

# GEORGETOWN HERALD

The Home Newspaper for Georgetown and District

Printing - Publishing  
The Georgetown Herald has served Georgetown and District as Printers and Publishers for over a century offering the best in fine printing and news coverage.

## Ads That Pay

You can place an ad in the Herald's Classified pages by phoning 877-2301. Buying or selling... The Herald is where you will find the results you want.

Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Dept., Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash

Georgetown, Ontario, September 26th, 1968

\$5.00 per year; Single Copy Price; Ten Cents

## LANDMARK REDUCED TO HOLLOW RUIN

A demolition crew will move in Monday morning to do what a spectacular fire Saturday couldn't do — bring the walls of the old town hall on Cross Street tumbling down.

A gaunt shell is all that remains of the building following a blaze which broke out shortly after 6 a.m. and consumed the interior in 12 hours of burning and smouldering. The owners Gus Hammer and Al Mahaffy are reviewing prices from wreckers at press time.

The loss includes about a thousand dollars worth of Georgetown Little Theatre's costumes, lighting equipment and scenery; and some odd pieces of furniture which had been stored there by Mr. Mahaffy. A quantity of antique furniture was carried to safety.

The building itself was only partially insured.

Firefighters, hampered by lack of an aerial ladder, attempted momentarily to battle the flames by putting ladders against the walls and directing streams of water through the second storey windows. But Fire Chief Erwin Lewis took his men down when falling bricks and other debris made it too dangerous.

The fire was fought from ground level and the top of the hydro's extension ladder until mid afternoon when help arrived from Oakville in the form of an aerial track. With this water was poured onto the few remaining pockets of flame and ember at the rate of 800 gallons a minute.

Firefighters left the scene around 5 o'clock, after almost half a day of fruitless work. They returned to put down new outbreaks at 7 o'clock Saturday night, twice on Sunday and again on Monday.

A major worry was that the north wall would topple onto an adjoining hydro substation. Assuring that it doesn't will be the delicate part of the demolition.

### Fire Guts Old Town Hall, Demolition Crew in Monday



FIREMEN THREAD A STREAM OF WATER through a window during a fire which gutted the old town hall on Cross Street Saturday morning.

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

Georgetown's new safety committee will need a new member. Jim Valantino, one of six appointees to the committee, has decided not to accept the job, because of his commitments as a fire department volunteer and other civic duties.

A request from the Knights of Columbus to erect signs at the highway approaches, will be considered. But Mayor Gibbons said council must be cautious, as it could become complicated if other church groups decided to do the same.

Alter Investments is seeking rezoning on Main Street North planning to create apartments on the site of a nursing home there. The request was referred to the planning board for a recommendation.

Another zoning change was asked by a Main St. N. resident Mrs. Bob Bonfield, to allow a baking business.

And still another request, this from Harold Developments is for rezoning to allow replacement of the Berwick Hall apartments on Main Street South with a high rise type building.

Ontario Water Resources Commission indicated in a letter they will be taking action to correct an overflow from industrial waste at Meadow Glen Mashroom plant, which is entering property in neighbouring Esquimaux Township.

Building inspector Walter Pacholik reported that advertising signs and a small building at Lincoln Motors on the highway are in accord with the town's zoning by-law. He was requested to check these recently.

Raymond Mills, 92 McIntyre Crescent, was hired to join the water department as a meter reading assistant.

## Players in a Fog Ball Game Called

When the outfielders can't tell what's going on at the plate it's time to call the ball game. That's what happened Monday when Glen Williams and Hillsburgh got in a couple of innings before the fog got too dense to allow play to continue in game six of the Intercounty Football League final.

Hillsburgh leads the best of seven series three games to two. The next fixture goes Monday night in Hillsburgh.

## DON'T MISS IT

New Georgetown residents are in for a treat if they've never attended a fall fair. Don't miss it — Saturday, October 5th is the big day.

## Seek Uniform Stand Before Council Meets Brumac

With Brumac pressing for an early reply on their request for large scale release of residential building land in the southern part of Georgetown, council decided Monday to discuss the proposal at a Tuesday committee meeting in an attempt to come up with unanimity in their dealings with the firm.

