

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

More Important Than Sports

We attended an evening on Friday which in our humble opinion, should have been a Wigglesworth auditorium. Instead, there was only a handful of spectators. The large majority parents and teachers.

It was the district finals of the public speaking competitions. Five youngsters, including a Georgetown boy, were trying for the honour of representing part of the county in a further contest.

Their performance was faultless. Each student had polished his speech to perfection and seldom have we heard adults perform with more aplomb. A girl told earnestly why she thought there should be a world government. A boy spoke fluently about how television is transmitted. A girl gave her ideas of what is good and bad for youngsters in television viewing.

It was a fine evening, and we are only sorry that more people couldn't have shared in the thrill of hearing the art of speaking at its best.

It made us wonder if today we don't place too much stress on athletics and ignore skills which will help a young person in future life much more than his hockey or baseball.

Not that we're against athletics, for these help build our future citizens. But shouldn't it be equally important to put other skills on at least an equal basis. In other words, have just as big a rooming section for a speaking contest as for a sports affair.

P.S. We'd only be fair to admit that it wasn't entirely the speaking which lured us from a comfy armchair Friday. Number one son was singing in a choir as part of the added entertainment, and this gave us that extra push to attend.

New Basis Needed

From time to time, we have editorialized about a needed change in municipal tax structure. And so it was with keen interest that we heard provincial Liberal leader John Wintermeyer in a local speech recently, include this in his remarks.

Mr. Wintermeyer confined himself to a somewhat sweeping statement that the provincial government should assume responsibility for cost of education, justice, health and welfare. Generations ago, when property became the taxation base, it served the purpose he explained, because local taxes paid only for things which improved or safeguarding such property. Education was a private responsibility of parents, there were no health and welfare plans, and the land owner was taxed to pay for direct benefits to the land and buildings he owned.

The sooner such a system of modified property tax payments is inaugurated, the sooner municipal councils can be freed from the budgeting problems which beset them, and the sooner property owners will be relieved from what are becoming crippling taxes for which there is no solution other than a change in tax basis.

Sorry, Can't Do

If Herald readers are expecting reports of council committee meetings in this newspaper, they're going to be disappointed.

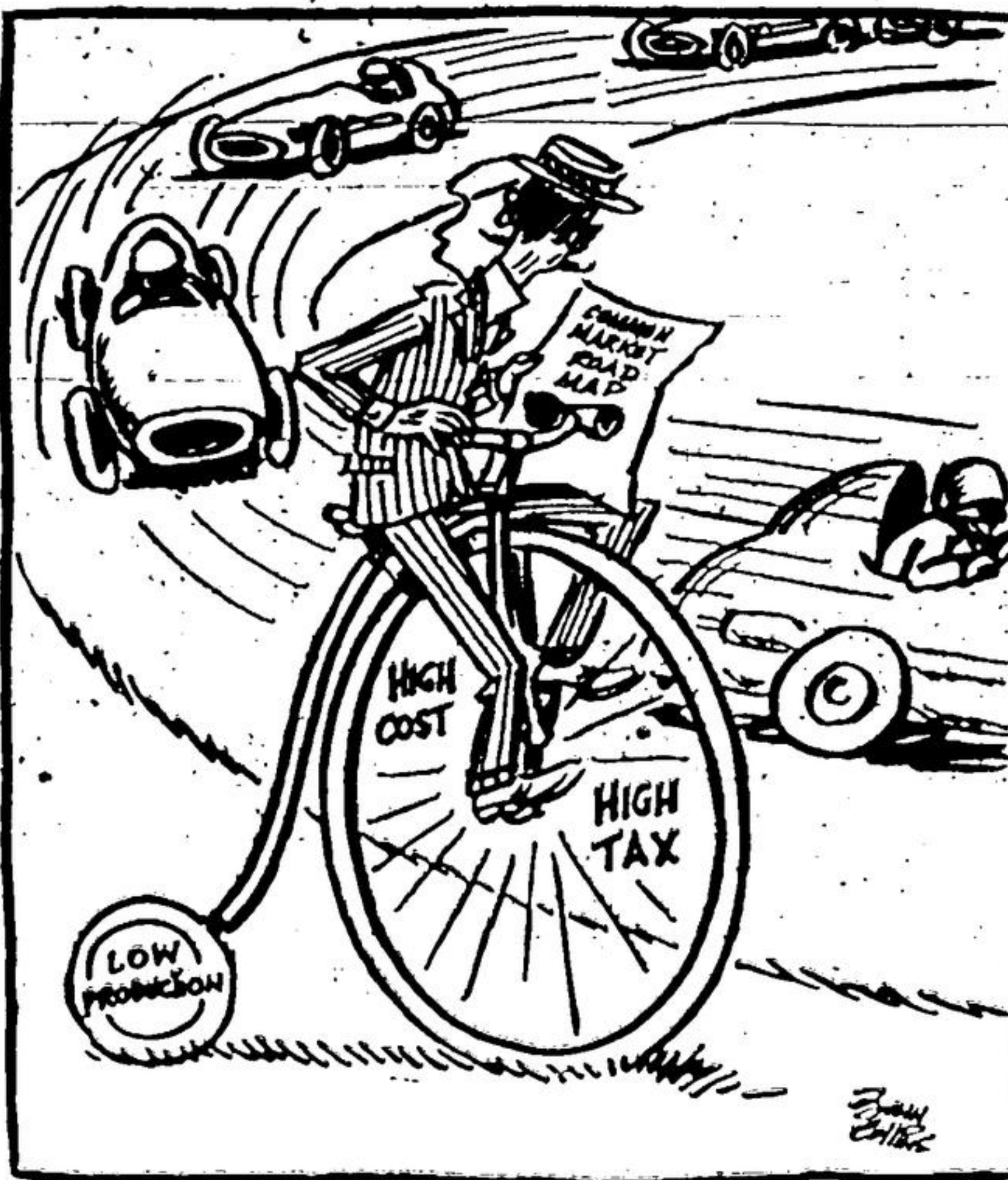
Part of the reason is purely personal. We spend each Monday night listening to council debate, and a few of the busy Tuesday hours writing the report for the Herald. To start reporting committee meetings would not only stretch our after-work working hours to the point of impossibility, but we could foresee a confusion of news in one weekly issue, for councillors have been known to change their minds before a question comes formally before a standard meeting.

