# Main Street Takeover Has Many Implications

15 Park Avenue

Dear Sir:

In acknowledgement of your recent editorial concerning CCOG, we invite you to use the good offices of your newspaper to make our community aware of the implications of a takeover by the County of Main St.

We, as you have reported, presented a brief to council urging the exemption of Main Street from the proposed county takeover of certain roads in our municipality. Our representations are based upon our concern that if the town loses control of Main Street, any options for redevelopment of the downtown core will be lost. In fact CCOG will shortly be presenting to council and to the merchants' association, a proposal for restructing Main Street South in a manner which would revitalize the existing commercial area and guarantee its survvial in the the face of expanded plaza concepts. With the introduction of Zeller's to the Georgetown Market, the relevancy of a reonstructed downtown core is more evident.

Our object is not to demonstrate that the Main Street shopping area is more necessary than the Georgetown Market. In fact, we believe that both areas are unique and necessary but unless the existing downtown area is restructured so as to reflect our community's present needs it will cease to exist. Any restructuring of the downtown core will of necessity involve the Municipality and the existing merchants. If, however, we no longer control the use of Main Street, our proposal will have no practical application.

The development of good and efficient roads is a laudable project for any community but if these roads destroy a way of life or prevent a particular area from revitalizing itself to meet the needs of a growing community, then that road development merely becomes statistical and meaningless in a way of life that should be based upon quality.

We are urging our members of council to consider this point of view when they make their decision to allow the county to take over certain of our roads. We ask that you urge our community as a whole to express themselves on the disposition of Main St. We in CCOG think that the preservation and revitalization of Main Street represents a better value for our community.

Yours very truly,

R. R. Dodokin, for the
Steering Committee, CCOG
(Concerned Citizens of Georgetown).

Members of Council,
:6 Main Street North
Ite: Main Street South

As you are aware, one of CCOG's concerns has been the disposition of Main Street S., within the framework of the Halton County Roads Needs Study.

Our brief has been put before you and your recognition of our concern for Main Street South is appreciated.

We can understand the natural attraction for a proposal such as the county's on a purely financial basis but the Main St. S. situation has other implications as well. With the announced opening of a store by Zellers the Main Street merchants will be faced with a type of competition they have not previously encountered. The plaza concept of shopping presents a unique form of competition for the traditional Main Street merchant. With the addition of a department type store, Main Street merchants will be forced to change their traditional marketing approach.

CCOG will, in the near future be presenting to council and to the newly formed merchants' association an architectural restructuring of the Main Street commercial area which we think will better serve the community and better enable merchants to compete with the plaza concept. The introduction of the Zeller's store to the Georgetown Market makes the downtown restructuring an urgent and relevant proposal.

If, of course, the town loses all control over Main Street S. our proposal will be academic and of little practical value. An otherwise unique commercial area in our community will have no way of continuing its survival and rather than better serving a growing community it will fall victim to that growth.

We realize that any restructuring of the downtown core will not solely by your responsibility. It will be necessary to convince the existing downtown merchants that it is a sensible and economically feasible program for them to undertake. Our proposal envisages a joint sharing of costs with the municipality and the individual merchant to provide a unique commercial core which has a relevancy independent of any plaza market operation which will in itself be fulfilling another need.

We urge you, therefore, to consider the county's proposal in light of the future survival of the existing downtown core, a survival that is directly related to the options that are open to the downtown merchants, which options will vanish if we no longer control the use of Main Street.

Yours very truly,

R. R. Dodokin, for the
Steering Committee, CCOG
(Concerned Citizens of Georgetown).

IN THE MAIL BAG

## Loitering By-Law Should Be For All

4 Delrex Blvd.,

Sir:

American author James Grover Thurber once wrote: "It is better to have loafed and lost than never to have loafed at all." My uncontrollable youthful ideals prevent me from feeling anything but admiration or the man.

