

# The Editor's Corner

## HOME IMPROVERS ARE PENALIZED

There is a growing school of thought which claims that owners of land and buildings are being asked to share too heavy a load of present-day municipal taxes. The new assessment is a good one and no property owner can have any quarrel that he is being assessed unfairly as compared with his neighbours. There are depreciation allowances as well as location allowances, both between towns and between certain districts in individual towns. The assessor has a complete listing of the physical properties of each house and changes will be noted on this from year to year which increase or decrease its value. All assessments are subject to review by the county auditor which will eliminate any errors a local assessor may make.

Property owners can, however, have some doubts about whether their taxes are not being used to subsidize other members of the community who do not pay their fair share for streets and sidewalks, fire and police protection, schools and the many other civic services which we enjoy. And those people particularly who take pride in their houses and spend more than the average on keeping them in repair and adding to their value, are the ones who should be the most concerned.

Look at it this way. Two men own similar homes and each has saved up a thousand dollars to spend on something major. Mr. A puts the entire thousand dollars into the physical properties of the house — he builds a new verandah, puts in a second bathroom, or a fireplace; paints the house or shingles it. Whatever he does in this respect, means a reassessment, a higher value and more taxes to pay.

Mr. B takes his pleasure in spending his money on the things that the house contains. He buys a radio and refrigerator, has the chesterfield reupholstered, buys a new bedroom suite. But none of these things add to the value of the house itself and there is no reassessment and no tax increase.

Take Mr. C, who cares not at all for house or furnishings but puts his savings in jewellery or a new automobile. He too escapes any further municipal taxes.

Here is where the unfairness seems to be. All three men are worthy citizens who believe in saving their money and spending it on worthwhile things, but differ in their desires. The Municipal Act, which lays down the basis for municipal taxation, penalizes one man for the way in which he saves his money by levying additional taxes and takes no interest in the others.

## INCOME TAX FAIRER

To overcome this inequality in the sharing of municipal taxes between individuals, an income tax with a minimum would seem to be more fair. Income tax is the recognized means of federal government fund-raising and there is no reason that municipal government could not also use it.

A minimum tax would be the same as the poll tax which is collected in some municipalities, which acknowledges that residents who are not assessed for property taxes should bear a share in town financing.

Income tax is easy to collect from wage earners and businessmen for the machinery exists already. It would mean only a further deduction from weekly pay envelopes, this time for the municipal coffers. There would be certain difficulties in establishing a basis of collection from those who do not pay income tax, though most of these people are required to file tax returns every year.

It would most certainly mean the creation of a new branch in the Dept. of Municipal Affairs to handle the new system and to advise municipalities on what percentage of income was needed from year to year to finance municipal needs.

## POT POURRI

In the course of a chat at Lions Club where Riley Brethour was a guest we learned that he had gone into the real estate business in Toronto in company with two other men. The former local dairy operator has an office on Avenue Road. Eleanor Spitzer of Limehouse has joined the staff of Robb's Drugs. Georgetown roads are smoother since the new surface has been put on the Glen Road in front of the Fleck residence and patching done on Queen Street just off the highway. Now that Glen Williams has one of the finest new public school buildings in the province it is hoped that an official opening can be planned when everyone will have a change to look it over. The Fergus News-Record tells us a course in "public speaking" is being given there this year. Surely there is some limit to these modern innovations in education. Miss Dorothy Stone, commercial artist who makes her home on the Check Line near town has agreed to teach art in Acton High School as well as in Georgetown this year. And Marion Hepburn, who has taught music to the public school children for a couple of years has replaced W. E. Capps in this capacity at the high school. Mr. Capps suffered another heart attack early in September and will be unable to teach this year.

## GEORGETOWN MISSES TELLY PRIZE AGAIN

Third local person to be called to identify the Ontario landmark featured in a prize competition sponsored by the Toronto Telegram was Mrs. E. Wright. The prize was \$200 on the night that Mrs. Wright was called by the jackpot editor.

Mrs. Wright was unable to supply the proper answer.

Try a Small Ad in our Classified Columns. Phone No. 8.

## School Will Get Two Fire Escapes

Two fire escapes will be installed at Georgetown Public School as soon as possible. This will overcome a situation which has been worrying the school board for some time, especially since an extra classroom was created upstairs and a greater number of children housed in the second storey of the building.

The escapes will be of the stair type and one will be on the west side with doors created in two classrooms, the other in the room above the kindergarten room, also with a door created for an exit. This room a door will also be cut into the adjoining classroom to provide a fire exit for students there.

At the same time fire doors are being constructed in the east furnace room in a program designed to provide the maximum fire protection.

