

FORMER COUNCILLOR WRITES

Everything Oakville Should Know About Georgetown

Editors Note—Former Georgetown councillor Joan Smith is worried about the future course of development here and feels with the upcoming implementation of regional government in Halton residents in the heavily populated south should be conversant with the problems and issues of their immediate neighbours to the north. Mrs. Smith prepared the following report on "Everything Oakville should know about Georgetown and why" which ran on the editorial page of the Oakville Journal Record April 25.

house and no money to buy a new one. Georgetown councillors over the years, spent little on facilities, relying on volunteer organizations like the Lion's Club or the Kinsmen to raise money for swimming pools, arenas and parks.

SOFT WITH DEVELOPERS
Like most councils of that era, they were soft with developers, neither demanding much in the way of subdivision agreements, nor charging lot levies to help defray capital costs. In fact, subdivision

agreements and lot levies charges of any significance did not come into effect until last year.

While much of the town was built with few demands on the developer, council has never introduced any form of local improvement taxation. This means today a new resident pays for his own storm sewers, boulevards, sidewalks, etc. — through a subdivision agreement. At the same time he pays for storm sewers, boulevards, sidewalks, etc. for those living in the older part of town!

Because previous councils didn't spend, Georgetown has been left with some serious long-range problems.

Every facility in town is overloaded. The sewage treatment plant was built for a town of 15,000 people — which is 3,000 less than the present population. According to the Ontario Water Resources Commission, Georgetown is polluting the Credit River and the OWRC is insisting Georgetown add a million-dollar extension to the sewage treatment plant. Georgetown has \$127,000 in its reserve fund.

When Georgetown was a town of 3,500 people, it had a volunteer fire department of 30 men. Now, with 18,000 people to protect, the department still consists of only 30 volunteers. Last year a paid Fire Chief was hired. This Chief is recommending adding paid men to the Brigade. And he is recommending a capital expenditure of \$450,000 to bring the department up to standard.

FACILITIES WOEFUL
The town is woefully short of recreation facilities. The people are getting restless, particularly newcomers conditioned to better things elsewhere. Recently 150 of them became involved in taking a survey, the results of which they hope will shame Council into keeping their election promises for a new arena, an indoor swimming pool, and a recreation complex. This could mean another million dollar expenditure.

The list is endless. The police are cramped in their facilities. There's no decent theatre for live productions. There are not always sufficient meeting rooms for all the organizations. And without local improvement taxes, many people without storm sewers, sidewalks, or boulevards are screaming for their turn at the tax pot.

PARADE OF DEVELOPERS
What's the solution? Some members of Georgetown Council still believe the solution lies in more residential development — because this would mean more lot levies and more tax revenue.

There has been a parade of developers before Council since January, and Mayor Smith has

called several special meetings to discuss specific proposals. An indication of the climate of this year's council is that a proposal before last year's council to rezone land to permit a 115-suite apartment tower is back before Council this year as a 226-suite complex with a Commercial area.

PRESERVE IDENTITY
Not all members of Georgetown's decision-making teams favor development. Dr. Roger Frost, a member of the Georgetown Planning Board, and a teacher of ecology at

Erindale, has prepared a report recommending the preservation of Georgetown's unique identity by curbing growth. This report, presently under discussion, seems to be well received by many. However, the feasibility of his proposal depends on Regional Government — which would enable Georgetown to draw from industrial assessment in South Halton.

It's going to be quite a year! With regional government imminent, the decisions made in each small area will be far reaching indeed!

by JOAN SMITH

Within the year everyone in Halton County will be part of a massive "shotgun" wedding — with Premier Davis and his boys holding the gun. They're calling it "Local Government Reform" — or "Regional Government." The province is hoping the seven municipalities in Halton County, i.e., Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Georgetown, Eglarwood and Nassagaweya, will unite.

This is a year of preparation for each area, and for Halton county council which is attempting to author the details of the affair. It is also a year of significance for every citizen in the county. Their environment is being shaped by not one, but seven separate town and township councils.

While all the financial arrangements have not yet been worked out in detail, one thing seems certain — assets related to regional services will be absorbed by the new "region" — and so will any outstanding debts! In other words, the mistakes made by Burlington today may be paid for by Oakville next year.

PRETTY BRIDE
One of the prettiest "brides" preparing to join Oakville is Georgetown. It has a population of 18,000 and is situated just a 25 minute drive north on Trafalgar Road.

On the surface, it looks a winner. Nestled between two river beds, with fresh and unpolluted air, with every citizen within walking distance of a magnificent ravine, with the prettiest Industrial Park in all Halton County, it appears to be the ideal place to live.

But under the bucolic surface, there are rumblings. This year Georgetown is facing some crucial problems. How the local council solves those problems will determine whether Georgetown is the ideal mate, or a problem child for the new region.

GREW TOO FAST
Georgetown grew too quickly, almost doubling in population every ten years since 1951 when its people numbered 3,500. The councils directing this growth, like most small town councils, were unsophisticated and their main aim was to keep property taxes down. They did this by selling municipal assets such as land and putting the money into general funds instead of a reserve which is a little like selling your house brick by brick for food and then waking up one morning and finding no

BEAVER Warehouse Sale

A SPRING CLEARANCE OF TIMELY NEEDS AT TRULY WORTHWHILE SAVINGS!

