

# THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

Wednesday Evening, March 13th, 1946

## Town Council Strikes 1946 Tax Rate at 40 Mills

### Georgetown-Esqueuing Councils Hear Talk on County Assessing System

Mr. J. P. Coombe, a representative of the Department of Municipal Affairs, gave an informative talk on the new County assessing system at a joint meeting of Georgetown and Esqueuing Councils held in the Municipal Building last Friday night. The meeting was attended by assessing officers and members of the two municipalities and was presided over by Mr. Coombe. Mr. A. Shortt, another man from the Department, and Mr. Ford Rodgers, Esqueuing County assessor.

Georgetown and Esqueuing have been "hold-outs" against the system which was voted in by last year's County Council and it was Mr. Coombe's job to try and show the advantages of the new system over the old. In his formal speech he outlined the duties of a county assessor as one who "assesses and advises local assessors so that by using the same yardstick a more uniform assessment may be arrived at."

He said that the equalization problem which confronts a county council each June has always been a headache and that there has been too much tendency for the strongest talkers to win out for their municipalities at the expense of those with weaker representatives. With a County Assessor to direct things, much of this difficulty can be overcome and a more equitable division of taxes arrived at. He also pointed out that an assessor's duties were outlined by statute in the Assessment Act and that a local Council has no jurisdiction over the performance of these duties.

The new system embraces a comprehensive survey of all taxable property, with information recorded in detail on a form which then becomes a permanent record. It is based on the replacement cost of a building, taking such factors as physical and economic depreciation into consideration. One of the major duties of the County Assessor is to see that all municipalities within the county are assessing at the same standard in order that each pays its proper share of county taxes.

Mayor Harold Cleave of Georgetown opened the meeting and introduced the guests, then asked Deputy-Reeve George Cleave of Esqueuing to serve as chairman. Following Mr. Coombe's speech, a question period was held in which many points were brought out.

Mayor Cleave — What does a taxpayer in town do if he wants to appeal his assessment?

Ans. — He can appeal to his own Court of Revision as before. The Act does not specify that a local council must sit as the Court of Revision and I think this job can be better done by others. The local council is sitting in judgment on its own actions when it sits as a court of revision.

May — Suppose a municipality refused to adopt the new system?

Ans. — The County assessor would go out and make his own appraisal and report to County Council that due to lack of cooperation this has been necessary and the picture as he sees it is such-and-such. The fundamental of democracy, which is equity of taxation is one of the most abused in our whole system.

Mr. Coombe then gave an example of how the County system can benefit. Using the town of Whitby as an example, he said it cost \$4000 to insure the system. In the first year, enough property was put on the tax roll which had never before been taxed to pay this whole cost.

Mayor Cleave — How long has the Act been in effect?

Ans. — Since 1939. Out of 38 county councils 12 have adopted it and 4 or 5 are now advertising for a man.

Goodlet — Could an assessor do the job in one assessment period?

Ans. — No, not all in one year.

Chisholm — How can you find out the value of a mortgage if the taxpayer refuses the information?

Ans. — The Act provides that these questions must be answered. The mortgagee helps to determine the "real value" of a property as contrasted to the sales value which fluctuates.

Lindsay — I can't see this. I personally know one farm which is worth \$20,000 and has a \$2,000 mortgage; and another farm worth \$5,000 has a \$4,000 mortgage.

Mayor Cleave — Who can prove that the new system is any more satisfactory?

Ans. — The united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry have proved this fact. I can't see how the facts contained in permanent records can be disputed against no record at all.

Mayor Cleave — Why doesn't the government make it compulsory if it's such a good system?

Ans. — The government is not trying to impose its will on the municipalities, but is providing a better system and hoping they will realize it

### ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE SURRENDER CHARTER

At a meeting of the executive of the Active Service League on Monday evening, the charter of the organization was surrendered and the funds turned over to the Georgetown Rehabilitation Council. In turning over the funds they were earmarked to be used as a donation toward a community memorial, as the association had been formed in 1942 with this and other purposes in mind. The motion passed unanimously, is as follows:—

Moved by H. C. McClure and seconded by Jos. Gibbons that the Treasurer be authorized to turn over to the Georgetown Rehabilitation Council the balance of funds on hand, amounting to \$463.98; and said funds to be held in trust for a period of twelve months from this date, to be used as a donation or contribution to Georgetown community memorial, and if at the expiration of twelve months the said memorial is not commenced, the funds would be made available and could be used at the discretion of the Rehabilitation Council.

