardinals and even the Roman Curia as we know them were not yet operative. For better or worse, the checkered history of the bishops of Rome was launched into a 500-year period in which they would both claim increasing secular powers and divide the Church by misguided plans to protect its freedom and unity. The intentions were good; the results were unfortunate.

By the year 1209 Pope Innocent III had, with the disintegration of Roman civil authority, asserted imperial prerogatives. The first to use the title 'Vicar of Christ', he claimed authority over kings and emperors and the right to approve the appointment of bishops which at the time still lay with regional churches. Over the appointment of an Archbishop of Canterbury he placed England under an interdict that forbade the celebration of any of the sacraments there. It was the beginning of a reaction to papal interference which over the next three centuries would challenge 'papalism', its value as well as its

shortcomings, and initiate a reformation movement in the Western Church that became the second continuing schism within the Christian world.

In recent years the European Union has declined to recognise in its constitution the contribution of the Western Church to the continent's history precisely because of the dark side of 'Caesaro-papism', the imperial presumption of the Roman bishops. Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant spokesmen frequently make the point that although the papacy has potential unifying power, the failure to reform its authoritarian, rather than conciliar, structure continues to be a cause of division.

By 1309 the 'Babylonian Captivity' of the papacy had begun. Pope Clement V was a Frenchman at a time when the papal states in Italy were threatened by France. Clement moved his court to Avignon and took up residence in 'le chateau neuf du Pape'. The Great Schism lasted for almost 70 years. In 1377 a move back to Rome began but the result was to have popes in both France and Italy, each supported by his own faction.

In 1409 a council was called at Pisa to solve the problem. Without effectively deposing the two 'anti-popes' it elected Alexander V to reside in Rome and to be the third claimant to apostolic jurisdiction. The story is a tangled one but the schism was ended by the Council of Constance and the election of Martin V. However, it failed to produce a reform of the papal office and strengthened the demand by 'centralists' that popes not be subject to the decisions of councils.

In 1509 Henry, Prince of Wales, succeeded his father as King Henry VIII of England. By that time the eastern coast of North America had been mapped as far north as what would become Virginia. Henry's problem with an intransigent pope who for political reasons denied him an annulment (not a divorce) similar to one that had been given to a King of France, is notorious. When, subsequently, Pope Paul V issued what was in effect a 'fatwah' against Queen Elizabeth I support for Rome became synonymous with treason. It is less than politically correct for a spiritual authority to advise the assassination of a head of state.

By 1609 Henry Hudson was exploring the river now named for him. Not far north the fortress of Quebec celebrated its first anniversary and across the Atlantic the Dutch East India Company introduced the first tea, to Europe.

The invention in 1709 of his four octave proto-pianoforte by the Paduan harpsichord maker, Bartolomeo Cristofori, is noteworthy. One thinks of Arthur Schnabel's claim that his mastery of the modern instrument was not in the notes he played but in his pauses between the notes. The first copyright law was enacted in Britain. For over a century the lack of one in the United States allowed the pirating of the works of Dickens and others by U.S. American publishers.

In 1809 two famous men, Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln, were born on the same day, 12 February. Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy had celebrated the centennial of the piano by being born nine days previously.

1909 began the last year of the short reign of Edward VII, aged 60. He gave his name to the Edwardian Era, just before Europe began the suicidal wars that destroyed much of what both popes and kings had contributed to its civilisation. Edward the libertine did much to diminish public respect for the Royal Family. One of his mistresses, Alice Keppel, daughter of Sir Allan MacNab of Hamilton, Ontario, was a great-great grandmother of Camilla Shand Parker-Bowles, long-time paramour of the current lack-lustre Prince of Wales who would have difficulty being elected prime minister and who is only a heartbeat away from the Throne of Canada. In 2009 he should announce graciously his planned retirement in favour of Prince William.

'A complete - and deliberate - lie'

The worm, we hope, may be turning slightly. For years, fuelled by a combination of well-financed feminists, friendly media, and cowardly politicians, the one major Canadian issue which dare not speak its name has been abortion.

Never mind that Canada is the only country in the world with absolutely no law governing abortion.

Never mind that, for all our prattle about respect for human life and dignity, an unborn baby is aborted in Canada about every five minutes - that's every hour, every day, every week, every month and every year - a total of more than 100,000 a year. Yet, when those of us who view these numbers as an unconscionable indictment attempt to raise the argument, we are met with a barrage of hateful fire which should - but obviously doesn't - even make our over zealous human rights commissars blush.

Case in point. Late last month, Winnipegpe South Tory MP Rod Bruinooge, newly-elected chair of the Parliamentary Pro-Life Caucus, wrote a National Post article entitled "Why I am pro-life," which, predictably, set off a firestorm of attacks against him and also against Prime Minister Stephen Harper, despite the fact that Harper - much to his shame, I believe - was quick to say he will not "re-open" the abortion debate.

