

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Important Decision Coming

A digest of the consultants' report on the Brumac land release elsewhere in this issue is required reading for all present land-owners in Georgetown.

The report, ordered by council when the Brumac firm offered a lump sum payment for release of a large building area in the southern part of town, makes several recommendations which, town council is now studying.

Inherent in their advice is that present owners should not be burdened with any capital costs which large scale building will entail. And they suggest a number of definite areas where council should seek protection, such as water and sewage extensions.

Council, as was pointed out in a re-

cent Herald editorial, is well aware of such pitfalls and has past experience to draw upon in ensuring that these conditions be met. Had earlier councils possessed the same experience, Georgetown today would be in a much healthier financial position.

Today we are faced with two facts—that growth is inevitable in this part of the province, and that when it comes we must deal fairly with ratepayers and developers, demanding what is required for protection, while not putting any unnecessary stumbling blocks in a developer's path.

With the information garnered from the consultants, there should be no difficulty in arriving at a sensible decision.

Please Read This

Despite an advertisement which the town inserts each time there is a public holiday, there seems to be confusion in the garbage pick-up changes which the holiday necessitates.

Readers will note this week that if their regular pick-up day is Monday, garbage will be picked up on Tuesday next week. And if regular pick-up day is Tuesday, it will be collected on Wednesday.

On the Tuesday following the July 1 holiday, the regulations were particularly

Everyone Can Help

Georgetown's new street sweeper is doing a particularly good job in the downtown business area, in disposing of the accumulation of rubbish which gathers along the gutters.

There are two ways the public can cooperate.

First is for people to stop littering the streets with candy and gum wrappers, cigarette boxes and disposable bottles. There are trash cans placed at strategic intervals along the main thoroughfare. If everyone used these, we could reach the happy point where a daily street-sweeping would not be necessary.

Ignored on Main Street. Most merchants put out huge deposits of garbage on the Tuesday, and they sat on the street all day and night until Wednesday.

This is an eyesore and a detriment to business and is something which all merchants should watch in future.

It hardly makes for an attractive shopping street to have customers wend their way through an accumulation of refuse.

So remember, merchants, it's Wednesday next week for your garbage pick-up, not the usual Tuesday.

Another improvement would be for merchants to do their part by keeping their own section of the street neat and tidy.

Most merchants sweep their sidewalk each morning, into the road; just after the sweeper has done its job. The result, of course, is that this new litter blows right back or eventually lands somewhere else along the street. Wouldn't it be simpler to take on extra minute and gather up this trash?

If each merchant would see to it that he looked after his own little area, we would have a more attractive shopping area, something of which to be proud.

FIRST OF A SERIES . . .

Hard to Leave, Hard to Join This Early Church

By Mary Blehn

Are we really much different in our attitudes to life, from the pioneers who settled here over a century ago?

At least a partial answer to that question can be found on the yellowed, but nevertheless well-preserved pages of the first Minute Book of the Georgetown Congregational Church. Dating back to 1846, the church records give a vivid reflection of the ideals of life and worship of that time.

The book was loaned to The Herald by Jim Lyons, Church Street, who had received it from his father, the late Thos. I. Lyons.

In order to help adjust our sights to a way of life one hundred and thirty years ago, it might be well to recall that by 1846, the little settlement of Georgetown, carved out of the dense pine and maple forest of Upper Canada, boasted two stores, one owned by John Stoughton and one by James Young and a hotel owned by Mr. Bush.

It had just been ten years since the first homesteaders settled in what was then called Hungry Hollow. These pioneers were the families of Marquis Goodnow, Sylvester Garrison and George Kennedy. A couple of years later, the Barber brothers settled here, and it was after they started their woollen mill on the banks of the Credit River, in the building now occupied by Deltaerats Ltd., that the community began to grow. A few years later, the cluster of houses and places of business was christened 'Georgetown', after George Kennedy.

Always, one of the first concerns of the pioneers was to find a place where they could gather to worship. In 1845, the little handful of Congregationalists were meeting in the house of their pastor, the Rev. David Powell. It is in his beautifully legible penmanship that the Minute Book begins.

At that first formal meeting

on November 27, 1846, the seven founders of the church were present: George and Sarah Kennedy, James and Hannah Barber, Peter and Catherine Akert, and Charity Lamb. Together with the minister, they formulated a basis for church membership, and set it out in the Minute Book as their Confession of Faith and Articles of Discipline.

Prospective members had to solemnly pledge to abide by these standards of worship and behaviour, which were couched in forthright terms. It was not easy to get into the church—applications were often kept on file for weeks during a sort of 'probationary' period—and it was sometimes equally hard to get out of it. In one instance, a letter of dismissal was granted the wife of a parishioner, but withheld from her husband because of "inconsistent conduct practised by him before leaving Stewarttown." Until the matter was adjusted by him, the desired letter was not forthcoming.