While it was felt that the Active Service League did not accomplish what it set out to do during the war years, it had fulfilled some purposes and the funds raised would now make a substantial donation toward a memorial fund.

### CARD OF THANKS

Mrs. Nelson Tuck and family wish to thank their many friends and neighbors, also the many organizations for their kindness, sympathy and beautiful floral tributes in the illness and death of a loving husband and father.

### Georgetown's Centennial Fall Fair Date Set for September 6 and 7

#### JUNIOR FARMERS GRAIN SHOW AND JUNIOR INSTITUTE DISPLAY TO BE ATTRACTION THIS YEAR

President Craig Reid presided at a meeting of the directors of the Esqueuing Agricultural Society, sponsoring Georgetown Fair, held in the Municipal Building, on Saturday afternoon. Main item on the agenda was setting the date of Georgetown's 100th fall fair for Sept. 6th and 7th, Friday and Saturday.

In this connection a grant of \$75.00 was also allowed towards a prize list for the Norval Junior Farmers' Grain Show, and the Junior Institute display. This will be one of the feature attractions of the fair.

A motion carried adding the names of Mrs. Marion Hunter and Miss Betty Ruddle to the lady directorate.

Director Wrigglesworth was asked to arrange for a dinner meeting, at which the teachers from the various school sections could discuss plans for another grand display of children's work at the fair.

A committee, consisting of John Bird, Robert Alexander, Charlotte McCullough, Marjory Gault and Mrs. Frank Peitch was formed to arrange for a social evening in the parish hall, Norval, on March 29th.

A delegation to interview the town and township councils in regard to grants was also appointed.

Mr. Reid expressed the regret of the Society to Director McIntock, who is severing his active associations with the Board, after a service covering some sixteen years.

Hope was expressed that every citizen in town would back the 1946 show, in order that the 100th anniversary might be marked in the finest way possible.

and act accordingly.

Gibbons — Can a county council repeal the by-law once passed?

Ans. — Yes, but none has done so.

Goodlet — Is a full-time assessor still necessary after the first year or so?

Ans. — In my opinion, yes. Only in the smaller rural municipalities is it feasible to make it a part-time job.

Chisholm — Wouldn't some farmers be unduly penalized for large buildings which they do not fully use?

Ans. — The "Use factor" is important and reduces assessed value in deservicing cases.

At the conclusion of the question period, Mayor Cleave thanked Mr. Coombe for his talk and a vote of thanks was extended by Reeve K. R. MacDonald of Georgetown and Dr. Howard May of Esqueuing.

### BANK MANAGER RETIRES

Mr. Gordon W. McIntock, for 19 years manager of the local branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce is retiring from the service of the bank and Mr. R. H. Ireland of Windsor has been appointed to take his place. Mr. McIntock has served the bank for 40 years, starting as a junior in Hamilton. He has played a most active part in community life, and it is with regret that we learn that after a holiday trip, he intends to make his home in Toronto.

On Monday afternoon, the staff at the bank presented Mr. and Mrs. McIntock with parting gifts of a travelling bag and a relish dish, and the Girls' Pipe Band, of which he is president, presented him with a cigarette lighter at one of their recent meetings.

Mr. Ireland, who arrived in Georgetown last week is a banker of considerable experience, having served for many years in Hamilton, Peterboro and in the Head Office, Toronto before receiving his appointment as assistant manager at Windsor, where he has been for over five years.

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Smith have been residents of town since 1928, when they moved to Georgetown and opened their shoe store here. Mr. Smith, who is now in Christie Street Hospital undergoing treatment, is a veteran of two wars, having served overseas with the R.C.H.A. in the Great War, where he was wounded. In 1940, he joined the Veteran's Guard and later transferred to the active army, with the ROAMC. He was stationed in Toronto, Schreiber, Port Arthur and Bowmansville, and received his discharge last November. Mr. Smith has purchased the Factory Street home of Mrs. Walter Parsons and they will live there.