Apart from this, however, we are not too sold on open committees.

For one thing, councillors need an opportunity to let their hair down now and then, and to informally discuss a subject before their position is publicly stated.

Take the present subdivision amendment still much in the news.

There were indications at last week's meeting that at least one, and possibly more of the amendment supporters might be considering a change in viewpoint. But councillors must have a reason for a change



OUR ENTRY IN THE GRAND PRIX

THE MAIL BAG

Says Herald Editorial Solution To Problem

101 Main Street South, Georgetown, Ontario
2nd April, 1962

To the Editor,
The Georgetown Herald

Enclosed is a copy of an address made by me at today's meeting of Council in the belief that therein I express some of the views held by many of the ratepayers of our town. At the same time I offer my respectful congratulations to you upon the simple and excellent suggestions offered by you in your editorial of last week as a solution to a problem which seriously disturbs many of us in Georgetown.

Yours very truly,
(Mr. H. N. Martin)

MR. MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

With further regard to the amendment of the Sub-Division Control By-law, I would like to say, Mr. Mayor, and your supporters insisted on discussing a course which we had hoped would remain permanently buried. I for one, as I said here last week, had the feeling that Georgetown was quietly beginning to prosper or, at least, that we had taken a turn for the better.

Certainly I was one of the ratepayers who felt that in a honest local government by the ultimate solution to all the problems which have never ceased to bedevil this town since the arrival upon the scene of Delrex Developments.

Last Monday Dr. Cook said in this chamber that the thing that surprised him was that no body had come up with anything better or words to that effect.

It is a very long time since I listened to such an example of polite nonsense.

I have no doubt the 1000 ratepayers, who signed the petition placed before you last week, would be very glad to hear whose brilliant idea this was in the first place. My guess is that it certainly wasn't Dr. Cook's.

As to what constitutes a "better plan" if Dr. Cook has not found an answer yet to that one, let me again remind him that I am one who came up with a better plan. I put it to him and his associates at the Council Meeting last Monday. I suggested (1) that you rescind this amendment or (2) that you refer it to a plebiscite of the ratepayers.

Since last week's meeting of Council, however, the Editor of the Georgetown Herald has put the situation in an admirable nutshell AND proposed a better plan. He writes:

"The whole complicated problem boils down to three essential factors, 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 Sub-Division Control By-law were passed with general agreement that these would provide a sound basis for the town's future expansion.

surveillance of that board. Why? Because originally the town was allowed to proceed with Delrex only after a public hearing by the board and its subsequent blessing.

And any major change should require the same decision by a government department specifically created to guide municipalities along the proper path.

What could be faster than that Mr. Mayor?

There is nothing that you, as the councillors, who support the amendment, would stand to lose from such negotiations, or public hearing, is there?

