

To Be Expected....

Georgetown's 1960 tax rate will not be palatable to most ratepayers, for as one likes an expenditure increase.

But in the light of today's economy, it was not unexpected that the rate would increase, and it will increase because it is in line with other towns in Ontario.

The tax rise will mean between \$15 and \$25 yearly to an average taxpayer. For instance, a house assessed at \$4500 which paid taxes of \$274.50 last year will have a \$292.50 bill for 1960. This is a tax increase of \$18, rather than the \$1,800 we reported in the news column last week.

What do we get for our extra taxes?

Nothing particular other than a continuation of the public services we have enjoyed in the past. There is no fire, police, garbage collection, street maintenance

and street lighting, and the many varied things which a town comes to expect as necessities.

A copy of the 1960 estimates appears in another part of this issue.

We can see no place where council has gone overboard in expenditures. Many of these are fixed costs which must be met. There are normal increases in some expenses. There are places where they might be higher. For instance, for some of our municipal employees a paid excess, very high salaries. Another, the road budget is as high as some councillors claim it should be, the only major factor for erosion, forestable expenses, and time will tell whether a 1960 slash was wise.

All in all, we think council has done a pretty good job of lighting and no one can have any serious gripes with their 1960 tax bill.

Better Signs Needed...

If the Albert Street block which runs off the highway is not to be known as Persimmon Drive, then we think council's police committee should provide better signs prohibiting parking on the better sign.

Some months ago the parking by law was amended with such prohibition in mind. And rightly so, for when cars are parked on both sides, the remaining space does not allow two cars to pass. And at times when the high school auditorium is in use, traffic congestion is serious.

Subsequently three signs were placed on the boulevard, one at each end of the block and one in the middle. The signs say "No Parking at any time."

It is suggested that the signs should include the words on this sign for it would be easy for a stranger to see the sign, interpret it as meaning the location of the sign, pull up a few feet farther and be unaware that he is breaking the law and subject to a one dollar fine.

Particularly could this be the case after dark, and even more so on a rainy evening like Saturday, when several parkers were observed while attending the musical show.

Whether new signs are installed or not, readers of this column will have only themselves to blame in future if they don't heed the law, for apparently police are keeping a close watch on the block during high school auditorium events.

Regrets & Good Wishes....

News that Rev. Morgan McFarlane and family will be moving to Belleville this summer is received with some regret by many citizens other than his church people. At the same time, good wishes should be expressed to Mr. McFarlane on his new charge where he will serve a large city congregation.

Mr. McFarlane has been one of a long line of excellent pastors at St. John's United who have made it one of the top protestant churches in town. It was the first to have its own church hall, a former minister was active in reorganizing the school and

girl guide movement, which is a powerful influence among our young people today. And it was with Mr. McFarlane's guidance that the United Church was the first to have a presence on church in eastern Georgetown, and the only one up to the present which has erected a building for a new congregation.

For this reason alone Mr. and Mrs. McFarlane will be remembered in Georgetown longer than might be expected for a man whose profession takes him to many towns.

We hope all his memories of town will be so lively happy as he takes his new field of endeavor.

THE DISTRICT at a Glance

BRIN

At a special general meeting of the shareholders of the North Wellington Telephone Company, Limited, in the municipal hall, the proposed sale of the company's telephone system to the Bell Telephone Company of Canada was confirmed.

ACTON

Fire chief Jack Newton reported that Acton has enjoyed a low fire loss during the past year according to the annual report submitted recently by the Dominion of Canada Fire Commission.

The report indicates the town, with a population of 4,024 persons, had eight fires where insurance claims were listed. Total fire loss reported on these claims was \$521.

BRAMPTON

There will be no increase in local real estate taxes this year. The only municipality in Peel county to hold the line. Brampton council has managed in fact to top 1 mill from the commercial and industrial rate.

OAKVILLE

After nineteen months on the planning board, ground for the long heralded \$2,000,000 Hopdale Plaza will be broken in mid-May, it was announced recently by developer David Sher.

