

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Land Release Again

It seems to be no particular secret that town council, planning board and industrial commission have been having talks which could lead to the release of more residential building in a large area of east Georgetown.

The land has been tied up under a 1956 subdivision agreement with Delrex Developments Ltd. which provided only a certain amount of residential construction until industrial requirements had been met.

Release of the land was the subject of bitter controversy in the community for some years. Municipal elections were fought on its pros and cons. And opinions for and against split the town and occupied the headlines week after week as council debated the question before packed galleries.

A sufficient cooling off period now should allow the matter to be dealt with in a businesslike way. And we would hope there will be a minimum of the bias which seemed to hold sway in years past.

It will be council's job, in the long run, to decide on what, if anything, is to be done to relieve a situation where a

large amount of building land, some of it already serviced, is lying idle.

The proposed agreement, we understand, would release residential land for building, with the town acquiring a large acreage of industrial land at a price of \$100 per acre. A housing subdivision would be required to provide additional services to those designated in the original Delrex agreement.

If these additional services fulfil the requirements of the town's present subdivision by-law (passed subsequent to the 1954 agreement), then we would say that the proposed agreement is somewhat along the line of reasoning which The Herald has suggested on several occasions.

It would mean that the old Delrex agreement would be washed out, a subdivision allowed to proceed in Delrex as he would in any other part of town, and the sale of industrial land to the town at a bargain price would be a penalty for the unfulfilled 1954 agreement.

It could be a happy end to a thorny problem which must be solved sometime in Georgetown's future.

Encouraging Industrial News

Expansion plans announced by two Georgetown industries recently make encouraging news on the industrial scene.

Varian Associates and Eagle Signals, both relative newcomers to town, are making additions to their plants, and it is assumed that in the normal course of business, there will be more jobs available.

In a town's search for industry we are sometimes inclined to overlook what is on the spot, while trying so hard to induce newcomers to locate here.

What could have been disturbing news was contained in a Kitchener dated story in a recent edition of the Globe and

Mail. The article inferred that Avian Industries is considering building a plant in that city. We have been assured that the story is in error, and would hope our industrial commission will ensure that the company is fully satisfied with its Georgetown plant and will, if expansion is necessary, keep its Georgetown location.

Perhaps the commission would be wise from time to time to consult officials of local industry, find out if they have any "beefs" or any suggestions which they could make to keep relations cordial.

The bird in the hand edgely certainly holds true in this case. It is well to hold on to what you have, while looking for more.

Changing Times for Merchants

Inauguration of Thursday open nights by a number of Georgetown stores indicates that times can change, just like fashions.

And for any veteran of the merchandising business, there can be wry humour in watching a battle where a proportion of merchants are fighting longer hours, when we can remember so vividly the past disputes when merchants were crying havoc over a decision to limit evening hours.

When we were first in business, stores observed a five-and-a-half day week. Wednesdays and Saturdays, most stores closed only when the last shopper had left, at midnight or later. There was a Thursday afternoon half holiday.

Over a period of time, the Wednesday opening was eliminated. Daily hours were limited to 6:00 p.m. Saturday night was replaced by Friday night. And an all-day Monday closing was adopted. Each time there was a spirited fray as merchants divided on the issue.

Times change, as we have said. Shopping plazas have sprung up within easy access to Georgetown. Most are in communities where there are no store restrictions at all, and they keep open two, three or more nights.

Some merchants here, particularly in the Delrex Market Centre, feel they can do

more business with a Thursday open night. Many pay days are on Thursday, they say. Friday night has replaced Saturday as a night out, a night to entertain. The five day week in industry means many people are going away Friday nights for the weekend and there is not the business there used to be on that night.

Against this, other merchants argue the difficulties of persuading clerks to work two nights in a row, the longer hours it means for a store owner to be on the job, the fact that there are only so many dollars for shoppers to spend anyway.

Town council is caught in the middle and some councillors have expressed the thought that they have no business regulating store hours anyway and would throw a closing by-law out altogether.

We hope this doesn't occur. It would be bad for merchants to have no control over competitors. And doubly bad if some stores were open nights and some closed, for this would be confusing to shoppers.

