

Georgetown Herald

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PAGE 4 THURSDAY, MARCH 29th, 1962

Mail Bag Letters Express Opinions of Some Ratepayers

Says Citizens Should Write Municipal Board

Georgetown, Ontario
March 24th, 1962

Dear Mr. Editor:
May I have space in your paper to express my disgust and contempt for the action of our town council on Monday night, March 19th. They passed a motion to prepare a by-law which will have the effect of releasing land to the Delrex Development Co. without any of the safeguards our former council worked so hard to procure for us.
It certainly separated the sheep from the goats in no uncertain terms. Any council so obviously against the best interests of the town leaves little room for the grassy situation under their feet. Secret meetings, a strategic plan.
My only hope is that the Municipal Board will have more sense than the majority of our councillors. I am going to write to them in protest and I suggest that every right thinking citizen of our town do the same.
Sincerely yours,
Mrs. A. A. McDonald
22 Queen St.

Taxpayers' Nightmare Says This Ratepayer

Dear Mr. Editor:

Your publishing of the following letter, being an appeal to the citizens of Georgetown, would be appreciated.
TAXPAYERS OF GEORGETOWN - HOW LONG WILL YOU PERMIT YOURSELVES TO BE DUPED?
At a regular meeting of council on Monday, March 19, your council passed a resolution by a vote of 5 to 4 indicating its readiness to abandon the original agreement between town and developer for the provision of industrial assessment with the release of residential land.
Every property owner in our municipality must realize that this decision will affect the future of Georgetown in a most profound manner.
MR. AND MRS. TAXPAYER - ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS.
1. When a matter of such enormous importance is decided, are the taxpayers ever consulted?
2. Are you less qualified to decide upon your future than two members of council, whose main experience in municipal work consists of 3 months as elected members of council?
3. An elected municipal official is disqualified by law to vote on an issue in which the possibility of conflict of interest may arise. You may well ask yourself if this possibility may not exist in the case of one of our council members, who sells building supplies locally.
4. Are you aware that Georgetown, in common with all municipalities who have permitted unrestricted development without a healthy industrial assessment, has been on the verge of bankruptcy as a result of an extremely high tax rate and extremely high debenture debt?
5. Did you know that there is no great demand for houses

in Georgetown? If the present and that you could probably purchase one hundred houses today at considerably less than it would cost to build them?
(f) Did you know that at the present there are over 30 homes in the process of being foreclosed, because their owners are not able to continue with the payments?
(g) Have you forgotten that the original (1954) agreement is legal and binding?
(h) Are you aware that when our industrial by-law is abandoned, Georgetown will be practically the only town without such a law?
Are you not aware that the value of your property will drop further as the supply of houses in this town exceeds the demand?
(i) Have you forgotten that in the past four years Georgetown's tax rate has increased 40 per cent?
(j) Taxpayers of East Georgetown do you not realize that the chief reason why your streets, ditches and sewers are not up to par is because there simply has not been the money to bring them up to par?
Taxpayers of East Georgetown are you not aware that your future in this town does not conflict with the interests of the rest of the town, but may conflict with the interests of the developer?
It is an often quoted axiom: "The promoter's dream of ways turns into the taxpayer's nightmare."
YOU HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH. NOW IS THE TIME TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION AND PROTECT YOUR FUTURE IN THIS COMMUNITY. DEMOCRACY ALSO STANDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF YOUR INTERESTS.
Yours truly,
HARRISON CROW
28 Harrison Creek
Georgetown, Ont.

