

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Complicated Refund

While the provincial refund to home owners is welcome relief from crippling municipal taxation, the form in which ratepayers will receive this is unique, to say the least.

We agree with the idea of showing it separately on the tax bill as a deduction. In Georgetown's case this is a flat \$54.68, which is arrived at by a somewhat complicated procedure whereby the province assumes some of the tax bill on the first \$2,000 of assessed value.

Showing this separately can act as a restraining influence on town fathers who, if the money was just sent to them, could be more inclined to absorb it into the tax rate and spend it on some criteria.

What is open to some criticism is the rule that a landlord must refund this whole amount to a tenant of rented property.

The assumption is that the rental value is based on, among other factors, the yearly tax bill for the property. And in most cases the assumption is a fair one.

However, there are many other factors which enter the picture, one being that of a landlord who, because he knows he has

good tenants, has let his tax bill increase every year or two, while holding the rental fee at the former rate. Such a person will not be inclined to pay out the fifty-odd dollars willingly.

We are, as yet, unfamiliar with the government's legislation, but unless there is a clause penalizing the landlords who raise the rent by a compensating amount, then the tenant will derive no benefit at all. In fact, he might suffer an extra "bite" because if the rent is raised, it will probably be an even amount monthly, and this could be somewhat more than the \$54.68 received by the landlord.

Unless the government is ready to embark on a rent control policy, similar to that which existed in wartime, then there is nothing to stop any rent increase — and we can hardly expect the landlords not to want to pocket the extra money.

On the other hand, this is a first step to revising the municipal tax structure to a more equitable base than at present, where the property owner is assessed a heavy burden which would be more fairly allocated on an income basis.

Buying Nominations?

Attention to an unusual and unwanted political manoeuvre by aspirants for some of Ontario's Liberal seats was drawn by Scott Young in his Globe and Mail column on Monday.

It shocked us.

According to Mr. Young, nominations at some of the nominating conventions were bought, and paid for, in cash. A candidate would buy constituency memberships and voting rights for anybody who will turn out and vote the "right" way according to Mr. Young.

"All a man needs," he says "is enough money and enough bodies available to pack a convention a little tighter than it is being packed by his opponents, and he is in."

He is severely critical, particularly because not all the voters even live in the could lead to a Rent-a-Vote organization, same constituency, and he surmised this

which for a fee, could supply voters in packaged lots anywhere in the province.

The fact that voters at a nominating meeting need not be of legal voting age, and that some of these are, as Mr. Young calls them "teeny-boppers" makes the situation even more odd. Surely a voting delegate should be required to be able to vote for his nominee when the actual election takes place.

One thing we could tell Mr. Young is that there is nothing new under the sun, and in depression days, in at least one Ontario, riding, the same thing was rumored to have happened. We were a Windsor school boy then, and it was common talk around high school that a Liberal aspirant, who later served with distinction in provincial politics and then in a higher field of service, had encouraged some of the high school crowd to attend his meeting and push his candidacy.

Nothing to Do?

The old story "Nothing to do" in Georgetown must be wrong.

The pitiful handful of people who attended Friday's performance of a first rate Little Theatre play belied this old chestnut.

When less than fifty people attend such a presentation, it must mean that several thousand other residents have something to do — if not in Georgetown, then somewhere else.

The pity of it is that Georgetown's Little Theatre group is a superior one in every department. Their quality of acting, of costuming, of set design, is professional in every way. They choose excellent plays, many of which were Broadway hits in their day, and they lavish every attention to make it something worth seeing.

TB ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Twelve Halton Deaths Involved Tuberculosis

Twelve deaths in which tuberculosis was a secondary factor were reported by the Halton County Tuberculosis and Health Association for 1967, in the report received at the association's annual dinner meeting last week.

During the year there were 17 admissions to sanatoria. A total of 72 clinics were held, with 1,065 appointments kept. The tuberculosis case-fatality return showed a total of 722 cases examined, of which 72 were suspects. The total number of tuberculosis cases on register was 1,065.

