

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

GEORGETOWN, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 1956

SECOND SECTION

Monday Vote on \$111000 Arena Improvement

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Parks Board Seeks Support on Project

An important question is being asked home owners in Georgetown next Monday.

Their opinion is sought on issuance of \$111,000 in debentures to pay for extensive improvements and alterations to the town-owned Georgetown Memorial Arena.

The question was posed to council earlier this year when members of the Board of Parks Management approached council with a request for funds to provide what they consider essential repairs. If the money is not forthcoming, the parks board feels that the building will have to be abandoned in future as unsafe.

Major improvements which have been drawn up in estimates prepared by R. W. Hall, Brampton architect, include complete electrical rewiring, elimination of dangerous entranceways underneath the bleachers, replacement of wooden flooring with fireproof concrete, creation of safer exits, modernization of dressing rooms, washrooms, etc. and creation of a permanent flooring under the ice surface which will make the building available for summer activities too.

The parks board is particularly concerned about the footings of the building which are badly rotting away. There is danger, they feel, of seats collapsing unless repairs are made.

Speaking for the parks board at the nomination meeting Thursday, Harold McClure outlined plans for repaying the debenture issue over a 15-year period. He stressed the fact that, in the board's opinion, it will cost taxpayers nothing above the one mill grant which they receive each year and which is provided for them by law.

Profit on operations last season of \$3500 was more than ample to provide the extra money for debentures above the town grant which amounted to \$8600. Further sources of revenue should



SERIOUS DETERIORATION of the footings in Georgetown Memorial Arena is shown in the photo above. The proposed renovations will eliminate this dangerous condition which is steadily growing worse.

become available when the building is suitable for all-year use, he said.

The parks board is a group of responsible citizens, appointed by the town, who have made an extensive study of the whole question. Their financial reasoning, based on past facts, is sound in the light of today. Barring a major economic recession, or a diminishing lack of interest in arena activities from the paying public, the debenture issue should work out as the last one did. A \$30,000 bond issue in 1947 for artificial ice was retired in similar fashion in 9 years, out of the mill grant and arena profits.

What is certain is that, whether payments come from the public

treasury or from arena profits, Georgetown will not have an arena in future years unless improvements are made.

Voters, then, have to decide whether the arena is to stay, with hopes that it will not add to the tax bill, but with possibility that this could happen.

The end decision, of course, must be made by the 1957 council. Should the voters turn down the referendum on Monday, it is certain that council would consider the issue as over.

Should the majority vote for the debenture, council would not necessarily give the green light to immediate action. In fact, present position of the municipal bond market would indicate no such decision until the monetary situation in Canada has righted itself. But it would probably mean that, at some future date, council would follow the majority wish and order the alterations.

It is a matter to which every property owner should give his utmost study and be prepared to vote yes or no sensibly on Monday.

FARM NEWS

HALTON HOLSTEIN BREEDERS CELEBRATE 30th ANNIVERSARY

Well over 200 Holstein breeders, their ladies and friends, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Halton club, on Wednesday evening of last week in the Trafalgar Memorial Hall. Fifteen past presidents and their ladies graced the head table for the turkey dinner which initiated the happy event. Reminiscing on highlights of the past 30 years was handled by Victor J. Lawrence, who served as secretary of the organization for 22 years. It was interesting to learn that the charter members numbered nine, the late W. O. Dennis, who was the first president of the club, Thomas Bird, of Georgetown, who was the second president and who, with Mrs. Bird, recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary; M. J. Brown, of Norval R. R. 1; G. Leslie Peck of Milton R. R. 2; F. R. Breckon of Bronte R. R. 1; the late Joseph Howard, formerly of Palermo; F. G. Stark of Milton; Wm. Hegmet of Palermo and the late Frank Ringhart, formerly of Campbellville.

In recent years the Halton Club has annually had a paid up membership of over 100, which is some indication of the growth and activity over the past 30 years.

H. R. Hare Speaker
The programme, presided over by president R. C. Alexander was highlighted by an illustrated address by H. R. Hare, of Whitby, who was the first agricultural representative for Halton County, opening the office in Burlington in June of 1914. Mr. Hare, who was introduced by J. E. Whitelock, following a few reminiscences on his experiences while in Halton, presented one of the most interesting addresses which any Halton audience has had the privilege of hearing in many a day. It was entitled "From the Garden of Eden to Jerusalem". As previously stated, it was illustrated and was based on his two year stay in Iraq, Iran and Jordan while working for the UNRRA organization. It was a soul gripping experience to see and

STORM BLOWS WESTERN BIRD TO TERRA COTTA

A Green-Tailed Towhee was found in the garage of Dr. J. E. Jaquith's residence at Terra Cotta on Saturday, November 24th. It must have been taking shelter there at dusk on Friday.

Mrs. L. E. Jaquith was able to capture, cage and identify the bird. It was probably blown from the south-western prairies by the gale on Wednesday, November 21 when Malton reported gusts up to 90 miles per hour.

The Green-tailed Towhee nests in the Rocky Mountains from Oregon southwards and winters in Southern Arizona and Mexico. The Terra Cotta bird was the third one recorded in Ontario.

Mr. James L. Baillie of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology said that the first record was in March, 1954, when a Green-tailed Towhee appeared at Dr. Aitken's residence in London, Ontario. A second bird was reported the same spring by John Young at Welland, Ontario.

Dr. and Mrs. L. E. Jaquith took their find to Mr. Roy Ivor at Erin, Ont. Mr. Ivor is one of the few persons in Ontario who has a permit to keep native birds in captivity for study. Mr. Ivor had never seen a Green-tailed Towhee before and was pleased to place it in his aviary. Photographers and bird students are viewing it there.

Another western bird, a Franklin's gull, was reported from Port Credit the same week-end.

hear of the primitive agriculture and the deplorable conditions under which a large percentage of Arab natives exist.

The lighter part of the program was looked after by Jack Bennett of Carlisle. It was an outstanding event in the history of the Halton Club and the committee in charge, R. C. Alexander, John W. Pickett, A. G. Hunter, E. F. Ford, W. H. Biggs and J. Royle, are to be commended for the success of their



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J. A. Goudy, Georgetown

HARDLY A THING OF BEAUTY at present, and certainly not strong on safety features, this corner of the Georgetown Memorial Arena would share in the renovations which the parks board plans if the debenture vote next Monday is successful.