Thanks Hyde Expresses Feelings 1300 Voters

7 Prince Charles Drive
Georgetown, Ont.
24 March 1962

An open letter to the Residents of Georgetown and their chosen representatives.
An Industrialist surveying our town with a view to establishing business in that area, would assess the extent of existing facilities and suitability of environment by reviewing the following prerequisites:
1. Adequate average desirable location and moderate cost
2. Reasonable Taxes
3. Favorable history with respect to industry
4. Balanced Residential to Industrial Ratio
5. Modern Streets
6. Efficient Rail and Road accessibility
7. Liberal supplies of Gas, Fuel and Water
8. Variety of existing plants available for occupancy
9. Active and developing Real Estate
10. Competent Contractors
11. Potential Labour Pool
For the benefit of those persons who are interested in the welfare of the town, I have prepared the following list, not to minimize the importance of that particular consideration but to emphasize that that subject is one of many influencing a final decision.
To release undeveloped land for additional housing for the purpose of promoting any such prerequisite would reflect a premeditated policy of respect rather than a concerted Municipal Policy fostered in the name of a united and purposeful community.
I will submit that our Town has already a large labour pool. Further Industrial Management would consist of locating in our area well established companies under the Labour Pool within a 10 or 15 km radius of our town, rather than that confined within our town limits.
During the past five years the Residential Industrial ratio has become increasingly unbalanced. Taxes have increased by 75%, road surfaces have been neglected for periods of years, and a constant debenture debt burden has existed. The only significant change in our environment during this period to which to attribute this situation is that the Town's population has increased by 3,000 persons. Commercial as-

essment has proved to be no substitute for industrial Assessment. You are now being asked to approve continued population growth. There is no accompanying guarantee that such approval will be vindicated, for naturally, there can be no guarantee. And whilst the experience of the past five years dictates that there will in fact be no immediate vindication, you are asked to ignore lessons of experience, and trust to the inscrutable workings of Providence.
We are all in the same boat—and the gunwale is low in the water. Let us then make every endeavour to improve the buoyancy of our good ship, before increasing our complement. Let us support our Industrial Commission enthusiastically, and may they provide a comprehensive Plan and spirit of leadership.
I would ask that each one of you give careful thought to the preliminary letter by E. T. Hyde appearing in the last issue of the Herald. In view of very recent evidence, it is a fair assumption that Mr. Hyde expressed the sentiments of at least 1,300 adult residents of our town. Let us not disregard the concerned and sincere warning of a man who has proved consistently to have Georgetown's interest at heart.
Yours sincerely,
R. H. Warwick

Opposes Amendment Says Council Erred

Georgetown, Ontario
March 24th, 1962

Dear Mr. Editor:
TO THE TAXPAYERS OF GEORGETOWN
After careful consideration of all the issues involved and the changes advocated in the 1961 by-law regarding the release of further lots for housing, I am of the opinion that the majority of council made a grave mistake at their last council session.
I am neither pro nor con for any subdivision, nor am I interested in the political or monetary aspects of this except in regard to the taxpayers dollars.
Surely our experience over the past seven years with our housing program and the resultant traffic, school facilities and other unforeseen expenses should have taught that industrial expansion is a proper ratio, a necessary complement for the best interests of the whole community.
AN INCREASE IN THE TAX RATE OF 13 MILLS IN ONE YEAR WILL VERIFY THIS.
We must only contribute to that only industry, or industry and commerce combined, can be kept if our tax structure is to be made within reasonable bounds.
It is unfortunate that industry has not been locating in our

town at a fast enough rate, but I feel that if we, as individuals, consider our long as the best in the country to all we meet, this condition cannot go long in our midst.
I am of the humble opinion that we would have been far better off to have had the 1961 by-law kept in force at least until one or more suitable industries had located here, and then permitted further housing to be built.
This, I believe, would have been a realistic approach, and this was subscribed to by four members of council.
If council proceeds with the proposed amendment, I shall assume it is permanent, and in every other way possible.
Yours truly,
J. A. Petras

