

**The Georgetown Herald**  
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**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

*Introducing Ian Cass*

This week the first of a series of articles by a local man, Ian Cass, appears under the provocative heading "Controversial Corner."

For some time, Mr. Cass has been discussing with us the possibility of a weekly column of this nature. Readers will remember his excellent account of the last day at Malton... and a later item in which he commented on the municipal tax system. Both of them were excellent pieces of writing, and helped convince us that a controversial column of the sort he had in mind would be interesting.

We do not expect to agree with all of his ideas; nor do we expect that all readers will share his views. In fact, it would be a disappointment indeed if the "Corner" does not arouse occasional expressions of opinion from readers and some letters in the mail bag. It is the writer's expressed intention to create controversy of a beneficial nature. As Mr. Cass says "the willingness to disagree is the very essence of personal and political freedom."

We invite reader comment on the new column. It will be our way of assessing its value as a Herald feature. We hope you like it.

*Such a Lot of Help*

The editorial above gives us an opportunity to comment, as we do from time to time, on the help which the Herald receives in so many ways from readers and contributors.

A weekly newspaper is only as good as its readers make it, might well be the slogan of a paper like the Herald. And a debt of gratitude is owed to those who regularly or occasionally submit news which we otherwise would not have. In each outlying community, there are ladies who make it a point to collect their village news - Mrs. John Bellbody for Ashgrove; Mrs. Arthur Benton for Limehouse; Mrs. John Black for Ballinfad; Mrs. Ed Robertson for Hornby, to name a few. Others submit occasional news from other rural areas. Ag-Rep. J. A. Francis is following a pattern established by J. E. Whitelock in keeping the county press informed of agricultural news.

**Says Housing Increase Caused Rise in Taxes**

28 Bairdrow Cres., P.O. Box 223, Georgetown, Ont.

An Open Letter to the Mayor and Council members, Georgetown: Gentlemen:

With regard to the recent tax increase in the town, I realize that this was inevitable, and that we did not have any tax increase last year, but I now question the main reasons for the increase as it is. If I believe it is to pay for ser-

Recently M.A.B. has started her weekly Chatting column again. Karen Scott has been contributing an interesting column from Alma College where she is a student. A former Georgetown, Miss Muriel Thompson is doing a fine job of reporting happenings at Halton Manor. The police department recently inaugurated a different type of column which has wide reader interest.

There are others, so myriad that it would be impossible to list them all by name. In every organization there are people we come to count on when we call for a meeting report. Others beat us to the punch and phone us first with their news. Many readers go out of their way to phone in a personal, to give us a tip on news item, large or small, happy or sad, which adds to the value of the Herald as a reflection of the weekly news of a community.

We are grateful to you all for your help. For without this help it would be a relatively impossible task for the Herald staff to turn out an interesting weekly news budget.

*Red Cross Seeks Funds*

Seeking \$2,000 as their objective this year, members of Georgetown and district Red Cross are planning a blitz canvass a week from Wednesday.

Georgetown is fortunate in having public spirited citizens who work for such organizations as the Red Cross. In war, its work of mercy is so well known that it hardly needs repeating. But it is not a wartime organization by any means, and in a quiet way the Red Cross operates continually to serve mankind in many ways.

Locally, it is best known perhaps for a blood donor clinic, a yearly endeavor which replenishes supplies of blood plasma in hospitals. A loan cupboard is also available, with crutches, wheel chair, invalid bed and other hospital supplies available for the asking. A water safety program is another activity aimed to save lives. And should disasters occur like Hurricane Hazel, the Red Cross is on the spot quickly and efficiently.

When a canvasser calls on May 13th, a cordial reception is urged.

ices, surely the increase has been aggravated by the unwarranted and excessive number of homes which have and are still being built in Georgetown.

We all know that Georgetown is suffering from a lack of industry, and although we have had repeated statements by councillors, and rumours from numerous sources that "industry was just around the corner," or that some firm was "just about to decide," no new industries have arrived, only one making an appearance during the last few years.

The Delrex company has put forward some grandiose schemes for developing the town's eastern limits, and have persuaded you gentle-

men on a few occasions to release additional building lands, always with the assurance that industry would follow the building of new homes.

At the time of the last release of land, Mr. Bairdrow of the Delrex Company went into great detail in the council chamber to explain the company's need to continue development, with veiled hints that they would have to "move on" if land was not released.

Mr. Bairdrow assured council that additional houses built would impose no additional drain on the town coffers and produced figures to back this up.

