

# Basement apartment registry studied by town

Town councillors want more information before deciding whether to proceed with a registry for houses with two dwelling units.

Following a spate of fatal fires in basement apartments that did not meet fire and safety codes, the Province authorized municipalities to pass bylaws requiring houses with two units to register so safety standards could be enforced.

Staff estimates that there are approximately 1,000 illegal second-units in Georgetown with approximately 30 to 40 legal units and 100 requests for inspections.

Requests for such a registry have come from real estate lawyers, financial institutions, insurance companies and individual homeowners and tenants and at last Monday's General Committee meeting staff recommended that the registry be set up and that a one-time fee be collected to cover the cost of administering the registry. Following a long debate councillors decided that there were too many unanswered questions and asked for more information.

Staff said there would be a \$5,000 fine for anyone who has two units in their home

but doesn't register, and that the issue would be handled on a complaint basis.

Ward 2 Councillor Kevin Kuiack reminded councillors and staff that there is a huge backlog of uninvestigated bylaw infractions now on the books. He suggested the registry would open up a "major can of worms;" that the enforcement would be "ridiculous" and that the \$625 fee was too high.

Ward 4 Councillor Ron Chatten argued that if there were no complaints, there would still be hundreds of illegal apartments being rented in Halton Hills.

"I'd like to know how many illegal apartments we have now," Chatten said, noting that it would cost people \$625 to register just to find out how much it would cost to bring a second unit up to code.

"I can see charging \$75 or a nominal fee. I think we should be encouraging people, I think we should be going out as part of a service to show people how they can do it [have a legal second unit]," Chatten said.

Fire Chief Bill Cunningham said that with or without a bylaw establishing a registry, the Town was

required to do safety inspections on second units and that safety is a paramount concern.

"There are an awful lot of them (illegal second units) and safety is a paramount concern."



**ARTS & CRAFTS OF GEORGETOWN**  
54th Annual  
Exhibition & Sale  
**Saturday, October 19/96**  
**10:00 am to 4:00 pm**  
St. George's Anglican Church Hall  
60 Guelph St., Georgetown  
(next to the High School)

Refreshments hosted by The Open Door Youth Centre      Admission \$1.00

## Dominion Seed property could be multi-use

Cont. from Page 1.

Planning Director Bruce MacLean noted that there was considerable public input into plans for the land in 1993-94, which included discussions with 17 community interest groups.

"The long and short of it is that the community was heavily involved in developing and participating in approval of policies that now exist in

the Halton Hills Official Plan, which defined the framework for going forward with this study," MacLean explained.

MacLean also noted that there will be a series of public meetings and advertisements in the local papers as well as invitations to specific ratepayer groups to come back to the table and participate in the exercise.

Councillors rejected Day's

deferral suggestion, confident that the public input to date and the public input process designed by the developer's consultant is more than adequate.

"I was a member of the public involved in the public participation process and it was very extensive," explained Ward 3 Councillor Moya Johnson.

"What comes to the public

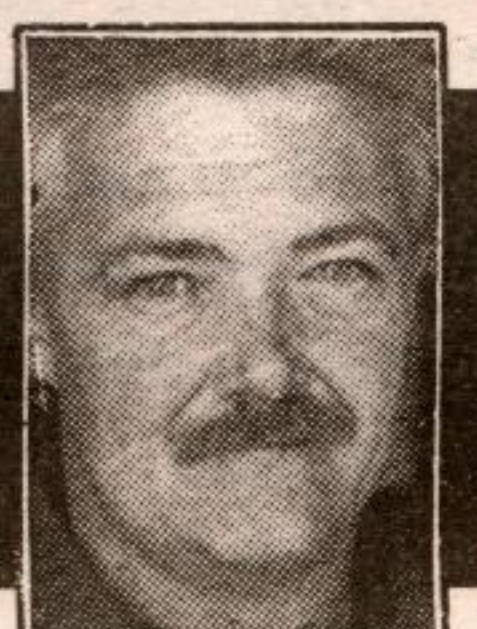
is a picture of what the property will look like—there will be lots of public comments, good and negative," Johnson said.

Only Day and Ward 2 Councillor Rob Heaton voted for the deferral and Council was expected to ratify the terms of reference for the Dominion Gardens Master Plan at its meeting last (Tuesday) night.

## ACTON MOTORS

Servicing All Makes  
Selected Used Cars

**853-1280**



**BLAIR McCALLUM**

## Arena property future parkland?

Cont. from Page 1  
residential uses and would like the Town to commit this property for long-term park uses," Harlow explained.

Noting that even with the arena site added in there would still be a parkland deficiency of .6 acres.

Harlow said he'd been told that the Carr property, which abuts both the Lions Park and Memorial Arena, was for sale and suggested the Town pur-

chase it to add to the parkland in the area.

Stephen Carr, owner of the so-called Fenny Copse property, said they had not had any direct discussions with Recreation and Parks staff about their property, but endorse staff's attempts to resolve parkland problems in the area.

The neighbourhood, bounded by Maple Avenue, Guelph Street, Main Street

and the CN lands, has what staff call a "significant" parkland deficiency that must be resolved as the Town determines the long-term planning for the area.

Staff said that the future of the Memorial Arena is tied to a study next year of the future of indoor recreation facilities.

