

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

serving the communities of
 GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL, LIMEHOUSE,
 HORNBY, STEWARTTOWN, ASHGROVE, BALLINAFAD,
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The Editor's Corner

HYDRO SITUATION SERIOUS

So far Georgetown has avoided hydro black-outs though just how long the town will be without them is not known. This week local industries began a stagger system with every major industry closing down for a day and it is hoped that this may solve the problem here without the inconvenience of turning off switches and disrupting production still more in industry and business. Household are reminded that it is extremely important to save in all ways possible on the use of hydro in the home, both day and night. The individual saving may look small but the combination of thousands throughout the province saving their mites of electricity results in substantial power savings which can be made available for more important uses.

As a layman we were mystified about how power can be "saved" and a talk with a member of the local Hydro commission has helped to put us on the right track. Power itself cannot be stored . . . it is a commodity which must be used on the instant or not at all. But water, from which power is produced, can be saved and it is water which is at the root of the whole situation. Abnormally low rainfall in the Ottawa region where our power is produced is the main cause of the power shortage and the situation is such that unless this water is used to its best advantage there will not be enough water to go around. The less power we in Georgetown use, the less water is needed to go over the dam at the power producing plant and our savings, no matter at what hour of the day or night thus gain their importance.

How long the serious situation will last is anybody's guess. The Ontario Hydro chairman gives us little hope for relief before next March. Heavy rainfalls would most certainly help to alleviate the situation and it is our earnest hope that this will happen before industry in Georgetown and elsewhere suffers any further disruption. Meanwhile, we are on a voluntary rationing basis which must work or else the matter will not be left to our choice but be arbitrarily decided for us.

SOME MISGIVINGS ON WATER IMPROVEMENTS

While Council as a whole favours the complete program recommended by consulting engineers which will cost in the neighbourhood of \$80,000 for improvements to Georgetown's water service, two members, Mayor Gibbons and Councillor Herbert have some misgivings about adding still more to the town's capital debt at this time. The mayor points out that the town has about reached the limit of its borrowing power and that if the improvements were not revenue-producing the Municipal Board would not sanction further borrowing. The problem is a difficult one to decide and we are inclined to agree with these two gentlemen that the question should be put to the people for their sanction before the final step is taken. Not that this would be the first time the people have not been consulted on capital expenditures, for both sewerage and arena improvements have been undertaken without a vote by taxpayers on the expenditures involved.

The first concern in improving the water system should be the rehabilitation of pipes to eliminate waste through leakage. This, coupled with a revised rate structure would get at the root of any threatened shortage. Chlorination, while important, has been delayed for several years and there is no pressing necessity for it to be adopted on the spot. Similarly, exploring new sources of supply can be done at any time and may not be necessary at all if present wastage is corrected by the

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two methods outlined above.

Certainly, if water improvements are vitally necessary, there are enough voters who can be convinced of this to make sure the project carries. We cannot expect nine elected representatives to make all decisions affecting large expenditures from public funds and voting is the democratic way of ascertaining public opinion.

Weston Council Accepts Gord Alcott Resignation

The resignation of Gordon Alcott, as Recreational Director was presented to Weston Council at their last meeting and regrettably accepted by the members. Each councillor expressed his great appreciation for the work Mr. Alcott had done during the past two years and highly commended him for the strides he has taken in promoting the community recreational program.

In an interview, Councillor R. C. Seagrave, council's representative on the Community Council stated:

"It was with regret that Council accepted Gordon Alcott's resignation. We knew it was inevitable that sooner or later he would obtain a more important position and notwithstanding the many inducements and offers he has had, we do appreciate the fact that he stayed with us as long as he has. To insure that our program became self-sustaining."

"It is understood", Mr. Seagrave continued, "that Gordon Alcott is remaining in Weston and while we may have lost him as a town employee he will be able to render very valuable assistance as a citizen to our Community program. I know of no individual who has done more for the youth of our town than Mr. Alcott. He has endeared himself particularly to the boys and girls during his stay

here." Mr. Alcott, who is son of Mr. and Mrs. George Alcott of Georgetown, has accepted the position of advertising manager with the Face Elle Company and will have charge of the personnel and recreational facilities at Gibson Park, which is operated by the company. He had also been offered the position of recreational director for the city of Guelph.

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