The people are very well aware that you are able, if you so wish, to attempt to ride out the present storm of public indignation and as further a year planned and controlled the amendment in the first place, to push it through to law at a moment which seems appropriate to you.

If this is in your mind, I'm sure you'll find your fellow councillors, your fellow ratepayers, and the words which have been in the streets.

It is perhaps something quite new to you something which we in Georgetown should be proud of. I believe that we are showing to you and all who may hear us outside this town that, once and for all we intend to make a stand for what is just and fair and seemly in our municipal affairs, and that we will not be lacking in resolution if you failed to give the weight to the fact that I and all these other people are also fighting for something MORE than our pockets.

It would be shameful indeed, Mr. Mayor, if by the failure of Council to take advantage of the fair and excellent compromise plan now offered to you, Council forces upon us the suspicion that we are also fighting something which you yourselves for some reason or other, are reluctant to expose to the scrutiny of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

(c) Owners of a major subdivision, Moore Park, and the town council are in agreement that present regulations are mutually satisfactory, and plans are underway for Moore Park development under these plans.

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 either.

Who can deny these simple facts or the logic of these comments?

Now I say to you again, Mr. Mayor, that if you wish to prove to the ratepayers of this town that it is only the good of Georgetown which you have in your heart, you will withdraw this amendment now.

If however, a majority of Council wishes to persist in its leave protestations that it is for the labour pool and all the facts of citizens is wholly in the interest of the ratepayer, and I mean the majority rather than one group's handfull, then, Mr. Mayor, I suggest that there is a very simple way of proving good faith.

All you have to do is grasp with both hands the suggestion which next follows in the editorial from which I have already quoted.

"Our simple suggestion," the Editor of the Herald goes on to say, "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 oversupply of moderately assessed homes which do not pay their way in taxes, and lack of an expected increase in industrial buildings."

We stress that the Municipal Board should be a direct part of any such negotiations. And we say, further, that any future dealings with the Delrex firm should be under the sharp

NEWSPAPERS BEST

According to a 1950 American Bankers' Ass'n. survey, more banks will use newspaper for their advertising than any other medium - in fact, more than will use TV, radio and magazine combined.

MERRY MENAGERIE

By Walt Disney

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"Well, if it ain't HIS MAJESTY - the king of the jungle!"

SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

It may be still snowing in Whitehorse. Though I hope for their sakes that it isn't. But this unpredictable busy Would what had words from a saint. You don't know to whom I'm referring. I'm sure you're acquainted, old thing. The lady whose name I am alluring. Is greeted with rapture as "Spring!"

And that's pretty horrible with the kids, there are the doggerel. But it represents my touches of reprieve from mad-doggerel. And carefully rounded-up; a rosy spring had a pred opinion of the character. However peering up from the of the particular season which ears; a wild, new shade of is supposed to follow on the heels of winter, but is usually so far behind that she's out of sight.

That gets his presents, too. Can't hardly rush in spots. A fuel bill like the national debt; April 30 and the Receiver General lying in wait. But he can't stand it. The ice on the lake is gone. The girl course is trying to get up. And a Sunday jaunt on the muddy sidewalks has discovered a new trout stream of superlative potential.

It has been my custom to write an annual and extremely long, tedious column about the spring. For years, my opinion of this greatly over-rated season has been similar to that of a dying man who calls for water and is given a healthy slug of vinegar.

For years, I have longed to get hold of one of those poets who burble about the tiny craters poking their heads up in the sun and show him some of the stuff that pokes its head through the snow around our place, in the spring.

This year, we've had such a delightful spring here, so far, that I find myself in an unusually mellow mood. This year, I cannot bring myself to vilify the spring. Even though I know perfectly well that behind that disguise of cheery and gentle maiden with the warm sweet breath, lies a cold-hearted harridan. Even though I know that she will probably produce a wind that would freeze the brains out of a brass monkey, along about Opening Day of the trout season.

It must have been that wonderful month of March that I finished me. Almost every day, the yellow sun nibbled away at the huge snow banks of ice and snow, and the world slowly began to peek out from behind the garage in the of the picnic table. It was there until July.

I hate to destroy a tradition, and I'm doing it with my fingers crossed, which makes typing rather awkward, but this year, I'm going to write a salute to spring. I'm going to say nice things about her. She'll probably be so surprised she'll blush and weep all over the place. So get your sump pumps ready.

Let's face it. Write it for the belief that life will return to our frozen land annually, exactly north of the 49th parallel would be running around drooling and gibbering by the middle of March.

