

Letters to the Editor

Town can't stand still if it's to survive

Dear Sir:

Reading the Herald the past couple of weeks has been encouraging to those of us interested in keeping local taxes down to the cost of living increases. Regional chairman Pomery and his 4R budget restraint program, Mayor Miller, and Councillors Ann Currie and Al Cook stating they won't accept increases greater than the inflation is excellent news.

Councillor Norm Elliot did not subscribe to this pre-setting of the rate of acceptable tax increases and waffled about committing himself to this objective. The only way to achieve a goal is to set it

and then work to meet it!

Encouraging as it might be to see regional, local and even the hydro considering staff freezes there is a lot of other areas that can be worked on to lower the tax burden.

Local interest groups have got to be faced up to and their desires weighed against the needs of the whole town. So it was another welcome piece of news to see the Beechbrooke Development approved by a close vote of 7 to 6.

In this instance the desires of an ex-chairman of a major Canadian bank and his horses and a small number of local residents and their

peace and quiet was voted down. The gain for the people of the town is approximately \$200,000 in up front money to the town and ongoing taxes of \$100,000 per year.

New projects are a very effective way of bringing down taxes by increasing income and one has to do a heck of a lot of staff cutting to equal the impact of new projects.

And we sure have missed a lot in the past 6 months as we listened to local interest groups. Should we really have canned that small asphalt plant, or a highrise in town, or a plaza in Norval. Some of the town employees have got to remember that it is this sort of

thing that will come along and save their jobs. A town can't stand still and survive.

Now what about the huge housing project south of Georgetown on the ninth line. It's already there and is a ghost town with hundreds of houses not bringing in taxes. Who is going to pursue that baby and get those houses occupied and paying taxes?

Finally not doing things is another way to decrease taxes and I am delighted to see the collection of rural garbage has been dropped. Speaking for the rural people around me we don't want or need this service. Some fancy dollars have been bandied around on this. Do I read the Town Treasurer

right? The Herald reports the rural tax payer would see this 1991 tax bill increase 23.4% and with garbage collection 60.7%. This is a 37.3% increase for garbage collection and represents \$1,119 on a rural property paying \$3,000 per year. I can't believe this. I have to be making a mistake or misreading the information. Regardless even if it is only about \$300 per year matching private collection costs we still don't want it.

The council asked the Treasurer to provide preliminary budgets based on tax hikes of 6-10%. The cost of living is going to come out at about 4.5% this year!

D. Morrow,
Norval

Legion Poppy Fund helps many

Dear Editor:

As October comes around we begin to think about Remembrance Day and what it means - and how we must never forget. I would like to tell our townspeople, merchants, manufacturers and citizens in general what we have been doing with their donations in keeping with the rules laid down with regard to dispersing the Trust Fund.

We have already set in motion the annual contests for posters, essays and poems on Remembrance by the school-age youth of our community and are looking forward to receiving a fine crop of entries. We had some excellent achievements last year and our area produced the top winner in all Canada with her essay.

During the past year we assisted those veterans or dependents who approached us to the extent of approximately \$1,900.00 and we donated \$5,000.00

to Research on Alzheimer's Disease (a curse we all hope to dodge in our declining years) and \$5,000.00 to the Legion's District Hospital Charitable Foundation.

Also, every year, our Ladies Auxiliary invites a busload of disabled Sunnybrook Hospital veterans to spend an afternoon at our Branch. The bus is adapted to accommodate wheelchairs and the veterans are accompanied by a nursing supervisor. They are entertained and given a roast beef dinner and are generally pampered for the whole of their visit. Their enjoyment is very evident and it is a privilege to be permitted to assist in this event.

Our Annual Poppy Report will appear very shortly in the local newspapers. We are strictly limited as to how we may disperse the Poppy Trust Fund and anyone interested may obtain a copy of the rules.

Looking back on our communi-

ty's generosity last and many previous years we hope everyone will again come forward to assist. The poppies cost 8¢ each this year.