### EDITOR SPEAKS TO 50-50 CLUB

The 50-50 Club of Georgetown United Church met at the home of Rev. and Mrs. R. C. Todd on Wednesday, March 6th. Mr. Walter Blehn, editor of the Herald, gave a talk on the life of a weekly newspaper editor, stressing in part that such a paper plays in the welfare of a community. A novel contest followed, in which those present represented different departments of a newspaper and wrote assignments which were later read.

During the business period, it was decided that the club take charge of a Sunday evening service in the near future. Lunch was served by the convenors, Rev. and Mrs. R. C. Todd and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Watson. Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Johnston will be hosts for the next meeting.

This Friday marks the opening of a new general store in Norval, operated by a well-known district man, Mr. Walter Fidler. Mr. Fidler retired from farming last December and purchased the building formerly housing the barber shop and beauty parlour conducted by Mr. and Mrs. C. Grimwood. Extensive renovations have been made, and the new store will carry a complete line of groceries, meats, confectionery and other products.

Mr. Fidler is a native of the village, having lived there until moving to the farm at the age of 15. He is the son of the late James Fidler and Jane Ann Bird, and was married 12 years ago to the former Leona Featherstone of Milton. He attended Georgetown High School and has taken an active part in community life being People's Warden at St. Paul's Church, chairman of the Norval Fire Protection Association, and a member of the executive of the Norval Recreational Centre.

A good crowd attended the euchre and dance in Ballinafad Hall last Friday night, sponsored by the Farm Forum, prizewinners at euchre were Mrs. Matt McDougall, Erin and Mr. Robinson, Oaprine, with Mr. Willett, of Ballinafad getting the prize for the most lone hands. After lunch, dancing was enjoyed to music provided by Barden's Orchestra.

The Ashgrove Y.P.U. held their Christian Culture meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Wilson on Sunday evening, March 10th, Howard Ruddle was in charge. The scripture reading was taken by Jessie Wingfield and Beattie Reid led in prayer. Loney Kean read a story "By Your Kindness." Betty Ruddle and Loney Kean favoured with a duet. John Hunter took the topic of the evening, telling some of his interesting experiences in India and showing souvenirs and pictures which he brought back from there. The meeting closed with the Misspah benediction and lunch was served by the hostess.

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### WELCOME HOME

Cpl. Bob Charlton

Returning home to Milton a few weeks ago after crossing from England on the Queen Elizabeth was Cpl. Bob Charlton. He joined the army in April, 1940, and after training in Canada went overseas with the Royal Regiment the following year. Bob was employed as a barber in town with E. R. Maglooghlin prior to enlistment and expects to return to this position in a week or two.

Pte. Bill Schultz

Pte. Bill Schultz was a visitor in town last week and expects to be back here to live as soon as he gets his army discharge. Pte. Schultz returned to Canada on the Queen Elizabeth early in February. He was an employee

### ROSS THOMPSON BUYS SMITH'S SHOE STORE

A recent business change on Main Street is the sale of Smith's Shoe Store to Mr. Ross Thompson, who took possession the first of this month and will operate the business under his name. Mr. Thompson is no stranger to Georgetown, having been employed in town with the Alliance Paper Mills until he went back to farming three years ago. He recently sold his farm on No. 15 Alderwood to Mr. Vern Pickett. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson and their children, June, Lois, Gail and James moved into the apartment above the store yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Smith have been residents of town since 1928, when they moved to Georgetown and opened their shoe store here. Mr. Smith, who is now in Christie Street Hospital undergoing treatment, is a veteran of two wars, having served overseas with the R.C.H.A. in the Great War, where he was wounded. In 1940, he joined the Veteran's Guard and later transferred to the active army, with the ROAMC. He was stationed in Toronto, Schreiber, Port Arthur and Bowmansville, and received his discharge last November. Mr. Smith has purchased the Factory Street home of Mrs. Walter Parsons and they will live there.

