

TAX RATE IS 48 - DOWN TWO MILLS

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

TWELVE PAGES

GEORGETOWN, ONT., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14th, 1958

FIRST SECTION

NO THIRD READING YET CONTROVERSIAL BY-LAW

RATEPAYERS PETITION FOR VOTE 582 DELREX HOMES

Looming as a more controversial problem than any which has faced a Georgetown council in the past quarter century, and possibly in the town's entire history, the question of allowing the erection of 582 new homes in Delrex occupied the entire three hours of Monday's council meeting.

Council advanced one step closer to signing an agreement with the development firm which would guarantee Georgetown a 40 per cent industrial assessment on the released building land for the next three years, with two readings of a by-law which would allow an agreement to be signed. The by-law must be read a third time before it becomes law, and no action was taken at the meeting to finalize the transaction, and no motion presented in this regard.

A week ago, a 5-4 vote of council instructed the town solicitor to prepare a by-law amendment to the 1954 town-Delrex agreement which precluded residential building outside the limits of the former H. Craig Reid farm unless an assessment ratio of 40% in industrial and commercial was maintained. At present industry pays some 27% of the town's taxes, and the Delrex firm has admitted that the picture has changed radically and there is no present possibility of carrying out the terms of the 1954 agreement. In order to keep operating, and with hopes that the future may bring a change for the better, the Delrex firm recently offered a guarantee that the industrial ratio would be maintained if a 582-house portion of land is released for building. The firm would commit itself to guaranteeing the town \$147,000 over the next three years, over and above the normal tax revenue on houses which would be built, which is estimated at \$221,000. The \$147,000 would represent the extra taxes to the town which would accrue were 40% of the new building to be industrial. If no industry were to locate in the next three years, Delrex would pay this in yearly instalments. If industry did come, the share it would pay would be deducted from the Delrex payments.

The matter has been hanging fire since last June, when the Delrex firm presented a brief asking for the land release. Discussed several times, the request came to a vote at the March 17th council meeting and was turned down by a 6-3 vote. Subsequently, the firm contacted council and a meeting was arranged on March 26th between company representatives and council meeting as a committee-of-the-whole. From this discussion came the new Delrex offer, presented at the April 2nd meeting, leading to council's action on April 9th to have a by-law amendment and an agreement prepared.

"Standing room only" has been the rule at the last three council meetings, and Monday's crowd overflowed into the municipal building hallway and the adjoining committee room as curious ratepayers gathered to hear the deliberations. There were over a hundred spectators, and several ratepayers took the opportunity to speak and express their views before council entered its deliberations.

Among these were John Henley, 40 Bairdrow Crescent, who presented a lengthy list of questions, and suggested council get independent financial and legal opinion before making any decision. Mr. Henley said he was not making a definite objection to the plan, but just wants assurance that the right thing is being done. Attendance at the meeting showed that townspeople have opinions, he said. Mr. Henley opined that the zoning by-law should become effective before any more homes are built; that subdivision roads should reach a certain standard before the town accepts them; and that Delrex should foot capital cost of hydro extension to serve the proposed new part of the subdivision. He asked if the Water Resources Commission has granted permission for use of septic tanks; whether council has taken into consideration objections which he termed the public school board has made to the expansion, and whether council has given proper study to the 1957 report of the

auditor which he said, warned that the town's borrowing power is near the limit.

Harrison Wood, 28 Bairdrow Crescent, read a letter from his wife complaining of a school situation which sees staggered classes and a continuance of this were mass building to go ahead. Mrs. Wood objected to a statement at the last meeting by Cr. Sykes that the school board has the responsibility of education, and said it is everyone's job to see that the town has adequate schooling.

"I'm not against building, but I want time to consider it. I don't see Delrex offering to build a school" he said, then added a complaint about subdivision roads which he terms "disgraceful."

R. C. Warren, 40 Hewson Crescent, introduced himself as president of the Swanek Ratepayers, and said he represented that group in asking council not to give the by-law the required three readings that night.

He asked if council consulted a firm of experts about the desirability of extensive house building, what the opinion was and what it had cost. Storm sewers have been promised in his subdivision he said, but have not yet been installed.

"As an individual, I was hurt to read in the paper that a council member thought every time I spoke I was shooting away a potential industrialist. If so, why did he vote for a motion to bring more people, because the 7,000 here now aren't going to move away," said Mr. Warren.

