

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

A Diservice to Georgetown

A Toronto Star columnist, in a slanderous attack on our town last week, made innuendoes against a number of Georgetown residents which, to our knowledge were completely false.

Had his article dealt with a matter of less importance than the Delrex question for release of more housebuilding land, we would be inclined to ignore it. But, concerning as it does a question much in prominence in town, we feel compelled to comment at the same time hoping that this will not magnify the importance locally of his remarks.

To our knowledge, said columnist has never visited Georgetown. Certainly, he checked no facts with council, Delrex, this newspaper or any of the persons mentioned. At the same time, the nature of his information was such that he could only have obtained it from people well acquainted with the local scene.

Apparently he, and they, did not have the courage of their convictions because, while the tone of the article hinted at a

deep, dark "Family Compact" type of shenanigans going on in Georgetown, it ended with wondering if a town twice as big is necessarily any better. The subtle finger pointing had no bearing whatsoever on his conclusions and served no other purpose than to try and embarrass residents who have given no cause for such an attack.

While castigating a newscooper which is the epitome of "bigness" for allowing such freedom of expression to one of its columnists, we feel even stronger against those who provided the ammunition.

Whether done with malice aforethought, or with some misouided idea that they were helping council arrive at a difficult decision on the Delrex request, they have accomplished nothing other than to start tongues wagging in town, and to put a spoke in Georgetown's search for industry.

Knowingly or not, they have performed a disservice to our town which could have far-reaching effects on its future economy. Let's hope that this be not the case.

Where We Stand On Delrex

The Herald has been publicly and privately anti-Delrex from time to time of being both anti-Delrex and pro-Delrex.

It is neither. For twenty years our editor has striven zealously to keep news and editorial material affecting Georgetown's welfare free of partisanship.

Our duty, as we see it, is to present a full budget of weekly news plus editorial comment when we feel qualified to make it. It has been suggested both by pros and cons that the Herald should take a definite editorial stand on the request for re-

Two Suggestions

There are two suggestions we might make in the present controversy.

One is that a firm of specialists be engaged to prepare a brief, protecting Georgetown's present position were Delrex not to exist, and estimate the taxes we would then be paying.

Delrex critics have inferred that the town would be better off with its former geographic limits; the Delrex firm has argued quite the contrary and states that Georgetown's tax rate has not been adversely affected by a large population growth.

Such a brief is the only way the public can know for sure whom to believe.

A Happy Town is Important

That illusive term "civic pride" is important, particularly in a town growing so fast as Georgetown.

With it, we are a happy town, and as citizens we must exercise restraint over public and private utterances which can dent such civic pride.

Delrex must not be set up as a separate community in our minds, but as an integral part of our town. Those older residents who think Delrex has been a good

We Want Pictures

The Herald, as readers will notice in recent issues, is featuring more and more pictures of local interest. It is a policy which the Thomson company pursues in all its newspapers, and one which will be in effect from now on.

Unfortunately the Herald budget does not allow for a photographer on the staff, but we have an arrangement with a couple of men by which we can take interesting pictures on occasion.

Controversial Corner

by Ian Cass

ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH DEAR FRIENDS... ONCE MORE

It is only briefly, and with regret, that I shall comment once again on the Delrex issue. Mr. W. H. Carr, in a letter to the Herald last week, gives the impression that everyone who has entered the arena to comment on the Delrex request, for release of an additional 1,160 building lots, has been speaking out of turn, that the critics of such a move are a bunch of vacant idiots making loud noises without any knowledge of the facts. Mr. Carr may well be correct. Perhaps the hundred hours or so that I've spent in the council chamber have taught me nothing; perhaps the many evenings spent studying zoning by-laws, auditor's reports, financial statements and municipal agreements have been just a waste of time. All the people who have made a

point of expressing hearty agreement with my column must be pretty dim.

However, sarcasm is a poor important wish in common — a desire to produce the facts. I am completely in favour of the action outlined in his letter; let us have a breakdown of the income and expenses of the municipality; this will provide some of the facts. Before we try to assess the pros and cons, let us have the remainder of the fact, to wit:

(a) How many houses, completed or under construction are for sale in Georgetown today?

(b) What is the present industrial-residential ratio over all; in the old part of town, in the Delrex area?

(c) What is our present debt? What is our present debt as a percentage of our total assets?

(d) How many vacant building lots, already released, exist in the municipality at the moment?

(e) What further capital expenditure will be necessary to service, completely, the newly developed areas in town?

(f) What additional capital expenditure on services will be involved if the additional land (1,160 lots) is released, and what will our debenture debt be after this?

(g) What will our industrial-residential ratio be, after the construction of a further 1,160 houses, assuming the influx of industry to be at the same rate as during the past four years?

(h) What do the experts of the Ontario Municipal Board consider to be, 1, the maximum advisable ratio of residential to industrial assessment in this town; 2, the maximum advisable debenture debt?

The answers to these questions shouldn't be too hard to get and then we would really be armed with the facts. The breakdown requested by Mr. Carr would be certainly establish income and expenses for the Delrex area over the past years, unfortunately there are still



INDIAN SUMMER

Sugar and Spice

Dispensed by BILL SMILEY of the Waterloo Echo

There's a deal of fluttering and puttering and muttering, of hurrying and worrying and scurrying, around our town these days. There is tension in the air, and secrecy. Domestic quarrels are frequent and bitter. Women weep easily and normally soft-spoken men curse with gusto and little provocation.

