

# THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

— serving the communities of —

GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL, LIMHOUSE,  
HORNBY, STEWARTTOWN, ASHGROVE, RALLINAFAD,  
TERRA COTTA.

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## The Editor's Corner

Continuing a series of articles from an 1893 edition of the Toronto Daily Mail.

### WATER WORKS

The Georgetown water works system is not only unexcelled, but is without exaggeration unequalled on this continent. The supply, which is obtained from a crystal stream, rising in a mountain gorge three miles distant from the village and fed by innumerable springs of the purest ice cold water, is stored in a stone walled reservoir holding 400,000 gallons, the spring yielding 230,000 gallons daily, in the driest season of the year. The water is conveyed to the village through ten inch mains, from which it is distributed to consumers through four, six, and eight inch pipes, there being 21,000 feet of piping exclusive of conduits. There are thirty-five hydrants, twenty-seven cut-off valves, and four relief valves. The average pressure in the centre of the village is 197 feet, or about 85 pounds dead pressure to the square inch. The work of construction was commenced on the 26th of August, 1891, and on the 26th of November, following just three months today, the fire department attached the hose, and with the partial pressure then on, sent a stream through a one and a half inch nozzle, 138 feet at an angle of 45 degrees. These works were built at a total cost of \$35,000. It is to Mr. Joseph Barber, more than any other individual, through whose unwearied efforts the project was carried to completion that the people of Georgetown are indebted for this inestimable blessing.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Georgetown fire department was organized in January, 1892; and is composed of thirty active and well disciplined men, in two equal divisions, officered by a chief and two captains. The appliances consist of two hose-reels, a hook and ladder apparatus, and 1,600 feet of two and a half inch hose. The department has the reputation of being both prompt and efficient, a spirit of friendly rivalry animating every member. The officers are Mr. H. H. Speirs, chief; Messrs. James Lister and Neil Hunter, captains of divisions; and Mr. Hugh Matthews, secretary.

### MILTON MAKES IT PLAIN

The recent action of Milton town council in expressing opposition to the building of one central school for North Halton district may well strike the death knell for an idea which just doesn't seem to work.

When the high school district was first mooted in 1946, with the idea of closing schools at Georgetown, Milton and Acton and building a central school in the Speyside district, Georgetown was the only one of five municipalities involved which had doubts about the sense of the plan. There was no trouble in south Halton and the Oakville-Trafalgar and Burlington-Nelson districts were soon formed. Here it meant simply adding extra facilities at two existing schools by supplying transportation for rural students and building additions on the two schools.

North Halton posed a different problem altogether, embracing the revolutionary idea of closing three complete schools in three large towns and building a new school in the country. The idea did not meet with favour in Georgetown and the council of the time passed a resolution opposing the closing of the high school here.

Subsequently Milton, Acton, Esqueping and Nasagaweya formed a district which left Georgetown in the position of Berlin, an isolated outpost in the sea of education. Transportation was introduced for township students and for the first time in the long history of higher education in Georgetown students from Norval and rural communities within a mile or two of town whose geographic location has always made it sensible for them to attend high school here were "bussed" to Milton while Georgetown was left to try to support a school catering to local students only.

Rumblings of discontent were soon heard in Esqueping when it was learned that the township was footing slightly over half of the education bill for the new district, but by this time Milton had scored a tactical victory by building a new addition to their school with Esqueping committed to its share of the financing. The addition was supposedly for a building which would some day be used for a public school, at least so the Department of Education was led to believe.

The "squeeze play" worked beautifully. Georgetown had no air lift to support it and after a year of solo operation it was obvious that it would not be financially possible to keep a local school operating indefinitely for the benefit of local students. So Georgetown entered the fray, not because it favoured one central

school but because its school board and council could see no alternative.

### WE AGREE WITH MILTON

It is still not plain to us why Milton supported the district in the first place. Where was the opposition which has suddenly come to light four years later? After several years of central school talk we find that Milton feels exactly the way Georgetown does and will not consent to closing their school. And we can find no quarrel with the Milton people either because the fact is that it just can't be done. We have heard of no single instance where three or even two schools of similar size have been closed in the province. A thriving town numbers a local high school among its best assets. It could be nothing but folly to consider closing any of the schools.

There is still the position of Acton to consider. Acton did not own its high school building and North Halton High School District actually pays rent to the public school board for use of the school there. Acton board members have talked from time to time of sending all their students to Guelph if a central school is not built.

Here, then, may be the solution, providing Acton council shares the same feeling. Georgetown needs improvements to modernize its school system. Acton has no school at all and will have to build a new one or send its children elsewhere.

It might well be sensible for Acton to look this way and through a continuation of a two-school district, provide the desired education closer to home. There is plenty of space at the present location for an addition to the building which could include the long-needed gymnasium and auditorium.

### A PUSSY-FOOTING DEPARTMENT

The high school situation has not been helped one whit by the Department of Education. The department sparked the plan for high school districts but has contributed not one iota of help one way or another to aid local board members in arriving at a decision.

The department, aside from vague implications that lowering of grants to schools which did not cooperate could result, has taken no part at all in the floundering of people who are trying to do their best to provide the best education available for their children.

At one time the department was all-out for a Speyside location, at another it hinted that it favored a school in a town. All the time it told the board that it was their responsibility to choose a location and any location it picked would be o.k. with the department — providing it was a good location. In other words, it has acted like a parent who tells his child "I want you to do the right thing. If you don't you'll be punished, but it is up to you to figure out what the right thing is. Don't expect me to tell you."

The district board could still well use some parent advice in a matter which tends to become more and more confused the farther it goes.

### FORMER GHS PRINCIPAL LAY PREACHER SUNDAY

Walter Carpenter, principal of Georgetown High School while L. Lambert was overseas with the army, will be lay preacher at St. George's Church Sunday morning while Archdeacon Thompson conducts communion services at Erin. Mr. Carpenter taught at Chatham after leaving here and is now teaching English at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph.

### CLASS 'B' STATUS FOR MILTON FAIR

Halton Agricultural Society, which operates the yearly county fair at Milton has received word that their fair has been elevated to Class B status. The change in grading comes when a fair has reached a certain standard of features, attendance and prize money and Milton will now receive a large government grant for their annual fair.

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