"I believe those remarks are directed at me and I have no intention of retracting what I said last week" answered Cr. Sykes. "I've lived in Georgetown over 40 years, and in the past three years I've heard more derogatory remarks passed on Main St. about the town's financial position by people who don't know what they're talking about than I have in the previous forty."

Cr. Sykes said people should take time to examine things before they begin making wild statements which hurt the town publicity-wise.

Speaking briefly for the Delrex firm, general manager Harold Bairdrow said he would like to point out that the 1954 agreement has not been broken and that land presently being built on was unconditionally released by that agreement. The amendment being asked would be of mutual benefit to town and company, he said, and council could not be accused of making a hasty decision, for it has been under discussion since last June.

Mrs. Joseph Lupton, 50 Byron St. said that ladies in her neighbourhood "over the garden wall" had asked her to stress the school situation and where money is to come from to build a new school. While the town would get tax money from Delrex proposal, it would have the same advantage of an industry locating, she said, because an industry would provide work for the residents too.

Bernard Cassell, Windsor Road, presented a petition which he said had been signed by 98% of the people approached, asking that the Delrex proposal be put to a vote of the ratepayers. Sid Hardie, 4 Shelley St. endorsed Mr. Cassell's remarks, saying 115 people of 118 contacted had signed. Mr. Hardie said that East Georgetown Ratepayers Association was willing to open its Thursday meet-

ing to the public if Mr. Bairdrow would agree to come and explain what building of 582 homes will entail for the town. He stressed that the ratepayers' group is non-partisan and interested only in the meeting as an informative one.

A similar petition, containing 162 signatures, was presented by Sid Orr, 4 Market St., a former councillor, who reported that only three people of those he had approached did not sign it.

"Never in my 17 years in town have I seen residents so aroused or incensed about a matter" Mr. Orr said. He asked how good a Delrex guarantee is, when they had guaranteed a 40-60 ratio and had brought only one small plant to town of which only four of the employees live in Georgetown. The original Delrex agreement had never been published in the Herald, he said, and he doubts if ten citizens have ever seen the agreement.

"The zoning by-law was published word for word, however, as if anybody cared" he continued. "We know who does the zoning around here."

If the project goes through, it is Mr. Orr's opinion that there will be an addition of a million and a half dollars to the town debt, and interest alone will amount to \$300,000 a year. He pointed out that it takes \$100 a year to educate a child and if there are two children in a home, taxes just cover education cost.

"Don't take it too hard if your taxes go up 50% in the next few years if this project goes through" he warned.

Introducing himself as one of the town's newer residents, Douglas Meades, 72 Rexway Dr. said Georgetown has no corner on the school problem and it is common in any growing community.

"Our council has only been in office for four months, and there seems to be a terrific amount of criticism. If you haven't faith in them, why did you vote them in?" he asked.

See "WHAT COUNCIL" . . . (continued on page 6)

Save Chicken House During Grass Fire

Firemen had to battle a grass fire that raged out of control for two hours yesterday when paper from an incinerator behind the Varian Associates plant on River Road ignited the dry grass in an adjoining field. Aided by a stiff breeze flames spread rapidly to the Lower Paper Mill and were not brought under control until it had burned all the way back to the old coal chutes on the CNR siding.

Several apple trees were damaged in the fire and only the alert action of the firemen prevented a large chicken house from being razed. The call was turned in at about 2 p.m.

On Monday firemen had little trouble in dousing grass fire which had been started by children playing in a field behind the Geo. Barber property in the Cloverdale subdivision. No damage resulted from the blaze which started at about 4.45 p.m.

Toronto Man Leaves Two Georgetown Sons

Two local men suffered a family bereavement when their father died suddenly in Toronto Thursday morning.

Ebenezer George Meades, 75 was a native of the city and a retired employee of the Rolph Clark Stone lithographing firm. He succumbed to a heart attack which he suffered at his home, 280 Floyd Ave., East York. The previous week Mr. and Mrs. Meades had celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

He leaves his wife, Edith Ellen Foster and thirteen children, Rev. George E. Meades, rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Bethany; Douglas, 72 Rexway Dr. and Jack, 60 McIntyre Crescent, Georgetown; Edwin, Gordon, Ernest, Mrs. G. Moase, Mrs. J. Barr and Frank of Toronto; Donald of London; Albert of Cobourg; Melville and Harold of Trenton. He also leaves 32 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held in St. Barnabas Anglican Church on Saturday morning, with interment following in Resthaven Memorial Gardens.