### WALTER FIDLER OPENS NEW STORE IN NORVAL

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### Glen Williams "Iced Under" as Ice Jam Breaks

The quick spring thaw last Thursday brought on one of the worst floods in years at Glen Williams, as tons of ice were swept by the river into the village. An ice jam in the Credit river just above St. Alban's Church diverted the stream onto the Glen Road, bringing with it large chunks of ice which are still to be found on the lawns, although the Township snow plow did a good job of clearing them from the roads over the week-end.

The flood occurred around 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon. Most serious damage in the Glen was suffered at the Beaumont Knitting Mills where the dam which had been put in good repair last summer, was damaged so badly that it will have to be replaced. No actual damage was done inside the building, although there was a heavy deposit of dirt left in the flooded parts of the building. The Glen Textile Industries, Ltd., was more fortunate, losing only two hours time when the flood drove employees from the plant.

of Smith & Stone, Ltd., when he enlisted in June, 1942. He was stationed at Camp Borden with the Ordnance Corps for two years, then was transferred to Infantry and went overseas with the Black Watch in August, 1944. He served on the western front and was wounded in the fighting in Germany.

Pte. Elmer Stockford

Back home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stockford, is Pte. Elmer Stockford, who returned to Canada on the Queen Elizabeth. Joining the army in the fall of 1941, he trained at Camp Borden and went overseas with the Black Watch. Transferred to the Irish Regiment, he served in Italy and on the western front. His brother, Squadron Leader Charles Stockford also served with the ROAMC in the war.

### Allow Mill for Director of Recreation Motion to Purchase Truck Defeated

To Go on Daylight Saving Time with Toronto — No By-law for Reduction of Taxes on Farm Lands within Corporation — Cost of New road on Ewing Street Prohibitive at this time.

### WORLD'S DAY OF PRAYER

The World's Day of Prayer was held on Friday afternoon, March 8th, at the United Church.

There was a good attendance from all four churches. The leaders representing these were Mrs. Sydney MacKenzie, Mrs. A. Reeve, Mrs. Wm. Sinclair, Mrs. Clarence Hayes.

Members of the various denominations read prayers and read the Scriptures on "Peace." Miss Ruth Evans contributed the solo. Mrs. W. R. Wright was at the organ.

The Service prepared by Miss Mabel Shaw of Central Africa was divided under four headings—A Childlike Spirit, a loving heart, a quiet and confident mind, an active good will. The theme was — "The Things That Make For Our Peace."

### SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mrs. Gordon Sutherland of London was a visitor in town last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Ove of Toronto spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. T. R. Ove.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Jeffrey spent the week-end in Detroit, Michigan, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Scollon.

Mr. and Mrs. Denny Charles spent the week-end visiting with relatives in St. Marys.

Mrs. Charles Junkin has returned to her home in Buffalo, N.Y., after a visit at the home of Mrs. J. W. Kennedy. Miss Audrey Kennedy of Owen Sound was a week-end visitor with her grandmother.

Mr. George Grabb of Chesley, who was attending the Hydro convention in Toronto last week, visited in town with his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Grabb.

Among those from town who attended the Hydro convention in Toronto last week were Mayor Harold Cleave; W. H. Kentner and Graham Farnell, members of the Hydro commission, and C. W. McCallum, superintendent of the local hydro.

Council also debated the advisability of purchasing a 2 or 3 ton truck to take care of all town services, such as garbage collection, snow plowing, etc. The majority of council felt that this would not only entail a large capital outlay at this time, but would require further manpower and supervision, and that they would also have to purchase a small truck for police duty and light work as well. Others felt a large truck would give the town better service for handling icy streets and snowplowing, as well as showing a considerable saving in current expenditure. A recorded vote was taken on a motion tabled by Gibbons and MacKenzie. Yes — Gibbons, MacDonald, Goodlet, says — Cleave, MacDonald, McGilvray, Basop, Ritchie. The motion of last year's council for the purchase of a half ton truck remains in effect, and the town is now waiting delivery.

