

WHAT COUNCIL DID

**Many Projects Underway
More Help for Engineer**

A heavy backlog of engineering work on roads, sewers, bridges, sidewalks, and watermains, has led council to increase staff in the office of town engineer Douglas Wilson.

After Mr. Wilson reviewed the work in progress and future plans at a council meeting on Thursday, council agreed to engage a stenographer and a chairman for the department as well as a student assistant who will work until university starts in October.

Mr. Wilson gave a comprehensive progress report, pointing out such major work undertaken as the highway widening, resurfacing and sidewalks, Maple Avenue extension, storm sewers on Guelph Street, the Swanek subdivision and other locations, a watermain extension to the Varian plant, and sidewalk replacement in various sections of town.

He explained that his department is in charge of designing and surveying these and other new engineering work while there are also routine matters of maintenance to town roads, the sewage disposal plant and drainage problems.

Mr. Wilson said his department is concerned with plumbing violations which have not been checked. There are septic tanks which should be abandoned and sewer connections made, and several people have illegally hooked roof drains into sanitary sewers.

He has been instructed to prepare a sewage waste by-law, a plan for necessary garage and works building, and should be preparing master plans of existing sewers and grades for future references, he said.

Mr. Wilson said he would either have to have additional staff or cut back some of the work in progress.

"I've been working fifty hours a week and the works staff has been working long hours trying to get everything done," he said, pointing out that the town is not realizing the full value of his services as an engineer because he does not spend enough time in the planning phase.

"It's obvious that the work is behind and the only answer seems to be more help," said Mayor Armstrong. "We've been playing around with the highway for five years and it has to be finished this year. And we've promised the school board a Maple Avenue road way for the children this fall."

Reeve Allen said that on his visits to the engineer's office he had noticed the large volume of business transacted, and wondered how Mr. Wilson ever gets any engineering work done at all.

The mayor pointed out that the maintenance work is suffering, and said there are situations where a contractor should be hired rather than trying to use the town works staff. He pointed to such things as stone work at the sewage disposal plant and cutting steel bars for the Maple Avenue bridge as places where it would be more logical to use a contractor's skill.

"There's more work this year than ever before," said road commissioner Walter Gray, "and the engineer must have more help."

Mr. Wilson anticipates having the highway sidewalks finished by August 25th, and said the Maple Ave. bridge should be installed by July 28th, the fill by mid-August and gravel by September 1st.

A \$300 level was also ordered on Mr. Wilson's suggestion, as a necessary addition to engineering supplies.

Cr. LeRoy Dale precipitated a discussion when he inquired what all the things would cost that Mr. Wilson had been mentioning.

"He's reporting on the work to be done, not on the finances," said Cr. McGilvray.

"I know that, but we should know what debentures are going to be issued before we proceed," said Dale.

"The bulk of the work is on capital expenditure," the mayor explained, "and on by-laws already approved. There aren't any new by-laws."

"I know, but I don't know what they total," continued Mr. Dale, "and I don't know how to vote on future by-laws."

Mayor Armstrong said that Georgetown has a total of \$2,381,000 in debenture issues, of which \$665,000 are for work contracted for this year. \$84,000 of this is recoverable under local improvements.

"In one year we are increasing our debenture debt by 33 per cent," said Mr. Dale.

"I wouldn't say in one year," replied the mayor. "Some of the work for which we are issuing debentures took place long before this year."

Mr. Dale mentioned the million and a half dollars in building permits reported in the Herald, and said this may be the tail end of things and wouldn't recur next year.

"No one knows by the look of things now what's going to happen," he said, in a pessimistic vein. "The town is getting to the tax saturation point and some morning we may wake up and find the bank won't cash our cheques."

He suggested that from now on the bank should okay any proposed money by-law before it is sent to the Municipal Board.

"It's a strange thing, the Bank of Commerce are Mr. Heslop's bankers," he said, referring to the Delrex promoter, "and if anyone could borrow from them he should be able. Yet the banks aren't loaning."

Mayor Armstrong said he could see no worry. The debenture debt has doubled, but so has Georgetown's assessment, so the town is in no worse position.

"We have growing pains," concluded Mr. Dale. "Even before Mr. Heslop came we had put 2,000 extra people in town. The industrial-residential ratio is out of line and things won't be right until that is rectified."

STEWARTTOWN

A goodly number of persons gathered at the township hall last Friday evening for a shower to Miss Evalonne Smith and Mr. Carl DeForest. Rev. J. E. Maxwell was chairman at the program. Miss Ruth McBride played a piano solo and an encore. Mrs. Hazen played for two solos by Mrs. Francis Thompson and Betty Mae Mileham played two piano solos. The gifts of the shower were many and varied, useful and beautiful. Ruby Tennant, Lois Mileham, Lois Besie and Ruth McBride assisted in opening them and laying them out for display. Both Carl and Evalonne thanked the many friends for their gifts and hoped they would visit them later when they would see them in use. Lunch served to all, brought a very pleasant evening to an end with all good wishes for their health and happiness.

Traffic Count Before
Highway Stop Lights

The Dept. of Highways is planning a traffic count at the John Street crossing, in answer to a town request for a traffic light at this busy intersection.

The Department has informed council that checkers will be on duty the week of August 13th, and asked the town to suggest an eight hour period when traffic is at its heaviest.

Town clerk John D. Kelly has notified the department that Friday, August 17th between 10.00 a.m. and 6 p.m. should see the week's traffic at its peak, taking as it does all the Smith and Stone and papermill traffic as well as the downtown shopping trade which is always heavy on Fridays.

Council is anticipating no difficulty in securing permission for

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