Local Builders Meet Visitors from England

A group of English builders and their wives were entertained at tea on Monday by Mr. and Mrs. Rex Heslop at their home in town. The group, members of the Southern Counties Federation of Building Trades Employers are making an extensive tour of Canada and the States and were in Toronto that day. Mr. Heslop, who is 1st vice president of the National House Builders Association which was jointly sponsored by the local builders' association. An official welcome by Mayor Jack Armstrong was replied to by C. G. Dwyer, Bourneborough, leader of the group. The party,

AMBULANCE SERVICE MAKES PLANS FOR NEW VEHICLE

The meeting of the Volunteer Ambulance Service on April 6th discussed the reception of the new ambulance and the outfitting of same.

The film and talk by Constable Ted Scott which will be shown on April 24th at 8:00 p.m. in Wrigglesworth School was discussed.

Eight new volunteers were recorded as follows: Walter Thompson, Ken Rejzles, Al Zeravlev, George Hedford, Ken McCosh, Harold Sedington, Gerald Rusk and Logan MacDonald.

Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to call Ed. Hall TR. 73273, Eugene Green TR. 73885 or Harold Gilmer TR. 73590. On Thursday, March 20th Rev. Morgan McFarlane and Rev. Alex Calder were on call for the Ministerial Association. On Friday, March 21st a call was made to St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph.

BILL GIRDWOOD HERO IN RESCUE

Bill Girdwood, former owner of Girdwood Hardware on Guelph Street, and now living in Phoenix, Arizona, for the past year had a very thrilling and satisfying experience recently. He and Mrs. Girdwood, who is the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth McCrae, 28 Market Street, had taken their son to a park for a birthday picnic on the side of a canal when they heard a great commotion and discovered that a young girl had fallen into the canal which was swirling torrent after the many rains. The girl, who it was later discovered to be thirteen, was swept more than 600 feet in the canal before Mr. Girdwood who had jumped in the water further down the waterway could reach her. Another man who had also tried to save the girl was swept down to the sluice-gates himself and had to be pulled out.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Mrs. Harold Stoddart, Beth and Dale, of Trenton spent the holiday week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Stoddart, 17 Arletta St.

Showboat Minstrels SRO Crowd 3 Nights

Playing to packed houses, the Rotary Showboat minstrels brought their music and fun to Wrigglesworth School auditorium last week. The third annual show was on a par with previous years and was hugely enjoyed.

The jokes were topical, liberally sprinkled with names of local residents; a parody used the tune "Enjoy Yourself" to lampoon the local political scene; and a running gag about town solicitor Geo. Hewson brought all the jokes one could think about lawyers.

The show was produced and directed by Ern Hyde and Ralph Ursel. John Inglis and John Van Winsen handled lighting; Bob Barber designed the scenery. Kenneth R. Harrison was choral director and Mrs. Bernard Cassell, who danced a specialty number directed choreography.

John Ord was interlocutor. Four of last year's end men repeated their roles, Ern Hyde, George Glasford, Dick Shearly and Bill Hamilton, with newcomers Walter Pope and Bill Raycroft joining them. Back to perform in singing roles were Roberta Hawes and Mrs. Charlie Day, with Sandra Sproule joining the cast this year. Vickie Lay dancers were pickaninies, and six stalwart Georgettes brought down the house with their dancing antics, John Gunn, Jack Muckart, Bob Burns, Ray McCoom, Ernie Pearce and Bud Bishop.

The show had its own orchestra, comprising Bill Carr, Keith Barber, Archie Kerr, Ed. Peters, Len Wilson, S. Newstead and Ralph Ursel.

The chorales, whose singing voices provided strong musical background for the show included Mrs. Ralph Ursel, Mrs. Jim Burns, Mrs. Gene Green, Mrs. Stan O'Connor, Mrs. Ern Hyde, Mrs. Bill Raycroft, Mrs. George Grady, Mrs. Vern McCullough, Mrs. Dirk Van Leeuwen, Mrs. Thomas Brown, Gene Green, Tom Forgrave, Tom Brown, Monty Andrews, Vern McCullough, Vic Babey, and Jim Burns.

