

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

serving the communities of

GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL, LIMEHOUSE,
HORNBY, STEWARTTOWN, ASHGROVE, BALLINAFAD.

TERRA COTTA

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SOUR GRAPES

Fun is fun, but we think the Milton Champion carried things too far last week in a vicious attack on Georgetown's hockey team, club officials and fans signed by Ravin' Ross Pearen's purple pen. We are surprised that editor Dilla allows that sort of thing to appear in the county town paper which should set the example for others, although after some of the things we read in the Acton Free Press, we wonder if he too isn't carried away by a healthy hatred of all things Georgetown when it comes to sport. Not that we are the exception, for the Free Press is currently embroiled in a heated exchange of words with the Fergus News Record, which keeps a much better balance in its news pages, remembering that readers are interested in other news as well as hockey.

In case you haven't read the Champion, we assure you we aren't going to repeat the tripe which appeared in a two-column "sour grapes" column after Milton was ousted from the play-offs. Charges of Georgetown players gambling on the games and that the O.H.A. meeting was "stacked" against Milton, are serious things to put in print, but even they can be put down to the heat of the moment. But when a news writer deliberately tries to provoke municipal hatred between one town and another, it gets our dander up. That sort of thing goes against the grain of decent citizens in any town and we trust that Milton hockey fans will not take his advice and degrade themselves or the game by turning future Milton-Georgetown affairs into grudge matches. We are hoping to see some saner sports writing in next week's Champion when Ravin' Ross recovers from his hangover.

A TERRIBLE TOLL

We have every sympathy with Brampton merchants who were such heavy losers last Tuesday in a flood which took a heavy toll in property damage on Main Street, and we would judge that they will take a healthy interest in discussions on flood control to avoid recurrence of the tragedy. We were over to the neighbouring town on Friday afternoon and there were still many visible signs of the damage. Merchandise loss will run into tens of thousands of dollars damage, and there is no insurance to carry the load.

Reeve Maclaren of Georgetown has been one of the strong supporters of solving the problem of floods and soil erosion and we may yet see him bring the issue to a head in Halton, where though our floods are not so serious, they cause hidden damage in soil loss which in years to come will be much more serious even than the individual losses of Brampton merchants. Flood control and soil erosion are tied very closely together and a discussion of one must needs involve the other. We know the individuals are willing to take the proper steps, but they require direction from a higher source, and a series of meetings between municipal representatives from a wide area, followed by the creation of a central committee which can draw up a master plan is the only practical approach to the problem.

ON CHURCH ATTENDANCE

At a time when the communistic doctrine is battering at the doors of democracy, we should examine our individual contributions to the preservice of our democracy, the greatest of which is the observance of practical religion. And if our belief in religion is gauged by church attendance, we are falling down badly in this regard. Not that regular church attendance is the end-all of religious observance but it is a start and a necessity. Many will argue that they are better Christians than the Sunday bible-toters. This can, and unfortunately often is, the case, but it is still no argument for staying away from church, for without churches we could not have our religion, and there is no man who can say that going to church ever did him any harm.

If professors of the Protestant faith could adopt at least this ideal of our Roman Catholic brothers, Georgetown churches would be filled to overflowing every Sunday, and we would be bound to have a better group of citizens who would put more into the daily task. Easter time would be a particularly auspicious time to turn over a new leaf and resolve to be a regular church attender, commemorating as it does the essence of the Christian religion.

GEORGETOWN'S TAX RATE

It was no particular shock to taxpayers to read last week in the Herald that the tax rate had jumped by 50 per cent and would be 60 mills this year. Mayor Gibbons had given ample warning in his inaugural address to Council and in fact the whole tone of the earlier nomination meeting was on this theme. Corporations, like individuals, get what they pay for and have

to pay for what they get. While the burden of taxes will be much heavier for the next few years, we have every confidence that the Ontario Municipal Board, created to see that no municipality oversteps its capacity by obligating itself to debentures which it is unable to repay, would not allow Georgetown to get itself into difficulty. Sewerage and wartime housing are necessities and the latter will actually be of cash benefit to the town in years to come. Artificial ice, while not necessary, will pay for itself over the term of the debentures and provide us with an asset which is the envy of towns for miles around. We do not advocate reckless expenditures from the public purse but we can make this comparison: An individual can do one of three things — squander his money by consistently over-spending; live well, withip his means; allowing himself such luxuries as he can reasonably expect to pay for; or be miserly and save excessive money at the expense of a decent living standard. Municipalities can do likewise. The Municipal Board guards us against over-enthusiasm on the part of Council to financially embarrass the ratepayers. The choice, then is between the second and third.

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