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THE MAIL BAG

Board Chairman Gives Questions and Answers About New Public School

June 12th, 1950

Dear Mr. Editor: I would like to beg a little more of your valuable space to summarize briefly some major points in connection with the June 19 vote on a new Public School. Following are some of the questions asked the writer, with their answers:

Is the new school a replacement or an addition to the present school? It is an addition to the present school, which will continue to be used for some years to come.

Why is this addition necessary? We expect to have at least 150 more pupils going to Public School in 1954 than we have at present, and we must find accommodation for them.

What does the \$190,000 asked for include in the purchase of a new school?

This amount is intended to purchase a site, build proper, all electrical and plumbing fixtures and architect's fees, and to equip the six classrooms with desks, blackboards, and other classroom facilities. The figure is based on the known costs of other schools of similar size, built in recent years, and while it can only be an estimate at this stage, we believe it to be a reasonably good one.

How are payments to be made on this debenture, and what share is paid by the Province?

When the debenture is issued, the total sum of \$190,000 will be borrowed at one time. This will be paid-off in twenty equal annual instalments of approximately \$13,300 each, including interest, commencing in 1952. The first payment will be approximately one half principal and one half interest, while the last instalment will be almost wholly principal. The Province pays 36 per cent of the principal each year, while the town pays the interest and 64 per cent of the principal. At the end of twenty years the Province will have contributed 36 per cent of \$190,000.

How will this debenture affect our present tax rate?

Fortunately in 1951 approximately \$13,600 in debentures for other purposes will be retired, and as far as this new debenture is concerned there will be thus no increase in taxes.

Why cannot the present High School Building be utilized for the extra classrooms required?

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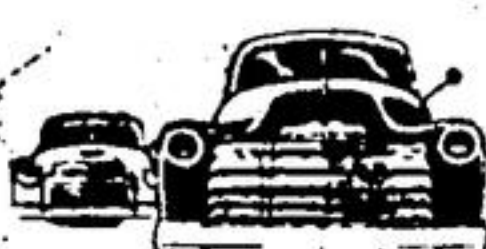
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The High School is not the property of the town; but of the North Halton High School Area Board, and as such it would have to be purchased. It will not be available for purchase until the Area Board has built a new central High School elsewhere to replace it. The writer can see no signs of this taking place in the next ten years. Even if it were available within a reasonable time, the Department of Education has intimated that it would likely be unable to approve such a purchase, and we would thus be without a grant for this purchase. The Public School Board feels very strongly that there is no solution to our problem in that direction, particularly when it is considered that the High School would not be suitable for smaller children without considerable alteration, all of which adds to the cost, and again this cost would likely be wholly borne by the town.

What has the Public School Board done in the way of plans for a new school? The Board is considerably handicapped by circumstances, and until the question of a new school is settled it is impossible to plan anything in detail. However, we have a suitable site in mind, and we know what the new school should have to meet the needs of modern education. There is about two years of hard work in the building of a school, and we feel there is no time to waste.

The Board hopes that all who have the right to vote will do so on Monday next, after having fully thought out the question from the long viewpoint. Those who have children of school age are vitally interested. Those who do not must surely have the interest of the

town's future at heart. The town cannot grow or even maintain its present status unless it provides adequate educational facilities for its younger citizens.

Yours very truly,

W. E. WILSON

Chairman, Public School Board

Says School Board Has Worked Hard in Vote

Dear Editor: The Georgetown Public School Board members have put forth a very great effort to acquaint everyone with the facts relating to the need for new public school space — such a great effort that surely everyone in Georgetown must now be well aware of the situation. I wonder, however, if everyone has appreciated what the School Board members' effort really means. Have you considered that the present School Board members are all highly respected, capable business men who were publicly appointed to administer Public School affairs and subsequently worked very hard at the job they were given, and, that after studying every factor of the question, all these men are, personally very strongly convinced of the need for the new space? To put it another way, they did not merely decide as a board to advise that new space was required, but rather, these men were so impressed with the need that in addition they are all out working for it as individuals.

Add to the Public School Board strong opinion, the weight of the Provincial Board of Education's advice and the opinions of principal and teachers and it seems to me

there can be no remaining doubt that the new school is a necessity.

The people of Georgetown appointed a very fine group of men to the Public School Board this year — let's hope the voters in the June 19th referendum follow thro'.

Yours very truly,

John W. Bell

STEWARTTOWN

FORMER RECTOR WILL PREACH AT ST. JOHN'S

Rev. F. C. Jackson of Oakville, a former rector, will be in charge of the afternoon service at St. John's on Sunday.

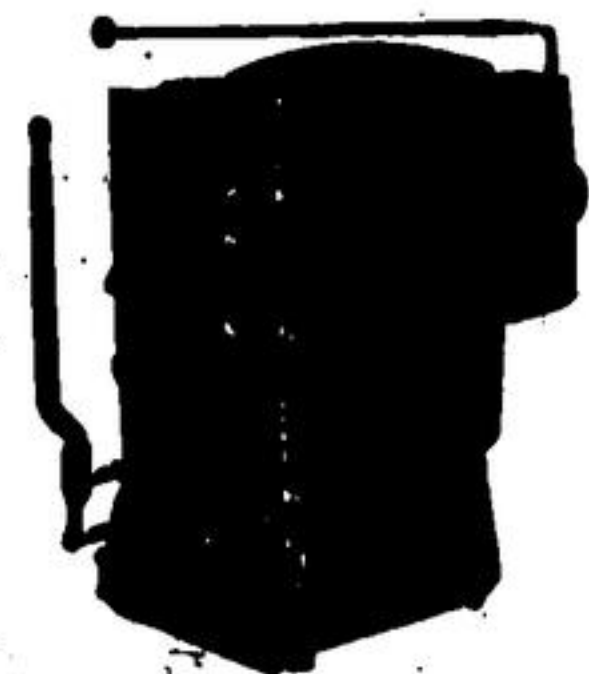
Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ward Ruddell who are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary this week.

Miss May Buckles of Toronto was a week-end visitor with Mr. and Mrs. W. Humphreys.

Esquering W.I. meeting at Miss Stone's has been postponed until June 20th.

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