FAIR BOARD MET AT PRESIDENT'S HOME

Directors of the Esqueving Agricultural Society which sponsors Georgetown fall fair, met at the home of the 1958 president, Wilfrid Bird on Thursday evening, April 10th, at the age of sixty-five. Mr. Hills, born in the Ballinafad district the son of Ira Hills and Martha Ann Beswick Hills, received his early education in the Blue Mountain School.

After his marriage to Olive Liddy in Dundas on March 22nd, 1922, they moved to Toronto where he was employed by the T. Eaton Company in their printing department. He was a Mason and a member of the United Church.

Predeceased by his parents several years ago and one brother George of Gimli, Manitoba, who died last year, he is survived by his wife Olive Liddy and a daughter Mrs. William Tew (Audrey) of Dryden and her son and daughter Aerin and David. One brother and four sisters also are left, Mrs. William Kentner, Boissivin, Manitoba, Mrs. Joseph Allan, Erin, Miss Beatrice Hills, Ballinafad, Mrs. Robert Warne, Acton and Henry of Ballinafad.

THE EASTER BUNNY VISITS NORVAL BROWNIES

The last meeting before the Easter holidays of the First Norval Pack was an Easter party. The Brownies all made Easter baskets and had high hopes that the Easter Bunny would fill them before the meeting was over.

It was also a special day for Lynda Shea as she received her Golden Bar. For the ceremony Lynda wore a cape of gold and was taken into the fairy ring through an arch of brownies by Tawny. She was led to a cushion of gold to kneel before Brown Owl. The Brown Owl tapped her on each shoulder with a golden sword and named her "Sir Lynda, Knight of the Golden Bar" and then pinned on her golden bar badge. She was then given the grand howl by the Pack.

The Brownies then entertained with poems, songs and riddles to the enjoyment of all. Before the Brownies left for home to start the Easter holidays it was discovered that the Easter bunny had come and filled all of their baskets.

WHAT COUNCIL DID

COUNCIL SETS 1958 BUDGET LAST NIGHT

Games Night Successful Event - Businesswomen

The Business and Professional Women's Club held their annual "Games" Night on Monday evening in the Legion auditorium. Thirty tables of games were in play, euchre, canasta, bridge, scrabble, hearts, practically any game you can think of was in process. Each table had an individual table prize for their own particular game. Mrs. Arthur Suddaby, the president, welcomed the guests and expressed the thanks of the club for their support.

Draw tickets had been sold for the aid of UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) on vouchers of \$50, \$25, and \$10. The winners of this draw were Gordon Hallitt, 11 Gibbons Place, the \$50, Mrs. Archie Galbraith, Oakville, \$25 and Mrs. Martin Cummins of John St. the \$10 voucher.

Lucky ticket holders were Mrs. Edna Korzack, Miss Isobel Thompson, Mr. C. Bellegem, Mrs. W. Hamilton (Streetsville), Mrs. Rene Martin, Mrs. R. C. McDermott, Mrs. MacCusworth, Mrs. Erickson, Mrs. Jack Runham, Miss Jessie Leavitt, Mrs. Lloyd Marks, Mrs. Kevin McAuley, Mrs. William Hyde, Mrs. A. S. Wilson, A. L. Miller, Mrs. J. Mathias, Mrs. Hugh Lindsay, Miss Nancy Archer, Mrs. D. L. White, Mrs. Leslie (Streetsville), Mrs. Walter Blehn, Mrs. Helen Robinson, Mrs. Peter Drenters, Mrs. L. W. Dann, Mrs. Richard Miller, Miss Nora Kranz, Mr. Richard Miller, Mrs. Dorothy Burns, Mrs. Charles Blehn, Chesley, Mrs. Jack Miller, Streetsville, Mrs. Clarence Buck, Mrs. John Patterson, 17 Orchard Blvd., was the convener for the night. Miss Jean Ruddell, Main Street North, was the convener for the refreshments which were served at the conclusion of the draw. Miss Isobel Dobson designed and prepared the attractive programs.

Ballinafad Man Was City Linotype Operator

William E. Hills of 468 St. Clements Avenue, Toronto, died suddenly at his home on Thursday, April 10th, at the age of sixty-five. Mr. Hills, born in the Ballinafad district the son of Ira Hills and Martha Ann Beswick Hills, received his early education in the Blue Mountain School.

