

# Georgetown Herald

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Page 1 Thursday, April 21st, 1960.

## We Say It Again .....

Listening to Stephen Jones talk at a meeting of Delrex Ratepayers last week, we were impressed by his statement that a happy community is one which has a strike in its favour when seeking industrial expansion.

It is something about which the Herald has editorialized from time to time and it bears repeating again.

Industry these days rarely goes site-seeking on its own. It engages a specialist firm to tour the country. Whenever happens, the groundwork is done far behind the scenes, and usually even town officials are unaware that a town is being studied by a prospect. Even when it comes to the specific question stage, identity of the firm is not revealed.

An active industrial commission and an alert town council are prerequisites when it comes to questions, and Mr. Jones said firms have a list of as many as 200. They want to know sewage and water facilities, transportation, public services, labour supply, power, wage rates, to mention only a few.

But just as important they want to know what makes a town tick, what its residents think about it, whether there is a strong community spirit and a happy population.

This is where every one of us comes in.

During our growing pains of the last half dozen years, there have been thorny problems on the municipal scene which, when reported in daily newspapers, have been magnified out of proportion. It has not been good publicity.

## Don't Miss This Show!

The Rotary Minstrel Show has built itself into an institution during several years of success, and this year it should see a new high.

Four presentations are planned: this Friday and Saturday and again the following weekend. Those who have attended in the past will tell you that the calibre of entertainment is in every way professional and the talents involved are almost more than one could reasonably expect in a small town. And with a magnificent new stage and well appointed auditorium, this year's show should be on a par with any professional performance one would see in the city.

Besides the entertainment value that

## Arms Race Reaches Insanity

(an editorial in the Financial Post)

Preparations for war by the two leading powers, the U.S. and Russia, have now reached a pitch of mania and horror that should alarm every responsible citizen.

Latest development in the U.S. is a concerted effort to make germ warfare and nerve gases "respectable" and much more efficient.

For years the U.S. has been accumulating stocks of lethal gas that can kill millions swiftly. Another specialty being developed involves mosquitoes, flies and ticks infected with typhoid, cholera and other terrible diseases.

This part of the military program has been kept hush-hush because the great public is supposed to have a moral and aesthetic objection to this kind of "defence".

But now the U.S. Army Chemical Corps, backed by top military brass and civilian "experts", is out to make these ghastly weapons popular. They can kill far more people faster than nuclear bombs.

The cost of this kind of mass killing is only a few cents per corpse which is very much cheaper than the new bombs.

And so Congress is to be asked to speed up, and support with a greatly increased money vote, the making, testing, and storing of bacteriological and chemical killers.

One could liken it to a person who is thinking of moving into a house on a certain street, and is told that his neighbours are always bickering. One would think twice before buying a home beside them. Industry would work the same way. It might look more carefully before deciding on a town which it fancied to be at log-gomery. It could decide in the negative if an opinion survey found people saying "I don't know why I settled in this town" or "There's nothing for our children to do," or any one of a dozen comments which are frequently heard.

We don't mean that Georgetown should be a Utopia where everyone enjoys peace and brotherly love. That's only possible if no human beings are involved.

But we should be reasonably proud of our town, happy to live here, ready to host any improvements which will make it a better town and making our criticisms constructive.

For the fact is that Georgetown is a good town. Even its most rabid critics admit this to himself, if to no one else.

Perhaps one of the best services our industrial commission could do would be to encourage some feature stories which point out some of Georgetown's advantages. Tell about how efficient our winter snow removal program is, what the service clubs, the gun and Community Centre organizers do for our youngsters in hockey and soccer, what a fine new high school and curling rink we have, how convenient it is to live on the fringe of three metropolitan areas, yet retain our identity as a small-type town, how stable our industries are, how progress live our merchants.

your dollar buys, at the same time you are helping the good work of the Rotary Club which spends its work among crippled children, and has also been generous in helping the town's senior citizens with a Christmas party, in supporting the hospital fund drive, and in making available a share of the Christmas show proceeds for boys' club work.

We urge everyone to be present on one of the four nights when the Shoabrook rolls in at the high school auditorium. A minstrel show is one of our finest traditions, entertainment equally pleasing to youngsters and grown-ups, adapting the venerable Joe Miller's material to the local scene with localized jokes which always go over with a bang.

And some of the militarists seem eager, ferociously eager, not merely to test these monstrous discoveries but to commit the U.S. to using them first when, as they evidently expect, war comes.

Talk of "dissuasion" is a shameful mockery when proposals of this kind are seriously made.