Like most newspapers, the Toronto Star published an editorial entitled, "Leave abortion alone," concluding that, "The abortion debate is over in Canada. Move on."

Pick an issue, any issue, and ask yourself if any newspaper - let alone nearly all of them - would argue that the subject is closed and can not even be debated. But abortion, it seems, is different. Indeed, in publishing the Canadian Press story citing Bruinooge's intentions to raise the abortion issue, many newspapers reported that a) the parliamentary pro-life caucus is new; and b) its membership is secret. Fact is, the caucus has been around for years. The only thing "new" was that Bruinooge is now the chairman. You won't read it in your newspaper, but over the years that caucus has been chaired by Liberals and New Democrats, not just Tories, as the pro-abortion crowd would have you believe.

But whatever your view on abortion, surely you can't believe that it is reasonable to say that it can't even be discussed.

The most commonly heard argument to support the notion that the debate is "closed" is the fallacious claim that the Supreme Court "decided" the issue in

1998 when it struck down the existing abortion law as "unconstitutional." This is a complete - and deliberate - lie. The Supremes ruled that the existing abortion law was "unconstitutional," but did not conclude that there should be no abortion law at all. They specifically said that it was up to the elected politicians, if they chose to do so, to make sure that any new abortion law was constitutional. Shortly after that ruling, in fact, then prime minister Brian Mulroney did attempt to pass a revised abortion law only to see it lose - on a tie vote, yet - in the Senate. No politician since has had the guts to revisit the issue.

Earlier this month, in a Post column, entitled, "Pro-life absurdity," Colby Cosh ranted up a remarkable attack on Christianity - as if no other religious groups or non-religious groups oppose abortion-on-demand - by making the astounding claim that, "It has only been in the last 40 years that there has been any real controversy about the ethical status of abortion."

For the record, the Roman Catholic Church - and no, I'm not a member - has opposed abortion on ethical grounds since around the year 100, as have most major world religions. But there you have it. When it comes to defending abortion, no level of attacking pro-lifers is too low.

With the advances in science, particularly ultrasounds, it has become increasingly difficult to sustain the reckless notion that a fetus is simply a blob of blood and tissue. A baby can actually survive outside the uterus by about 22 weeks of gestation.

But a favorite tactic of the pro-abortion crowd is to accuse anyone who even questions our current lack of abortion governance as favoring "forcing" women to carry babies to term. This also is not true. Public opinion polls clearly show that only a tiny minority of Canadians - between three and six percent - believe abortion should be illegal in all circumstances.

At least half of Canadians - and some polls put the numbers much higher - support a law which offers some protections to the unborn at various stages, such as at the beginning of the second trimester or the outset of the third. The point here - and nomatter which side you're on - is to demonstrate the reality that despite what the pro-abortion side says, this issue has never, ever been a closed shop, certainly not for those of us who believe an abortion stops a beating heart. In the meantime, alas, the killing continues unabated.



National Affairs
Claire Hoy

Senate appointments a snub to Ontario PCs

How much humiliation can a political party take? Ontario's struggling Progressive Conservative MPPs have had much more than their share, with their federal party refusing them the Senate seat they practically went down on their knees and begged for.

The Ontario Conservatives get less respect than Rodney Dangerfield. Their MPPs, or most of them (because this is not a united party) wanted Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who had 18 Senate vacancies to fill, to appoint one of them to the so-called chamber of sober second thought.

This would have left a safe seat in the legislature available for their leader, John Tory, to run in. Tory has been without one for more than a year since losing an election.

During this time, he has been deprived of using a forum that's essential to communicating the party's policies, which have not been many, and the personality of the leader, which many voters regard as of equal value.

The provincial Conservatives' request was minor. Conservative and Liberal prime ministers often have appointed people to the Senate as casually as if they were tipping a waiter, and the appointees often had no records that suggested they could contribute any worthwhile sober, second thoughts.

They included such undistinguished senators as Andrew Thompson, who after being Ontario Liberal leader for two years, attended a mere 2 per cent of Senate sittings and preferred sunbathing at his house in Mexico; and Conservative back-roomers Bill Kelly, who pried generous donations from companies who somehow thought they would receive huge favours from government, and Norman Atkins and Hugh Segal, who ran election campaigns and received huge advertising and public relations contracts.

Ontario's current Conservatives had an unusually able candidate for the Senate, their interim leader in the legislature, Bob Runciman, who said publicly he would give up his seat in the legislature if Harper offered him one in the Senate.

Runciman has been an effective MPP and minister for 27 years, is a right wing Conservative, like Harper, and stuck up for conservative principles when this was unpopular, and Harper can have nothing against him philosophically.

The PM and three of his most influential ministers, Jim Flaherty, Tony Clement and John Baird, who served with Runciman in Ontario cabinets, all would know this.