A large tree in front of St. Alban's Church had a swath of bark two feet wide peeled from its trunk and it is feared that the tree will be destroyed. Two homes, those of Mrs. Mary Cooper and of William Hadley, were marooned for some time. The Hadley house was vacant at the time, but Mrs. Cooper was at home. Her son, George, reached the house in a row-boat as soon as the force of the water permitted, and the two were rescued some time later by Howard Garvin and William Bennett who got to the house with a team and wagon.

A dog owned by Mr. Bennett spent Thursday night on the poultry roost at the rear of the shed where he had been tied. The animal had slipped out of its collar and clambered onto the roost.

Members of the Ladies Aid of Glen Williams United Church had their handiwork spoiled when the flood broke. The ladies had just finished scrubbing the floor in the Sunday School Room and were enjoying a cup of tea when warned by George Cooper to leave the building.

Mrs. Jack Timlock and Mrs. Dorothy White of Toronto, had a grandstand view of the flood from Mrs. Timlock's second-storey apartment in a brick house bordering the river. They were at the front window watching men working on the dam when they saw the ice cakes approaching, and soon the house was shaking as the ice pounded against the sides of the building.

The Provincial Paper Lower Mill was also a casualty, as the swollen river reared from the Glen and burst over the paper mill dam. It was first noticed by an employee, Miss Hazel Smith; who gave the alarm and the mill was cleared out in record time. Water two or three feet deep covered the mill floor and a number of engines were damaged and had to be sent to Guelph for drying and repairing. Paper stock was piled on skids and only slight damage occurred to this. The mill was closed down over the week-end until machine repairs were made.

A motions was also passed putting Daylight Saving Time into effect in Georgetown between April 29th and September 29th, the same as Toronto. Referring to the Municipal Act it was found that tax reduction by-laws for farm lands inside the corporation must be passed two months prior to striking the tax rate, and therefore could not now be done at this time.

Council adjourned at 12:30 and accepted an invitation from Councillor Gibbons to come to his home for coffee.

### SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Capt. and Mrs. J. R. Turner and son Bobby of Toronto were visitors last week with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Blehn. Capt. Turner, who has just returned from overseas, was a paymaster at the repairation depot in England where Lt.-Col. John R. Barber of Georgetown is second-in-command.

Capt. and Mrs. Harold Marshall and Paul of Ottawa spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Marshall. Sunday visitors at the same home included Mr. and Mrs. W. Graham and Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Graham of Esqueuing and Mrs. W. R. Macdonald, Margaret and Elaine of Hamilton.

Meeting three nights during one week was no small chore, not even for your elected municipal body, who met at their regular council meeting on Monday, and at special meetings on Thursday and Friday nights to strike the tax rate and hear Mr. Coombe, of the Dept. of Municipal Affairs, on the proposed change in assessment.

The discussion on the 1946 budget took up the greater part of the evening on Thursday, and council was finally successful in striking a 40 mill rate. This is an advance of 5 mills over 1945, and is due in part to an increased estimate from both the public and high school of approximately 3 mills, and to increased public services, such as hiring a competent recreational director for the town, for which one mill was allotted.

The Board of Parks Management have requested their mill again this year, and propose repairing or changing the seating accommodation at the Arena. The estimate for care of buildings was increased this year, as the Chairman of Property said it was quite possible a new boiler would have to be installed in the Municipal Office, the town hall needs shingling repairs and also some work is required at the park. The Public Library estimate was also up \$50.00 due to needed roof repairs.

The estimate for street and road repairs and new work took up considerable time and much discussion. The road chairman tabled a rather unwieldy road expenditure, and in view of the increased mill rate this year, the road estimates had to be sliced almost in two. While the Council had previously passed a motion to include in the budget sufficient funds for the opening of Ewing Street for motor traffic if possible, the estimate as given by the county engineer was prohibitive — being \$3450. The Council did feel that they should do something to improve the roadway for pedestrian travel, and voted \$500 for this purpose. \$578 was spent on road work last year. Of this amount almost \$1800 went to the laying of new sidewalks. This year's estimate is \$6500. Council felt that they could increase the tax rate no further and that if new sub-division roadways could not be taken care of by the budget, detourments would have to be issued. This is however, deemed unlikely.

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