There was one rather disturbing happening last year. Another community organization trespassed on Poppy Week for their campaign - a very unthinking action and one which angered many of our veterans. Did they not realize that the very fact they were free to do this without punishment was brought about by the supreme sacrifice of thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen? Enough said.

A telephone call to 877-4413 or 877-9787 will give your readers the answer to any questions they may have.

Jean M. Narey,
Poppy Chairman,
Branch 120, Royal
Canadian Legion,
Georgetown.

Acton Terry Fox run a tremendous success

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Acton Terry Fox Run Committee, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who made the 10th Anniversary Terry Fox Run on September 16, such a tremendous success. Thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, the total pledges and donations for the day amounted to well over \$23,000.00.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Acton High School for the use of the facilities; to Acton IGA; A and B Foodland, and Freezer Frenzy for their kind donation of supplies for the food booth; to Jack Tanner's Table, Tuitman's Garden Centre, Vito's Fruit Market, and the Toronto Blue Jay organization for donating prizes; to McMillan's Fruit and Vegetables, Tyler

Travel, Leathertown Feed Supply, Speyside Welding, Eagle Dominion employees and to all the businesses who kept pledge forms and all the people who showed their support with lawn signs; to the many volunteers who helped throughout the day, and who gave so freely of their time and energy; to all the people who sponsored individual participants or who donated directly to the run; and to all the participants from Acton and surrounding area who collected pledges and took part in the run.

Terry once said, that dreams are made, if people only try. Thank you all for sharing the dream.

The Acton Terry Fox Run Committee - Jon Hurst, Nan Hurst, Jan Penick, George McPhail, Jenni Murr.

Courteous driver is lauded

To the Editor:

This is a thank you to the driver of the white Ford truck who had the initiative and decency to stop on Oct. 1 at the John Street and Mountainview school crossing during the noon "rush hour".

It may seem peculiar to some Georgetown residents that I feel compelled to openly express my gratitude towards someone who was merely adhering to a posted traffic rule.

It may surprise them further to learn that in the past 3 weeks this is the first vehicle to actually observe, assimilate and obey the crossing signs in my area at noon. I hadn't noticed a time posted on the signs. I am a new resident. Should I assume that the half-day Kindergarten is a new concept to

this area?

It is unfortunate that there is no "official" need for a crossing guard at this particular intersection during this time period.

Our child is the only one using this crossing to catch the afternoon bus so my husband and I are the school board's unofficial guards.

I would like to remind drivers that the blue and white signs with children on them are neither decorative lawn fixtures nor direct challenges to them. It is not only a speeding violation to accelerate your descent or ascent on Mountainview to at least 70 kph but it is also very dangerous.

I know that it is a real bonus to skim a bit of extra time for ourselves from our busy schedules. I do not believe though that the one

minute a day you might salvage by ignoring school crossing signs is the place to find that flex time. Would it not be a more reasonable expectation to just adjust your travel time by a minute or two?

I hope that the examples set by the driver I'm thanking will have a positive influence on others. I have one more question for Georgetown drivers. Have you taken some time lately to look at the autumn transformations in our community?

It is incredible to think how much and what we can absorb from our surroundings when we pause for only 60 seconds!

A concerned citizen,
Nancy Kinsman,
Georgetown.

Cookbook correction

Dear Editor:

Last year at this time I was upset after reading the rules for the Cookbook '89 contest. I meant to write and I never did. But I cannot ignore this another year.

Why is the rule "Use all imperial measures" included?

Since all ingredients are now sold by metric measure, it makes cooking unnecessarily difficult when those ingredients are given by imperial measure.

Our country converted to the metric system years ago, and our children are taught the metric

system throughout their school years. It is a shame that a newspaper which prides itself on educating its readers would ignore such a basic tenet of our educational system.

Perhaps in the future your Cookbook will use the metric measurement. Until then, could you at least provide the metric measurement alongside the imperial?