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Predeceased by his parents several years ago and one brother George of Gimli, Manitoba, who died last year, he is survived by his wife Olive Liddy and a daughter Mrs. William Tew (Audrey) of Dryden and her son and daughter Aerin and David. One brother and four sisters also are left, Mrs. William Kentner, Boissivin, Manitoba, Mrs. Joseph Allan, Erin, Miss Beatrice Hills, Ballinafad, Mrs. Robert Warne, Acton and Henry of Ballinafad.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Mel Adams of Acton, formerly of Guelph announce the engagement of their daughter Barbara Mae to William Elwyn (Archie) Service, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Service of Milton. The wedding will take place in St. George's Anglican Church, Georgetown on Saturday May the third at two-thirty o'clock.

ACCIDENT ON RIVER DRIVE

Neither driver was injured last Sunday afternoon when cars collided on River Drive at about 4.45 p.m. The drivers involved in the mishap were Don Ross of 47 Norton Crescent and Jean Elizabeth Finca of Shelburne.

Damage was estimated at approximately \$400 by Cst. Ted Scott who investigated the accident.

Georgetown will have a 2-mill reduction in tax rate this year. A budget adopted last night by council calls for a 48 mill rate for residential properties, and for industrial and commercial taxpayers 51 mills. Home owners continue to benefit this year from a 3-mill provincial grant, which accounts for the two rates.

While receiving majority council approval, the budget met with criticism from two councillors, Ern Hyde and John Elliott.

Cr. Hyde argued for retention of last year's rate, terming the 48 mills a "red herring" which is gobbling up a 1967 surplus, and claiming the town would be borrowing money for major expenditures which could better be collected by an extra tax levy. He suggested the rate stay the same and the extra money be used to instal Swanek storm sewers, delayed because funds cannot be borrowed for this project.

Cr. Elliott said the auditor had recommended a 50 1/2 mill rate and that the town establish a 1-mill reserve fund, and was inclined to take this advice.

"If you want to tell ratepayers you want to put two mills aside for them, you can, but not me" said Mayor Armstrong. "I think people can save their own money instead of having council do it for them."

The mayor said it is council's responsibility to levy taxes for the reasonable operation of the town, and to pass on savings when possible.

"I've always tried to give ratepayers the advantage wherever possible" said Finance Chairman McGilvray in presenting the budget. Mr. McGilvray said that long-term projects should not be paid from current taxes, for new residents, as they move to town should bear a share of expense for improvements they enjoy.

While other councillors expressed agreement with this philosophy Cr. Hyde gave a lengthy argument on having a pay-as-you-go policy as much as possible. In the long run, he claimed, the tax rate suffers when debentures are issued. Debt charges are the largest item in the budget, he said, and council had been told last year by a bond firm representative that Georgetown must not borrow more money or issue more debentures.

"I'll oppose the Swanek storm sewer or any other if it means borrowing money" said Cr. Hyde.

Disagreeing, Cr. Sykes said it was because per capita debt is too high that the bond firm had given this advice, and that if the Delrex housing project goes through, this will decrease, as he can see no major expenditures entailed other than a new school.

"What about another policeman, possibly another police cruiser, a full-time fire brigade, increased cost of garbage collection" said Cr. Hyde.

"If we sharpened our pencils, we might be able to pare two more mills off the new tax rate" said Reeve Sargent, pointing out that revenue estimates are conservative and that \$14,700 is allowed in the budget for contingencies.

Mayor Armstrong complimented Cr. McGilvray on doing a fine job as finance chairman, a post he has held for the past nine years. The budget, he said, is a sensible one, and there is a good possibility that this year the town might end the year again with a surplus, like last year, of some \$17,000.

Important Information

At Tuesday's council meeting, motions were passed that the proposed agreement which would allow Delrex to build 582 new houses, and the original 1954 agreement covering the company's original agreement be published in this issue of the Herald.

After Monday's meeting, it was realized that a majority of council wished to inform the public as fully as possible about all details of the proposed agreement, and a copy was secured by the Herald and set in type. It appears on page 6. Unfortunately, space limitations did not allow inclusion of the 1954 agreement this week. It will appear in the April 23rd Herald edition.