

Letters to the Editor

Georgetown BIA chairman angered at study headlines...

To the editor of The Herald:
I was dismayed and angered to see such negative headlines on your report of our Downtown Georgetown study, Phase II.

For the record, it is true that we can never hope to regain our earlier role as the retail centre of Georgetown. What we CAN do is transform our core area into an important civic, business and cultural

centre right in the heart of Halton Hills! Say so!

Consider this: We have right here not only what other places would give millions of dollars trying to re-create a compact, historic, old town centre with (and full of) unique character (s) and charm.

We have some beautiful old buildings, family-owned shops, land for parking, a major traffic artery link to the rest of

the community and some lovely old residential space "right next door." We have a new apartment complex and room to build more. We have a new library-cultural centre unique to all the area because of its "old town" location and historic site.

And we have a group of small business owners who care enough to work together to solve our problems and who spend \$25,000 each year out of their own pockets to try to make Downtown Georgetown a better place to shop and a nicer place to be.

Yes we have problems downtown. But, oh, do we have potential! And what's even more exciting is that now we have a plan. We've got a team of consultants working with us who have spent enormous amounts of time learning about our realities and who are committed to being really helpful, not "pie-in-the-sky."

They think that downtown is the very best choice for a new municipal complex; that we have every chance of being that "important civic, business and cultural centre."

Why didn't you say so? Of course it will cost money! Of course it's Mayor Pomeroy's job to make sure these costs will be within reason and the plan acceptable. But remember too - and write about this - that it's the lack of sound planning in this municipality that has been and continues to be horrendously, enormously costly to all of us.

Phase II was about planning, about policy for Downtown that will set the trend for years to come. To plan for a new municipal complex and/or a food store is progress finally. A good plan put into place years ago would have saved us from some of the very problems we face today.

Of course we have to start right away to do something about NOW. We know that too and we know that the small business person is often his or her own worst enemy, shunning uniform store hours and a unified public image. If we want a team effort to work for Downtown, we'd better be sure that all of us get with the team. It's just not good enough to lament the woe of decisions of the past without pulling up our own socks, too.

But let's look at Phase II. What we have now, for the first time really, is a strategy for planned change. We have the possibility of ending short-sighted, band-aid solutions. The study team has helped us to see and to re-think what our unique features are. It's up to us to build on the positive things we have here by taking a new look around. The problems won't all disappear but like your headlines, maybe they could be re-arranged a little so that the outlook doesn't appear so bleak-when maybe it's really not so bleak at all!

Lynn Barnard
Chairman
Downtown Georgetown Business Improvement Assoc.

Accolades for runners after Terry Fox Day

To the editor of The Herald:

A year ago a run was interrupted in Thunder Bay. Although the runner, Terry Fox, is no longer with us, people across the country took up the run last Sunday. In Georgetown, 164 participants, supported by pledges from many citizens, raised over \$7,000 to help Terry's dream come true.

To all those who participated in the run and to their

sponsors, we say a grateful thankyou. The organizers wish also to recognize the contributions of McDonald's Restaurant, A and P, and Mold Masters Ltd., through the provision of refreshments for the runners. We also thank Neil's Music, Wigo TV and Georgetown Hydro for making the music possible.

We also appreciate the cooperation of the Canadian Forces in making the Armouries available and the

Georgetown Baseball Association for sharing the Fairgrounds facilities with us. And last but not least we thank the newspapers for their excellent coverage of this event.

Next year, Terry's run will continue until his dream is realized. We thank those who helped to continue the Marathon of Hope this year.

Sincerely,
Mary-Elton Bridge
President
Halton Hills Unit
Canadian Cancer Society

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA GEORGETOWN EAST DISTRICT REGISTRATION NIGHT

Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders & Rangers

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22, 1981

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL - 6:30-8:00 p.m.

PARENTS MUST REGISTER GIRLS

...and resident worries about area's future

To the editor of The Herald:
The purpose of this letter is to express my dismay about the policy recommendations contained in the Business Improvement Area Study.

As a resident of old Georgetown, I heartily endorse the goal of improving and rejuvenating the downtown area. However as a property owner and parent, I am upset about the higher density recommendation proposed in the study document.

While I am sympathetic to the situation of the downtown business group I believe that, in this case, the end does not justify the means. In my estimation, the shallow recommendations of the study will neither serve the goals of the commercial area nor the adjacent residential property owners. In fact, I believe that implementation of the study as currently described would hurt both groups.

There is absolutely no question that the proposed townhouse and multi-family residential development would negatively alter the esthetics of our community forever. Most of my neighbors purposefully moved to this town to escape such development; choosing instead the quality of life contained in "small-town Ontario".

There is no guarantee that

increased population in the older area would significantly increase commerce downtown. It seems a considerable gamble to sacrifice property values in an established and improving older neighborhood in a last-ditch stand to "save the downtown".

Other than the recommendation to functionally enhance the business area by locating the new municipal complex there, I find nothing of merit in the report. I find the reference in the study to the "deterioration and instability" of my neighborhood insulting and inaccurate. To unilaterally implement its recommendations would be shortsighted and ill-advised.

I believe there must be a more rational and coherent alternative to our dilemma in the older part of town. Hopefully other ideas will emerge from the community meetings. My neighborhood is organizing itself to oppose the proposal and I look forward to hearing some alternatives from our elected leaders.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion in these pages and I eagerly await your editorial position on the matter.

Yours very truly,
Larry Ostler,
17 George Street,
Georgetown.

Simon Fraser
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Phone (416) 877-0109

5 Wesleyan Street, Georgetown, Ontario
L7G 2E2

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Moore Park Plaza

Moore Park Plaza
(inside Jeannette's Dutch Del)
877-6201

Praises for minor hockey newsletter

To the editor of The Herald:

I would like to be one of the first to praise, in writing the Georgetown and District Minor Hockey Association, which issued a newsletter upon registration to each person.

It explains House League age categories, select teams, clinic dates, try-out dates, parents' information night, draft dates, when league starts, etc., and last but not least, how the registration fee is spent. It also stated that copies of the budget are available to anyone.

This newsletter was very well prepared!
Doug L. Gillespie,
Georgetown.

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MENS COMFORT-STRETCH PANTS SOLID SHADES 23⁹⁹ REG. 29 ⁹⁹	KIDDIES ACRYLIC PULLOVERS-CARDIGANS REG. TO 11 ⁰⁰ 1/2 PRICE
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