Spring is like Santa Claus. She has something good for everybody. She brings pure delight for the kids. Skipping ropes and marbles and mud. And mud and mud and mud. And off with the rubbers and into it, the minutes your back is turned.

For the elderly, perhaps more than anyone, the lengthening days, the warming sun, are a blessing and a joy. Cold and darkness and the eternal enemy who lurks in the shadows are beaten again. Life, however tumultuous, blossoms, and fear and pain retreat.

For mother, she brings gifts. To offset the tracking in of

Band Drums Nell On Last Delivery

Nell, the 21-year-old Red-jacket, married by Maxine Dairy, Acton, completed her last run on the familiar milk route Saturday morning with one remarkable difference. She was stepping behind the hood of a dinky of several citizens' Bandmen when she proudly heaved the milk wagon for the final time. She began 16 years ago.

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ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald, April, 1952, and 1937

10 YEARS AGO

- At the annual meeting of the Georgetown Baseball Club it was announced that Bob Footitt would replace Vern Bowman as coach of the Intermediates this year. Vern has taken over the coaching of the midgets.
- For the third year the Lions will sponsor the Stay at Home Camp, in town. At last week's dinner at the McGibbon House, Don Barrager was named to head a committee to arrange for the camp which this year will be under the direction of Rev. John Smith.
- The lovely farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Burt, on No. 17 sideroad, was completely destroyed by fire on Sunday. Known as the Maples, the home was operated as a tourist home during the summer seasons and one of the most substantial buildings in the vicinity.

25 YEARS AGO

- At council this week the matter of granting certain exemptions from taxes on the Legion club rooms was discussed and it was moved by Blackburn and seconded by Wright that a by-law to that effect be read a first time.
- It was moved by Smith and seconded by Parr that the budget be accepted and that the tax rate for the town of Georgetown reduced from 50 mills to 49 mills.
- At the Gregory Theatre: "First a Girl", starring Jessie Matthews; "The Country Doctor", starring Dionne Quinluplets; and "A Tale of Two Cities", starring Ronald Colman.

The County's \$2,300,972 Budget What It Costs Towns, Townships

The following table shows how the seven Halton municipalities contribute toward the operating cost of this year's Halton County Council budget. On each municipality's equalized 1961 valuation a general rate of 4.6 mills is levied, producing the contributions shown in column three. Column four shows what municipalities will be asked for, on the road rate of 1.4 mills.

The special levies in column five were incurred a few years ago when the County Council put up the debentures for the construction and additions of the three North Halton high schools. The final column shows the total contribution of each municipality.

	Equalized Assessment	General Rate	Road Rate	Special Levies	Grand Total
Acton	\$ 5,582,112	\$ 25,677.72	\$ 7,814.96	\$ 15,341.05	\$ 48,834.62
Burlington	88,632,817	407,710.96	124,085.94	531,796.90	1,063,593.80
GEORGETOWN	14,252,300	65,560.58	19,953.22	46,910.24	132,424.04
Milton	7,059,512	32,473.75	9,883.32	23,205.21	65,562.28
Oakville	98,170,376	451,583.73	137,438.53	589,022.26	1,178,044.52
Naquesing	6,682,756	30,740.68	9,355.86	22,017.96	62,114.50
Nasagaweya	2,272,645	10,454.17	3,181.70	7,559.74	21,195.61
Total	222,652,518	1,024,201.59	311,713.53	115,039.09	1,450,950.21

Advises Careful Thought To Petition

103 Prince Charles Dr. April 2nd, 1962

Dear Resident of Georgetown:
Being present at the Town Council meeting Monday, April 2nd and hearing speakers for the opposition to the proposed amendment in the Sub-Division Control By-law, it appears to me that they are more interested in continuing the feud between developers and certain factions in town rather than giving no

constructive criticism to help the situation that exists in town.

Sp. my feeling is, if you are asked to sign a petition to support the opposition in this matter, think wisely before doing so. They will tell you they want to keep your taxes down, but you should look into the matter very thoroughly before you put your name on the dotted line.

Expense of operating Georgetown keeps going up and if the assessment stays at the same level, it won't take long for the expenses to over-ride the assessment. Consequently, the Amendment and giving no

only reasonable and sensible solution is to work for a higher assessment which means opening up the town.

Georgetown is a progressive town and the people should show industry, we are backing our elected representatives to the full extent. But at the moment, Georgetown is becoming the laughing-stock of adjacent communities and they are greeting by the childish attitude of some of our people. Hoping you will consider this matter very thoroughly and leave no personal animosity in the future and work for the betterment of our town, Georgetown.

M. H. Todd.