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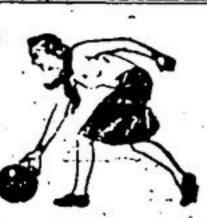
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Board Chairman Explains Why New School is Needed

Letter Outlines Growth in Enrolment

Georgetown, Ont.

Dear Mr. Editor: The Georgetown Public School Board has recently presented to the Municipal, Council the results of house-to-house survey of the town with respect to the number of children of Public School age which must be accommodated within the next few years, and at the same time has requested Council to conalder immediately some method of providing the necessary facilities. in the Board's view these "necessary facilities" take the form of a mix classroom school, additional the Present school but on some other site, to be ready for use by obtember, 1952.

Becoming alarmed at the growng overcrowding of our present Education made in house-to-house survey of the town, listing all children of pre-school age who classroom recommended by the On- growth of our town. tario Department of Education, we At this stage costs can be esti- it will take a definite stand on the must have a total of 14 rooms in mated only approximately, and we matter without delay. 1952 and 17 rooms in 1954. We have draw on the experience of other at present 11 classrooms and we Boards for our figures. At the are therefore faced with the probi present time a new school of the paper. lem of finding three more class, size we propose to build, costs rooms by 1952 and six more in about \$20,000 per classroom, in-

ing of a new school have been suggested. One of these is that the present school couldo be added to. As a matter of fact this was considered by last year's Board but was rejected for the following rea-

could be added to the building ted to cost about \$60,000, bringing These would be filled as soon as the total to \$180,000. There recomplete, necessitating further building elsewhere without delay. already too small for the number ly advised council that an estimaof pupils now attending. A addi- ted \$190,000 will be required tion would reduce the playground finance the new school. area and at the same time increaes the number of pupils using it, and Provincial grants inaugurated this this the Department of Education year, a municipality of the size of will not tolerate except as a tem- Georgetown receives from porary measure.

to add \$50,000 worth of new build- of a new school. This is somewhat ing to a structure already forty lower than that formerly obtain-'years old.

estimates indicate that it would be ture the loss would be more than necessary to spend some thousands made up. of dollars on either one of these

Added to the above problems of neglecting to plan now. when rental is considered, is the It may be of some interest to new school, to supplement what we 1955 there will be additional gr already have, is the only logical looking for accommodation,

that a new six-classroom school a necessity in Georgetown if our educational system is to be maintained at all, the Board has a definite reason for requesting immedlate action by Council on the mat- tario Department of Education Will 4er. Although September, 1982, is a little over two years away. the experience of other boards is without exercising its right. It does that two years is required from the not dictate to school boards, telling time that the initial decision is them what they must and must not made to the time that the building do, but merely withholds its grant is ready for use. Actual building to a municipality if the educational does not require two years, but it facilities provided by the municimust be remembered that each step pality do not meet a prescribed of the planning must be approved standard. The loss of the grant by the Department of Educa- would be a blow to this municipaltion before the next step ity which would be ruindus. It he ean be taken. If this procedure is hooves every citizen to give some not followed and local authorities thought to the subject, does it not make a decision, which is not approved by the Department It is quite it their duty to study the matter possible that at least a portion of thoroughly before making a decithe grant, normally derived from sion. Doubtless many questions will the' Department will be withheld arise which it is impossible to co-

making a decision. One of the most important points could be expected to enter Public in the minds of the taxpayers is School during the next five years that of cost. The Public School The details of this survey were Board fully realizes that our town presented to Council and are avail- has considerable debt, and that its able to any interested citizens, but tax rate is now rather high. The only the major points brought out matter of education of our child- and working with the Public by it will be cited here. One of ren, however, is one which no right these is that in September, 1952, thinking person would wish to the town, it should be possible to we will be obliged to find accom- neglect, and he will agree that ed- reach an equable solution. Time modation for 495 pupils, and in ucation should be given priority should not be wasted, however. The September, 1954 this number will over almost all other civic respon- Public School Board has stated its have increased to 576. This means sibilities. No other service more views to the Council, and now to that, in order not to exceed the strongly affects; our present citimaximum number of pupils per zens, our future citizens and the the public itself, as well as the

cluding furnishings, heating, light-Some alternatives to the build- ing and plumbing. For the proposed six classrooms the cost would therefore be about \$120,000. There are, however, cadditional facilities, which must be provided in a new school. These are, a Teacher's Room, a Health Room, A Principal's Office, and an Assembly (a) A maximum of two rooms Room. These together are estimamains only the site, which cost any amount up to \$10,000. The (b) The present playground is Public School Board has according-