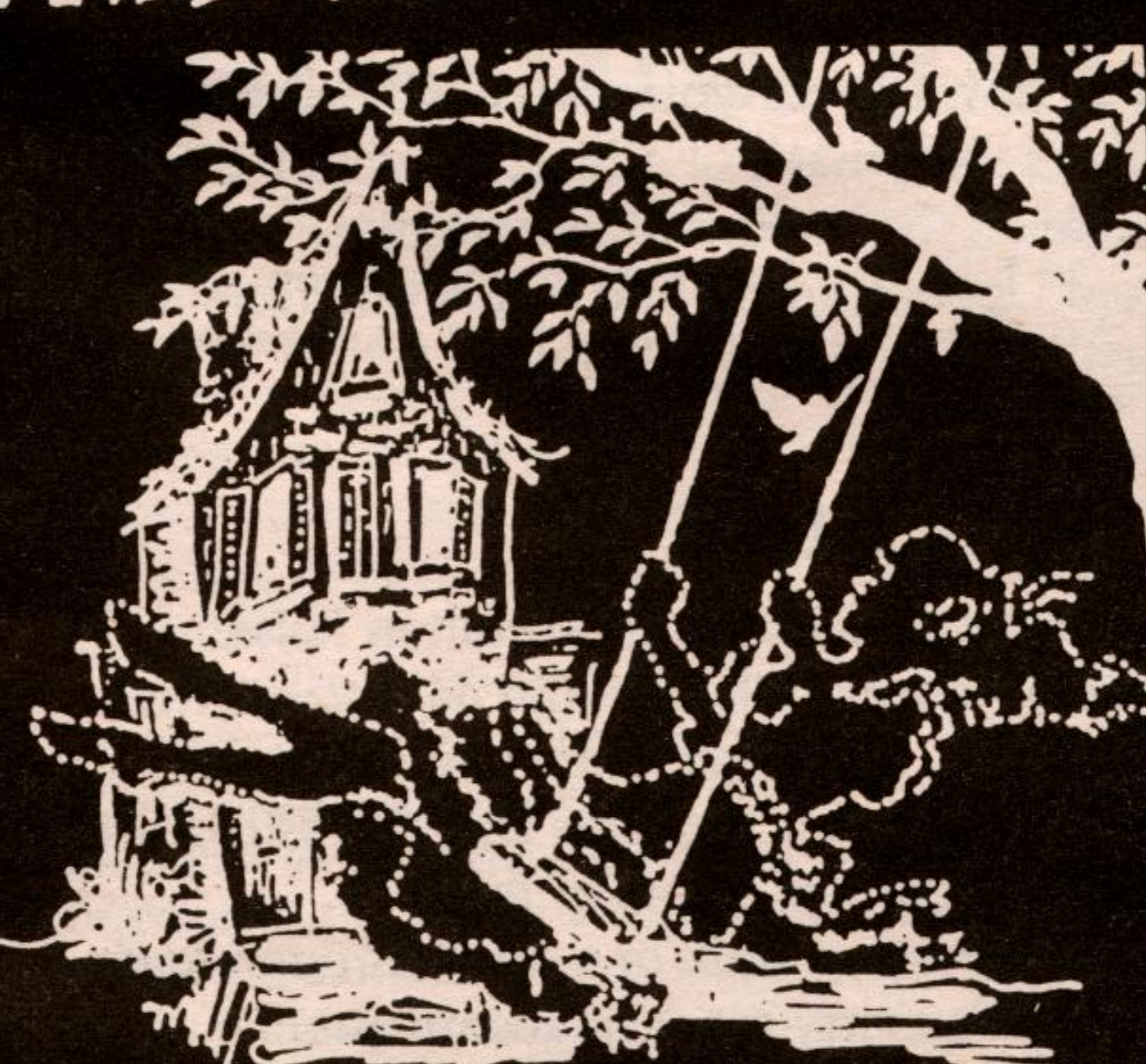
The Memorial Arena is slated for demolition in 2003.

— Niblock

OPENS THIS WEEK!

GEORGETOWN LITTLE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS INC. - PRESENTS

# HIDE and SEEK



PARENTAL DISCRETION ADVISED

A MYSTERY BY  
LEZLEY HAVARD


DIRECTOR: Vesta Jorgensen

OCTOBER 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 1996 - 8 PM

JOHN ELLIOTT THEATRE  
9 CHURCH ST., GEORGETOWN

ADMISSION: \$10 (Wed. & Thurs.) \$12 (Friday & Sat.)

THEATRE BOX OFFICE: (905) 877-3700



PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH - DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE INC

## PICTURE FRAMING

# SAVE 50%

- ✓ ON COMPLETE FRAMING PACKAGE (your print or ours)
- ✓ TREMENDOUS PRICES ON ALL SHOWROOM PICTURES

SAVE 50 %

On all in-stock prints  
(when framed)

Quality Workmanship (18 years framing & decorating experience) Innovative Designs

## Unique Frame & Art

MILTON  
42 BRONTE ST. S., UNIT #9  
(905) 875-0971

GEORGETOWN  
71 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. N., UNIT #5  
(at Armstrong) (905) 877-2428

HOURS  
Tues.-Fri. 10-6  
Saturday 10-5