

The Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Just Like Ladies' Fashions...

The Herald's "New Look" follows the same trend as ladies' fashions.

Last week's change to an 8 column format brings the newspaper back to the 'thirties' when weekly newspapers were of similar size or larger. In between, there was a trend to smaller sheet sizes. In 1935, the Herald became a 6-column paper, changed from its former four pages weekly to eight or more, and at one time was consistently running some 16 pages in the new sheet size.

A few years ago, an extra column was added and the page size slightly increased. And now in 1959 we have run the full cycle back to the 8-column size.

Today's readers, however, will find much difference between present issues and those of a quarter century ago. In

those days, the Herald had no typesetting machinery and every line of type was a painstaking hand process. It was common to use 'boiler plate', prepared columns which were purchased from companies which provided a metal plate for printing. This was necessary because of the time element involved. Local pictures were rarely used. Advertising illustrations were limited in scope.

In 1959, readers will find a minimum of other than local news in the Herald. Pictures are being used more and more to complement the written word in an age when the public has grown accustomed to this visual form of news reporting. New type faces make advertisements more attractive. Boiler plate has joined the horse and buggy in extinction.

Town Park In Lovely Shape....

Georgetown's fine public park never looked nicer than on Saturday when crowds streamed in to take advantage of a lovely fall day and view the attractions of the fair.

We heard more than one complimentary comment and it is only proper to give credit where it is due—in this case, to Al Prouse, whose efforts go far beyond the remuneration he receives as groundskeeper.

It was not only on Saturday that the ned up, and buildings kept in good repair looked nice.

This season it has been kept in excellent shape, with grass cut, litter cleared. It has been well used by the public, and more than once we have noticed the picnic tables being used for family outings. Bell diamonds, and soccer fields have been well patronized as well as the children's swings. Addition of lighting makes for fuller use in the evenings for garden parties and such.

We are lucky to have such natural beauty in our town and to have it cared for in such excellent fashion.

Smooth Post Office Transposition....

A switch to postal delivery, an historic day for Georgetown and one which entailed major behind-the-scenes work for the post office staff, has been accomplished with a minimum of inconvenience.

After a week in operation, most of the kinks have been ironed out and the system is operating smoothly. Postal authorities are to be congratulated on the efficient way the transition was made.

Residents are generally happy to have this service which brings mail to their door daily. To be sure, there is nos-

algia for those who liked their daily visit to the post office where they would meet a friend they hadn't seen for a time, and join in the general excitement of the hustle and bustle which characterized the old system.

The old order changeover... to be replaced by a better. The days when the post office was a meeting place can be retained only by smaller towns which are not in Georgetown's progressive state. Any tears shed for the passing of the old system will be those of the sentimentalists most of whom, at the same time, will be smiling at the new.

Controversial Corner

by Ian Cass

Where Is Delrex Talking Us?
 When the Heslop organization applied to council in 1958, for the release of land on which to build a further 596 houses, there was a violent public reaction, the like of which Georgetown has not seen for some time. Mass meetings were held, petitions against the additional housing were circulated, council meetings were besieged by taxpayers who opposed the application and generally there was quite a "to-do". During this period, it was good to see democratic government, at the municipal level, so well demonstrated by the people of this town. It was a healthy sign for us that so many people made the effort to exert their inalienable rights as voters and expressed their opinions on this very controversial issue.

However, despite the furor of public opinion, the council exercised their rights also and authorization for the additional construction was passed by a recorded vote. Delrex, on their part, made a determined effort to win over public opinion, addressed ratepayer meetings, promised to do everything in their power to maintain the industrial/residential ratio of 40/60% and assured the people that no financial burden would be placed on the town as a result of the additional housing. To show their good intentions, they promised to pay the additional taxes which industry would have paid had the 40/60% ratio been maintained—the goodly sum of \$167,000 covering 1958-9-60. This then, was the situation a year ago. At the time our mill rate was 68, Avro and Orenda at Milton were employing 18,000 people, and hopes for the Arrow and Georgetown

the town of certain financial burdens if the extra land is released. It quotes the sewage pumping station on Guelph St. and services on Mountainview Road as items of town responsibility which will cost perhaps \$175,000. However, the proposal also states that the penalty of \$400 per house which would be payable to the town should be reduced by the amount which Delrex pays for providing these two items. The sewage pumping station is required to service the industrial land north of Guelph St. the sewer on Mountainview will only be required if land is released in that area. These two items are required to service Delrex developments. Yet the proposal implies that the town should be happy to forego \$175,000 so that the developer can install sewer services which should be his responsibility in the first place. This responsibility must have been realized when Delrex built the foundations for the pumping station some time ago and then stopped.

Mr. Baird, Delrex general manager, said in council that the 40/60% ratio cannot be lived up to in the foreseeable future. As far as Delrex is concerned it never has been lived up to. During the past four years, nearly a thousand houses have been built in the Delrex area while the industrial land grows goldenrod. We have attracted Sykes Tool, Avian and Standard Products, it is true, but this is a drop in the bucket. Additional residential building in this town was a logical step when we were a "dormitory" area for the huge Malton plants. This is no longer the case. Not even Mr. Pearkes can now say where the future of Avro (Canada) lies. One cannot evade the fact that we need more industry and are not getting it. I am told that every effort is being made to attract industry—this may well be true. Yet, Brampton, Streetsville, Milton and others are



THE FROST IS ON THE PUMPKIN

getting industry; what's wrong with Georgetown facilities?"

