

# THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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## The Editor's Corner

### MORE ABOUT SUNDAY SPORTS

Since last week's editorial on Sunday Sports, we find the question very much to the fore in Georgetown, with a battle royal shaping up between the Board of Park Management and the local ministerial association, with the Lord's Day Alliance thrown in for good measure. The facts, as far as we can learn, are these: In mid-January, the Parks Board received a letter from the Ministerial Association (which comprises the four local Protestant ministers), saying they had learned the arena was open and in use on Sundays, that this was regretted and a request made that it be kept closed on Sundays. The letter was answered by W. G. Bell, board chairman, who said that the arena was rented to outside organizations who had no access to other rinks, that all these clubs were from out of town and no trouble had been encountered in town by their coming here, and that the board felt, and had the approval of many leading citizens, that boys were much better off in the rink under direct supervision than running the streets on Sundays. A second letter was sent by the ministers in answer to this, again making the request for a closed rink on Sundays, with the hint that if this were not done, the matter would have to be made public.

The Parks Board also received a letter from the Lord's Day Alliance about this time, pointing out that a complaint had been received and referring to a decision of the Ontario courts in which the Iceland Rink in Toronto had been proved guilty of contravening the Lord's Day Act by operating for gain on Sundays. According to the Act, it is unlawful for any person on the Lord's Day to carry on any business of his ordinary calling, or for gain to do, or employ any other person to do on that day, any work, business or labour. It is hoped the matter will receive prompt and serious attention, continued the letter, and that anything which involves violation shall be avoided.

"We do not suggest that skating or even practicing hockey on Sunday is a violation of the Act," the letter concluded. "One rink in Toronto is being used on Sundays for these purposes, but in each instance the ice is granted free of charge."

It is the fact that Georgetown Arena is being operated on Sundays, with a regular rental fee of \$20 an hour charged for ice time. Teams from such places as Woodbridge, Toronto, Weston and Oakville have been using it for hockey practices and a considerable revenue, amounting some Sundays to well over \$200, is being derived to help pay off bonded indebtedness for the artificial ice plant. This revenue has an important bearing on the financial success of the arena operation, particularly until the \$30,000 debenture is paid off, and is in itself reason enough for most citizens to turn a blind eye on what might be interpreted as a violation of an outmoded law, supported by a minority group in Ontario. The moral implications have been dealt with on two or three previous occasions in this column and do not need to be re-hashed, save to say that we firmly believe that clean sport on Sunday violates no moral code in our books, and can do tremendous good by providing healthy recreation in place of street congregations.

The Parks Board are particularly annoyed that the Ministerial Association has chosen to go over the heads of the Board without at least talking the subject over. This could be rectified still by a request from them for a meeting with the board, when both sides could air their views, and quite possibly arrive at a decision mutually agreeable. The intervention of the Lord's Day Alliance can only be a hindrance to solving the problem, and the less heard from that august body, the happier everyone will be. At present the Parks Board has turned the matter over to the town solicitor for his advice, and on receipt of this, the board will meet to decide their future course of action.

Essentially the problem has four solutions. The Arena can close on Sundays; it can be "donated" to outside organizations at no charge; it can, as at present, be rented to these organizations; or it can be used by local groups at no charge.

The first solution is "out". Plain and simply, the arena and town needs this revenue in order to retire bonded debt. The second, and perhaps more practical, is for the "donation" of the rink to outsiders, with background arrangements made to get around the technicalities of the law. This, in our estimation, is the easiest solution. The third is also "out" inasmuch as the Parks Board do not wish to be in the position of being responsible for court action against the town. The fourth, which would be the most honest solution and in perfect accord with the statements expressed in the letter from the Alliance, would have the most repercussions. Imagine, for instance, what might happen,

if the arena were open for hockey games for the young people on Sunday mornings during Sunday School hours.

Whatever the measures adopted by the Parks Board, we feel that a large share of public opinion favours Sunday sport and that Sunday as a day of rest should not be confused with Sunday as a day of monotony. The church has many more important functions to perform than to argue about technical interpretations of what to do and what not to do on Sundays, for these technicalities are always subject to changing times and changing thought.

### POT POURRI

The first real cold snap of the season last week-end saw many motorists on foot when their cars were victims of the zero weather and refused to start on Sunday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Haywood who have been living at the home of Mrs. S. K. Ruddell on Charles Street, have returned to Kitchener. Mr. Haywood came to town last year and was working at the Alliance Paper Mill. Many who attended the Skating Follies think Riley Brethour is missing a good bet in not being a disc jockey, after his fine job of emceeing the show. Speaking of disc jockeys, the latest refinement is the recording of recordings. A leading New Yorker is now featured in a recorded show from a Toronto radio station each night. It reminds us of a fastidious bachelor who had such expensive slip covers on the chesterfield in his apartment that he had slip covers over the slip covers. You never know where that sort of thing may end. "Bud" Kentner has done away with the show windows in his store in favour of more shelf space. Along the Boards reached us a little too late for publication last week and had to be dropped. From the phone calls received, it proves that Steamboat is doing a first class job of sports reporting. Don't be surprised if the 1949 tax rate is 70 mills. Increased school expenses, sewerage extensions and increasing costs of all municipal services are bound to force the rate up. According to the Chesley Enterprise, a new regulation makes it obligatory to rent War-time Houses to veterans only. In Chesley there are not enough veterans to tenant 25 houses being opened and it is expected that veteran tenants will be "imported".