Approximately one half century later an opposing view was published in the form of a municipal by-law that reads "no person shall lounge, loaf, loiter, or stand as an idler on any public sidewalk." This villainous item of legislation was adopted by the Municipality of Georgetown on the occasion of a council meeting held June 20th, 1966.

In my opinion, (if I am entitled to an opinion, being a young person of the long haired variety, By-law No. 66-49 constitutes an injustice as it is in direct contradiction to my 'right of assembly' as guaranteed by the "Canadian Bill of Rights."

Furthermore, this law is administered in an inconsistent manner that makes it all the more distasteful. That is to say, the municipal police force, either by outside direction or by their own initiative, find themselves in a position of deciding, who must and who need not obey the law.

It is a plain and simple fact that older and conventionally-groomed individuals are rarely if ever affected by this by-law. By accident, a number of my friends fall into the category of being 'straight.' Although many admit to being guilty of standing idly on the sidewalks of Georgetown, they are quite often amazed to learn that they stand outside the law.

By Law No. 66-49 is not a law at all. It has been my belief that a law that applies to only isolated individuals is merely a symptom of hypocrisy. The only persons in this town obliged to obey the loitering by law are young people. Their outward appearance has labelled them "street people." Street people see more than enough hypocrisy every day without it being served to them by politicians, policemen and courts.

Respectfully yours,

— Farley Heifant

P.S.' I have been asked to meet with town council at their earliest convenience for the purpose of formally presenting a more extensive commentary. Conviction on a charge of loitering can bring a fine of up to $300. (three hundred dollars.) Readers' opinions on this subject are indeed welcomed by myself.

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## NORTH HALTON REPORT

During the week ending Mar. 13th, officers of the Ontario Provincial Police stationed at North Halton Detachment worked a total of 1,191½ hours and patrolled 10,533 miles on Provincial Highways, County and Twp. roads under their jurisdiction. A total of 46 motorists were charged for offences under the Highway Traffic Act, while an additional 44 received warnings for minor errors. Proceedings in Provincial Court, Milton, resulted in 49 convictions being registered.

Officers responded to 26 general occurrences during the 7 day reporting period. Included were: 7 thefts, 2 instances of breaking and entering, 3 investigations under the Liquor Conrtol Act, resulting in charges being laid against 3 persons, 1 impaired driver was apprehended, 1 investigation of an abduction and 3 premises were found insecure by officers patrolling during the night. Many other occurrences were minor in nature and required little investigative time.

Motor vehicle collisions reported for investigation this week totalled 25, with 5 of these resulting in injuries to 15 persons. The mishaps were attributed to motorists driving too fast for road and traffic conditions, careless driving, following too closely, failing to yield right of way and unsafe turns. To date ten charges have been laid against drivers involved and others are pending further investigation.

Pedestrians! Here's an important reminder from the Ontario Provincial Police. When you walk where there are no sidewalks, day or night, always walk so you are facing oncoming traffic. Don't turn your back on a driver who might not see you in time to avoid hitting you. Walk so you are facing oncoming cars, and be ready to step aside to safety whenever necessary. Remember — you can't avoid trouble if you can't see it coming!

## Better on Welfare So County Meets Difference



A Burlington father of ten who last month claimed he was better off receiving welfare than working is being compensated by the Halton County welfare office.

Francis McCormick was receiving $425 monthly on welfare but when he was hired on a winter works project to cut down dead elm trees on the Macdonald - Cartier Freeway for the department of highways, his take-home pay was only $348 a month or $77 less than his welfare payments.

MAKE UP DIFFERENCE

On February 25th, the matter was brought to the attention of James Gray, Halton County welfare director, who ordered an investigation.

He said if what Mr. McCormick claimed was correct the difference would be made up.

HOT TIRES

Tests by Goodyear have shown that tires operating under adverse conditions can reach temperatures substantially hotter than boiling water. At speed, under-inflated tires top 121 degrees centigrade.

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