

THE
GEMINI

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Dominion Seed master plan ok'd by Council

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Georgetown Gemini

Development of the 'jewel of Georgetown,' the 54-acre former Dominion Seed House lands, will include a separate high school, a municipal fire hall, the possibility of several 10-storey apartments to house 550 people, open space and parkland with a memorial garden and a seven acre commercial-retail area with 80,000 square feet of stores, including a relocated IGA.

At a special Council meeting on Thursday, councillors approved a concept for a Master Plan for the triangular piece of prime property in Georgetown, owned since the 1870s by the Harding family whose seed catalogues were renowned throughout the Dominion.

Although councillors had a lot of questions about exact details of what and how much would go where, consultant Wendy Nott assured them that many of their questions would be answered as the proposal goes through the further development stages of subdivision plans and zoning.

Locating the separate secondary school on the site was the most contentious issue during public meetings on the proposed plans but in the end a site of less than 15 acres fronting on Guelph Street was included, much to the relief of Catholic parents in Halton Hills whose children now are bussed to Milton.

School Board trustee Joseph Deoni said that the site was the Board's first choice and its main attraction was that the developer wanted the school as part of the development.

The school is slated to be built in 2004.

During an earlier closed door session Council agreed to purchase three acres of parkland, increasing the total open space to eight acres, including a memorial garden at the corner of Guelph Street

and Maple Avenue that is being spear-headed by the University Women's Club of Georgetown.

In an 8-3 vote Council also agreed to buy 2.75 acres of land for a new fire hall, which would be located beside the commercial area at the corner of Mountainview Road and Guelph Street. Money for a new fire hall was bumped from last year's budget to this year's.

Although Georgetown councillors Ron Chatten, Al Cook and Anne Currie voted against locating a new fire hall on the Dominion Gardens land, Fire Chief Bill Cunningham argued the location would shave valuable minutes off emergency response times.

Ward 2 (including rural Acton) Councillor Kevin Kuiack was the lone politician to vote against the Master Plan, which he argued was pushed through too quickly and without sufficient public input.

Council's approval of the Master Plan came just two days before Paralex Land Corporation's conditional offer to purchase the property expired.



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY: Celebrating Norval's most famous resident, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Town Councillor Kathy Gastle, Katie Hardy, and Julie Pomeroy dress in period costumes. Harpist Annaliese Cameron played softly in the background as Montgomery's poetry was read, Saturday at Canoe Country in Norval. (Jamie Harrison photo)

New principal for Centennial School

Centennial Middle School will have a new principal after the Christmas break as Chris Logan steps into the position being vacated by Don Warren.

The resignation of Robert Little's principal in Acton set off a series of transfers and a domino effect between Cen-

ennial and two Acton schools. Warren, principal at Centennial Middle School for six years, will take over at Robert Little in a return engagement - he was vice-principal at Robert Little from 1986 to 1988.

Logan, principal at McKenzie-Smith Bennett for

three-and-a-half-years, will move to Centennial, where he taught from 1980 to 1988. MSB vice-principal Nancy Johnston has been named acting-principal to fill Logan's position until the end of the school year.

Logan said that he had mixed emotions about the

move. "I talked to the kids this morning - I just finished going around to the classes and it's very hard to break bonds with people that you've worked very hard to build, but, change is regenerating and refreshing," Logan said in an interview on Monday.

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