Indeed the bumbling leaders who have brought us to this desperate pass by their obsessive concentration on World War III risk and insult those who died in World War II.

The one possible basis for security, the necessary prerequisite to any cut in armaments, is a political settlement of disputed issues.

But it is obtainable now, as always, only by patient diplomacy, an art that unfortunately is out of fashion and even despised in the U.S. American foreign policy during the seven years of Mr. Eisenhower has specialized in repeated threats of force, not in the search for conciliation.

Next month's summit conference offers an opportunity for the diplomatic, peace-making approach. If the chance isn't seized, if the U.S. Army Chemical Corps and other ambitious generals are to determine the course of American policy, the human outlook is frightening indeed.

foreign manufacture" One of the prize winning awards went to Dominion Rubber Company, Limited, of Kitchener, for the development of a new type of plastics weather-shield now in use on destroyer escort vessels in the Canadian navy. This was a world's first for plastics and is now being copied by the German navy. Other navies are expected to follow Canada's lead because the 50,000 plastic shields (the price includes costly electronic equipment) are much lighter than the steel shields formerly used and yet thoroughly protect the guns and intricate control mechanisms from the highly corrosive action of sea water.



## APRIL SHOWERS

## Controversial Corner

by Ian Cass

### MUNICIPAL TAXES - HOW MUCH HIGHER?

Although the 1960 tax rate for Georgetown has not been set, there are other towns all around us where the new tax rate has been announced. The order of the day and the rates range from 15 to 25 mills, are quite common. For those towns whose expansion took place ten to fifteen years ago, one of the tax rates is 15 mills. It is not unusual to find a town with a population which has grown so rapidly during those years that the tax rate during the past ten years of less than 10 per cent tax problems exist. How to pay for education is yet another one of them and this is aggravated by the fact that schools are population will be rapidly increasing. The new taxes are also faced with the problem of large debts necessitated by a heavy demand for capital expansion, new municipal buildings, fire and police equipment, water and sewer plants, better streets and parking facilities, road maintenance machinery and so on. Debt payments for this may be one of the largest items in the budget. The one consoling point regarding debt is that with sound management they can be controlled and eventually decreased. This is not the case with educational costs where increases seem to be perennial and never-ending.

Faced with the continuing necessity of raising more money each year, combined with a budget which is always bigger than the previous one, and having to contend with the vocal protests of rate taxpayers, many municipalities are raising their voices in anguish and protest to the higher forms of government, mainly to the Provincial government. The general line of approach is that municipal councils can no longer be expected to raise this ever-growing sum of money each year and that the province should come to their assistance, possibly in the form of better grants, particularly for education. Observations of this sort have appeared frequently in the press during the past few weeks.

The point at issue is that of municipal taxation. How much higher will it go? The answer is, of course, that taxes will go on rising as long as the public demand is for better services. More community recreation facilities, better streets and parking facilities, better schools and teachers for their children. Some of the load may be shifted around the community as a whole, but the overall picture will not change very much. A good healthy proportion of industrial and commercial taxes should be drawn on a community to a very considerable extent, but there is clearly not enough industry to go round at the moment. So, although I don't think the trend to higher taxes has reached its peak yet, I do think that a leveling off will take place during the next few years. A continuation of the present trend will not be tolerated for very much longer, either by industrial or residential taxpayers. In the end, they are the ones who have absolute control.

At the same time, a full un-

derstanding of the taxation structure and what each level provides may make municipal tax load easier to bear. After all, the results of local taxes are material and apparent, we utilize them every day. If we are dissatisfied with the manner in which this tax money is spent, there is easy access to the "culprits" - just a phone call or a personal visit, or a vote put somewhere else in December. Other forms of taxation, provincial or federal, are much more frustrating. We have little or no say about how this money shall be spent, and frequently have difficulty in seeing where it is spent. After all, the municipal council in the average small town is not in a position to squander billions of dollars on dubious defense ventures; it is not in a position to finance a pipeline, deals which create millions with taxpayers' money, it is not even in the position of a large metropolis like Toronto which can spend twenty or thirty million dollars on a new shopping, architectural monstrosity like the proposed city hall. Nor do the taxpayers in a small town have to support a top-heavy organization of occupational help. In fact, most of the help is likely to be a derogatory impact. If you wonder what I mean, by unpaid help I mean the school board, the planning board, the library board, the volunteer firemen and the ambulance services - to name just a few. The pay for your local politicians, if they do their job properly, works out at less than a dollar an hour.

Although it would be stretching human nature too far to suggest that local taxes should be paid with a glad and willing hand, I think it's true to say that they represent better value for money than any of the other forms of taxation which we have to pay.