Yours truly,
Valerie Pakkala
Georgetown

Editor's Note: The above has been noted and corrected.

Reform Party rapidly gaining credibility

OTTAWA - When Preston Manning made one of his infrequent visits to Ottawa a few years ago, he could have held his news conferences in a telephone booth. If he attracted a half-dozen reporters, it would have been considered a coup.

Had he been guest speaker at a luncheon, tickets would undoubtedly go begging - unless the food was fabulous. As leader of the Reform Party of Canada, he was considered just another temporary fringe player on the political landscape. Why, the West was always producing some new party, concept, movement or whatever to temporarily nibble at the heels of real politicians. No one much cared.

But when Mr. Manning came to Ottawa recently, things were decidedly different. In fact, for the full day that he circled around Parliament Hill, he was the most exciting show in town.

And when he delivered a speech in the city, more than 400 people crammed the hall to hear the 45-year-old business consultant. Not only that, they cheered and applauded.

Then he held a news conference in the National Press Theatre and

attracted more reporters than most federal party leaders could expect. The questions were different now - as though they were really important and every word spoken by Mr. Manning suddenly seemed worth weighing with care.

There are a number of reasons why Ottawa is beginning to take a serious view of the Reform Party - not the least of which are all those predictions of the party making a major breakthrough in the next election.

TORY FEARS

The predictions are not coming from the party itself. In fact, Mr. Manning is among the more modest in this respect. He doesn't talk about numbers. "We're doing very well in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, but I would like to see more progress in Manitoba."

It's like a matter-of-fact report to shareholders.

But it's what we hear from western Tory MPs that has riveted so much attention on the mild-mannered Reform Party leader. When you hear Alberta Tories say - as they frequently do - that they could be virtually wiped out by reformers in the



Stewart
MacLeod
Ottawa
Thomson News
Service

next election, you tend to pay attention. Tories now hold 22 of Alberta's 26 seats.

Saskatchewan and British Columbia Conservatives are also worried about Reform Party inroads.

What Ottawa now realizes is that the party led by the son of former Alberta Social Credit premier Ernest Manning is for real. Furthermore, it's likely to remain a force to be reckoned with in the foreseeable future.

What's also sinking in is that the party's leader is not some wild-eyed, anti-French, regional radical who's just another destructive nuisance. When it comes to Canada's constitutional

future, the reformers have produced more constructive ideas than the three major parties combined.

And after the Meech Lake fiasco, who could possibly argue with Mr. Manning's ideas about restarting the constitutional process from the group up, with regional conventions and local input. Our traditional approach - starting and remaining at the top - hasn't been a rousing success.

NOW LISTEN

When you get right down to it, just about everything in the party's platform seems fairly reasonable. But that can be said of a majority of parties, and this is not the only reason Mr. Manning has suddenly attracted so much attention in Ottawa.

The timing of his most recent visit could not have been more opportune. He swooped in on the capital just as opinion polls were showing still further declines in the popularity of our federal party leaders. Parliament was reconvening in its same old snarling mood: everyone was depressed about the Oka crisis, the Gulf crisis, the GST crisis and the

economic crisis - to name just a few.

With this backdrop, any fresh political face would have been a ray of sunshine. But when that face strikes terror in the heart of one of the most unpopular governments in recent history, it takes on halo-like proportions.

Then, to spread even more goodwill, the two Reform Party members in Parliament, MP Deborah Grey and Senator Stan Waters, announced voluntary pay cuts, as a contribution to lowering the national debt. And if the government couldn't guarantee the money would be used for this purpose, it would be given to help the poor.

And talk about timing! The two announced this just as other MPs were giving themselves a new \$6,000 annual housing allowance. In live theatre, that would be masterful choreography.

Now, we have no particular insight or intelligence to offer in terms of predicting the Reform Party's future success. But we can say that when Preston Manning comes to Ottawa now, he's treated with a respect that would have floored him two years ago.