

Who loves ya, Georgetown?

Organizers of the month-long 'I Love Georgetown' campaign recap its successes and take a look ahead

The first meeting last September of the 1980-81 executive of the Georgetown Area Ratepayers' Association (GARA) took the form of a brain-storming session.

After some lengthy discussions, it was agreed Nov. 6, 1980, that a "Pride in Community (Georgetown) Programme" would be undertaken.

A committee comprising Fraser Robin, Lawrie Duggan (president), Brian Bush, Sharron Kirkpatrick, Roy Yestadt and Tom Ramautarsingh as chairman was elected. The power to coopt other persons was given to the chairman.

The objectives of the "Pride in Community Programme" were to encourage interest and pride in Georgetown, to upgrade the visual appearance in all areas of the community and to encourage people (young and old) to work together in making this community an even more fantastic, picturesque and beautiful town. Georgetown, in the final analysis, would become an even better place to live and one in which citizens would develop a pride by not only keeping their own property neat, clean and tidy, but would assist others as the senior citizens and the handicapped or disabled in areas where help is needed.

We were very fortunate to coopt Charles Kellington. President Duggan approached Charles, who willingly accepted the challenge of drawing up a programme to promote pride in the community of Georgetown. The committee met on a weekly basis, discussing the various areas we would concentrate on and Charles presented a blue print which included awards, balloons, art work and two seminars to train people on the door to door visitation. The time line was from April 1 to July 15, 1981. Charles proposed the theme "I Love Georgetown" and the whole programme was developed around this theme.

The programme concentrated on five main areas—schools, youth groups, business, commercial and industrial groups, service clubs and individuals or groups. They were challenged by the brochure, which stated: "I Love Georgetown - My Kind of Town. We live here because we are proud of our town, its people, its culture, and its beauty. Let's all work together this Spring to show visitors that we all have PRIDE IN GEORGETOWN. If you are a home owner or renter, let's spruce up our properties. Maybe all that is needed is cutting the grass,

trimming the bushes, painting the fence. Look around outside your house, what can you do to the property that says "I LOVE GEORGETOWN". If you work in town, belong to a service club, youth group, or church, what can you do to show PRIDE IN GEORGETOWN. The programme was presented to a meeting of the service clubs by Mr. Duggan and Mr. Kellington. Because of the enormity of the programme, organizers approached the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce to co-sponsor it. Rud Whiting and Doug Penrice were coopted on the I Love Georgetown Committee and

the Chamber donated \$500 to assist with the expenditures of the programme. Walter Biehn, secretary of the Chamber, gave valuable assistance in the distribution of posters, signs and I Love Georgetown buttons. The programme was to be self-sustaining through the sale of buttons. It was agreed that any funds after clearing expenses will be donated to the Library-Cultural Centre.

In late April, letters were written to the Halton Board of Education and the Halton Separate School Board informing them about the I Love Georgetown Programme and requesting their permission and support. The schools did a fantastic job, as over 400 students and teachers participated in poster drawing, art work, writing poems and letters and planting flower beds. The youth groups engaged in cleaning up the litter from the streets, parks, cutting lawns, pruning shrubs, painting carports and garages and cultivating gardens for senior citizens. Individuals and street groups made special efforts to mend their fences, cut the bushes around their homes, paint their homes, cut their lawns, spray the weeds, get their driveways fixed and plant shrubs and flowers.

The I Love Georgetown button sales were just magnificent. People of all ages were seen wearing the buttons. The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Dr. John Alder, visited Georgetown and supported the programme by buying and wearing the I Love Georgetown button. Because of the great demand for the buttons we had to place two additional orders: 8,500 buttons were ordered and many have found their way wherever a Georgetown exists—in Indiana, Washington, P.E.I., Guyana and St. Vincent. Visitors from other provinces from Newfoundland to B.C., the U.K., Germany and far away Australia, have taken I Love Georgetown buttons as souvenirs.