Claims Land Release Will Boost Tax Rate

April 4, 15 Main St. N.
Georgetown, Ontario
March 24th, 1962

The Editor:
Once again may I take advantage of the Herald Mail bag to voice my protest together with others as to what is happening at our council meetings.
It is not yet three months since this town elected their council, but already they have put in motion plans to scuttle the balanced program that has been the practice of the council for the past two years.
I can't believe that those who know what happened to our taxes only the past five years can be so blind as to ask for more of the same bitter dose.
The fact that council have not without all members present and in secret has many people suspicious of their motives.
And on reading Mr. Hyde and Mr. Hyde's letter together with Council news report I am convinced that once again we are headed for trouble.
If Council is sincere in not wanting bad publicity, WHY INVENT IT by deliberately setting out on a course which they know by past experience will cripple our town finances as it did five years ago.
Councillor Harrison some time ago said we had been led down the garden path by the developers and we heartily agreed with him.
But strangely enough this week's Herald hints him saying "We have a million dollar sewer plant to pay for and it must be spread over more people."
Is he so naive as to think that more houses with more people would not mean more sewage, and perhaps 3 or 4 new schools, and does he forget what a few of those things cost us a few years ago.
We wonder if that garden path is now strewn with dollar bills in the form of big taxes, instead of roses, and that is why so many people hand long builders supplies have found that garden path has grown attractive.
Mr. Cock says Herald quote "To encourage new industry, we

must have a surplus labour force."
Seven years ago Georgetown had industry to supply nearly ALL her labour force. Mr. Cock should make a survey of how many Georgetowners have to commute to Brampton, Oakville, Toronto, etc. in order to get their living.
And who would Mr. Cock suggest to provide that surplus labour force with living till that long overdue factory puts in its appearance. The Welfare?
Councillor Brown gives the comment that "If we can't sell the present houses, it's because there are new ones, we can't build. Strange reasoning this, I would say if we can't sell the present houses it's because there is no work here for the head of the house."
Mr. Cock might be startled if he knew how many people of our work force have lost their home and moved where they Can Find Work.
For the past 2 years our taxes have remained fairly stable. If Council is studying the interests of the taxpayer instead of get rich quick promoters they will Look Before They Leap, that pet's could be fought with danger.
There is an old saying: You can fool some of the People, Some of the Time, But you can't fool All of the People, all of the time.
Seven years ago we too fell for the golden dreams that has now been led in the newcomers but those golden dreams soon vanished for all except the builders.
The rest of us were too busy fighting our way out of a tangle of debt to have time for dreaming.
I had hoped that never again would I be forced to protest at a council meeting. But if we all sit back and Do Nothing we are giving a blank cheque signed by us as taxpayers and we shall have to foot the bill in the future just as we did in the past.
In my scrap book is a letter written by a former councillor, it says "Quote: If after the release of 256 lots for residential construction, Delrex is unable to finance the construction of One Factory there doesn't seem much point in releasing any more land."
Furthermore one of the reasons other towns are getting industries and we are not becomes clear. 500 lots at 1,500 to 2,000 per lot seems like a fair bit of money to me." End of quote.
Every taxpayer should make himself acquainted with what has happened since 1955 and get now about be fooled by pipe dreams; there is a rude awakening for those who sleep.
Katherine Curdaro

ment has proved to be no substitute for industrial Assessment. You are now being asked to approve continued population growth. There is no accompanying guarantee that such approval will be vindicated, for naturally, there can be no guarantee. And whilst the experience of the past five years dictates that there will in fact be no immediate vindication, you are asked to ignore lessons of experience, and trust to the inscrutable workings of Providence.
We are all in the same boat—and the gunwale is low in the water. Let us then make every endeavour to improve the buoyancy of our good ship, before increasing our complement. Let us support our Industrial Commission enthusiastically, and may they provide a comprehensive Plan and spirit of leadership.
I would ask that each one of you give careful thought to the preliminary letter by E. T. Hyde appearing in the last issue of the Herald. In view of very recent evidence, it is a fair assumption that Mr. Hyde expressed the sentiments of at least 1,300 adult residents of our town. Let us not disregard the concerned and sincere warning of a man who has proved consistently to have Georgetown's interest at heart.
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Important Town Question