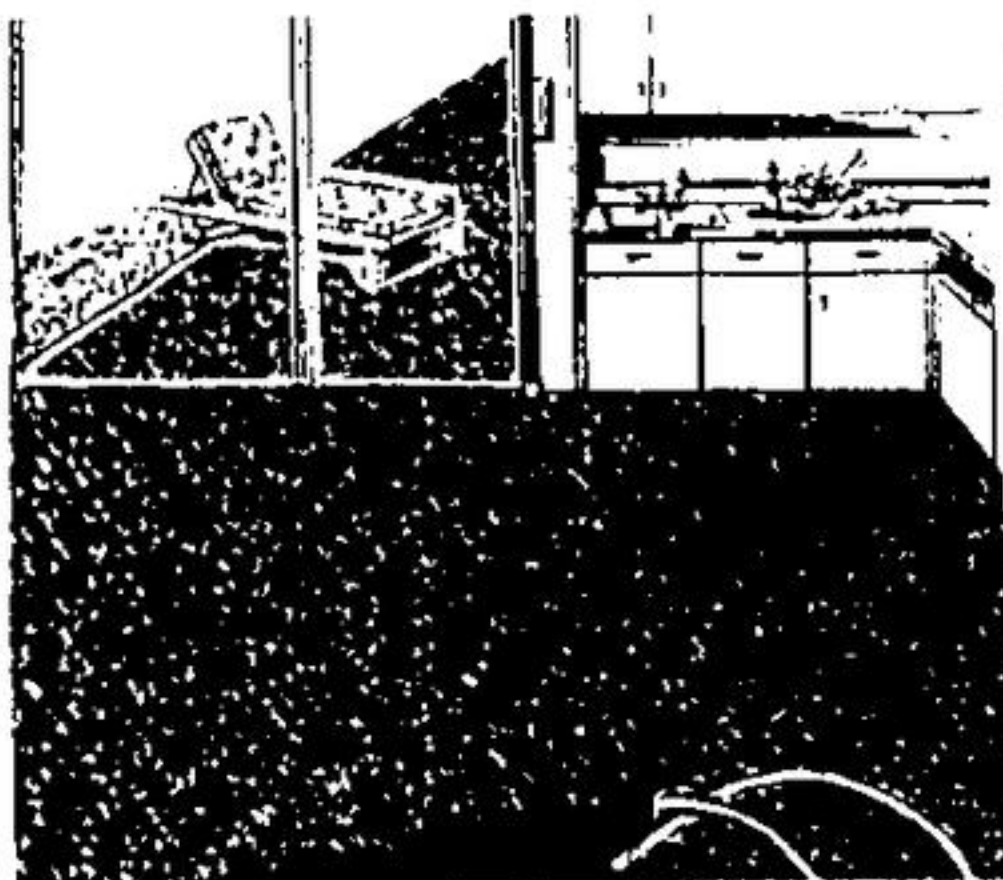
Free
For Ladies Only

3-Piece
VANITY SET
2 COLOURS

Waste basket, soap-dish, Kleenex box.

GOOD WHILE STOCK LASTS ONLY

Indoor
Outdoor
RUGS



UNAFFECTED BY EXTREME HEAT OR COLD PUT AROUND OR NEAR YOUR POOL.

1—8'x6' Compare at \$49.95 **\$29⁹⁵**
NOW ONLY

2—12'x6' Compare at \$88.88 **\$58⁸⁸**
NOW ONLY

IDEAL FOR THE BALCONY

6'x9' RUGS \$19⁹⁷
ALL COLOURS— DEEP FOAM BACKING

PREFINISHED
WOOD SHELVING
8" and 10" WIDTHS
24" 36" 48" LENGTHS
ALL ONE PRICE
99^c

BRAND NAME
STAIN
DOVE BROWN COLOUR
REGULAR \$10.95 GALLON
SPECIAL
\$4⁹⁵

48" MIAMI CAREY
VANITY
COMPLETE WITH SEA SHELL BLACK MARBLE TOP
COMPARE AT \$169.00.
NOW ONLY
\$99⁹⁵

Jim MacKnight is Coming

REPRINTS
OF MOST PHOTO'S APPEARING IN THE HERALD
May be ordered at the office.
22 Main St. S.
5 x 7 \$1.25 ea. plus tax
8 x 10 \$1.75 ea. plus tax
Cash must accompany your order prior to processing also
Prints to be picked up at Herald Office

Choose it
from Canada's largest rental fleet of GM cars and GMC trucks.
&
Charge it
Tilden honours most credit cards.

TILDEN ANDREW MURRAY MOTORS
45 Mountbatten Road S.
877-4244

LADIES' SPECIAL
Sewing Boxes
2 SIZES AND 3 COLOURS.
REGULAR \$11.95 AND \$7.95
NOW ONLY **\$3⁹⁹**

ODD ALUMINIUM SHUTTERS
SEVERAL SIZES
BLACK AND WHITE
50% OFF

1 MARBLE TOP
BEIGE
ODD SHAPE
ONLY **\$19⁹⁵**

VINYL FOLDING DOORS
ALL COLOURS
YOUR CHOICE **\$5⁰⁰**

MAHOGANY Moveable Louvred SHUTTERS
ALL SIZES
50% OFF

1 VANITY TOP
SLIGHTLY DAMAGED
24"x18"
GREEN ON WHITE MARBLE

COOKING SET
7 Pieces, Decorative Pattern
REGULARLY \$27.99
NOW ONLY **\$10⁹⁹**

WAGNER'S GOURMET HOME CHEESERY
Make Cheese in your own kitchen
REGULARLY \$14.95
NOW ON SALE
50% OFF

MANY MORE IN STORE SPECIALS ON SALE

BEAVER
316 GUELPH STREET E., GEORGETOWN 877-4234

OPEN 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday
Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.