

Youths plan Euro trip to see Pope



GARAGE SALE HEAVEN: Parishioners from Holy Cross Church prepare to count the bids at the Giant Garage Sale and Giant Auction. The proceeds from the sale go to fund a trip by the Youth Group to see Pope John Paul II in Paris. (Jamie Harrison photo)

BY JAMIE HARRISON

The Georgetown Gemini

When they return to school next fall, the summer of 1997 will feature an unusual vacation highlight for some Georgetown youths.

In preparation for a trip to take place in little more than a year, about 25 members of the Holy Cross Church Youth Group are making plans to visit France next summer, touring the country, visiting churches and seeing the Pope at World Youth Day next August.

As a highlight to the two-week trip, the youths are taking part in the World Youth Day celebrations, being granted an audience with Pope John Paul II as he addressed the crowd in Paris.

Members of the group

have been raising money for the trip in a variety of ways including organizing and hosting a yard sale and silent auction at the church last weekend. Many of the organizers pulled an all-nighter, trying to organize items for sale. By all accounts, the time and trouble was well worth it — organizers estimate that over 400 people showed up, spending about \$7,000 over the course of the day.

Loblaws donated food and drinks for the barbecue, which was well attended.

"The youths were very much supported by the Knights (of Columbus), the CWL (Catholic Women's League) and parishioners of all ages," said one parent. "We'd like to thank everybody for supporting it."

Fire safety questioned

Fire safety complaints from Georgetown South citizens prompted Ward 4 Councillor Al Cook to ask for a verbal report from the fire chief on the granting of fire permits by the Town.

Permits are issued to developers to allow them to burn construction debris, but Cook said there is one location off Argyll Road where a deep fire pit near homes and a playground, has been allowed to burn unsupervised.

"There's no fencing around it and I've been told the hole is three to five feet deep."

Squares dance into new season

If you suddenly get the urge to *dose-do*, *allemande left* (or right) or do a *promenade*, this week would be a good time to start.

The week of Sept. 8 to 14 has been proclaimed as Square Dance Week by the Town of Halton Hills Council. The Georgetown club is ready to swing into action. Veteran callers Wes and Jackie

McCarthy — nearing their 20th anniversary with the Pine Valley Squares — get their Georgetown beginners group started Sept. 17 at 8 pm in the gymnasium at George Kennedy Public School (75 Weber Dr.). The advanced group starts Sept., 18 at 8 pm, at George Kennedy.

For more information on these three programs, call 451-6094.

Main Street 'visioning'

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Georgetown Gemini

If you have an opinion or comment about the future of Georgetown's downtown core, then Ward 3 Councillor John Day wants to hear from you.

Day has put Town Council on notice that he intends to ask for a staff report that considers, among other things, the need for a master plan for the downtown, the identification of partners, a public consultation process and costs and timing.

"I want to get a sense of opinion and comment from owners of the commercial buildings, the retailers, the users, area residents and others," Day explained last Thursday.

"I want to know what they consider the most important improvement needed to revitalize the core because there is a need for some visioning

there," Day said, explaining that there are many different views, or visions, about what could and should be done in the area.

Day said his public survey won't be another expensive consultant's study or another government project but will be a community project.

In his Notice of Motion, Day notes the Town's Official Plan recognizes the Georgetown Central Business District as a unique historic commercial area within the Georgetown community and tourist market, and the goal is to encourage development of the commercial and residential uses.

Day's survey, which he is paying for himself, asks people to list the top three items they feel would improve downtown Georgetown, how they would like to participate in a public consultation process and what other comments

they have.

"Although there are various groups including the Chamber of Commerce and the BIA that have ideas of what should happen in the downtown, there isn't a common denominator or a clear vision," Day said, noting that some would like to see all of the downtown parking meters removed.

Others would like to see a major retail chain locate in the downtown core and some think that there should be an overall visual urban design done.

Anyone interested in commenting on the downtown future should answer the questions posed by Day and drop off their comments at any downtown retailer, the BIA office at 191 Mill Street, the Civic Centre or mail it to Day at 70 River Drive, Georgetown, L7G 2J2, or call Day at 873-3979.

Do you agree with Councillor John Day's plans for downtown Georgetown? Send us your suggestions at **The Gemini** and we will pass them on to Council. Day. Write us at:

The Georgetown Gemini,
P.O. Box 145
Georgetown, ON, L7G 4T1

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