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Controversial Corner

by Iain Cass

BY-LAW NO. 57-91

It is doubtful whether many of our townspeople are getting very excited about By-Law No. 57-91, or if they even know what the By-Law is all about. The impressive title of this piece of legislation is "The restricted area (Zoning) By-Law of the Town of Georgetown." The attitude of most people to this new law is not surprising; it doesn't make very exciting reading; it is unlikely to affect their affairs very much at the present time. In fact, readers of this column may well wonder why such an uncontroversial subject is discussed here at all.

On Friday, May 29, the Ontario Municipal Board will convene in Georgetown for the purpose of giving final approval to the Zoning By-law; at that time a hearing will be given to persons wishing to support or oppose it. It is virtually certain that shortly after this meeting the By-law will be final-

ly approved. From then on, all land within the town area will be restricted to the purpose laid down by the zoning regulations. This, in itself, is not particularly controversial. The majority of people feel, perhaps not very strongly, that zoning and land use are a good thing. The controversy is yet to come. This By-law will be under repeated attack during the next few years until it is either revised to death or until people who seek to change it realize that it is here to stay. Individuals and organizations wishing to extend, build or develop will find that the regulations hamper them or cost them money, so they will squawk. The council will either stand by their guns and refuse permit expediency to undermine what they know to be a good law, or they will tolerate continual deviations which will seriously reduce its effectiveness.

Many of us in Canada have never been face to face with the appalling results of unregulated use of land by irresponsible promoters. It is difficult for people to work up a great enthusiasm for regulations aimed at preventing an evil they have never known. Those of us who have travelled around, particularly in Europe and parts of the U.S. however, have seen first hand the misery, squalor and defilement which can result from unrestricted land usage. The slums of London, New York, Rome, Naples, Athens and to a lesser degree, of Quebec, Montreal and Toronto, exist largely because they were built in an unenlightened age when "private enterprise" was more powerful than the society in which it flourished.

In Southern Ontario, with a few exceptions, the demand for land has not yet reached the stage where its misuse has become an aggravated problem or a controversial issue — but the writing is already on the wall. For many years now the question of providing a "green belt" around Toronto has been under discussion but, as we all know, nothing has been done. There is no green belt now, and, because of the inability of the municipal authorities in that area to take a firm hold on a hot potato there never will be. A green belt around a city, is a band or swathe of land which is devoted to public and private open spaces, park lands, golf courses and conservation areas. The purpose of a green belt is fairly obvious, it is to provide a place where children can play surrounded by grass and trees instead of sidewalks and traffic, a place where adults can find peace and relaxation, a place where the tensions of living are a little less tense. As for Toronto, when they get around to establishing a green belt it will probably necessitate an agreement with the Barrie town council!

The Georgetown zoning regulations are not perfect — not in this writer's opinion anyway — as they leave much to be desired in the way of providing public open spaces along the north fork of the Credit river, but they represent a big step in the right direction. It is my earnest hope that this by-law will have the enthusiastic support of our townspeople, so that our children will inherit a well-planned town and not a hodge-podge of unrestricted construction. If there is to be controversy over this, let us have it now before it is too late. Let us hear from the supporters of wise land usage, let us hear from the opponents of more park land and open spaces; you can bet your bottom boots that your axe-grinding opponents will be heard from — they always are.

FIRST FARM ACCIDENT FIGURES REPORTED

Detailed information on the accident picture on Ontario farms for the first three months of the Farm Accident Survey is now being reported to agricultural representatives, states T. R. Hilliard, Director of Extension, Ontario Dept. of Agriculture, under whose supervision the Farm Accident Survey is being carried out. The information will be tabulated and analyzed, and the results divulged as soon as they are available.

Agricultural representatives report that a total of 5492 people are acting as accident reports in the Farm Accident Survey. "I would like to commend all those who are serving as farm accident reporters, and also those farm families that are providing the information on accidents on their farms," states Mr. Hilliard. "This information will be of value to farm organizations and the Dept. in devising a safety education program designed to reduce the number of all accidents on Ontario farms."

School Music Director Excels Mikado Direction

Dr. Charles M. Wilson, music director for Georgetown High School directed and conducted a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's Mikado for three evenings last week in Guelph. The members of the cast were all from Guelph and district, the orchestra of seventeen pieces had a number of the members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The members of the cast wore the costumes recently used by CBC for their performance.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lambert and their daughter Cynthia attended one of the performances and report that it was the best amateur performance of this type they have ever seen and that it was in fact as good, if not better, than performances seen produced by the D'Oyle-Carte Company in London. Georgetown is indeed very fortunate to have this talented gentleman on the staff of the high school, he is a young man who will make his presence known in the music world.

Anticipate Red Cross Blitz Over \$2000 Mark

Inclement weather, and an unlucky thirteenth canvassing date worked in reverse for the Red Cross this month as Georgetowners opened their wallets to release \$1839.95 to the annual blitz campaign and the total is still growing. When the final donation is in the figure will be well in excess of the organization's \$2,000 target.

Coming at a time when many other organizations are also putting forth their annual appeal for funds and when unemployment has produced a mass tightening of purse strings the success of the blitz is particularly amazing, however the canvassers, one hundred and thirty odd, were unanimous in praising the generosity of the unemployed.

The blitzers started to blanket the town at 7 o'clock Wednesday morning and continued the door-to-door campaign until ten o'clock at night. Many of the canvassers were Kinsmen Club members.

Lillian Shortill is president of the local branch of the Red Cross, with Mrs. Don Thompson secretary and Don Wingrove treasurer. Jack Spence was campaign manager, and Keith McLeish handled the publicity.

Cuts, Lacerations When Child Struck by Car

Johnny Emerson, 4 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Emerson, 181 Main St. N., was knocked to the pavement Sunday afternoon when he ran into the path of a car driven by Lawrence Racine of Newmarket. He was treated at the office of Dr. J. H. Chamberlain for a cut over his right eye and lacerations to the right side of his head and right ear.

Mr. Racine was driving south on Main Street when the child darted onto the road from the west curb. Cst. R. D. Whitson investigated the accident which was reported at about 3 p.m.

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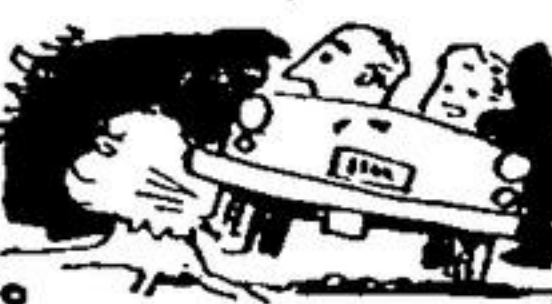
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