## TORONTO-WINDSOR EXPRESS HIGHWAY BEING SURVEYED

Ontario Highways Department survey parties now are looking over the ground for what is destined to be one of the province's main roads, the proposed four-lane link between Windsor and Toronto.

The route has yet to be decided upon. The probability is that it will swing in a wide arc between the two terminals, skirting, but not passing through the main centres along its length.

At Toronto it is likely the new road will begin to the north of the city. From there it would run west and slightly south to serve the heavily populated Guelph, Galt, Kitchener, Waterloo, Preston area. Those centres all are somewhat south of Toronto.

It is likely the road then would turn more sharply south to a point below Woodstock, and from there travel between London and St. Thomas and between Highways 2 and 3, to Windsor. By travelling between those two highways, it would relieve them of through traffic.

Taking this route along its better part, the road would run along a ridge, parallel with the rivers, thus lessening the number of bridges required.

Also being considered is a straight run into Hamilton, from the point below Woodstock, and a link with the Queen Elizabeth Way. The latter highway, however, is already overloaded. It is probable that both this and the route via Guelph and Kitchener will be built, with the latter being done first.

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF James Leslie Standish, Farmer, Deceased.

ALL persons having claims against the estate of James Leslie Standish, late of the Township of Esquesing, in the County of Halton, Farmer, who died on or about the 15th day of May, A.D. 1950, are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of October, A.D. 1950, after which date the estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have had notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not then have notice.

DATED at Georgetown, this 5th day of September, A.D. 1950.  
Mary Catherine Standish and Beatrice Standish, the Executrices of the estate of James Leslie Standish, by their Solicitors, Dale & Bennett, Georgetown, Ontario. 9-20



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## Town of Georgetown

### TAKE NOTICE THAT:

1. The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Georgetown intends to construct as a Local Improvement sewers in the Town of Georgetown as an extension of the existing system, which will be undertaken as a local improvement and intends to specially assess a part of the cost upon the land abutting directly on the work. The land particularly affected is set out in Schedule "A."

2. The estimated cost of the sewerage extension is \$35,000.00 of which \$10,906.00 is to be paid by the Corporation. The estimated cost per foot frontage is \$1.69. The special assessment is to be paid in twenty annual instalments.

3. A petition to the said Council will not avail to prevent its construction, but a petition against the work in the manner in which it has been undertaken may be made pursuant to section 10 of the Local Improvement Act, to the Ontario Municipal Board by a majority of the owners representing at least one-half of the value of the lots which are to be specially assessed hereafter.

4. A by-law for undertaking the work has been considered by the Council at a meeting thereof held on the 11th day of September, 1950. Dated at Georgetown, Ontario, this 11th day of September, 1950.

Chas. A. Willson,  
Clerk-Treasurer

9-27

From Street	To Street	Area, sq. ft.	Est. Cost per ft.	Est. Total Cost	Portion to be paid by Corporation	Portion to be paid by Owners	Life Time of Work in Yrs.
Paper Mill Road	8th Line	10448.00	\$1.68	\$17,550.00	\$7,250.00	\$10,300.00	20
Paper Mill Road	9th Line	3537.00	\$1.68	\$5,940.00	\$2,520.00	\$3,420.00	20
Paper Mill Road	10th Line	3048.00	\$1.68	\$5,120.00	\$2,160.00	\$2,960.00	20
Market Street	Maple Ave. 250' S of V'View	403.00	\$1.68	\$677.00	\$280.00	\$397.00	20
Charles Street	Maple Ave. Valley View	178.00	\$1.68	\$299.00	\$120.00	\$179.00	20
Valley View	Charles St. Market Street	407.00	\$1.68	\$683.00	\$280.00	\$403.00	20
Arletta Street	250' N. of Nor'ly. 285'	186.00	\$1.68	\$312.00	\$130.00	\$182.00	20
John Street	1212 West of Westly 100'	590.00	\$1.68	\$991.00	\$400.00	\$591.00	20
Pumping Station	Old Paper Mill	7000.00	\$1.68	\$11,760.00	\$4800.00	\$6,960.00	20
Force Main from Old Paper Mill	to Intersection of Ninth Line and Paper Mill Road.	16780.00	\$1.68	\$28,190.00	\$11,676.00	\$16,514.00	20
Recapitulation:							
Local Improvement:							
Owners' portion						\$16,788.00	
Local Improvement:							
Paid by Town						16,906.00	
Incidental Costs:							
Municipal Board Fees							
Legal Costs, Cost of Debuture, Printing, Etc.						1,308.00	
						\$35,000.00	

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