Under the system, of providing Province 36 per cent of capital ex-(c) It was considered poor policy penditures, such as the purchase able under the previous system, Another proposal was to rent which would have given us about accommodation in 45 per cent of the cost, but the deexisting buildings in town. Unfor- crease is offset by a flat grant of tunately there is only one room \$16 per pupil of average attendavailable which would be suitable ance. By this means our grant infor use as a classroom. The old creases as our school population Town Hall and the Public Library increases, and it is expected that have been suggested, but reliable over the 20 year life of the deben-

The municipal Council at this buildings, before it would be safe time appears to favour putting the enough, or warm enough, or bright question of a new school to a vote enough, to permit of its use as a of the ratepayers. We cannot quarclassroom. None of these expen- rel with this view, since it is the ditures would be subject to the democratic way. If the question provincial grant, nor would the were voted down, it would be only erntal paid each year, with the re- for the reason that the majority of sult that the municipality would ratepayers do not fully understand pay the total cost of such a project. the situation or the consequences

undeniable fact that, whether we mention some of these consequenrent or not, we will in two or ces, bearing in mind the fact that three years be forced to build ad- they are offered not as threats. ditional rooms, for the simple rea- but as distinct possibilities, should son that there is' not sufficient the erection of a new school be available space in town. If it were delayed. For instance, suppose that decided that money would be spent in September, 1952, no school is on the old Town Hall and the Lib- available. There will be 63 childrary to put them in proper condi- ren for whom there is no accomtion for classroom use, we could modation, and it is likely, that the then take care of all the pupils en- Public School Board of that year rolling in 1952, but in 1953 (only will decide, however reluctantly, one year later) we would be un- that Kindergarten Primary children able to accommodate the pupils and be discontinued. In that year 105 in the following. year we would Kindergarten Primary children once again be looking for three are expected to ask for admittance rooms. For this reason alone the and this will be refused to them, Public School Board considers that leaving sufficient rooms for all renting is definitely not the solu- Grade pupils. In the next year, tion, but there are other reasons however, this group of 105 children as well. One is the fact that the will be of age to enter Grade 1, total cost of renting would be and the Public School population borne by the inxpayer, as men- will be 494, requiring three more tioned above. It is conceivable, is rooms than can be provided. It is it not, that this cost would very inconceivable that any . School soon equal the cost of a debenture Board or any municipality would for a new school? Other reasons are allow a situation to develop where obvious, such as the difficulty of it would be necessary to turn away providing proper caretaking, and 100 children of school age, and of, administering and supervising deny to them their fundamental scattered classrooms, and the inal rights, but that certainly, could bility of pupils in these rooms to happen here. Now, if through dire take part in many of the recrea- necessity, it were possible to find tional facilities normally available. three classrooms this group of For all of these reasons the Pub- children could be accommodated lim School Board believes that a in 1963, but in 1964 and in solution to the problem. Assuming none available. It is seen that even

evil day cannot be put off. only postponed.

It should be pointed out that it is extremely unlikely that the Onpermit the situation to develop to the proportions depicted above.

.. We urge all ratepayers to make Under these circumstances it is ver in letters such as these. If any Public School, last year's Board of not difficult to realize that we do person has an unanswered question not have any time to waste in he is urged to ask it either through the press or of any member of the Public School Board. We will gladly discuss the subject, and will welcome any show of interest by the public.

> all well informed on-the-subject; School Board in the interests of the public. It is to be hoped that Council who both serve and lead

Thank you, Mr. Editor, for allowing us this space in your valuable

Yours very truly, W. E. Wilson, Chairman, Georgetown Public School Board

TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF

JOHN McBEAN, Merchant, Deceased All persons having claims against the estate of John McBean, late of the Town of Georgetown, Merchant, who died on or about the 31st day of December, A.D., 1949, are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of April, A.D., 1950, after which date the estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose

claim they shall then have notice.

DATED at Georgetown, this 21st day of March. A.D. 1950. Le Roy Dale, K.C., and James Melville McBean, executors of the estate of John McBean, by their Solicitors, Dale and Bennett, Georgetown, Ont.



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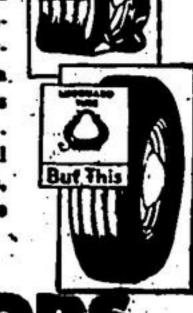
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