"Structural steel work went out for tenders Tuesday, with bids to close May 2nd," Mr. Sher stated. "Contracts will be let within a few days of that date, and then we'll begin the construction drive planned to ready Hopdale's shopping centre by October."

SHELburne

The village of Shelburne is closer to receiving the new hos-

pital it has been requesting for several months.

At a special meeting Thursday, Dufferin county council instructed clerk-treasurer W. H. Hunter to bring in a by-law at its June session authorizing a debenture issue to raise \$100,000 for a new hospital in Shelburne.

The council more earnestly met with several delegations from the Shelburne District Hospital Board, the latest appearing before council on Thursday.

CALEDON

All but one of a possible 70 signatures have been obtained on a petition circulated in Caledon in an attempt to give the village a police village set up, according to Dr. W. F. R. Stubbs.

ORANGEVILLE

Several burglaries which occurred Saturday night are being investigated by members of the Orangeville police department. A local supermarket and two

churches were broken into and money was taken from all three.

MILTON

A survey on population and assessment was conducted through northeast Burlington this week by members of a group wishing to have a large chunk of Burlington annexed to Milton. The group is presently attempting to collect three figures before presentation of a petition to Milton council, to annex about 14 square miles from the area, including nearly 1,000 residents.

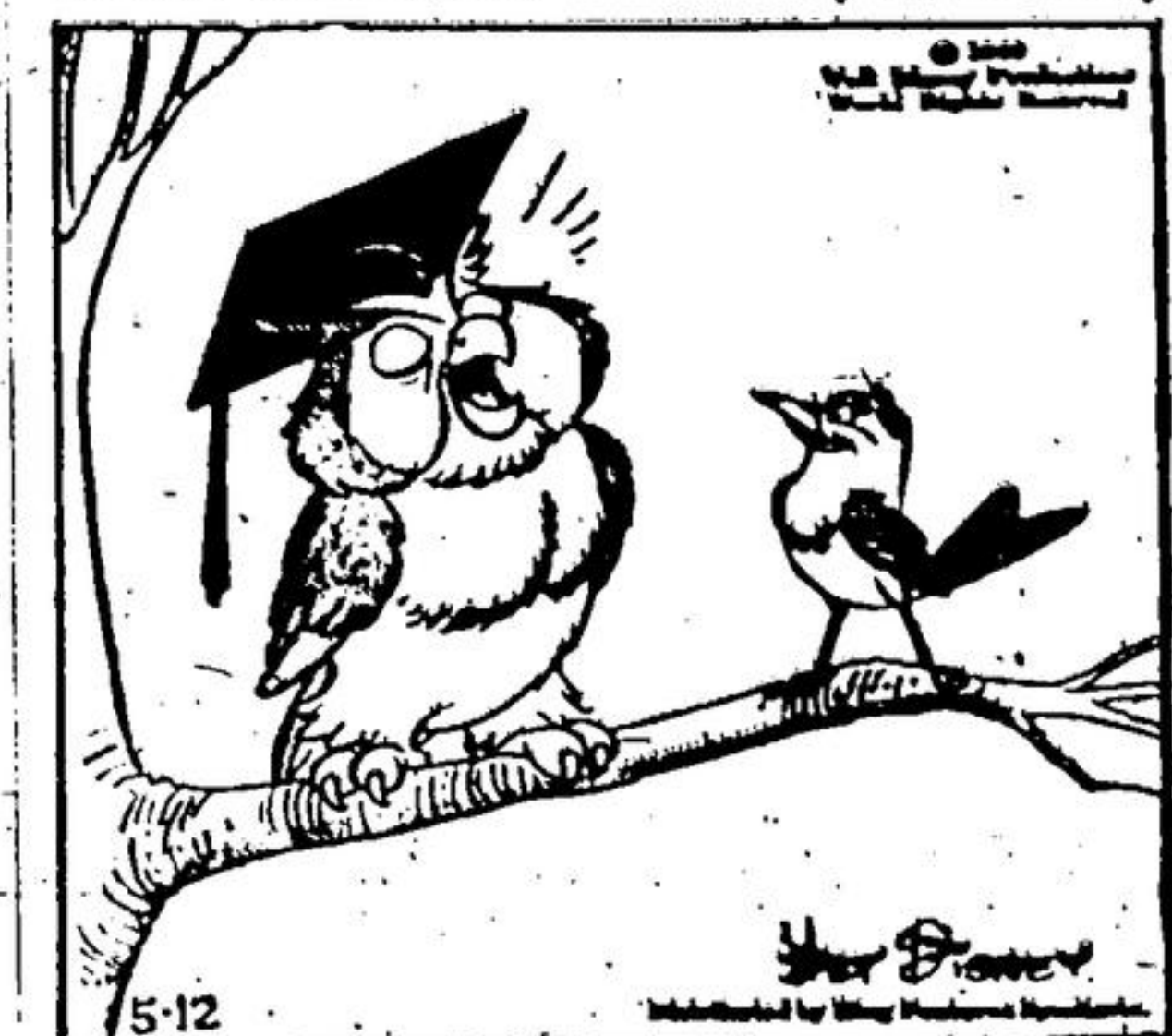
"But my dear madam, there is no use consulting me about your husband, I couldn't possibly handle his case."