The meeting in Oakville at the Pine Room was attended by about 140 members and guests, including several medical men. Brief speeches com-

mending the work of the association were given by Halton county warden W. J. Hunter, James Snow, MPP for Halton East, Oakville Reeve Allan Day, Milton mayor Brian Best, Mayor Lee Doby of Acton, and Dr. H.T. Ewart of the Hamilton Health Association. W.D. Savage, the president presided.

Ewart Carberry, a past president of the association, extended greetings on behalf of the Ontario Tuberculosis Association.

"There are many people who live in countries far less fortunate than ours, and they need our help," he said. "The Halton association is one of the greatest contributors of all associations in Ontario in helping people in underdeveloped countries."

The financial statement show-

ed a cash total of \$30,839.83 available for the 1968-69 program.

The following directors were elected for the year: W. D. Savage, H. A. Brerley, J. H. Simpson, Mrs. M. E. Lunn, Mrs. M. H. Sinclair, E. G. Adkinson, Ewart F. Carberry, Dr. D. H. Dixon, Mrs. C. W. McKinn, C. E. Hope, Oakville; Mrs. J. V. Armour, Mrs. J. P. Curran, C. L. McFadden, Dr. W. C. Proctor, Mrs. Mary Tilden, Burlington; William Benson, Horace Blyth, C. Britton, H.H. Hinton, Acton; J. N. Elliott, Georgetown; E.C. Foster, Campbellville; Michael

Levin, J. W. O'Brien, J. E. Stuary, assistant M.O.H., Dr. Hugh Hay, Milton; Mrs. E. Sanford, Limehouse.

Sign in a restaurant: "We are reducing our ten cent meat cakes from twenty cents to fifteen cents."

ONE OF A SERIES

ASSESSMENT, MILL RATES AND MUNICIPAL TAXES

by Marshall Bain, Georgetown Assessor-Commissioner

"OK Mr. Bain, so my assessment is \$4,325, but how do I convert this figure into the amount of tax I must pay?" so many times I am asked this question, here is the formula. If your assessment is \$4,325, then you multiply the mill-rate for the school you support by 4.325 times. In other words if the public school residential mill-rate is 82.85, as is the case in 1968, you simply multiply 82.85 times 4.325 and the result is a tax bill of \$358.33. A mill rate represents so many dollars per thousand of assessment. Simple isn't it?

Arriving at the mill-rate itself is not quite as simple an operation. The amount of money needed to run the town must be calculated. When these figures are obtained they are scrutinized by many people before they are finalized. The powers that be, must then take into account the revenue they will

receive from grants, taxes on new construction, and other sources throughout the coming year. After calculating the amount of money which will be needed in the year, less the grants and other forecasted revenues, the balance represents the amount of money needed to run the town. This is the first step to arrive at a mill-rate.

Next, we need the amount of taxable assessment; residential, commercial, and industrial. These figures have been arrived at already by the Assessment Department. The Assessor-Commissioner has had to return the Assessment Roll for the preceding September 30th. This is the fact of municipal financing that creates most of the grief for the Assessor. The Assessor must work always a year ahead of himself. It follows then that we are today changing assessments that will not come into effect until January 1, 1969. If the procedures were not carried out in this manner, it would be impossible to arrive at a mill-rate, because the amount of taxable assessment on which

HALTON EAST M.P.P.

JIM SNOW REPORTS



AS THE BUSINESS of the current Session moves forward, several of the Committees of which I am a member have been most active during this past week. The Committee on Education and University Affairs have been meeting twice weekly during the mornings for the past 2 weeks and will continue to do so until our work is completed.

OUR MAIN AGENDA of this Committee now consists of the consideration of Bill 44, being the Bill to Implement the County Boards of Education. Delegates representing several organizations have been heard by the Committee including the Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Federation of Ontario School Trustees. The objections if any from these organizations have been very minor in nature pertaining only to the mechanics of the implementation of the Bill and our Committee will now be proceeding with clause by clause study of Bill 44.