In face of a number of petitions from various parts of town, against

**Controversial Corner**

by Ian Cass

The perpetual optimism of inventors and scientists is a source of continual wonder to me. Each of the fantastic discoveries of the past hundred years or so has, in its time, been hailed as something of supreme benefit to the human race, something which will lengthen our lives, speed our travel, lighten our burden and lessen the total of human suffering. It is, in some aspects paradoxical, that scientists who know so much of so many things, know so little about human beings - or seem to know so little. It is reasonably obvious that any invention will almost certainly be abused and misused by mankind if it is possible to do so. Perhaps right now is a good time to call a temporary halt to scientific research, while the moral growth of humanity catches up to the stage where it can refrain from abusing the discoveries and inventions already provided.

The gasoline age was ushered in, approximately one hundred years ago with the invention of the internal combustion engine; an invention which was soon followed by the automobile and the aeroplane. There can be no doubt that both these machines have contributed considerably to the material richness of our lives. At the same time, it is a debatable question whether or not motor cars and aeroplanes have increased the sum total of human happiness.

We are all familiar with the material benefits created by the possession of an automobile; the broadening of outlook from extensive travel, the saving of time through the ability to move at fifty miles an hour, instead of four, and so on. Perhaps we need a continual reminder of the debit side of the picture - a debit side, not created by the automobile as such, but by the people who abuse it.

The countries of the Western World are currently spending hundreds of billions of dollars on what is obviously a policy of peace thru strength. In the last war billions of dollars were spent on equipment which was designed to speed the end of hostilities and so reduce Allied casualties. And yet, in North America since the end of World War II, the number of people killed or maimed by motor cars is greater than the total American and Canadian casualties during that conflict. However, there is no evidence of any concerted national effort to reduce road-deaths, most of which are a result of abuse and misuse. A concerted national effort could produce a ninety per cent reduction in road deaths in a very short time, as most sensible people know.

Now that we all have cars we are forgetting how to walk, indeed, on the present highways or byways it is dangerous and unpleasant to attempt such an evolutionary mode of travel. Furthermore, if we travelled at a walking pace, what a lot of time we would have to observe the decorative effect of ice cream cartons, news papers, cigarette packets, pop bottles, beer bottles and miscellaneous garbage, deposited on the roadside by misguided people who think that their car window is the lid of a trash can. So much for one or two of the abuses of automobiles; when we consider aeroplanes, the picture is as discouraging.

The Wright brothers would have found it difficult to believe had they been told, in 1903, that in the fifty years following the first flight of a heavier-than-air machine, there would be considerably more aircraft built for the purpose of killing people than for transporting them. And that the primary factor in the rapid development of air travel was the frantic search for a better weapon, not a better vehicle. There is probably much truth in the contention that one tenth of the money and effort used to develop new weapons of war would have produced a solution to many of our real problems, such as cancer and over-population.

Perhaps it seems ridiculous to jump from the tragedy of wholesale slaughter by the abuse of man's inventiveness, to the local nuisance value of fireworks. However, the difference is only one of degree. Fireworks were invented to provide an impressive means of celebrating an important occasion; a pleasing display of colour and sound which can be most entertaining.

The dimwit who demonstrates his manly aggressiveness of throwing lighted firecrackers into groups of people in theatres, ice rinks or on the street, is displaying the same abusive ego and indifference as those who do it on a larger scale. As Victoria Day approaches we will read reports of the accidents and injuries across the country as a result of the misuse of fireworks - one boy loses an eye, another a finger. We in this town have not suffered from accidents of this nature so far, let us be thankful for that. Let us also consider the excellent bylaw we have governing the sale and discharge of fireworks; Council is to be congratulated for having the common sense to pass such a sensible piece of legislation. Perhaps more of our laws should be passed by part-time politicians who have not yet lost touch with the common man.

immediate release of more land, and urging a "go slow" policy in this regard, more land was released, and an amendment was made to the agreement between the Town and Delrex to provide a "lack of industry" penalty of \$140,000 over a 3 year period.

Therefore, gentlemen, I would ask you:

(a) Are the newly built homes "carrying themselves" as was suggested?

(b) Has the Delrex Company paid its just amount to date on the lack of industry penalty?

(c) Where is the oft promised industry?

(d) Where and how is it proposed to raise the monies for the new schools which are required?

(e) How is the sewage plant to be financed?

(f) Are council going to be able to finish roads they took over from the developer, and which are in a deplorable state as of now?

I am sure our local newspaper editor would welcome the opportunity to print replies to these questions, so the citizens of Georgetown could be enlightened, but I would urge careful study and consideration before a reply is given.

A great showman once said, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time."

The citizens of Georgetown have been fooled long enough, gentlemen.

A disgusted ratepayer,  
-HARRISON WOOD

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