

# The Georgetown Herald

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## ... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

### Businessmen's Group Forms

Formation of a downtown businessmen's group is a forward step for Main Street merchants. It is an organization which has flourished on occasion in the past, but has been missing for too many years.

While the organization came into being during discussions on parking sites in the downtown area, there are many more things which it can tackle, given an active, interested membership of merchants who are willing to contribute a share of their time and financial support to furthering their business interests, as well as the larger field of community betterment.

In past years, merchants' groups have promoted such things as weekly lucky draws, street dances and similar activities. Merchants a few years ago were instrumental in having a liquor control store locate here, helped promote a local

car licence bureau, installed waste containers which eventually gave way to the more adequate ones donated by the Chamber of Commerce.

In future, an organized association can do much for themselves and the town. Christmas lighting has far from reached perfection, either collectively or individually. Sales of the Dollar Day type have never successfully been promoted as a group action. No organized attempt has ever been made, to our knowledge, to encourage location here of a business which the town does not possess — a photographer comes to mind, as one thing which would be an asset to the business community. A theatre is another.

With proper direction and the right support, the new businessmen's organization can have a bright future, and we wish it well.

### Sad News for Georgetown

Word that Georgetown's senior band has gone out of existence is sad news for a town which has taken such pride in its musical accomplishments.

A bright spot, however, is that the boys' band is thriving and the hope that in a few years these youngsters, being trained so well in music fundamentals, will graduate to a new senior band which will once more carry Georgetown's banner high at the music festivals and the CNE.

A town is the loser when it does not have a band. There was a day, when life was less hurried, and television had not taken its toll

when a Friday night band concert was the week's highlight. And even in recent years, first in the theatre and later at the park, band concerts have delighted audiences which, while lacking in numbers, made up in enthusiasm for the music dispensed by the local band.

"Music hath charms" the old saying goes, and whether it's soothing a savage breast, keeping toes tapping at a parade, or delighting those who love music in all its moods, a town band is something no community should be without. We hope it won't be too long until a senior band is again flourishing here.

### Churches Grow with Town

Annual church reports contained in the last few Herald issues reflect a healthy religious growth commensurate with Georgetown's population increase.

Two churches, the United and Anglican, have already taken steps which will lead eventually to second churches in the eastern Delrex area. In 1958, St. George's Anglican became a separate parish, as did St. Alban's, Glen Williams. First Baptist has started a transportation service as part of its church school facilities. Grace Baptist, with future building plans for a church structure, has secured a parsonage for its minister. The Presbyterians have pledged \$10,000

to their general assembly, as well as maintaining a high rate of giving for their own local church. St. John's United is discussing an extension to their church facilities, as is St. George's.

The Glen Anglicans have built a rectory for their new minister. Roman Catholics took a giant step when they acquired property on Maple Ave. and built a separate school, with end plans calling for a new church adjoining.

It is encouraging that in a world which sometimes seems too busy for other than commerce, the church has not only maintained its rightful place, but is on the upswing. May it ever be so.

### Erin Dairyman Purchases Maple Leaf Business Here

One of Georgetown's oldest businesses changed hands last week when Fred Steen, Erin, assumed ownership of the Maple Leaf Dairy. He purchased the 32-year old business from Ern Thompson, who has been proprietor since the death of his father, William Thompson, 25 years ago. Mr. Thompson, with his sons, established the dairy business locally. Included in the sale is the building on Water St. which was built

by the Thompsons and where they first introduced a pasteurization plant. Mr. Thompson recalls the day they were first in business. It was the morning that the old foundry on King Street, the present location of the Graham Bell Company, burned down.

"We put a bottle of milk on each doorstep in town that morning," he says, "and it took exactly 500 bottles to cover the town."

Mr. Steen has been an Erin businessman since 1944, when he started a dairy there under his own name. A 1934 graduate of the OAC dairy school, he formerly worked as a buttermaker at Erin

Creamery. Born on a farm south of Brampton, he moved as a child to an Erin dairy farm. Ownership of the two dairies now gives him a distributing territory covering many district communities including Ballinafad, Terra Cotta, Inglewood, Caledonia and Cheltenham.

Married to the former Myrtle McQuarrie of Erin, Mr. and Mrs. Steen have three children: Barbara, Tommy and Kenneth. Mr. Steen has played a prominent part in Erin in community life. He is a former member of the village council, past president of Erin Lions Club and a member of Wellington Masonic Lodge No. 271. He belongs to Erin Curling Club and played ORIA hockey for years as a centre on the Erin team.

### Hillside Firm Operates Esqueing Garbage Route

A garbage service, started six years ago in this part of Esqueing Township by Earl Scott, has been sold to Hillside Sand & Gravel, a company operated by Tom Haines, Glen Williams.

The service filled a great need in the township which has no municipal garbage service, and received the cooperation of the township council which established a supervised dump on the McDonald farm at Dolly Varden, where garbage is properly covered after it is dumped by the contractor.