An important municipal question is once more squarely before council and ratepayers, release of residential building land in the Delrex subdivision.
It is a question which has divided people into two camps and which has kept the local municipal pot boiling at fever pitch each time it appears something is about to happen.
And its complexity can readily be seen when one realizes that never has there been anything approaching unanimity of opinion among nine elected councillors who, more than the majority of residents, should be well versed with the problem and the various municipal by-laws pertaining to subdivisions and industrial residential ratios.
Last week, for instance, instructions were issued by council for preparation of an amendment to by-law 61.35 which, as well as changing a sliding scale of deposits up to \$900 for issue of house building permits, and eliminating an industrial-commercial ratio, also on a sliding scale geared to assessed value of the house to be built, would allow council to execute a new subdivision agreement for undeveloped land.
It would, in effect, if proceeded with, eventually replace the 60-40 ratio agreement which has hamstringing Delrex Developments in further large scale building projects, and give free reign to the firm, subject to provisions of this amended by-law, as well as by-law 60.33 which details services which must be installed in all local subdivisions.
The Herald, has, at various times, been under considerable pressure to take a stand in the controversy. The "pros" would have us strongly support abandoning the 1954 Delrex agreement. The "cons" would have us defend it to the hilt.
And lately we have been encountering a new group. The ratepayers who lean in no particular direction, but are generally concerned that a virtual building ban in Delrex, or a complete negation of a legal agreement are equally bad business for the town.
So it is that we have searched our mind and to the best of our ability added our opinion to those which we hope, collectively, will come up with the best solution for Georgetown's future.

Three Essential Facts

The whole complicated problem boils down to three essential facts, we feel:
(a) Georgetown has a binding agreement with Delrex Developments which demands maintenance of a 40% industrial-commercial ratio which in the foreseeable future cannot be fulfilled. And the town has a perfect legal right to say "Sorry! This is the agreement you signed and it must be met!"
(b) In 1960 a subdivision services by-law and in 1961 a subdivision ratio by-law were passed with a general agreement that these would provide a sound basis for the town's future expansion.
(c) Owners of a major subdivision Moore Park and the town council are in agreement that present regulations are actually satisfactory, and plans are underway for Moore Park development under this plan.
When a matter of such enormous importance is decided, are the taxpayers ever consulted?
Are you less qualified to decide upon your future than two members of council, whose main experience in municipal work consists of 3 months as elected members of council?
An elected municipal official is disqualified by law to vote on an issue in which the possibility of conflict of interest may arise. You may well ask yourself if this possibility may not exist in the case of one of our council members, who sells building supplies locally.
Are you aware that Georgetown, in common with all municipalities who have permitted unrestricted development without a healthy industrial assessment, has been on the verge of bankruptcy as a result of an extremely high tax rate and extremely high debenture debt?
Did you know that there is no great demand for houses

Land Release, With Penalty

We therefore believe that, with such general agreement on subdivision control, there should be general agreement also that the Delrex lands could be released for building under exactly the same terms as those accepted by Moore Park.
But, at the same time, we do not think that the Delrex firm should be released from its 1954 agreement scotfree.
Our simple suggestion is that council, with assistance from the Ontario Municipal Board, should negotiate a penalty payment for abrogation of the 1954 agreement—a penalty which would be sufficiently severe to recover for the town much of the tax money which must be spent because of an over-supply of moderately-assessed homes

Canadian Garden Service

pine or cedar from a lumber yard. There are also metal stakes available. For sweet peas and other tall flowers bush is advisable. Fixed frames in the ground before growth starts, and through which the plants will grow and eventually hide. Some people also stake or support with brush garden peas and the taller beans. Much of the brush removed in pruning operations from fruit trees will be found very suitable.
TIMELY TIPS
While waiting for the weather to turn warmer, it is a good plan to study the seed catalogue, brush up on both the common and scientific or Latin names. Then we are absolutely sure of what we are getting when we place our garden orders.
OPPOSED MARRIAGE TO FUTURE PRESIDENT
William Smith, a New England minister, bitterly opposed the marriage of his daughter, Abigail, back in 1704. He preached on the text, "My daughter is leavously tormented with a devil." Nevertheless, comments Encyclopedia Americana, Abigail's bridegroom, John Adams, went on to become President of the United States.
THE ISLES OF GREECE
The fabled Aegean Islands may appear to be the havens of peace, but the Book of Knowledge points out that, since they were first settled about 1000 B.C., they have been held by Athens, Macedonia, Rome, Byzantium, the Crusaders, Venice and the Ottoman Turks. Most of them were returned to Greece about 1820 A.D.