Their Confession of Faith differs very little from the basis of most churches today, but their Articles of Discipline define a way of life quite different from our modern mode. When joining the church, members pledged that:

(1) We conscientiously worship God in secret at least morning and evening, and it is highly proper that reading a portion of the word of God should constitute a part of our private worship, and that the public worship of God in our families should be held twice or three times a day, when a suitable portion of the scriptures should be read with prayer and thanks

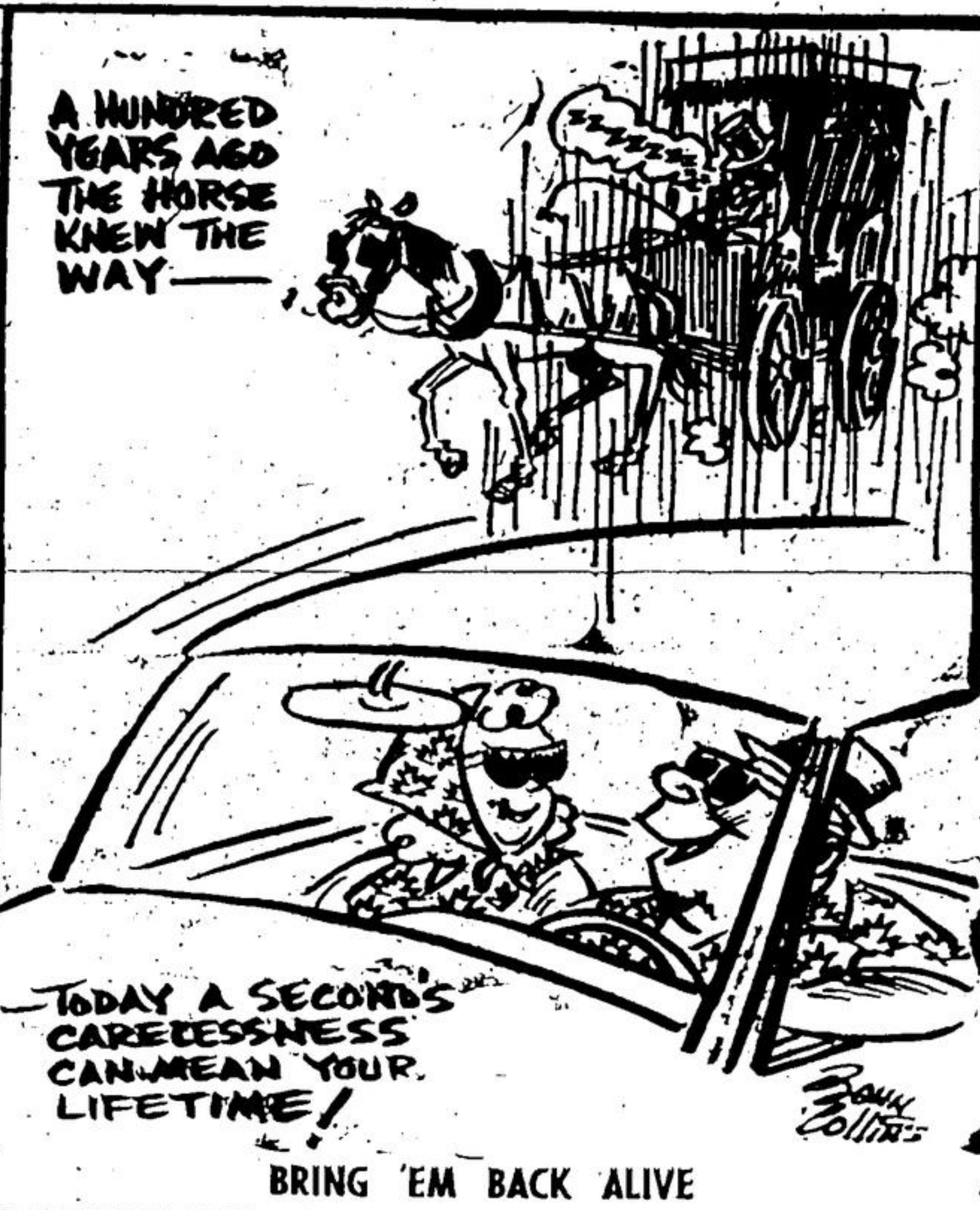
charge the heart, unfit us for the service of God, and exclude us from the Kingdom of heaven. That we totally abstain from the corrupt customs of the world, such as card playing, dancing, plays and theatres, and other ungodly festivities and amusements, and not to attend or countenance ungodly assemblies for music and worldly pleasure. I, Co. sympathizer of William Lyon 10:31, Eph. 5:18, Luke 21:34, MacKenzie.

(to be continued)

The Convertible Town Is (Presto) Moose Falls Again

AS GEORGETOWN, the railroad station is rarely so packed as it was for the filming of the arrival and departure of a train. Pictured are mem-

bers of the film unit awaiting the arrival of the train at, of course, Moose Falls. The regular passenger train was held up briefly while the crew filmed a short segment of the series.



