

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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No Need To Cry Havoc

Credit restrictions which have caught Georgetown, like every other municipality in Canada, in a temporarily embarrassing financial condition, should be judged a little more calmly than some alarmists are doing.

Stories that the Municipal Board is going to take over the town, that the banks are refusing to honour town cheques, and similar figments of the imagination make interesting teatime topics, but are based on no known facts. They can, unfortunately, do some harm, for Georgetown is shortly to issue a large block of debentures for public sale, and adverse publicity of this nature could be detrimental to quick marketing of these debentures.

There is no need to cry havoc in Georgetown.

Our municipality continues to maintain its high level of well-paid employment. We have a large percentage of home owner capable, if not too happy, of paying the increased taxes which this year will bring. And no Ontario town is any better equipped to weather a financial storm such as the country is experiencing better than Georgetown.

There can be no sensible criticisms of past councils, either, as money squanderers. We have certainly spent tremendous amounts of public funds in the last ten years, and not many of

Two Good Hockey Teams

Georgetown is very much in the hockey limelight at present, with excellent junior and intermediate teams competing for group honours and a chance to go farther in provincial competition.

The Juniors are trailing by one game at time of writing in their series with Preston, with high hopes of evening the series last night in a home game.

The Intermediates, after besting teams in a higher grouping during the season's competition, are beginning playoffs with Oakville and the first home game is slated here next Wednesday.

Pot Pourri

The 90th birthday party of Lt.-Col. A. L. Noble on Saturday was a happy event for family and friends who arrived in goodly numbers to extend best wishes for the occasion. Not many are blessed to this advanced age with the mental and physical health of this hardy son of district pioneers, and we wish him many more such happy days. Starting a new banking position in St. Catharines, Jack Hart is saying goodbye to Georgetown for the third time. The retiring manager of the local Commerce branch, has had the unique experience of serving here first as a junior, later returning as accountant, and coming back for a third stay as manager. His friends are sorry to part, while congratulating him on his advancement in position. The world becomes smaller each year. Where once it was only the fortunate few who could winter in the south, now plane travel has put not only Florida in the reach of the majority, but travel doesn't stop there. At present

these dollars have purchased luxuries.

Can anyone say that schools should not have been built, that we did not need a sewerage system, a waterworks extension, new fire pump, adequate equipment for the police and the town works staff? Can there be a reasonable argument against highway resurfacing, or the need for the large expenditures which have had to be made on streets and sidewalks, the enlargement of the municipal building, the sewer and water lines which must follow building of new homes?

The fact is that Georgetown financing has remained on a remarkably even keel in a rapidly expanding town, and credits due those in authority for wise guidance.

Restricted credit has many disadvantages, but it will have some blessings too. Continuous expansion without interruption might eventually lead to some reckless expenditures in the enthusiasm of the moment. The present slump, which should be of short duration, gives time for reflection and stock taking, for certain public economies which might never have been made.

But we can rest assured that, barring a major depression, Georgetown will ride out any crisis with flying sails, and no hint of the ship of state foundering.

The teams have drawn fair crowd support during their season, but there has never been a shortage of seating accommodation in the arena. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we returned to the postwar golden days of hockey in Georgetown when people fought for seats. With twice as big a town, there should be standing room only in the playoffs. . . and we guarantee that once you've seen a game, you won't be missing from the next. Georgetown plays a good brand of hockey, and win or lose you can be sure they are giving their best at all times.

we have Georgetown people in profusion in the south, as well as travellers in Mexico, various islands in the West Indies, and others in Britain and on the continent. Where time was once the important thing in travelling, it has become a secondary consideration nowadays, and if one can scrape up the necessary dollars, there is no limit to where one can go on a week or two vacation. . . Mrs. J. C. Shaw, who lives on Market Street in the Harry Adams home, is preparing a documentary for CBC-radio which will use Georgetown as an example of a rapidly expanding community. It is the intention to supplement the commentary with taped interviews with various people affected by change, farmers, merchants, old and new residents. . . a television feature of district interest will be a series on Sunday afternoons using one of Ken Ella's sons as a typical Ontario farm boy to describe rural life. . .

The Legislature In Session

John McIntosh, held the spotlight in this week's session of the legislature. The budget is always big news. This year the news was even bigger—more taxes than ever before and more grants than ever before. That was the information which Provincial Treasurer Dana Porter gave the 1957 session of the Provincial Legislature when he brought down the budget last Thursday.