As for the suggestion that increased grants from other government levels would help solve our problems, I think the opposite is true. Municipalities are already dominated by the "grant system". Perhaps it is time for a change which would permit the local government to collect a greater portion of the money required for the services it has to provide. In fact, if we all worked real hard at it, we might find it possible to dispense with the provincial level of government altogether. How about that, Mr. Frost?

### "BUY CANADIAN"

Canada's electrical manufacturers urge you to "Buy Canadian" to keep the levels of jobs and wages high.

### Georgetown Herald

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## Sugar and Spice

Disseminated by H.E. SMITH of the Waterloo Echo

Next week has been designated as Austerity Week. All across the country, people are supposed to practise a week of austerity. Purpose of the stunt is to focus attention on the poor devils rotting in refugee camps in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. For them, every week is Austerity Week.

It's a noble idea, and I hope it works. But I fear the only people who will observe it are those who are already concerned enough about World Refugee Year to do something about it. They will give up desserts or go without coffee for a week. The rest of us will pay no more attention to Austerity Week than we would to National Dry Cleaning Week.

Sad fact is that the great majority of Canadians are not only spoiled but selfish. Most of us know nothing about austerity beyond the bare meaning of the word. And most of us don't care, as long as nothing comes along to trim any of the fat off our own juicy slice of the good things of this world.

Now if a refugee tried to tell me that, I'd get sore. With some indignation, I'd tell him that we're always sending money to missions and the Colombo plan and we give \$2 a year to the Red Cross, and we buy railway tickets on all sorts of worthy causes, and if he doesn't like it here, why doesn't he go back where he came from.

But coming from me, I can't find myself that at heart we're generous, decent people. And it's just thoughtless and it's only human nature, and it's a short life and we only go through the course once and why shouldn't we enjoy it and how come those bums got into those refugee camps in the first place and why don't those Europeans who are always starting wars anyway, look after them?

There's nothing mysterious about the reluctance of Canadians to think about the refugees of whom we've had any experience are those who flee to Florida each winter, and no pang of pity are felt for them.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

## ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald, April 24th, 1935

- An enthusiastic gathering of Conservatives from Georgetown and district met in the town hall on April 16, 1935, for the purpose of forming a local branch of the Bennett Club of Halton County. Elected to office were: honorary president, Mr. R. B. Bennett, president, George Cleave, vice presidents, H. McClure, L. Col. G. Cousins, R. Foulis, Mr. Galbraith, treasurer, V. King, finance, A. Early, K. Langdon, members committee, K. C. McMillan, A. Williams, meeting committee, J. A. Willoughby, W. Lane, R. Foulis, A. Williams, L. E. Fleck, A. Early.
- Miss M. Langan and Miss H. Harrison are in Toronto this week attending the Ontario Education Association convention.
- Georgetown's 1935 tax rate has been struck at 50 mills.
- At a meeting of the high school board last week thirteen applications were received for the position of principal made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Ross.
- Work is progressing nicely on Mr. Silver's new store. When completed it will be one of the largest and most modern stores in these parts.
- At the Gregory Theatre, "Evelyn Prentice" starring Myrna Loy and William Powell, and "Million Dollar Ransom" starring Phillip Holmes.

## Nine Counties Seek To Streamline County Gov't

Nine southern Ontario counties including Halton succeeded last week in taking one of the major steps towards a county municipal association and the eventual streamlining and updating of county council business.

The Halton representative to the group's steering committee, clerk Garfield Brown, reported this week that a successful meeting was held with Premier Leslie Frost in Toronto Monday and arrangements have been completed for a meeting with Dept. of Municipal Affairs officials in May or June.

The inter county group, now represented by Halton, York, Wentworth, Welland, Lincoln, Brant, Essex, Middlesex and Waterloo counties, is asking that a commission be set up to investigate and report on the future of county government in Ontario. The outcome, Mr. Brown said, should be the streamlining and bringing up to date of many facets of the county administration, included in the study would be planning, zoning, assessment, policing, fire protection, roads, education, water service, sewers and drainage.

The nine counties have been working together for about two years toward this commission probe. They represent a population of 770,000 people and a total assessment of \$1,068,000,000. To date, 23 of the 38 Ontario counties have indicated support of the probe.