After an initial offer of a cash payment last year, council engaged a consultant firm to advise them. The firm came up with an opinion, recently which includes a number of important recommendations which it says the town should demand for the building release.

On Monday Mayor Gibbons said the report is not specific enough, and said he would be inviting the consultants to Tuesday's meeting also.

"Where do we go from here he said 'Who am I to work out complicated financial aspects and to say the Brumac proposal is wise or not.'"

He said it is his opinion that the town has already gone too far in releasing house building land in the past year.

"At one time we were close to a 40% industrial-commercial ratio," he said. "When the assessment roll is returned next week I think you will find we are again in an unenviable situation."

Cr. Bill Smith said he couldn't agree with anything the majority would not be voted in the premises.

Mr. McClure pointed out there would be bright lights shining all the time from the used car lot. "Some old cars will end up at the back by our fence lines" he suggested.

Reverend Robert Duncanson asked if there are any bylaws stopping cars being revved up and tried out during Sunday

## Ratepayers Have Chance To Query Official Plan

Only thirty three ratepayers showed up at a public meeting held by the Planning Board last Wednesday night at Holy Cross auditorium.

The meeting was held to explain "amendment No. 4" which is described as "a comprehensive revision which supersedes the official plan passed in 1958, and all other amendments." In simpler language, it contains all the changes made in the official plan from 1958 up till now.

Mr. P. Beckmans, of Municipal Consultants Ltd., outlined the function of a planning board. He stated an official plan is a policy document and the areas shown as one zone or another are necessarily precise. They become precise with passing of the zoning by-law, the next step after the official plan.

Mr. L. Cassidy, Raylawn Cres. pointed out that the area around Guelph and Sinclair is designated high density on the neighborhood development plan on view, but he had heard there was a lack of sanitary sewers, further he claimed an A & P is supposed to go there.

Another Raylawn Cres. resident, Mr. B. Lance asked if a park is planned in the area. Cr. Ballentine said there is a park site in the area.

A Maple Avenue East resident asked the zoning of the garbage disposal site and surrounding area. "Could a factory be built there without the residents being asked?" she demanded.

Cr. Ballentine pointed out the area is now zoned agricultural, but the Planning Board felt it should be industrial. This could not be done without a public hearing and approval of

the Municipal Board, he explained.

In answer to a question from Mrs. Dorothy Graham, Mr. Beckmans said he had seen no official route plan for the Bellfield express highway.

Another question evoked this answer from Cr. Ballentine, "In 1967 the commercial and industrial ratio was 32% and the residential 68%."

## Lions Plan for Parks Welcomed by Council

A Lions-Club offer to make extensive improvements in the town park off Charles Street, and to help develop a new park adjoining Kennedy public school met an enthusiastic response from council on Monday.

A council motion endorsed the plan, with the provision that any such improvements would be worked out between the service club and council's recreation committee.

"The east end park interests me particularly" said Mayor Gibbons. "The Lions are noted for their good work and this is only one more example of their interest in the community."

Cr. Jim Young said he had looked over the Kennedy site and there is over five acres, ample room for ball diamonds and picnic tables.

"I hope the east end will be given priority," said Cr. Bob Francis. "We can do without a new grandstand in the present park if need be, for a time."

Harold Fobert asked if building permits would be issued for apartment building in the area designated as high density.

Chairman Ted Evans advised that a zoning by-law to implement the Official Plan was necessary. However, he did not answer the question directly.

With only these few questions asked, the meeting ended at ten.

Reeve Hunter said the town can't have enough parks and he is behind the scheme. He mentioned that council had budgeted twelve or fourteen thousand dollars for new washrooms in the park, and with the fall fair only a few weeks away nothing has been done.

Cr. Francis explained that these were to be installed below the grandstand just before the fire which levelled this in the summer.

"Now we hope to encompass them in a new grandstand," he said.

For fairgoers, council later decided to rent a couple of 'Johnny-on-the-Spots' for the day.

The Lions envisage new change rooms, parking lot, children's playground and tennis courts, playing fields for soccer, rugby and football as park additions.

