

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

— serving the communities of —
 GEORGETOWN, OLSEN WILLIAMS, NOREVAL, LIMEHOUSE, ROXBURY
 STEWARTTOWN, ASHROVE, BALLENGRAPH, TERRA COTTA

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The Editor's Column

ONE PROBLEM SOLVED

We think the great majority of ratepayers will be heartily in favour of the decisive action taken by Council last week in at last taking hold of the housing problem and adopting a policy to solve it. The problem has been on our doorstep for several years now and has lately grown to alarming proportions as more and more veterans arrive to find no place to live. It has also been hampering industrial growth of our several local industries, representatives of three of these claiming at the Council meeting that they could employ several more men but lack of housing precluded this.

We sincerely hope that the Property Committee will be able to find land on which to build Veterans' Homes in as short a time as possible and implement Mr. Spry's promise that Georgetown can have fifty homes ready for occupancy before the end of the year. Lots for at least half of these will have to be purchased, and if further investigation of the reservoir property owned by the town shows it impossible to build there, all the land will have to be bought, but this is not an insurmountable obstacle in a town where there are large tracts of vacant land within municipal boundaries.

The town owes a debt of gratitude to the delegates, so ably organized by Gordon Martin, for their straightforward presentation of the facts and the overwhelming evidence which influenced Council to make its decision. The money — and it will cost money — spent by the town to provide improved land for Veterans' Homes will be one of the most worthwhile expenses shouldered by taxpayers in this next year and is one which no one will quarrel with.

THIS PROBLEM REMAINS

With adequate housing in the offing, Council still has a ticklish problem on its hands — sewerage. It was a great surprise when tenders were opened to find that only three of thirteen contracting firms which had indicated an interest had actually submitted tenders and that of these, only one had tendered for the complete job. This at a figure higher by \$270,000 than the original estimate of the consulting engineer, Mr. Hagey.

With further tenders asked for a disposal plant, it is unlikely that the lowest estimate could be under \$275,000 and all indications seem to point to a figure in the neighbourhood of \$300,000. The question then resolves itself into (a) whether Georgetown can at present afford such an expenditure and (b) whether the voters would be in favour of a system at this cost. Tying in with this is the fact that the Ontario Department of Health has issued a mandatory order, for the town to instal a sewage system for reasons of health and sanitation.

The only logical procedure we can see to follow is this. When a final tender is received, the Finance Committee should make a statistical analysis of what the cost will be to ratepayers over the expected period of payment. This information, together with Council's opinion as to the best and fairest way of paying for it, should be fully presented to the ratepayers and another vote taken. If the question is economically feasible, we are confident that the majority of ratepayers will vote "yes" as they did so overwhelmingly last fall.

CANCER CAMPAIGN MERITS SUPPORT

Results in town from the current Ontario Cancer Foundation appeal for two million dollars have not been encouraging. The campaign here is on a purely voluntary basis with no solicitation other than newspaper advertising and donations to date have been practically nil. We hope citizens will think it over this week and decide to support something which is aimed at checking one of the worst diseases in Canada.

We have it on good authority that 14,000 men and women will die of cancer this year in Canada, unless something is done. You might well be one of those fourteen thousand, for this community is not immune and we all have friends whose life span has been shortened by the disease.

The Foundation's three-year-plan consists of fully-equipped cancer clinics and prevention clinics at strategic points throughout the province; of partial financial aid to those who need it; of research projects that may lead to a cure for cancer; of education designed to teach people to recognize the signs of cancer and not to wait too long for treatment.

We can all help by contributing to this worthy cause through the bank.

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR?

(We have asked Mr. E. V. MacCormack, president of the Recreational Council to write the following, so that there will be volunteers answer his appeal.)

Now I know why our genial editor can never put on any weight! I have chewed innumerable pencils, filled the waste-paper basket and walked miles around the room, getting this editorial under way. Believe me, friends, Walter has my sympathy.

It all started last Wednesday, at a meeting of the Recreational Council. After listening to the ambitious programme outlined by our new Recreational Director, some one suggested that I should write an editorial which would give you some idea how we can all make this programme work.

Firstly, I would like to correct an erroneous impression which seems to have developed since the idea of appointing a director was decided upon. A great many people representing one organization or another, have approached me with the suggestion that now, with the appointment of a Recreational Director, they can discontinue or turn over their particular project to the Recreational Council. This idea is absolutely wrong. It is the desire of the Council and the Director to have these groups continue as heretofore and, where possible, to increase their programme or activities with suggestions and aid from the Director when needed. In this way, these organizations should grow and prosper, and Georgetown as a whole, will benefit materially.

Bearing the idea of growth in mind, I will come to the second and main reason for this editorial. We have appointed a Recreational Director. He has a large job ahead of him. Those of us who looked after the hockey teams last winter, have a fair idea that there is work a-plenty. We know and so do our wives. But all the Council realizes that a Director, no matter how good, can only direct, organize and supervise individual and group activities. It takes leaders and the whole-hearted enthusiasm of everyone to run a successful programme.

Yes, we have a Recreational Director, but that doesn't mean that we can sit back and become a spectator. Every man and woman in Georgetown and vicinity is needed to help. During the war years there wasn't a person in town who didn't lend a hand in some capacity. We did our part in Victory Loans — we did our part for the Red Cross — we sent hundreds of parcels overseas — we made our Victory Gardens — we collected salvage — we did everything humanly possible to win the war and bring comfort to our boys. We were a part of the Great Army which made Victory possible. Without this help our boys would have failed.

Can we do less now, in these vital years? We must prove that our ideals and mode of life can win the Peace. Real peace can only be achieved through active healthy and happy communities from one end of the Country to the other.

Will you volunteer for one hour each week, to help Georgetown to become a leader in recreational activities. This is all our Recreational Director asks of you to make our programme a success. Remember, just one hour each week.

Volunteer now!

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