In this case, we would hope that all merchants might give the extra open night a trial. It could be seen if extra business is obtainable, and if so, it should be possible to solve staff problems. And if there is no extra business, then the proponents of Thursday open nights would soon drop the idea too.

RECOMMEND \$150,000 RUST REMOVAL PLANT FOR TOWN

The Proctor and Hedders report to Council, Wednesday night, recommended a \$150,000 rust removal plant as a means of ridding the town of rusty water.

Taking immediate action on the report, Council, Don Powers initiated a motion for an application to the Ontario Municipal Board for their tentative approval. The cost of the plant would come out of water rates.

"The first thing the O.M.B. will ask us is how will it be paid," retorted Coun. Powers. "The money has to come from somewhere." He estimated the cost of seven thousand a year, since no calcium will be used, cutting present costs by three thousand dollars. "Industry will not even notice such small increases," he maintained, "especially since many have to remove the iron themselves now."

Reeve Elliott objected on the grounds this was neither a firm price nor a final report. He felt there was no guarantee that this iron removal plant at such a great cost would really do the job. "We were told chlorine would do it, then calcium would do it, I'd like an Ontario Water Resources recommendation before I would approve," he concluded.

Engineering Study Planned to Improve Glen Channel

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority has received the green light from the Ontario Department of Energy Resources Management, Hon. J. R. Simons, Minister, to make an engineering study leading to improvements in the Credit river channel at Glen Williams.

The announcement of approval of a grant of \$4,725 for the study was made by Halton representative at Queen's Park, George Kerr M. P. P.

This study will deal mainly with eliminating a sharp bend in the Credit branch south of village where the jams in recent years have originated.

Other projects in process will correct erosion of the Glen Williams Cemetery embankment and add a dike.

Halton County plans to replace a bridge on the west side of the village with a two-lane span in September.



ELEGY IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

NEWS DESK EXTRAS

by Terry Harley

SO WHAT'S A WEEK

- If you're one of the blasé herd who believes one has to have a Dick Tracy chin, steel trap mouth, flared nostrils and a wild cast in your steely orbs to display a flag (take your choice) on this country's birthday you couldn't have been paying attention when your public school teachers were trying to pierce your cranium with the pride instilling facts.
- Just for old times sake lets recall a few of them.
- Canada is the world's second largest country. . . . It stretches 5,700 miles across, half the distance from north to south. . . . It has the world's longest railway line. . . . the world's longest natural gas pipeline. . . . the world's longest crude oil pipeline. . . . and the world's largest fishing grounds. It is the world's leading producer of nickel, platinum and asbestos and ranks second in the world in hydro electric power, wheat, aluminum, and gypsum. It leads every other country in the world in both imports and exports, and is sixth in the world in manufacturing. . . . Canada's newspaper production accounts for 50 per cent of the world's total. . . . It has a 2,300 mile waterway into the heart of the continent, and a 5,000 mile Trans Canada Highway. . . . It has 40,000 factories, half a million farms and one third of the entire world's fresh water. . . .
- So you feel like you should have done some flag waving last Thursday, and you're wonder-

ing if it would look a little strange, hanging out the colours a week late. Go ahead and do it. You can always tell the neighbours it took you that long to decide which flag to use.

No Metering, Milton Has Water Consumption Problem

Georgetown's system of metering water is being looked on with envy by Milton council who are winning these sunny days as that town's water consumption soars.

Recently Milton doubled its water supply, but residents kept pace by almost doubling their water consumption through unrestricted lawn and garden watering.

Comparing the consumption of Georgetown 12,000 residents with that of Milton's 6,500, Milton works superintendent Bruce McKerr noted that both towns pumped within 100 gallons of each other on Tuesday of last week. He pointed to the fact, that Georgetown's water is metered and Milton's is not.

He said the water in some Milton ditches was running 6 inches deep from lawns that couldn't absorb it. "People go to work and leave their hoses running," he complained. "It's like pumping water into Lake Ontario."

He said Georgetown's system of metering is the only way to place reasonable limits on local watering and suggested Milton adopt it.