"And why couldn't you, doctor?"

"Why, you must know from my sign that I'm not a physician. I'm a veterinary surgeon, a horse doctor."

"That's just why I came to you. My husband is a chronic licker."

MERRY MENAGERIE By Walt Disney



WHO IS CHARMING WHOM?

Sugar and Spice

Dispersed by BILL, SMILEY of the Waterloo Echo

We have a Civil Defense organization in this country, I am led to believe. None of our governments—federal, provincial or municipal—knows much about it, waits any responsibility for it, or is anxious to help finance it.

This Civil Defense committee suggests building bomb shelters in the cities to heat for the country when the bomb drops and has conferences at which speakers urge action.

A few people work hard to make something of it. But it has limited funds and little encouragement, due to public and government apathy. As a result, our Civil Defense is about as useful an article as a lock for the door of a barn from which a horse has just escaped.

Just to show how a Civil Defense is being used, the power went off during an electrical storm. My furnace is out and the heat goes out. My stove is off and I can't even make a cup of tea to bank me up.

But gentle, kindly men don't argue with tigers. They either shoot them or run. The first alternative is against the law. The fence is impossible, because once the steps is on, the drawbridge is raised, and retreat is cut off.

And here is where Civil Defense comes in. I propose that we take the entire budget and personnel of the Civil Defense, change its name to Home Defense, and put it to work at something useful, preserving the home and family.

Funds currently being wasted on pamphlets and conferences would be funneled into the building of hotels for husbands, places with beds, a bar, billiard room, card room and dining room. They would be located adjacent to golf courses and trout streams.

Legislation would be passed allowing any man to enter any

All this has formed an idea with which I've been toying for years. At this time of year, right across Canada, husbands and wives who have braved the winter together, with tenderness and fortitude, suddenly discover they can't stand each other. The result is a serious rift, and, every spring, thousands of broken homes across the land.

Let's examine the basic cause of this annual disintegration of so many marriages. There is only one reason: because women are not like men. It's a pity, but we must accept it calmly and deal with it responsibly and with tolerance.

Men are gentle creatures, shy, kind and generous. But within the breast of every woman, however soft, pretty and simple she appears, lurks a tiger. At this time of year, the beast emerges, and the housewife pads around, twitching her tail, unsheathing her claws, and glaring with yellow unblinking eyes at her prey.

No more aware of his fate than a tethered goat, the prey is out on the lawn, chipping

Controversial Corner

by Tom Cook

GO PLANT A TREE.

Now that the long winter is almost over and the trees are bursting into leaf, the awful damage caused by two major storms seems to be soon forgotten. The awakening countryside is littered with thousands of broken branches, shattered limbs and splintered trunks, emphasizing the tragedy of destruction which overtook the grandest form of natural growth, trees.

