

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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One Pocket or the Other

Out of one pocket into the other seems to be the way government is heading nowadays, and sometimes we wonder where it will end.

Municipal administration is hard pressed to find money for the large expenditures on education, roads and other essential civic services, and this year welcomes a large financial "assist" from the province which has helped to keep the tax rate on an even keel.

Now we read a suggestion by a provincial member of parliament that Ontario may have to enter the field of income tax and sales tax to find future funds to subsidize municipalities.

It points to the fact that one can't get something for nothing.

If a municipality expects to receive assistance from a central source, the money must come from somewhere, and unless a province has large sources of income like Alberta and its oil royalties, taxation in one form or another must raise the money. One can pay it in gas tax, sales, income, excise or any other form of tax, but the fact remains that it is a circle and the taxpayer contributes the money somewhere along the way.

Perhaps it is time that provincial and federal government put their economists to work on a complete study of the whole tax picture and devise a sensible way of acquiring money which should be spent in collective public services.

Generous Response

Georgetown can always be counted upon when it comes to giving.

We are not a spectacular town, where projects go over the top with fanfares of publicity.

We are, rather, a steady community where everything worthwhile receives its modicum of support and where no project which has any merit is a failure.

Recently the Red Cross asked for \$2200 in a fund appeal, and everyone dug down to help. The same story has applied from time to time on similar campaigns for the Institute for the Blind, the Navy League, and localized projects undertaken by scouts and guides, church organizations and service clubs.

The community swimming pool is an excellent example of how Georgetown works for a project. There have been no terrific assists from industry or wealthy people. Collection of over \$40,000 has proceeded steadily through generosity of the public in general and promotion by the Lions Club in particular. It has been a true combined effort of many people, giving what they can afford, without hardship, which is as it should be.

Two more campaigns come now, with the district branch of the Canadian Cancer Society asking for assistance in providing money for research and Rotarians making their annual appeal for Crippled Children.

We know they will meet a similar response - a dollar or two from many people to reach the collective goal.

Museum and Historical Sites

Some quiet, behind-the-scenes work is going on at present which will be of much benefit to succeeding generations.

A group of district people, working under the Credit Valley Conservation Authority is entrusted with the job of preserving historical records. First endeavour will be to mark three historical sites with suitable cairns, to draw attention for all time to events which otherwise would become blurred in the public memory.

While not on the present agenda, there is one place in Georgetown being brought to the committee's attention - the old "dynamo" property where the Barber papermill generated the first electricity to be used for commercial power in the world.

The committee is also interested in preserving all things of historical worth, and is establishing one or more museums in the Credit Valley district to house historical relics. No immediate attempt will be made to have such things collected, and for the present people who might own these are asked to preserve them for a future museum.

There are many men and women doing post-graduate university work in history who would welcome the opportunity to further their own education at a reasonable scale of payment to produce such a manuscript. It might cost five or six thousand dollars, surely a pittance for something which won't be available at any price a century from now.

Why Not a County Historian

With rapid industrialization and large scale housing developments in Halton, the next generation will scarcely recognize Halton of the future. And if a resident of fifty years ago were to return, he would have great difficulty in locating some of the old landmarks.

There has never been an adequate history written of Halton County, and the longer it is delayed, the harder it will be to assemble enough facts to make it a comprehensive account of life in the early days.

It would be a fine thing if the county council could see its way to invest in an historical project. Too often history is written by glib commercial concerns which sell advertising, throw a

few scattered bits of information, true or false, together and issue it in the guise of history. What would be valuable would be for the county to pay a person, qualified in research and writing ability, to spend several months collecting factual material, then produce an illustrated history of Halton.

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ROTARIANS CANVAS FOR AUCTION SALE GOODS

Tentative plans were made for the second annual Rotary Club auction sale for some time in June at the regular Monday night meeting of the Rotarians at Fairview Inn two weeks ago. The club is presently canvassing the town for good used furniture and other

useful household articles to be auctioned off at the sale. Rotarian Bob Burns, chairman of the current Easter Seal campaign touched off with a celebratory dinner in Knox church hall, reported \$474 after the first week. The only visitor at the meeting was Frank Prouse of the Action Rotary Club.

The Raiders are on their way to Sundridge this afternoon, with hopes of ending the series with a win tonight. If a seventh game is necessary it will be played here this Saturday. If so, better get to the arena early for a seat, as Monday's 1800 crowd should be topped.

Merchant Gives Views On Parking Meters

April 6th, 1957
Dear Mr. Editor:

I read with interest and considerable amusement your editorial on parking meters. I consider it reasonable to infer that you disapprove of parking meters for no logical reason other than that you consider them "penny-robbers". I should like to take this opportunity to convey to you, and your readers a few of my thoughts on this subject.

Having watched with admiration for many years the care and attention with which you choose your editorials, I was surprised that you saw fit to express your personal opinion (which is, in reality, a prejudicial peeve) on the subject of parking meters.