The service has been widely used by a majority of township residents, who make their own payment arrangements with the contractor. Mr. Haines will be carrying on the business from now on in the same way as it was operated by Mr. Scott, who is now sales representative for Simpsons-Sears in town.



Champion country correspondent for a weekly paper, Philip LaForce (left), 69, of Gibson Indian Reserve near Bala, receives Ontario Hydro's award of merit from James A. Blay, Hydro's Director of Information. Presentation took place in Toronto during the annual convention of Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association, which selected Mr. LaForce for his column in the Bracebridge Herald-Gazette.

### THE MAIL BAG

#### Some Opposite Views Georgetown's Economy

45 Main St. North, Georgetown, January 31

Dear Editor:

I read a very interesting letter in this week's Herald from R. C. Thompson which I would like to answer if I may.

R. C. Thompson is a newcomer to our fair town or he would have been informed as to HOW the town of Georgetown has doubled its population in 3 years and who is responsible and why we have no industry. Looking back to 1955 we were a fairly prosperous and a happy community. There was work for most of our population right in Georgetown. Suddenly there were rumours of fabulous prices paid for farm land in the Delrex area. An avalanche of get rich quick ideas descended on this small but happy community.

About the time my husband and I sold property in Toronto and decided to take a much overdue holiday to the land of our birth in England and in Italy. Four months later we returned. The building boom was on. But instead of the industry which we had been led to expect, there were rows and rows of new houses. One look at our tax bill was enough to convince us that while some got rich with this project we were included with the ones who would pay for it.

As time went on and no industry transpired of importance, the people began to feel the impact of this venture. Our taxes were doubled, more schools were needed, while two schools were enough in the past we now have 5 or 6. This meant more teachers, more upkeep meant additions to our municipal offices. More sewage, more water, etc., etc., but still the tide rolled on. There came a time when most of us woke up to the fact that something was wrong. In vain were the warnings given to our town fathers, only three of whom were opposed to the tidal onslaught of the BUILDING BOOM.

A peek into my scrap book where many of the news items pro and con about this subject reveals the fact that the three councillors, namely Hyde, Harrison and Elliott had serious misgivings only last April about the soundness of building yet another 582 homes until Georgetown had acquired more industry. Many of our citizens voiced their protest also, including myself, all to no avail. It was pointed out even then that should Malton close down our town would be bankrupt and many of our citizens destitute and on relief. The grim fact is now on our doorstep that Malton may indeed shut down and 600 families no independent on Malton will be unemployed with no possibilities of work here in town.

Not long ago we read in the Herald that a certain industry was interested in locating in Georgetown, but alas our water supplies could only take care of our population. Perhaps if the building fever had been curtailed we might have had enough water. A search for more water is still in progress as per The Herald of Jan. 21st. Councillor McGilvray has the right idea in his complaint of the trifling sum of \$10,000 for just a few repairs.

Much publicity was given about the new signs advertising the merits of living in Georgetown. The only result to date seems to be an additional 500 new families for which we must supply more schools, sewage, water, etc., etc. and which as R. C. Thompson points out may easily lose their all.

The closing of Malton will mean tragedy for Georgetown, the boom in building will surely be topped by the exodus if that happens. It is small comfort to send deputations to the prime minister. Unlike OUR town fathers he is doing his best for our country and will take a long look into the future

before HE is swayed in HIS decision.

I well remember our town 20 years ago, from the mayor, Mr. Joseph Gibbons to the lone policeman who was also the assessor, the roads supervisor, etc., etc. (Mr. Wm. G. Marshall assisted by Mr. W. Emmerson as night constable.) Each took a friendly interest in their neighbour, and many a helping hand was extended to those in need and a friendly boost to the ambitious.

Today, we have grown cold to the needs of others. Together with the majority of the world, personal gain and living up to the Jones's seems the only thing that counts. Georgetown HAD to grow, yes, but not all in one spot to the detriment of the rest.

As R. C. Thompson puts it: Do Something Now before it is too late! I am quite sure that the editor will have plenty of mail this week, and I second the motion of R. C. Thompson wholeheartedly.

—Katherine Cordaro

**LAST SCHEDULE GAME**  
 Hunter Realtors play their last scheduled game Friday here with Alliston the visitors. The playoff schedule is being drawn up this week-end and will be announced in next week's Herald.

Coming Soon!  
**SAME DAY SHIRT FINISHING**  
 Watch for our opening Specials!  
  
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**HOW'S YOUR I.Q. ?**  
 TODAY'S INSURANCE PROBLEMS ANSWERED

Question: I am under 25 and my car is in my name. I carry auto insurance under my Dad's policy to save me a rate increase. Am I protected?

Answer: Probably not, as the application would state that the applicant is the owner of the car. It would be an untrue statement in this case.

Contributed in the interest of sound insurance by  
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