Another item of interest from the Bruce County town is that after failing to secure a candidate for a vacant council seat after two nomination meetings, two men qualified at the third meeting and now an election will be held. After being reeve of Tara for a number of years, Roy VanDusen has retired from municipal affairs. Mr. VanDusen is a brother-in-law of Jack and Gladys McGibbon of town. A member of the Board of Directors of the newly-formed Kinsmen's Club in Brampton is Doug Bracken of the Bank of Montreal staff, who was a Georgetown resident for a number of years while employed with the bank here.

### CHURCHILL ACKNOWLEDGES GREETING FROM TOWN

Mrs. Jack Polly prizes a letter from Winston Churchill which she received last week. The letter was sent in acknowledgement of a Christmas card sent to Mr. Churchill by Mrs. Polly, who is an English war bride. The note was in Churchill's own handwriting, on House of Commons stationery.

### DR. J. H. BATEMAN WILL PRACTICE IN BELLEVILLE

The Tweed News announced last week that J. H. Bateman, MD, CM, FRSC (C), would open an office for the practice of surgery in Belleville. Dr. Bateman practiced in Georgetown a few years ago, prior to taking post-graduate work in Montreal hospital.

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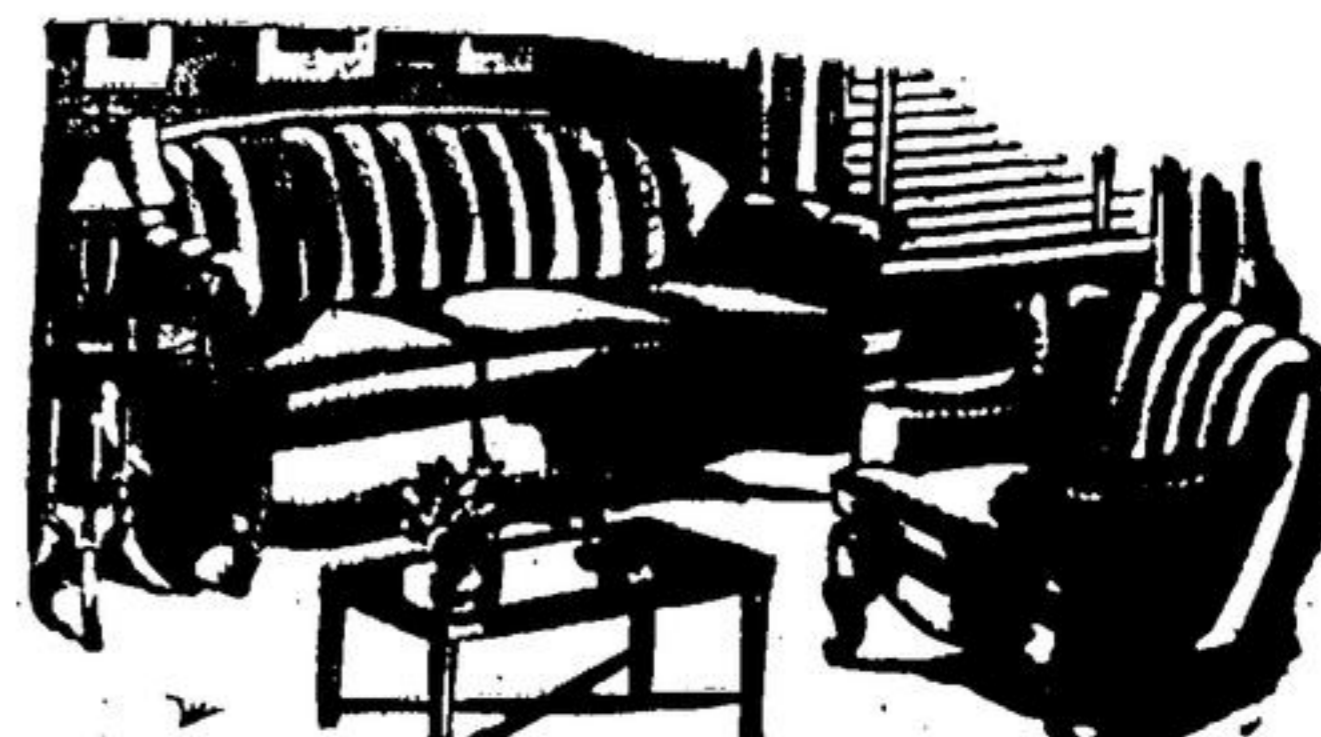
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