NEWS ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald 1955 and 1945

10 YEARS AGO

- Burning brush at the community swimming pool site behind the arena brought firemen twice yesterday when the fire got out of control. A prefab shack erected earlier in the day by pool contractors Milne and Nichols received minor damage when it caught fire.
- Georgetown Girls Pipe Band won their first championship in competition at the Sault Ste. Marie centennial celebration last week. With the cup went a cheque for \$100. Members of the band are Anne Luke, Elms Slinger, Eileen Kerr, Joan Cummins, Mrs. James Torwick, Pat Day, June Allen, Virginia Walker, Shirley Wright, Mrs. Homer Stenneth, Helen Muckart, Mrs. Harold Rasmussen, Barbara Alcott, Ann Tucker, Mimi Grace and Charlene Day.
- Landmarks are disappearing as the Delrex Development plan gets rolling. The Wilbert Cleave property has entirely disappeared with the barn razed and the house moved across the highway onto the Reid farm. The Gilchrist house has been moved to a new site on the Emile farm, and other barns have disappeared while several of the farm houses are being used by the development firm as offices.

20 YEARS AGO

- Vacation closing for both industries and merchants seems to be the accepted order this summer in Georgetown. Industries closed include Alliance Paper, both Provincial Mills, Smith and Stone, J. B. Mackenzie and Son, Georgetown Lumber Company, Harley-Kay, Day-foot's Shoe Company, Federal Sales and Engineering, W. J. Layole and Son, Glen Textile Industries, Beaumont Knitting Mill and Georgetown Clay Products. Among the merchants who have closed for holidays are Smith's Shoe Store, P. E. Blackburn, The Georgetown Cafe, Penson's Fish and Chip Store, Baird's Bakery, G. R. Muckart, and The Georgetown Herald.

SUGAR AND SPICE by Bill Smiley

British Ghosts Aghast

From Britain came an unprecedented rumbling in the atmosphere.

No, it wasn't thunder. Not real thunder, anyway, though it sounded mighty like it.

It was made up of two things: great men turning in their graves and a vast groan of disgust and despair from several million ghosts.

If you listen carefully, you can even distinguish some of the individual voices in this continuing thunder of protest from the nether world.

Surely that rasping growl belongs to Sir Winston Churchill. Poor old chap. Barely laid to rest when something like this comes along to destroy his hard earned peace.

Doesn't that angry bellow belong to Sir Francis Drake? Could that bull's roar of rage be anyone but Henry the Eighth?

Surely that booming of blank verse is John Milton? And wouldn't that howl of anguish be Rudyard Kipling?

There's a duel: the angry snarl of the Duke of Wellington and the outraged holler of enevyed Horatio Nelson.

And there's a trio. It sounds much like the pontifical tones of Archbishop Cranmer, Ridley and Latimer, martyrs three.

Gruff Gladstone and dapper Disraeli, roaring protest, are in tune as they never were alive.

I'd bet money that female squeal, rising above the others, belongs to Good Queen Bess, hurtling down the hall of five centuries, as she rages, "Name-sake! Child Elizabeth! How could you?"

Me thinks that magnificent bell-toned baritone with the shudder in it could belong to none other than The Bard, sobbing in sorrow and frustration, "Is this a Beetle which I see before me?"

There, it's out. I knew the suspense was killing you. Yes, the great ones of Britain's glorious heritage have good reason for their celestial storm of indignation. The Beatles were awarded the M.B.E. (Member of the Order of the British Empire).

Yes, to this depth of depravity have sunk the ancestors of those giants who took on the Spanish Armada, the Pope, the French, the Germans, who clobbered na-

tives all over the world and established peace and good trading conditions, who defied single-handed the great tyrants Napoleon and Hitler. (Well, almost single-handed.)

Don't quail like that, old chap. Don't rip off your Victoria Cross or your D.S.O. and throw it in the garbage. Chin up. Have a stiff drink. You British have always been able to muddle through. You may even muddle through this one.

But it will write fairs to the once-mighty British Empire. And perhaps it's best this way, after all. The Empire was shrinking like a two-dollar all-wool sweater. If you couldn't mend with a bang, be satisfied with a snicker.

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

H. B. DEAN

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord but be thou a partaker of the afflictions of the Gospel according to the power of God." 2 Timothy 1:8.

People who are bent on taking the Bible out of public life would be just as happy if they didn't have to face it from the pulpit. Jesus said, "If ye are ashamed of me and my words, I will be ashamed of you before my Father and the Holy Angels."

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