I wonder if any action will be taken by any authoritative body to repair this damage. Will the Dept. of Highways or the Dept. of Lands & Forests implement a program of pruning, restoring and replanting in an attempt to repair the damage done? I doubt it. Both these departments have done substantial work in reforestation and ornamental tree planting, but their budgets are limited and will remain so because public opinion is apathetic. Unfortunately, the damage done by last winter's storms only serves to emphasize a problem which already existed. Ontario was, originally a province of forests. They protected our wild life, buffered the extremes of weather, influenced our climate, prevented soil erosion, gave us oxygen to breathe and provided us with paper and lumber. Today, one part of Ontario is largely denuded of forests, and the bulk of this large scale destruction is obvious to anyone who has any conception of natural law, and a folly which became obvious to many others during Hurricane Hazel. The damage and loss of life which took place at that time was, to a great extent, the direct result of the nudging our river valleys of protective tree coverage.

The whole of the industrial triangle of southern Ontario is in dire need of reforestation. Closer to home, our own town should be taking active measures to ensure that Georgetown which used to be a town of maples does something about replacing the trees which have come under the axe.

Unfortunately, a community or municipal tree-planting program has benefits which are primarily aesthetic and not material. To start up sufficient public support for such a program to be successful is difficult if not impossible in this enlightened age. Planting trees never beautifies the area and perhaps encourages more bird life—these are not benefits which spark public enthusiasm. At least they have not done so in the past.

It is a perpetual source of amazement to me, that twenty-million fathers in North America will rally forth each Christmas, to buy a tree which will be burnt a couple of weeks later. For this they pay up to \$50 or so in the food, but misplaced hope, that they have made the children happy. In fact, I doubt if children care too much one way or another—the main reason for having a tree is to provide something on which to hang all the commercialized garbage which we have been pressured into buying over the years—the lights, the ornaments, the tinsel and the other baubles. Twenty million trees are bought and destroyed every year at this time as part of a religious anniversary. Although I have no expert knowledge of the good Lord's wishes in this connection, it seems reasonable to suppose that He would gaze more fondly on a poor mortal who was planting a young tree than on those who would see millions burnt each year. However, the fact remains, that millions of people will buy a tree for Christmas destruction when they would not even consider spending the

same amount of money on a tree to plant for their descendants. Replanting for a moment to the local scene, what wonderful opportunities have been available to the newly developed areas, to reforest tree-planting programs as a community and municipal joint effort. Some attempts have been made to do something along these lines but very little was achieved. Not only because of public apathy but also due to lack of positive leadership and shortage of money. It seems fairly easy to start up effective public support for action on things like roads, sewage, drainage, schools and so on, but far more difficult to create the same enthusiasm for something which seems intangible and remote. And yet, there is evidence on every hand that many towns remain sane and satisfied with a world of only material abundance. Our highways are crowded every weekend, with millions of people looking on with equal interest in concrete and asphalt eternities of modern cars. People who just want to get out into the country, to look at nature's handiwork instead of the mad destroying undergrowth and ugliness of urban development.

It is every residential street was a wooded boulevard of flowering plants and shrubs, the beauty of a lot of natural beauty would, to some extent, be restored.

Perhaps we should have a "Georgetown tree-planting week" next fall. A week during which trees would be available free of charge to any house owner who wished to plant one on the vacant property in front of his house. A week during which the town labour force and the Horticultural Society would all available time assisting and planting trees. During the week interested residents might also be provided with a bushel of top soil in which to plant each tree. Such a program, if even leadership, direction and financial assistance, could result in several hundred ornamental trees being planted within the town limits. If only half of these survived, it would be a great achievement.

You may be thinking, why the heck should we any even get such a tree? It is a question of human wisdom and lots of time. In the words of a very old song, "Trees are made by fools like me but only God can make a tree." Even He can do better if mankind leads a hand.

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