Letters were written to Halton Hills council starting March 24 requesting permission to make a presentation. This presentation was made by Mr. Ramautarsingh and Mr. Duggan. The programme was kicked off after the presentation April 21, 1981. Council approved the community programme and declared the month of May I Love Georgetown month. More than 50 persons went door to door and blitzed Georgetown homes with the brochures and I Love Georgetown buttons. Tom Ramautarsingh (chairman of the I Love Georgetown programme) said: "The programme has been most positive and rewarding. It brought an awareness that we live in a beautiful community and that people of all ages can participate in a project which has made our community a better place to live. A great deal of time, effort and energy was spent by a closely knit group of Georgetowners—Brian Bush (Youth Activities), Charles Kellington (Project Coordinator), Fraser Robin, Sharron Kirkpatrick and Phyllis Duggan (School Activities), Roy Yestadt (buttons), Rud Whiting, Doug Penrice, Walter Biehn (Business, Commercial and Industrial areas) and our hard working President Lawrie Duggan. This is a programme that should be continued and we were glad to hear High River in Alberta requested information on the I Love Georgetown programme and have executed a similar programme. This programme seems to work best within a community and any help that the I Love Georgetown Committee can give to other community groups we would be most happy to do so. Maybe Acton and Esqueping would want to join in this type of programme. I believe we have instilled pride in our community and have developed a concern to make our community a better place to live. Congratulations to all.



Congregation shares comments

By TOM RAMAUTARSINGH

This week, we try and answer the question of why people chose Georgetown as their home. Through the kindness and permission of Rev. Peter Barrow, here are some pertinent comments on "I Love Georgetown" which appeared in the newsletter of Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown:

"We asked a number of the newer, active members of our Congregation why they came to Georgetown and here are the replies:

"We chose Georgetown as our home because it was a community unto itself, surrounded by farms. It contained established neighborhoods and there were houses for sale

from families that were still together!

Hiemen Donker

"Having been expropriated, we found ourselves looking for another farm and preferred

Do YOU love Halton Hills?

According to several sources in Halton Hills, The Herald's May editorial praising the "I Love Georgetown" campaign while expressing preference for an "I Love Halton Hills" campaign has not been alone in its plea. Organizers of the Georgetown civic pride campaign say they've received calls from citizens in Acton and Esqueping interested in helping mount similar campaigns either within their own areas or covering all of Halton Hills. "I Love Georgetown" spokesmen point out they're not at liberty to solicit such public interest across town, but welcome any suggestions for a town-wide campaign ready for consideration at an organizational meeting set for September.

Halton county, since my roots are here. When we found a farm close to Georgetown, with easy access to Toronto, good soil, and an outstanding view, we decided to build here. When God closes a door, He opens a window. Bill Lawrence

"Throughout the past 23 years due to my work in the bank, we have had the opportunity to live in many towns in Ontario. Two years ago I was transferred to Toronto. As our family did not wish to live in the city we chose to locate in a town situated along the GO Train System. Having lived in Brampton 20 years ago, we

were familiar with the area. However, Brampton has expanded tremendously so we decided on Georgetown—a smaller town with access to the conveniences of a large city. The friendly people and our involvement in the community has made Georgetown our home. Evie and Ron Gable

"To the north and West, a short car ride away, we enjoy all the pleasures of the country: hiking, skiing, fishing, apple picking.

"To the south and east, a short train ride away, we enjoy the wonders a large metropolitan city where you can enjoy its assets without giving up the sense of space that Georgetown offers. Al Cook"

"Right here in the centre of it all we share with good friends and neighbors a close community spirit fostered in schools, churches, clubs and all activities that make a family feel at home. Tom and Margaret Bentley

"Georgetown is a town that offers my family both a rural and urban atmosphere. Rural because of the open area surrounding its boundaries which gives my family a feeling of openness as well as cleanliness. Urban because of its closeness to a large cosmopolitan city where you can enjoy its assets without giving up the sense of space that Georgetown offers. Al Cook"

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