

In The Mail Bag

Diary Excerpts Detail Airway's Ups & Downs

Georgetown, R. R. 3.

Dear Editor:

It is now a year since an airport was closed by the DOT upon pressure exerted by a few people residing in the vicinity of our airways. The issue became a tempest in a teapot. The instigators of the petition to destroy our airport were able to get around 150 signatures which spread as far as Rockwood.

In spite of the petition, we functioned for about a year, in which time we were able to prove that it did not create any unusual annoyance to anyone. Nonetheless, we received an order of closure by the DOT enumerating a variety of reasons. Since our closure a number of people have asked me if we are operating. A few planes owned by local pilots are based here.

It is possible your readers might like to read an excerpt or two from my book, written in diary form, entitled "I went down with my ship."

Their questions are answered therein, and I would appreciate your printing this portion.

Dec. 1, 1970 — As the year draws to a close we cast a backward glance and review certain events. Our complex had reached its realization. Although plagued with reverses that seemed unending, we have been able to add new recreational facilities each year. This was the year our castles in Spain were complete, or so it seemed. Recreation is becoming more important, especially for those who work in an atmosphere of tension and responsibility. We are able to offer an uncrowded and relaxing environment for all ages. Most of the 100 acre area is still operated in farming, particularly the growing of oats, hay, wheat and red clover seed. Certain areas of the farm which were not productive were designated for our resort segment. After the development of the lake, fed by a natural spring source, it was turned into a swim area.

It is not our ambition to develop a large campsite which usually becomes crowded and noisy, thus we can offer a restful seclusion to our clientele. By 1969-70 we were able to accommodate flying tourists. It was here you could step out of a plane onto a horse. We could teach our guests how to fly a plane or ride a horse. In addition, they can change from horses to hayrides or fishing. This summer we improved our picnic facilities by installing large sun umbrellas on the tables. We hope to have our western style coach in operation by summer of '71.

Dec. — No further word has come from a Toronto industrialist who contacted me concerning his desire to locate in Georgetown. His reason — because he and his family are flyers and wished to have his planes at our airport. I explained our situation concerning the closure. He was impressed with Georgetown for a relocation of his plant and home.

'You're Paying' Says Expressway Opponent

63 Glen Road, Toronto 287.

An Open Letter to the Citizens of Georgetown

Were you asked?

The Ontario Municipal Board on a split decision, decided to approve the Spadina Expressway for Metro Toronto at an estimated cost of \$27,000,000. You, as a citizen of Ontario, will pay 50% of this amount — i. e. \$118,500,000. Will it benefit you? You have every right to ask.

Meanwhile, thank you for your gift (even though some of us are looking the gift horse in the mouth).

Who do you ask? Your Member in the Provincial House.

Yours truly,
E. M. Grutzner

DID YOU KNOW?

The Red Cross will need approximately one million blood donations in 1971 to meet the needs of patients in Canadian hospitals.

Agrees Mailbag Letter Writer Knows Nothing

8 Mackenzie Drive,

Dear Sir:

First of all, I have to agree with Mr. Snider's letter to the Herald in which he stated, quote: "I know absolutely nothing", however, in all fairness he did make some observations.

Let's look at some facts to Mr. Snider's complaints.

1. Evergreens that were planted last summer would hardly show above the snow which is waist deep, would they? Was there a fence around the area to protect these trees? Were there any posted signs? If you can't answer these questions how could the snowmobiler?
2. I agree with Mr. Snider that they shouldn't be driving on the road 3-4 abreast. I do not agree that they were operating at top speed on glare ice because it is practically impossible anyway, the fact here is he stated 40 mph the speed limit on an unmarked road is 50 mph, so what's your complaint?
3. Two machines parked outside drinking establishment in town on a Saturday. I ask you one question: How many cars were parked alongside these 2 machines?
4. As for the driver going through the plaza he's got a licence and plates and if he feels safe I would say this is his business.

In all fairness to Mr. Snider, I do not claim that snowmobilers are 100 per cent innocent — far from it, but I will say that they are a special kind of person. For example, if you have a breakdown on the highway how many motorists will assist you? So many times this year I have just been stopped for no special reason and have had machines stop to see if I really have to drive one first before you can fairly condemn its owners.

The same applies to the recreation committee. If it's votes they are looking for, instead of trying to cut down on recreation, for a lot of people, why not promote it, that's what the committee is there for. Example: how about lights for a football diamond. It will soon be spring or does Georgetown always have to be last.

Facts are GRC that the majority of snowmobilers are between the ages of 30 and 45 years and you are trying to handcuff their recreation. In 80 per cent of the cases in Georgetown the streets are used for access routes only. Most of the time they are sand and salted and I am sure I don't want to run up and down three streets all night when I can get out of town in one minute. I feel the by-law we have now is sufficient.

As for the GRC proposal of limiting snowmobiles to the fair grounds, it's obvious that none of these people know what they are saying; could you picture 300 snowmobilers and trailers at the park on a Sunday. There would surely be some accidents — never mind the complaints of the people in approximately a two mile radius. If that's the best the GRC can do and not leave well enough alone, I guess all I have to say to that, and I quote from the P.M.'s speech, "... "Fuddle Duddle."

— Jack Handy

Mountains Not Scenery He Drives Over Them

68 Pennington Cres.

Dear Sir:

Could you include this letter I have sent to Georgetown's mayor in a future Mailbag column, please.

Dear Mayor Smith:

Pennington Crescent as you know runs onto Mountainview. From the name Mountainview one would assume it to be a street from which mountains may be seen in the distance or at least rolling hillsides.

"Mountains" can indeed be seen especially if one drives over Mountainview today. The "mountains" I refer to are not those one usually enjoys but rather are those one sees from the bottom of the treacherous craters which are most abundant on the road. Perhaps the astronauts should be invited to do their moon walk training on Mountainview. I believe they would find the terrain very similar. Perhaps the best way to convey to you and your fellow councilmen just how horrible the road surface is would be for you and your council to take your entire families for a drive up and down Mountainview. I believe that after such a drive you too will agree that it is not a road as such but merely a pitted, rutted, hurdled excuse for one. In a town the size of our's and a road as major as Mountainview there is in my opinion absolutely no excuse for such a disgraceful road to exist.

The solution at this time of year since no paving can be done would be to have the road graded daily and as soon as Spring thawing allows the road should be made driveable by having a good paving job done. Those of us who must use Mountainview to get to and from the shopping plazas and the other shops on Highway 7 are for the taxes we are pay-

Kin-Sponsored Tournament Involves Whole Community

7 Valleyview Rd.

Dear Sir:

Bantam hockey week is almost upon us again and the 1971 tournament will be the 11th time that Georgetown has opened the doors of welcome to the bantam hockey enthusiasts from all parts of Ontario and the States.

Whilst most Georgetown residents are familiar with this tournament, there are many of the newer residents who are not aware that, Kinsmen sponsored, it is in effect an affair which involves more townspeople than any other annual event in the community. From the time that the mayor declares the tournament open on the evening of March 19 until the final whistle and the declaration of the grand champions on Saturday, March 27, the population of Georgetown will temporarily increase by 800 young players and several hundred officials, parents and supporters.

Some billeting is still being sought for those players who stay over.

Tournament play will commence every day, except Sunday, March 21, at 7:30 a.m. and it will take 79 games to decide the grand champions. The officiating of the games will be done by the Georgetown Referees Association assisted by referees from surrounding communities. Time-keepers, ticket booth attendants, statisticians, clerical and maintenance assistants will be provided by

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Yours truly,
E. M. Grutzner

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