Their aim is to make the park "usable for the most number of people."

## Buses Back to Main? Maybe Yes, Maybe No

It's anybody's guess whether the Gray Coach bus route will continue its present course along James and Charles Streets or whether it will eventually be back on its old route along Main Street.

Since the route was changed this spring, the matter has bounced around like the proverbial rubber ball, with council factions divided on the matter.

When Gray Coach accepted to a council request for the change it brought a storm of protest from residents of the streets. Council reversed its position, but became entangled in the matter of how many parking spaces to allot to buses. Then it deftly shoved the matter onto Georgetown Parking Authority, a group which had been almost extinct for several years.

On Monday, council received word from the Authority that they will allocate a number of Main Street spaces for bus stops.

But when a motion was tabled for this, Mayor Gibbons said the Authority is not unanimous in its decision. And the councillors differed on whether the request would allow enough bus space anyway.

"Let's find out if the bus firm will return to Main Street and under what conditions," was Mayor Gibbons' advice.

"Let's hold the motion a week. This has been a nonsensical farce and we don't want to make it any sillier," said Deputy Reeve Speight.

Reeve Hunter and Cr. Young agreed to withdraw their motion for the evening.

## IT WASN'T THE SMOKE

by Terry Harley

Some very wrinkled hands were raised to touch some very moist eyes as flames danced the final performance in what used to be Georgetown's entertainment centre, Saturday morning. And the rancid smoke had nothing to do with it.

For an on-looker whose memories reach back into the early years of the old town hall, a little mola'ra in the eye can blur things sometimes. It can, just for a split second, make firemen moving about in their black coats look like Georgetown's gentlemen as they assembled outside to mull over the proceedings of an important town meeting at the turn of the century. It can, for a moment, turn a housewife, watching the fire in her bathrobe from a nearby lawn, into an elegant lady in her best gown about to make an entrance at the very grand social event that was the firemen's ball of another era; and it can transform a crowd of spectators into an assembly of townsfolk waiting outside the jail door to shout goodbye and goodluck to a young man named Garfield about to be taken away and hung for a murder they could never convince themselves he committed.

And maybe some old ears played some tricks on their owners too. Maybe they heard just a bit of Can't You Hear Me Callin' Caroline as a black-face tenor holds the spotlight at the annual Georgetown Minstrel Show of the late 1800s; and maybe some laughing; just a ripple, as the touring Marx Brothers pull off another zany shenanigan; possibly a jingling version of Swanee River. That was a favourite with the famous Bell Ringers Circus who always packed the house before something called moving pictures stole their audience. And coming from that shattered window, besides blowing smoke, maybe just a couple of tombsong and bluesy bits of Do You Ken John Peel. The first Lorne Scots band practised it there so many times. And the clear mellow tone of the town hall bell that used to send the men to work at 7 a.m. and one o'clock and bring them home at noon and supper time; that might have been heard again by some old and so old ears.

er era, the stately two-storey brick town hall was everything. It housed the council chambers, the meeting hall, and theatre, the fire hall, police office and jail, a library and even school classes for a while. The dinners and dances were affairs to be talked about all year long and before the firemen came, the town hall's stage was trod by many of the best known touring companies. And it was not an easy job for an actor to keep admiring eyes from straying to the highly ornate ceiling or velvet stage curtains, a gift of Mrs. John R. Barber Sr., or a handpainted backdrop, the work of Joe Ruddy.

Though its life-span is comparatively short as buildings go (it was built in 1880), the old

