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Tri-Town Urban Experiment Cited in Business Publication

"North Hub" — the area including Acton, Milton and Georgetown — is the topic of an article in the February, 1955 issue of Civic Administration. The article follows:

Municipal officials have put interlocking gears on industrial promotion plans in the northern area of Halton county where three towns — Acton, Milton and Georgetown — have established cooperative plans to present their selling message. The area — nicknamed NORTH HUB — is 30 to 40 miles from both Toronto and Hamilton industrial and market centres. By working as a team, officials of the three towns are determined to hurdle traditional barriers of small-town rivalry, aiming at the more practical results of attracting industry.

Early in 1954 municipal officials realized the need for fulltime engineering advice. They reasoned that the three towns with a total population of less than 10,000 could engage a man. They chose the present engineer from eleven applicants. Around the table on the cooperative venture the members began consideration of industrial promotion early in their first year. That has now resulted in concrete plans that will be continued and expanded in 1955.

The board called in the engineer to prepare a map of the North Halton area, emphasizing the rail and highway links. With this as a working basis, members began preparing a comprehensive brochure outlining the area's industrial advantages.

In addition to advertising the area itself the board is conscious of the need to improve local merchandising attitudes. Its members exchanging information on industrial sites available so if one town in the area is unable to satisfy an industrial request, the facilities of one of the other area towns can be offered. Members of the organization are committed to the principle that a new industry anywhere in the area is of benefit to the whole area and all municipalities in it.

Space has been rented at the 1955 Canadian International Trade Fair in Toronto, and promotional brochures are being printed. Dividing the cost equally among the three towns brings the figure to a more realistic amount for each place.

For its initial year each town council has been represented by three members, resulting in a workable nine-man board, with Acton's clerk-treasurer J. McGeachrie, as secretary.

The engineer will keep track of time spent in each municipality during 1955 so that the board will have some guidance in arriving at a distribution of future costs.

After nine months of operation, how do representatives feel about the success and possibilities of an organization of this type?

They realize it's new and they realize cooperation is, and must continue to be, the keynote of the group. The three towns have all ways been the kind of rivals that pack hockey arenas and crowd the baseball diamonds. They still are but officials have realized that industrial attraction is bigger game with bigger stakes and cooperatively they stand a better chance of success.

At the final meeting of 1954, Acton's mayor E. Tyler summed up the situation this way. It's the first time in the town's history that Acton, Milton and Georgetown have agreed on anything. Georgetown and Milton representatives reflected similar opinions and satisfaction at initial operations.

But what future can there be for a board of this type? Fortunately all the 1954 representatives have been returned in their municipal elections and the next 12 months will afford opportunities for stronger establishment of the group.

Agendas for 1955 will include discussions before budgets are set, on the most equitable distribution of board expenses. This will allow formation of a more extensive program without fear of excessive mill rate added.

The possibility of the three towns establishing a budget the only mill allowed under provincial legislation for industrial promotion will also be an early topic in 1955. It is through this that the cost of the industrial development program may be covered.

Mindful of their own shortcomings and the limitations of their efforts, the question of an industrial commissioner for the three towns, already considered, will no doubt be included in further discussions.

STEWARTTOWN

CHURCH GUILD HAS DANCE AND EUCHRE

A happy birthday to Mary Lawson Wednesday of next week, March 2. Also to Betty Ann Henderson with a birthday the same day.

The Women's Auxiliary are holding their meeting at Mrs. Sanford's home at 2 o'clock Thursday, March 23rd and will be using the World's Day of Prayer program. Visitors will be welcome.

A report from a member of the 411 Club: The ninth meeting of the 7th Line Susies was held at Mrs. Armstrong's home at 2 o'clock last Saturday. As soon as we arrived we opened with the 411 pledge and went straight to the kitchen and started on our supper. Each of the five girls prepared something for it. The menu was: Combination salad, scalloped potatoes, meat loaf with dressing, plain and ches biscuits, baked apples, Valentine cake, tea. While our supper was cooking, we went into the living room and talked about our exhibit for achievement day in Milton, March 19. We ate our supper, washed the dishes and went home. Next meeting will be held March 5th.

The regular meeting of St. John's Church Guild was held at Mrs. Stewart's home Tuesday evening. Final arrangements were made for the euchre and dance, held Friday night in the Community Hall. At this party euchre prize winners were: Ladies, 1st Mrs. Christina Bailey and 2nd, Mrs. Stringer; Gentlemen 1st, Bill Bradley; 2nd Jim Cunningham won out with George Fountain. Music for dancing by Doris Hulls Orchestra. Jim Brooks as floor manager. Winners of the lucky draw: table lamp, Jack Runham; camera, Mrs. J. J. Atkinson; basket of groceries, Jack Lawr.

DART, CRIB PLAYERS NEAR SEASON'S END

The Georgetown Industrial Dart and Cribbage league with chairman Fred McCartney and secretary Gordon Jamieson, is nearing the end of its first successful year.

Ten dart teams representing the major industries of Georgetown, A. V. Koe and Branch 120, Canadian Legion, have fought through an 18-week schedule with the Smith and Stone team ending up as league champions. The play-offs will be completed Wednesday, Feb. 23rd, with the above team battling it out with a fast throwing Provincial Funishing Room team.

The cribbage teams will not complete their schedule until Saturday, March 12th with all teams still very much in contention. We hope to be able to publish the winning teams of both the darts and cribbage together with their members at a later date.

Bulldozer Fire Calls

Firemen to Stewarttown

Georgetown Township firemen were called to Stewarttown Wednesday afternoon to extinguish a fire in a bulldozer.

The fire broke out when David Barelay was repairing the machine which he owns, in the garage behind the community hall. Township workmen were nearby and pushed the burning machine outside with the township grader before it could damage the building. There was considerable damage to the machine itself.

It is hoped to end the season with a bang-up banquet and a night of entertainment at which the successful gladiators will be awarded their trophies, and officers for the coming year appointed.

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