A Norval Boy Remembers

Contributed by Guelph resident A. M. Laird



A. M. LAIRD

Norval in my mind is home; everyone has a place they refer to as home, not necessarily the place where they now live, or where they have lived for many years, but a place they remember when they were young, and that left a fond memory engraved.

Norval was known as the village of McNabb, named after the first settler in 1820, Colonel James McNabb who was the colonel of the York Rangers at the Battle of Queenston Heights. I believe one of the last descendants of Colonel James McNabb was Colonel James Ballantine of Georgetown. It was not until 1840 that the post office was called Norval. I believe after the Norval Creek in Vermont, because many of the settlers thereabouts came from Vermont.

My paternal grandfather, Peter Laird (1807-1893). He owned the firm known as the Laird Bros. and built many of the buildings and residences in the village of Norval.

I remember Miss Rachel Russell a teacher of mine, back in 1910-1912, whom I give great credit to for inspiring me to further my education.

I recall when we drove to Georgetown high school by horse and cutter, when R. D. (Moore Consistory at Hamilton). I was a principal student there at that time were—Lila and Mildred Kennedy, K. C. Lindsay, Jean Watson, Mildred Bessey, Bill Lawson and Malcolm Courts.

One brother Murray Laird of Norval is still on the farm that has been in our name for 135

years. It is indeed a centennial farm.

I was a member of city council for five years and was an active member of numerous groups in the City of Guelph, including the Masonic Waverly Lodge No. 361 and hold a 32-degree in the Scottish Rite, (Moore Consistory at Hamilton).

Also an "Army Wife" or "Army Girl" at the time of the war. I am particularly proud of a centennial medal presented to me by the Secretary of State recently.

When Ralph Ross took over as principal some of the students then were — Jack Arnold, Clarence Buck, Harpio Beaman; some of our teachers were E. D. Manning, Alberta McNabb. Our means of transportation to school was via the Toronto Suburban Railway.

In 1913 I was the victim of a bad accident which resulted in the loss of the use of my right arm and leg. This slowed me down somewhat. However, I persevered and matriculated in 1918, and thence entered Toronto University in 1919. Graduated with the class of '24 and after a course at the College of Education, went to the Port Arthur collegiate to teach. In 1929 I accepted the headship of a department at the new collegiate vocational school in Guelph, where I served for 27 years and became vice-principal, then served another six years at John F. Ross C.V.I. in a similar position.

(Continued on Page 5)

NO. 7 IN A SERIES . . .

The Need To Re-Assess

by Marshall Bain
Georgetown Assessment Commissioner

The need to maintain a level of assessed value in relation to market value is very important. If our assessments were to remain constant for years then they would become less and less as related to market value. In Georgetown an assessment of \$5000 five years ago represented a house with a market value of \$14,000. Today, that same house is worth \$20,000 but if the assessment remains the same our ratio of assessment to market will have dropped sharply. Because of this reassess-

ment programs must be inaugurated.

This year in Georgetown, and all other municipalities in Halton County, we are undergoing a land reassessment program in line with rising market values of property.

When the ratepayers of Georgetown receive their assessment notices this year they will notice a sizeable increase in land assessment, if a ratepayer wishes to discuss this change we will be more than happy to oblige.

These increases are not designed to raise taxes, but rather to maintain a level of assessment to Market Value.

In a Municipality which is geographically close to Georgetown the mill rate continued to climb until it reached \$147 per 1000 dollars of assessment. In other words the assessments stayed at the same level for much too long a period of time. This municipality has since had a complete reassessment and the mill rate has dropped drastically.

As I mentioned in the opening paragraph we must maintain our assessments with market value. If we did not, then the mill rate would continue to climb in order to pay the necessary bills to run a municipality.

Weekly O.P.P. Report

During the week of July 21-27, officers of North Halton Detachment, Ontario Provincial Police, investigated 1 theft complaint, 3 reported break-ins, 3 disturbances, and 1 liquor investigation resulting in 1 person being charged under the Liquor Control Act.

A total of 12 accidents were investigated including 1 fatal accident in which a person riding on the running board of a truck fell off and was run over by the same vehicle; 4 injury accidents resulting in 5 persons being injured; 7 property damage accidents — property damage totalled \$3,740.

Causes of accidents were dangerous driving; careless driving failed to signal; and inexperience of driver. There were 5 charges laid as a result of these accidents.

During this period officers patrolled 10,092 miles. A total of 67 charges were laid and 97 warnings were issued. There were 152 vehicles safety checked, 117 convictions were registered in Magistrate's Court.

Attention High Speed Drivers

A recent amendment to the Highway Traffic Act, which is now in effect gives Ontario Magistrates discretionary power to suspend your driver's licence for a period up to 30 days, if you are convicted of speeding 30 miles per hour or more above the legal speed limit.

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