

The Georgetown Herald, Wednesday, May 25th, 1949

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

serving the communities of

GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL, LIMKHOUSE,
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The Editor's Corner

JOINING THE DISTRICT

Now that the town council, on recommendation of the Board of Education, has voted to join North Halton High School District, there remains only the formality of having a by-law passed by county council for inclusion of Georgetown in the district. Georgetown will be a member of the district by January, 1950. Make-up of the new board as we understand it, will be (figures in brackets represent the proportions of the present nine-man board): Georgetown 3 (0); Milton 1 (2); Esquesing 2 (2); Acton 1 (1); Nassagaweya 1 (1); Halton County 3 (3). All members of the district are entitled to one representative on the board, with the county empowered to make three additional appointments. The present three appointments come from Esquesing, Milton and Acton. In addition to these, the town which has the largest public school enrollment has an extra member. Georgetown, when she joins will have this member in place of Milton as at present. Each municipality having a population of over 3000 also is entitled to an extra member on the board which accounts for the extra members in Georgetown and Esquesing.

It was only after the fullest consideration that the Board of Education decided on this policy which, in effect, votes the board out of existence at the end of its first term of office. The main reason which prompted the decision was that the board believed that it was impossible to give high school students in Georgetown an adequate education at a reasonable cost in future years without being able to draw on any of the surrounding municipality of Esquesing for student and financial support. Lowered attendance at the local high school would mean a decrease of several thousand dollars in government grants, while at the same time it had been intimated that the Dep't. of Education would not favour continuing a commercial course with such a limited number of students, nor would it be interested in a financial grant for the building of a gymnasium or auditorium. Also influencing the decision was the belief by the board that the present North Halton District had virtually abandoned plans for building a central school at Speyside and a statement by a department official that this department now favoured locating central schools in urban municipalities if at all possible.

NO OFFENCE MEANT

It is not our intention to engage in a personal feud with the Acton-Milton editor. It seems that both ourselves and Mr. Dills are at present serving in twin capacities, he as a member of the North Halton High School District board and ourselves as chairman of Georgetown Board of Education. In a recent editorial we referred, humorously as we thought, to the two Acton members of the board as "old dogs" using the adage, "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" for their stubborn insistence that a central school be built at Speyside. Mr. Dills, in his editorial reply last week in the two papers, took exception to the term as a slighting remark and attributed it to "Mr. Biehn's anger and a slip of the pen." If we have offended the Acton men who are both men of integrity and well-respected in their community, we are genuinely sorry.

At the same time, it is our right to disagree with what we feel is a foolish and unwise location for a school which, now that Georgetown is joining the district, will someday serve the children of this town. The location of a central school, if it is built, will be a matter for decision for the district board, but in a matter of such vital importance for all municipalities concerned it should be the subject of many editorials as it has, and will be, in this paper. We have consistently opposed the erection of a school at Speyside and have several times expressed our views about why it should not be there. Mr. Dills has been a champion of Speyside but to our knowledge has never in his newspaper put forth any reason why it should be built in that locality rather than another. In what he terms "enlightenment and background" for the motion by the Acton board members at a recent meeting to proceed immediately with erecting a school at Speyside, he quotes the following letter in which, after a close examination, we find not the faintest reference to any specific school location. As it, in turn, provides background for our readers, we too reprint it:

Toronto 2,
April 7, 1948

Re: Temporary Additions to Milton and Acton High Schools

Dear Sir:

In reply to a letter from the North Halton High School District Board over the signature of your Chairman, Mr. C. A. Martin, it is noted that the efforts of the Board with respect to temporary accommodation

for Shop Work and Home Economics without engaging in a building program have not proved to be successful.

It is therefore, agreed that your Board may retain architectural service to prepare sketch plans for an addition to the Milton School comprising one General Shop — 1,000 square feet and one Home Economics Room — 1,000 square feet; and an addition to the Acton School to provide one Commercial Room of 800 square feet or preferably some rearrangement within the existing building that would provide satisfactory accommodation for a class.

When the sketch plans are completed they should be forwarded to this Department accompanied by your architect's estimate of the cost including fees and equipment.

Since it is not likely that your Board will be able to extend the benefits of a full High School education to the pupils in your district, then your Board should be informed that the approval as given should be recognized as a temporary expedient and in keeping with the unanimous opinion as previously expressed by the representatives of the High School Boards and the Councils concerned.

Your architect should be informed respecting the temporary use of the proposed additions and advised to exercise every economy with respect to cost of construction. It is hoped that whatever kind and class of additions are made will prove to be satisfactory to the Elementary School Inspector if and when the present schools are taken over for elementary school purposes.

It is strongly recommended that your Board should make every effort to select a permanent site and proceed with the erection of a satisfactory central High School which will serve adequately the educational needs of the pupils in your district.

Your Board's selection of Mr. E. B. Riddell of Hamilton as architect is satisfactory.

The foregoing approvals are contingent upon your Board securing satisfactory assurances from the Ontario Municipal Board and the Councils concerned that the necessary debentures can be issued.

Yours very truly,
Deputy Minister of Education

Mr. A. D. Sprout,
Sec'y Treasurer
Milton, Ontario

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