Cause of all the strain, of course is that deer season is upon us again. About dawn on Monday morning, two-thirds of the male population will be off on the great annual trudge. Among them, they will cover more territory than did Napoleon's army on the retreat from Moscow.

Majority of these intrepid adventurers would not walk two blocks to work on a pleasant day in mid-summer. Yet they will drag themselves and a dirty great musket through the swamp and slash and burn, thru mud and snow and rain, for eight hours a day during the annual attack of eardrum known in these parts as deer hunting.

The truth is, of course, that it is not the hunt they enjoy. Deer hunting, as a sport, is highly overrated. It is much like soldiering; long periods of

some very large items of capital expenditure yet to be provided before that area is fully serviced. Items which are likely to affect both our tax rate and our debenture debt.

It is a pity that Mr. Carr and other should confuse the issue with "Hate Hesper" campaign. If this present controversy is to degenerate into a struggle of personalities and insults it is less likely to be resolved on a factual basis. There is no "Hate Hesper" campaign nor any "anti-Delrex" campaign. To suggest that critics of indiscriminate development are guilty of such a campaign is nonsense.

What is happening in our town is not new. This is not the first time, nor will it be the last, when citizens of a municipality have objected to the inadequate control exercised over the activities of subdividers and development companies. It happened in North York, Etobicoke, Rexdale, and Scarborough, to mention a few. The fact that Georgetown contains people who are interested in the town's affairs, who are prepared to spend a great deal of time learning about these affairs and who will express opinions on them is, I think, a good sign. I cannot for the life of me understand how this is creating an atmosphere which is threatening the survival of existing business or discouraging the influx of new one. What do businessmen want — a population of cabbages?

Finally, and perhaps unnecessarily it is my fervent hope that both council and Delrex will try to resolve their problems in an atmosphere of good-will and mutual respect, and that a solution to these problems can be found which will encourage a prosperous, financially stable, well-planned community. This surely is the aim of both parties — if it isn't, then a solution is not available.

My hunting jacket was the only bed our pup would sleep on when we got him, and it's been chewed on and spewed on. I wore my hunting pants trout fishing last spring fell in, and they shrank to pedal pushers. Last time I saw my hunting cap, the kids were picking wild strawberries into it. My hunting knife has apparently been used for trimming line-wood, and my compass vanished on a Cubs' hike.

In view of all this, along with the fact I haven't the guts to suggest it to the Old Girl, it looks as though I'll have to skip The Hunt this year. Thank goodness.

Some of them go because they face the truth. They know that they can't spend one more day with their wives without taking an axe to them. Smug in the knowledge that it is the one holiday on which the old lady will not insist on tagging along, they leave for the deep woods and safety with expressions of love and solicitude, the hypocrites.

Another segment is also nearing the breaking point: It is made up of the men who are running away from The Job or The Business. Nearly berserk from the attentions of boss or customers, they'll admit, quite frankly, the coward, that they don't give a hiddle about the hunting, they just want to get someplace where there are no telephones, where nobody can get at them.

Then there are the boys who want to play at being men. These are the types with white collar jobs, good incomes, and iron-willed wives. For 51 weeks these birds are well dressed, well mannered, and well managed. So they go deer hunting, and for one glorious week, they stomp around in big boots, never wash or shave, talk rough and dirty, belch at will, and get drunk.

Still another regiment of hunters is made up of men to whom deer hunting has a snob appeal. They are like the people who don't know a football from a football, but break their necks to get a ticket to the Grey Cup game, because it's prestige deal. This type of hunter wears expensive hunting clothes, has an expensive gun, and goes to a well-organized camp, where he does a lot of drinking and poker playing and lets the guide shoot the deer.

Then there is the vast assembly of ordinary, hardy perennial clots, who go deer hunting just for the hell of it. They pile in a car and head north, hitting the stuff all the way. When they get to deer country, they pile out and wander aimlessly and cluelessly, shooting at horses, cattle and such other, and getting lost. The second day they last till noon, then head for the nearest pub. The third day, they don't even get up till noon, manage to get in rare shape by dark and shine welly at the hunters' dance.

Perhaps five per cent of all those who go deer hunting are real hunters. They look forward to the hunt with keenest anticipation. They love the bush and the cold and the battle of the wits. They come home with venison. And they talk about it all winter.

You'll have to pardon these random thoughts. I've just been checking my deer hunting equipment and I am a little

IN THE MAIL BAG

URGE PROVINCE TAKE OVER SECONDARY ROADS

246 Delrex Blvd.,
Georgetown,
October 30th, 1959

Dear Sirs,

Georgetown is expanding rapidly and we, Georgetowners, are all proud of it.

Georgetown still has not sufficient industries and many of its residents are finding employment in Toronto or elsewhere.

Town and local merchants benefit from wages and salaries earned by residents in Toronto which are for the greatest part, spent in Georgetown. Every morning, hundreds of automobiles leave from Georgetown and surrounding area taking residents to work in Toronto, Downsview, Islington, etc. Highway connections via Brampton are reasonably good but could be much improved when connecting roads to the new extension of Highway 401 (e.g. Huttonville - Streetsville Road, Norval Townline) would be widened and properly paved.

indications from the Department of Highways, Parliament Buildings, are that the Provincial Government may take over these roads when intensive use should warrant same and a petition is surrendered through the proper channels.

This is not a case for the ratepayer-commuters only, this matter concerns Georgetown as a community and therefore it is up to Georgetown to take the necessary action.

Yours very truly,
J. Bosnel.

Georgetown Herald

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