AS A MEMBER of the Agricultural Committee, we had a most interesting presentation by Professor Norman Pearson of the University of Guelph on the planning of land use for Ontario.

THE HONOURABLE William Davis, Minister of Education, has announced that legislation will be presented very soon to implement regional separate school boards similar to the new county boards for the elementary and secondary school system. This will have the effect of greatly reducing the number of separate school boards within the Province and bringing their programs more closely in line with the public school system.

ON MONDAY, May 6th, the Honourable J. R. Simonett, Minister of Energy and Resources Management announced approval of two additional Grants to the Halton Region Conservation Authority. One for carrying out capital improvements in the Esqueving Conservation Area and the other for capital improvements in the Sixteen Valley Conservation Area.

AS THERE IS a wide spread need on the part of many of our elderly citizens for self-contained rental accommodation at a rent they can afford, I would like to point out that any Municipality may ask the Ontario Housing Corporation to carry out a survey of need and demand for Senior Citizens Housing in the Municipality. If on completion of the survey by the Ontario Housing Corporation and need is found, then at the request of the Municipality, the Ontario Housing Corporation will proceed with construction program to fill this need. The Municipality does not share in the capital or operating costs of the project, but it must agree to accept a reduced rate on Municipal taxation on the buildings. Rents on the Ontario Housing Corporation Senior Citizens

Housing Units range from \$27 to \$43, per month and are based on the tenant's income. The Corporation is presently asking for proposals from builders for the construction of 32 Family Units and 30 Senior Citizens Units in the Town of Oakville.

RULES OF THE BRUCE TRAIL

- Stay on the trail when hiking through private property.
Do not light fires or camp on the trail.
Do not carry hatchets or firearms on the trail.
Do not shout or make a general nuisance of yourself.
Do not fish in private ponds or streams without permission of the landowner.
Bringing dogs is a custom to be discouraged. It is absolutely necessary that dogs be on a leash through farming country.
Avoid large groups. If your group is oversized why not break it down into smaller units and separate by staggering the starting times.
Owners of land through which the trail passes have given permission for hikers to use only the Trail itself.

SUGAR AND SPICE by Bill Smiley

STOP THE WORLD

Sometimes you feel like Atlas trying to carry the world on your shoulders. With a slipped disk and an arthritic knee.

Well, what can you do? You can't drop it. It would break into pieces. And you can't set it down for a rest. You know you could never pick it up again.

This is the predicament in which the average middle-aged husband and father finds himself most of the time.

That's the fellow you find wandering dazedly in a supermarket; or blundering through a swamp trying to catch a seven-inch speckled trout; or playing golf with intense ineptitude.

If you ask him, he'll swear that he's not quite over the hill yet, that he can carry his world for another few steps. But if you corner him and quiz him, you'll find that he's not only over the hill, but sliding down the other side so fast there'll be nothing but a graceful left when he hits the bottom.

He'll also be broke, if he has a wife. My old lady, after a couple of quiescent weeks following an operation, is in full cry again.

"What do you really think about that crumbly old bedroom suite?" We bought it on sale 18 years ago. As far as I'm concerned, it is fine. There's a raised platform, called a bed, on which to sleep, and a number of drawers without handles, which I can open with a screwdriver. It's perfectly adequate.

"What do you do in a bedroom anyway, except to go to sleep and get up and stumble around in the morning?" I ask in all honesty.

She gives me a withering look. Apparently there are all sorts of other things a bedroom is handy for. Like putting ladies' coats in when you have a party. Or cutting your toenails.

In my bedroom suite we have seen quite suitable for these and other minor activities. But my wife feels it doesn't have tone, class, elegance or practically anything worth while — it's just a piece of

It is based would not be known.

We now have the amount of money needed and the amount of taxable assessment on which it is to be based. Divide one by the other, result, the number of dollars to be collected for every one thousand dollars assessment.