But Harper ignored the pleading of his Ontario comrades and appointed people who mostly had contributed few sober, second thoughts to anything, including two former journalists who would never be rated among the most insightful and independent in their profession.

Tory has promised an announcement on his future as leader on January 9 and will be under pressure first to find an MPP who will step down, which he has been unable to do so far in a year of searching.


Alternatively, he could say he wants to continue to lead from outside the legislature without a firm date for entering it, which some in his party will oppose, because this will continue to leave it less competitive, or he could say he will step down so the party can choose a new leader.

There also is the outside possibility that Tory already has found an MPP willing to leave, but not ready to make this public, and informed Harper privately, so he would not need to make a provision for him in his Senate appointments, but this is unlikely, because it would be difficult to keep secret.

Much more likely, Harper and his former Ontario ministers, as extreme right-wingers, are refusing to help Tory because he is trying to return the Ontario party closer toward the centre, where it governed uninterrupted and mostly to praise for 42 years up to 1985.

A federal party has no right to try to influence and dictate the policies and choice of leader of a provincial party, which usually runs its own affairs.

No federal party also has let down its provincial party with such a thud in recent decades and the Ontario party's resentment will not fade quickly.



Queen's Park
Eric Dowd

How to stirrup the art world

Emerging artist alert: have you seen the paintings of Cholla? Abstracts, primarily. Watercolours for the most part.

Stunning, I'm no expert on the visual arts, but it seems to me Cholla's canvases positively resonate with glimmers of A.Y. Jackson and Lawren Harris.

But don't take my word for it - ask John Yimin. He IS an expert. He's a California art lover and an art critic - and he's absolutely smitten with the works of the painting phenomenon. "The brush strokes Cholla uses to get his vision down on paper," writes Yimin, "the watercolours' dance...and especially the fascinating completion of the works...grabs me and holds me with the fire of Pollock and the fixed gaze of Resnick."

High praise for an artist who's only 23 years old with decades of creativity stretching out before him like the Woodbine racetrack.

And Cholla appears to be embracing his destiny at full gallop. Already he's been a featured guest on Martha Stewart's television show. He's also had exhibitions in San Francisco and New York.

Best of all, for those of us who lack the deep pockets of major art collectors, Cholla's works are still fairly affordable. You can pick up some of his earlier works for as low as \$900 U.S. Even his best canvases seldom fetch more than \$2500.00. But my advice would be - hurry. Cholla's got a landscape called The Big Red Buck that will soon be featured in an art show called Arte Laguna in Mogliano Veneto, Italy. Once his work gets international recognition his prices are bound to go supernova. Yep. Major shows in U.S. galleries. National exposure on television. An upcoming gig at one of the most prestigious art exhibitions in Europe... Not bad. For a horse.

Yes, Cholla is of the equine persuasion. A copper-coloured buckskin mustang/quarterhorse cross born on a Nevada ranch in 1985. Cholla might have spent his life rounding up confused little dogies and absent-minded cows had not his owner, an amateur artist, noticed that he loved to pick up things with his teeth. On a whim, she tacked a piece of paper on a corral post,

stroked a paint-laden artist's paintbrush across it and held the brush out to Cholla. The rest was Art History 101.

Cholla graduated to an industrial-strength easel which stands in his corral. Nobody rotates the paper or manipulates the easel. Cholla chomps down on the brush and paints what he likes. But is it Art?

His customers certainly think so. So does Kurt Kohl, an art curator based in McLean, Virginia. "Cholla is creating art on the level of a young child," says Kohl. "There may not be a lot of thought behind the process, but one could ask the same question about Pollock or De Kooning or Rothko."

Indeed. Or of Jan Fabre, Subodh Gupta and Jeff Koons. Gupta gave us the mammoth skull made out of ice buckets which sits outside the Palazzo Grassi in Venice. We can be grateful to Jan Fabre for the giant bug impaled on a seven-foot high steel needle in Leuven, Belgium.


And who can forget Jeff Koons' seminal work, Three Ball 50/50 Tank, which, last I heard was still enthralled audiences at the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan? It consists of three basketballs floating in distilled water in a half-filled glass tank.

Philistine? Moi? Well, maybe just a little. Seems to me that if Art was a game of tennis, the lads could be accused of playing with the net down. But what do I know? Art's flickering standards have long been a source of deep confusion to me.

Take the case of Newport Nude, a painting by Sir Gerald Kelly which was bought by a public gallery in England in 1947 but then removed from public view and locked in a vault on the grounds that the woman portrayed in the painting was...well, nude. Very nude, if you catch my drift. Indecent and what not. This past summer, what with our new relaxed standards and all, Newport Nude was re-instated in the public gallery.

Alas, the authorities have seen fit to ban the painting once more. Not because the model is full-frontal nude. No problem with that. But she has...a lit cigarette in her hand.

If Cholla could read this, you know what kind of a laugh he'd be having.



Basic Black
Arthur Black