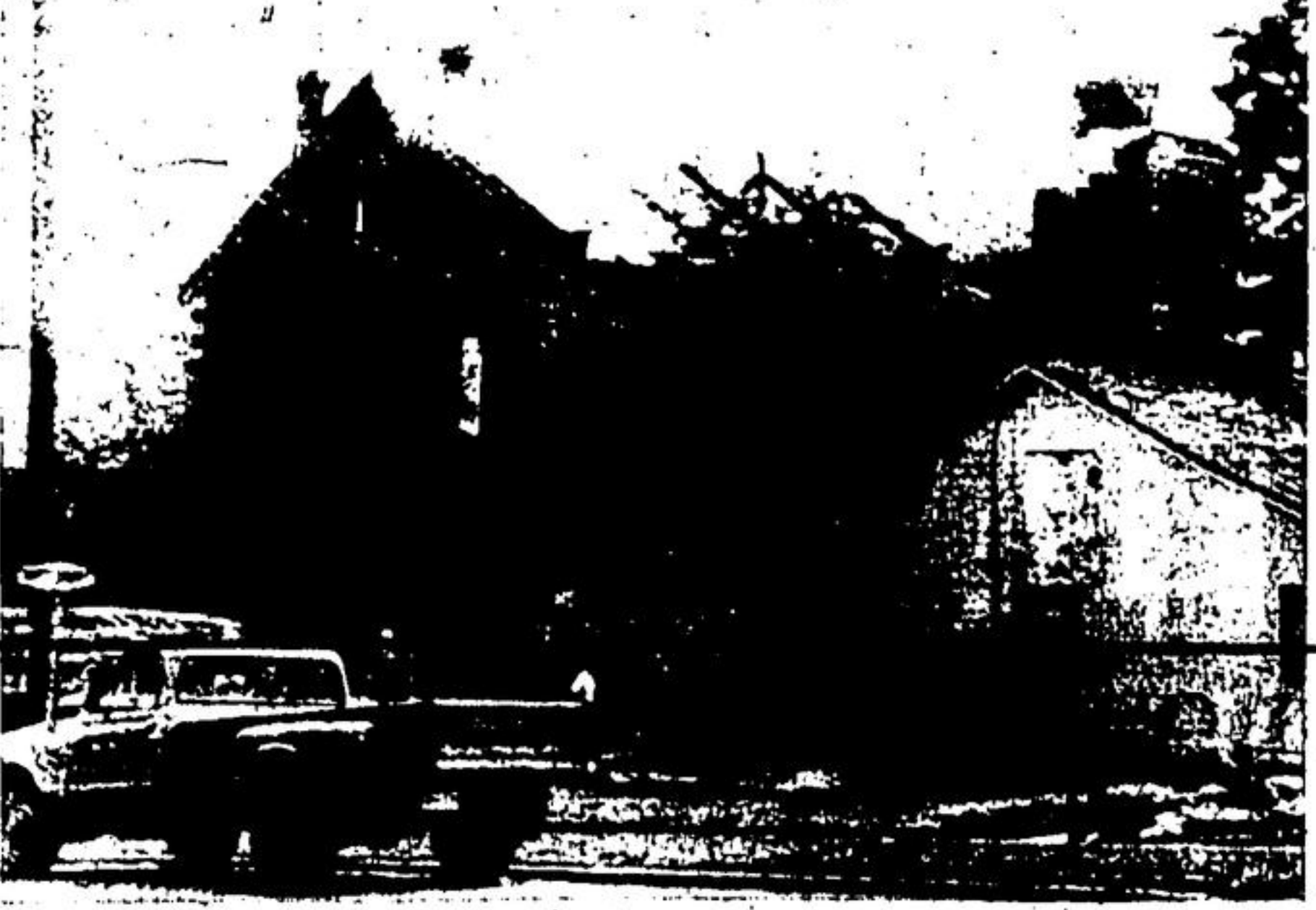
town hall served as the hub of the community up until thirty years ago. Its windows have been dark and its doors rarely opened to the public since that time. But then the preceding

## Increase Engineering Department Staff by Two

The town's engineering office is adding two new staff members. Charles Chataway, now a town of Lindsay employee has been engaged as engineering assistant. And Victor Mastrogiacomo, just finishing a technical training course in Toronto, has also been hired as a staff member.

Mr. Chataway, a native of Vancouver, has been working in Lindsay for the past three years. He was chosen from over fifty applicants for the position. Mr. Mastrogiacomo came to Canada from his native Italy a year ago.

The department, under Gordon Fancy, also includes Bob Hall, a draftsman.



LANDMARK BUILT IN 1880 is an empty shell after the interior went up in smoke and flame.

To the Georgetown of another...