I am certain that you, Mr. Editor, have a sincere and honest desire to help the community with constructive criticism and timely suggestions. I cannot conceive how a "bet peeve" can be expressed editorially in your worthy publication without accomplishing something less than what was intended.

It is my opinion that no public-spirited individual, having considered the purpose for which parking meters are designed, can express his personal feelings on the subject without creating injurious consequences. I consider your attitude in the same vein as if you were to advise your readers that penicillin will not cure pneumonia. The universal use of parking meters to improve certain parking areas has long passed the experimental stage. It is well known what parking meters will do, and what they will not do. It was the firm belief of those who petitioned for their installation in downtown Georgetown, that they would ameliorate a certain unsatisfactory condition - clearly defined, and clearly recognized. We are quite satisfied that they will do just that - no more, and no less.

It is my impression that you are not fully cognizant of the magnitude of the problem as represented by the present day "car population". Surely you have not forgotten the address of Dr. Faludi, as presented to downtown property owners some months ago. He foresaw disastrous effects unless we become alert to our problem and take action in solving it.

Nobody in his right mind has contended that parking meters are a substitute for parking lots. No one has suggested that parking meters are designed to prohibit parking. Limit - yes. Prohibit - no. The function of meters is to increase the number of vehicles able to park downtown during that fraction of the day in which they are in operation. This is done by reducing the length of stay of each car. Surely you don't disapprove of this principle?

When you mentioned the "robber" aspect of parking meters, you were obviously not considering the full moral impact of your remark. Did you mean to imply that our town fathers would empty these meters, divide the nickels among themselves, and start playing "pin-ball machines"? You must realize that the revenue derived from these meters will certainly be used for a far nobler purpose. Other municipalities have designated such revenue for further improvement of the ever-increasing parking problem.

Having admitted your own "shameful past" as an irresponsible parker, you show a remarkable lack of understanding of human nature, as well as a complete unawareness of the psychological aspects of parking meters, by making a feeble appeal to your fellow-malcreants to practice self-discipline.

This very day it has been brought to my attention that in the rear of the block in which your own business is located, there is an area which could be converted into a parking lot to accommodate about thirty cars, at a total cost of about \$200. Surely, Mr. Editor, you have been aware of the existence of this land for some time! Surely you could set an example for the rest of the community by leading the merchants of your block in a co-operative effort in utilizing this potential area.

In conclusion, may I make reference to the opinions of many of our contemporary sociologists, who, although well aware of the evils wrought by modern social, scientific and economic changes, have, nevertheless, expressed complete confidence in the ability of mankind to adjust itself to these revolutionary changes. Please let me assure you that we in Georgetown will adjust ourselves to parking meters, and will look forward to brighter days ahead with confidence and optimism.

Sincerely,
Sid Sliver

DON'T FORGET to tune in CJBC Toronto Thursday at 9 p.m. to hear a documentary based on Georgetown's growth. Locally written by Mrs. J. C. Shaw. It will have a great deal of interest to Georgetown residents.

EASTER THANKOFFERING FOR ASHGROVE W.A.S.

The Easter Thankoffering of the W.A.S. was held on Sunday evening in the church with a splendid attendance of adults and children. President Mrs. Leslie Giffen welcomed everyone, also visitors from Georgetown, Norval, Bethel and Hornby. Before meeting was opened, quiet music was played by Mrs. James Carney, and prayer. Mrs. Wilfrid Bird and Mrs. Hector Bird took up the offering which was dedicated by Mrs. Thomas Giffen. Mrs. J. H. Hunter was in charge of a lovely Easter devotional from the twelfth chapter of St. John with prayer by Mrs. Cecil Wilson. Ross Austin read a suitable Easter story "The Martyrs" and the Mission Band children sang a pretty little number "I don't need to wait until I'm grown up", followed by the showing of coloured moving pictures entitled "On This Rock" which described a mining town in Northern Ontario and how a missionary minister went there and established a church in that community. "On This Rock I will build my church." Mrs. C. B. Dick gave the prayer for our chosen missionary and the meeting closed with the hymn "Day is dying in the west", and prayer by Mr. Russ.

Miss Margaret Bird was a student teacher in the public school at Arthur last week with Miss Mildred Benham with whom she taught here in Ashgrove school last November.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Giffen and David visited in Aurora on a recent Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Millgate.

Mr. William Hardy is back from the sunny south. He says it was the nicest winter he ever spent in Florida. He also had a grand visit with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Williamson (Bernice Wilson) in Texas. Student teachers at our school last week with Mrs. William Cromar were Miss Frances Clayman and Miss Shirley Greenspan of Toronto. They stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Dick. Deepest sympathy is extended to the McNabb family in their sorrow last week. The four boys have lost a good mother and we of the eighth line have lost a good neighbour and friend.

Having Easter visitors? Or going away yourself for the holiday? Whichever it is, why not give the Herald your news. Phone TR. 7-2201 for your social and personal items.

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