## FIRE CHIEF SUGGESTS CLEAN-UP FOR SPRING

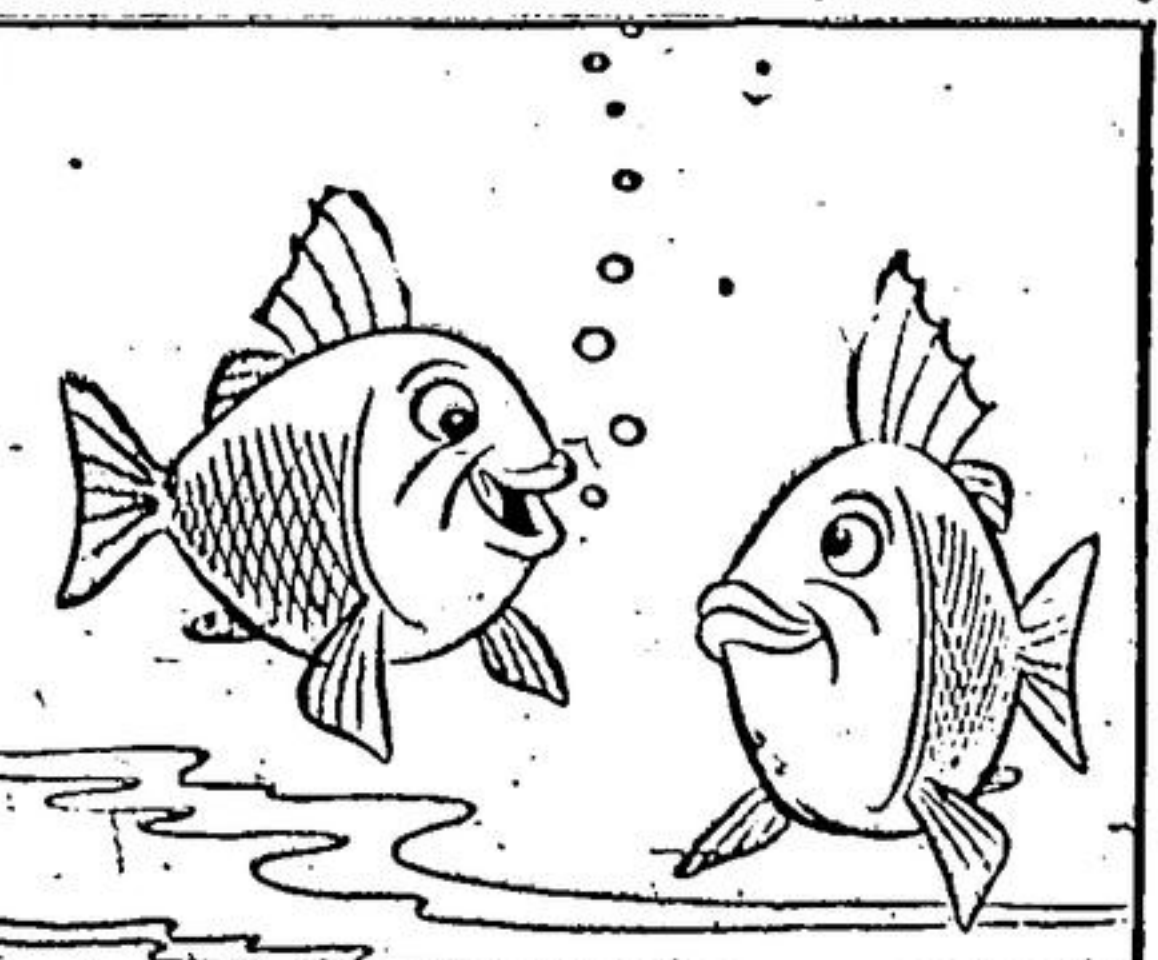
Fire Chief Bob Bonfield today advised, "Don't let fire hide in your home - Clean Up, Paint Up, Plant Up, Fix Up and check for hidden fire hazards."

That old box of cast-off clothing, the pile of newspapers in the basement, the oily mop in the closet, and the storeroom's flammable liquids are all hiddenways for fire's threat," the Fire Chief explained. "And unpainted wood is ready fuel for fire," Chief Bonfield continued.

"For the protection of your family and home, get rid of

## MERRY MENAGERIE

By Walt Disney



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## Plastics Awards for Three Products of Smith & Stone

PLASTICS PRIZE  
Among representatives of 15 E. W. Binkley will receive three awards at the dinner "First Award" for a polyethylene vegetable bin; a "First Award" for a bicycle basket, and a "Certificate of Merit" for a baby bath with soap tray.

The Oscars are awarded bi-annually by Canadian Plastics magazine to the manufacturer or designer who has shown the most initiative and originality in introducing a new Canadian manufactured plastics product to the public.