A mill-rate if one views it on the scale of one residential property is, needed \$358.33 taxable Assessment \$4,325 hence the mill-rate would be 82.85 per one thousand assessment.

As a town grows, so grows the need for services and facilities, and more money is needed each year to pay the bills.

In the next article I will attempt to explain the New Provincial Tax Credit Allowance.

IN THE MAIL BAG

Fourth Party Gets Support from Reader

T. R. 2, Norval May 9, 1968.

Dear Sir, I am not a letter writer as such and particularly to news papers, however, I couldn't resist writing to you and offering my sincere congratulations on your excellent editorial in the May 6th issue. Yours is the first paper and you are the first editor with enough intestinal fortitude to stand up and tell these socialists and bureaucrats what a lot of people are thinking but haven't enough guts to do or say anything about. Keep up the good work.

Yours very truly, Alan Macintosh

IN THE MAIL BAG

CONFLICTING THEORIES

BY Sargent Road

Dear Mr. Editor: Your editorial was very aptly named "Conflicting Theories"

Thank goodness, that the Liberals and Conservatives do not subscribe to this line of reasoning.

If so, with many corporations run by computers, we would all be slaves to big business and the machine, or are we?

Albert Porter.

NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald of 10 and 20 Years Ago

1958

One of the few remaining farm properties within Georgetown limits has been sold for a future subdivision. It was announced this week that an 85 acre portion of the Moore farm on Main Street North has been sold to a company with long range plans for residential, industrial and commercial development. Miss Isabelle Moore is retaining a ten acre parcel including her residence on the south-east corner of the farm.

The former Kirk Kraft studio on No. 7 Highway will revert to a church building next week when the congregation of Christian Reformed Church holds its opening meeting in the building. The property has been purchased from Mrs. M. H. Moyer who last year moved the aircraft enterprise to Norval.

New York Ranger defense star Lou Fontanato was guest of honour at the Legion sponsored Little NHL banquet in the Legion Hall Thursday.

1948

Council on Monday heard details from Mr. Taylor of Neptune Meters about the advantages gained by installing water meters in town. Georgetown used 600,000 gallons in 1947, a per capita consumption of 200 gallons per day. The installation of water meters could cut consumption by 50 per cent, he said.

Arrangements are being made for memorial tablets to be placed on the cenotaph and at the Memorial Arena. They will include the names of those killed on active service during World War II.

Three Georgetown girls, Barbara Faram, Shirley Tapp, and Ann Bowman are numbered among the graduates of the University of Toronto this year.

Announcement was made Monday of the allocation of 22 houses in housing project No. 2, on Churchill Crescent. The successful applicants chosen from a list of 72 are — Arthur Armstrong, Fred J. Armstrong, Herbert Arnold, Don Arthurs, George H. Barber, Cecil Brown, Frank Carter, James Coffell, Joseph Cox, J. R. Cuthbert, Clarence Freestone, A. B. Guest, R. J. Hume, Fred Johnson, Gordon King, Fred Maveal, Harry McMurtry, H. W. Roshier, Joseph Stamp, C. E. Stapleton, L. F. 'Pat' Vance and Trevor Williams.

big pain in the arm. It's bad enough to have a teenager around the house anytime. But to have a sick one! The doc said she wasn't to study, work or play the piano. But he didn't say anything about arguing or being snippy or throwing cold water on her parents' hopes and plans for her. If you hear a tremendous thud one of these days, Atlas has shrugged.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Grid of business advertisements including: DONALD A. GAY (BIO-ENGINEERING), BARRAGER'S (Cleaners-Shirt Launderers), WALLACE THOMPSON (3rd Division Court), CORBETT Chiropractic Clinic, WALKER-CURRIE (OPTOMETRISTS), McBain and Hulme (Ontario Land Surveyors), ROBERT R. HAMILTON (Optometrist), Koller Construction (ALUMINUM SIDING, WINDOWS & DOORS), L.M. Brown O.D. (OPTOMETRIST), and GEORGETOWN ANIMAL CLINIC.