Three Planting Groups For Canadian Climate

Most convenient flowers and vegetables arrange themselves into three main planting groups for the Canadian climate. In the seed catalogue these are listed as hardy, semi-hardy and tender. The first named can be planted just as soon as the soil is fit to work. A bit of frost will not hurt them and some actually prefer a cool start. Grass, radish, peas, spinach, cosmos, pansies and most nursery stock are in this category. Next, come the semi-hardy and these should not be planted until practically all danger of frost is over. Freezing may not kill them, but it will set them back so far that later planted seed will do better. In the semi-hardy group are corn, tomatoes, the main planting of potatoes, and petunias, marigolds, zinnias and many other flowers. For the things marked tender in the catalogue, however, the tiniest tip of frost will kill and they will not thrive in any case until the weather is nice and warm. Melons are in this category and cucumbers and squash, also gladioli, dahlias and cannas.
DON'T RUSH THE SEASON STAKES AND BRUSH
Far more seed and time is there one garden job that wasted by planting too soon we can do anytime and that is thin too late, even in the nurseries preparing a supply of stakes than parts of Canada. And other forms of support, there is a real risk of mangling. There is never enough of this the soil, not to mention having material on hand once the seed things frozen. A good test to son really opens. Small stakes, make sure that the soil is fit anything from six inches up to to work, it is to walk across the garden. If no mud sticks to mark rows, and spots in the the shiner then the soil is dry, flower garden where we have enough to work. Or if we want staves will be neater and less can take up a handful of soil and squeeze it. If when released it has compacted into a ball, instead of crumbling, then it is too wet and by digging or hals like hollyhocks, and del working then, the soil will bake phinitims, dahlias and tom hard later on and cause all oes something much sturdier hard, of trouble. Both soil and stakes will be needed, stout sh should be warm before it stakes up to six or seven feet high. For this we can purchase is safe to plant any but the hardest seeds.

Georgetown Herald

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ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald March, 1951, and 1937

10 YEARS AGO

From the pages of Herald, March, 1952 and 1937
• A six man team from Branch 120 of the Canadian Legion competed in the District B tournament at Woodstock Saturday. On the local team were, Charlie Day, Lorne Cross, Earl Wilcox, Bruce McCartney, George Sargent and Norm McDonald.
• A successful season for the Georgetown Curling Club ended at the arena Thursday night. Officers of the club are Harold Hutchinson, president; Fred Chapman, secretary-treasurer; Ted Bludd, vice president; and Perc-Cleave, honorary president.
• A walnut coloured seat in fibreglass reinforced plastic won the Canadian plastics achievement award for best item produced in 1951. It is manufactured by Smith and Stone Ltd. of Georgetown.

25 YEARS AGO

Mayor Joseph Gibbons has received a letter from the mayor of Georgetown, British Guiana, congratulating Georgetown, Ontario, on its Centenary. Mayor Gibbons earlier sent a letter to the South American Georgetown which is also celebrating its Centenary year.
• There appears to be some foundation in the rumour that a broadcasting station will be erected on the 8th line near Hornby. Surveyors are at work on the land and it is quite apparent some major construction is planned.
• At the Gregory Theatre 'Beloved Enemy' starring Merle Oberon and Brian Aherne; 'Doddsworth' starring Walter Huston and Ruth Chatterton; 'Carnille' starring Robert Taylor and Greta Garbo.