Most of us realize more clearly what was contained in the 1957 budget now that we have made our first purchases of gasoline since the budget was released. We will also realize more clearly what has happened when we find that in many cases our municipal taxes will not have to go up—at least not as much as we expected this year. It's just like the song says—"You can't have one without the other!"

There is no doubt that the gasoline tax alone will provoke a considerable amount of controversy. Corporations also will feel the effect of the new budget with an extra 2% tacked onto their income tax; loggers, brewers and mines will be putting more into the Provincial increased licenses and fees and diesel operators will be paying an extra tax of 9 cents per gallon effective April 1.

What will happen to it all? Education, highways, public works and welfare are the really big items. In a province with a population of 5,183,000 whose economy is developing more rapidly than any other in the world, it is not hard to see on every side examples of how the government spends tax money. In Halton County the construction and proposed construction of schools, hospitals, roads and highways occupies a good deal of our time and attention.

However, the budget wasn't the only thing this week that created a stir in the legislature. On Tuesday the 19th, the Toll Roads Committee made its long-awaited report. It recommended an increase in gasoline tax (three days later the government implemented this recommendation in its budget) and the institution of a toll road system in Ontario beginning with toll charges for the new Burlington-Skyway and the new bridge across the Welland Canal. Tolls for the projected highway between Hamilton and Toronto were also proposed in the Committee report. The Legislature is by no means in agreement yet over whether these recommendations should be adopted. CCF Leader Donald McDonald refused to sign the report because of his opposition both to the establishment of a system of toll roads and an increase in the gasoline tax. There is sure to be more disagreement on these issues expressed later in the session.

If you count yourself a public-spirited citizen, you should visit the Legislature for at least one day this session. Even if you don't admit to being public-spirited, you should be let in on the secret that the Parliamentary system at work can at times be very exciting. Just sit in the galleries and listen to the Opposition

ganging up in debate on the front bench of the Cabinet, and then watch the reaction of the members to the attack. You'll have to admit that it is nothing short of fascinating, and needless to say, also quite an education.

KNOX COUPLES CLUB HAS SOCIAL EVENING

Members of the Couples Club of Knox Presbyterian Church held a meeting last Wednesday in the church auditorium, at which they played euchre and had a few square dance sets.

Future possibilities of the club were discussed, and it was decided to have the election of officers at the next meeting.

Towns Seek Revision Of Fire Area Costs

Fire protection is costing an awful lot of money, and there is no reason why the towns should have to supply it to townships at a cost to town taxpayers," stated Mayor Tyler of Acton at the monthly meeting of the tri-town North Halton Urban Board Georgetown last Wednesday.

It was pointed out by Councillor Johnson of Milton that fire area costs had taken a steep climb since the original agreements were drawn up about five years ago. Discussions on fire department and fire area costs led to a decision that the March meeting would include representatives from each of the town's fire committees assist

in a possible agreement for use in the three towns serving their respective townships.

A suggested budget of \$10,000 annually was approved by the board for 1957 operations. This would include an engineer for Acton and Milton which are without their own engineering staffs.

The possibility of linking Milton, Acton and Georgetown into a single Bell Telephone service area introduced by the Board in '55 was reviewed. Further study will require information from the Bell Telephone Co. The board members agreed to contact the managers on the matter.

Further discussion covered garbage collection, dog control, success of a street sweeper, an employed in Milton, and the recent trench excavators inspection act.

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Provincial Paper Tour, Entertains Visitors

An experiment in public relations proved successful on Saturday when the local Provincial Paper Mill was host to members of the Toronto office and sales staff.

The full day of visiting included a tour of the mill, a hockey game, bowling and an evening party.

One hundred and ten visitors were conducted in groups of ten through the paper mill, to get a complete picture of local operations. A hockey game at the arena followed, in which the visitors were outclassed by their small town rivals, losing the game 16-3.

The group had dinner at St. John's Church Hall, then went to the Lucky Strike Club for bowling, which the Department also provided. Thursday, February 28, the group had high standards of service and entertainment.

Mill manager Ross Runcan welcomed the visitors officially at the dinner, with Allen Ball extending thanks on behalf of the Toronto office.

Later in the evening, there was a dancing party at North Halton Golf and Country Club.

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