Another question which requires an answer before council releases further land to Delrex is the question of the temporary sewage lagoon now serving the eastern area of Delrex. This lagoon was the result of an agreement between Delrex and the central Ontario Municipal Authorities who gave permission for its temporary use. It seems logical that when the new disposal plant is completed, Delrex would complete their servicing of the area by connecting the lagoon to the new plant. Mr. Baird, however, is not so sure—the company has no obligation to provide the connecting link, he says. If the company is obligated to provide services surely this part of those services.

The town spent a lot of time and money drawing up a zoning bylaw so that we would have a balanced community of RL to R4 houses, plus industrial and commercial buildings. Delrex are selling and using lots which are being devoted almost entirely for the cheapest housing (R4)

This trend is likely to continue if further land is released.

Cheap housing is a commendable thing but under our present economy we are likely to finish up with houses that people can't afford with taxes that they can't pay. There is no doubt that the release of further land to Delrex will be vigorously supported by people who have a financial axe to grind. I hope this column will encourage the interest of townspeople who have a vested interest in the Delrex operation; people who are only interested in a well-planned, prosperous, financially stable town. Council must not consider this important decision too lightly. We cannot undertake further financial commitments nor can we tolerate higher taxes. If there is such a requirement for building lots that 1961 more must be released, one cannot help wondering why Council has been unable to sell the sixteen serviced building lots which belong to the town. Lots which are being offered quite cheaply too.

—IAN CASS



PROCLAMATION

I HEREBY PROCLAIM THE WEEK COMMENCING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th
 AND ENDING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Fire Prevention Week

And respectfully request that all residents, stores and industries observe Fire Prevention Week by a general cleanup and removal of all fire hazards as advocated by our Fire Department officials.

JOHN T. ARMSTRONG
 MAYOR

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Next Monday is Thanksgiving Day—the last public holiday before Christmas. Advertisers and those submitting news copy will do us a favor by being as early as possible, so the Herald staff can enjoy the holiday too.

Sugar and Spice

Dispensed by BILL SMILEY of the Winton Bako

Once a week, whether I need it or not, I take a bath. And once a year, without fail, I sit down and count my blessings. Every Thanksgiving, I make a point of it. I suggest you try this excellent custom, which induces an unaccustomed humility in the most hardened of us. Each year, when I do it, I feel all pure and holy for an hour or two.

The daily scramble can become such an accumulation of small irritations, minute trifles, and petty miseries that life seems to be nothing but a great big pain in the arm. But just sit back and tick off all the good things you have, and you'll feel like that rarest of creatures, a happy, well-adjusted millionaire.

One thing for which I'm deeply thankful is reasonably good health. There are teeth missing, I can't smell, and some of the old joints are giving me hell, but on the whole, I'm a doctor's despair. In ten years, I've spent three days in bed and \$3 on doctors and that was to get my corns pared. Of course the rest of my family have cost me about \$2,000 in doctor's bills during that decade, but that's neither here nor there. It certainly isn't here, anyway.

I'm thankful for my three squares a day. I tried living on four squares a day one time, for a couple of weeks. The squares were slices of bread, one-quarter inch thick. That experience has left me to this day with a perverse urge to secret bits of cheese, crusts of bread and hunks of meat about my person, so I'll never go hungry.

Another thing I'm grateful for is the spring filled mattress and the wool blankets and the Old Girl beside me, glowing away like a box stove. About 15 years ago, I spent six weeks at this time of year, sleeping in box cars, barns and ditches, my sleeping partner a skinny Canadian corporal (male), who exuded about as much heat as

a garter snake. I'm happy to have a few close friends. Most of us have many acquaintances, few true friends. I have several friends to whom I could go for anything in time of need. They'd give me the shirt off their backs, the last crust of bread, their wives, anything. Except money, of course.

It's wonderful to have happy, healthy children who only require new shoes every three months. I'm afraid I subscribe to the pagan view that in our children lies our immortality. And in that thought I find deep satisfaction. It means that my kids will probably have to take as much lip from theirs as I do from them, while I lie happily mouldering in Bayview Cemetery.

I am deeply thankful to have a gentle, tolerant, patient, understanding wife. I'd be even more thankful if she used some of those qualities when dealing with me, but at least it is nice to know she has them.

I'm thankful to have a job I like. Where else, except in the weekly editor's chair, can a man who is completely unfitted for anything useful, find himself not only making a living, but able to sound off like a preacher?

I'm thankful, every Thanksgiving, that I'm a Canadian. Three months from now, as I plod through the slush, I'll be cursing the country with the best of them, but in the fall, there's no other place so close to what paradise should be like.

Finally, I'm humbly thankful that I'm alive. Millions are not. Life is a superb gift, made even more delicious by the fact that we must surrender it. It is full of madness and magic, of melancholy and merriment, of a thousand good things, each a delight to treasure.

So you're alive, aren't you? Be thankful.

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