

# Student Group Looks to 1983 Georgetown 2nd Biggest Area

Visionaries may see life in Halton in 20 years from now as utopia in which science fiction gadgets have totally abolished the need to work or, at the other extreme as a desolate nuclear-destroyed pile of radioactive debris.

Somewhere between these two horrid possibilities lies the more probable future, according to a survey and findings of a group of 21 University of Toronto students attending the School of Architecture course for a diploma in town and regional planning.

Advisory proposals are for the whole of Halton County in the light of what it found in the study extending over a year. It is these proposals rather than actual results of existing conditions that contain some eye-openers for Halton residents. They include what will happen to the birth rate as the result of post-war baby boom children growing up and getting married.

And by 1983 only 1.4 per cent of the Halton population will be farm workers or farmers.

### BASIC DEVELOPMENT

Admitting that "at least population figures and the likely rate of development in Halton can only be considered as educated guesses" the student group starts with the premise that people are basic to development of any community.

By 1983, the group finds there will be a slight reduction in the death rate and an increase will occur in the birth rate resulting from greater family formations in the 1970's "partially the result of post-war baby boom children reaching marriageable age."

Continued "immigration" to Halton at a rate of 27.5 per cent every five years, and continued national immigration at its present rate will be enhanced by the area's continued rapid economic growth; increase in job diversification; prospects of higher income; accessibility to work, two large urban centres, and recreational and scenic areas; adequate variety of mixed housing and well integrated communities to encourage stable social and economic structures.

### YOUNG FAMILIES

By 1983 Halton's population will be 480,000. With an assurance that suggests the U of T's giant computer must have played a part in the projection, the student group, noting that Halton "is burdened with higher education costs and associated recreational facilities than is the province as a whole" the pressure for these facilities will not taper off significantly by 1983 "because of the expected high rates of immigration of young families."

Farm population of Halton between 1971 and 1981 dropped by 3,000 persons from 30.8 per cent of the population to only 8.7 per cent. Further decrease at a rapid rate is forecast, until in 1983 only 1.4 per cent will be farmers, or farm workers.

By 1983 most of Halton's population will be concentrated in an urban belt extending east and west across the county from the shore of Lake Ontario to Highway 403, with the Burlington and Oakville areas containing about 385,000 or 80 per cent of the county's total population.

### GEORGETOWN GROWTH

Next largest concentration will extend east along the railway and Highway 7 "to eventually coincide with Norval." The growth of Georgetown will be in many respects dependent on future expansion of Brampton, the report says.

Milton will be the fourth largest municipality in Halton in 1983 with 23,000 persons and Esqueaux follows with 13,000. Acton and Nassagaweya will continue as the smallest units of population with 8,000 and 6,000 people respectively.

Economically there is an "undesirable and wasteful pattern of land use" in Halton, caused by "fragmentation of the tax collection system which necessitates each municipality have a tax ratio balance between industrial and residential revenues (which) has created excessive inter-municipal competition for industry."

### SHORTER WEEK

Noting an exceptionally high growth rate in the southern half of Halton compared to

other urban area of Ontario, the group says this is not only in population and the labor force but also in diversification of economic activities. Among other things the shortening work week, earlier retirement and a greater use of automation "will inevitably lead to a greater demand for recreational facilities within the county."

The group study of current trends resulted in the finding that "the abnormally high growth rate in Burlington and Oakville is likely to continue, thus providing a growing market. This will make increasing demands on the ability of adjacent rural areas to supply increasing amounts of agricultural products."

### SHRINKING ACREAGE

Against this trend is the trend of "urban shadow" over agricultural areas in the north and resulting in large agricultural areas being farmed on a year to year "land banking" basis while they await urban development. The group therefore sees a trend toward consolidation of small farms into larger units with a resulting steady decrease in agricultural workers. Increasing mechanization of farms and automation will give increasing yields per man hour and growing yields from shrinking acreage, the group says.

## Evergreen Is Undisputed Favorite

In Christmas trees, it's the spirit that counts.

Almost everything can be — and is — a Christmas tree. In Minneapolis, Minn., they even made a tree out of water pipes, fastened like spokes to a telephone pole, and appropriately decorated.

In Wilmington, N. C., a live oak more than 300 years old is adorned at the Yuletide with colorful ornaments and electric lights. In Indianapolis, Ind., they decorate the 346-foot-tall Soldier's and Sailor's Monument with electric candles and stars.

The U.S. National Christmas Tree, officially designated in 1926, is not an evergreen but a giant redwood, located in Kings Canyon National Park, Calif.

This unusual Christmas tree, called the "General Grant" is 3,500 years old.

Many families prefer the "permanent" Christmas tree, often made of aluminum.

Despite all this, the time-tested favourite tree is still the evergreen. Most people, if asked, would probably vote for the "fir tree."

Actually, there are nearly 40 species of the popular fir tree found in the mountainous regions of Central and Southern Europe, Asia, north

of the Himalayas and North America.

A frequently-seen Christmas tree variety is the "balsam fir," also called "Canada balsam" or "Balm of Gilead" according to the Encyclopedia Americana. This is one of the most common trees of eastern North America, extending from Virginia in the United States to Labrador and Newfoundland.

The balsam fir may grow to 40 to 50 feet tall. The southern fir is about the same height and is found in the mountains of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Other American firs are essentially Western. They include the Pacific silver fir, the white fir, the grand fir, the Shasta red fir and the noble fir. These firs may attain 250 feet in height.

In Canada, the exporting of Christmas trees, including fir,

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about five years, she was born in Falmouth. Mrs. Shelbourne is enjoying excellent health. She has been a resident of the Manor for about three years. Prior to living in the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Ray Powell, she was in Toronto and born in England.

## County Manor Nonagenarians Have December Birthdays

Two Halton Manor residents, Mrs. Hannah Millson and Mrs. Mary Shelbourne celebrated memorable birthdays recently. Mrs. Hannah Millson was 98 on December 6th and Mrs. Shelbourne was 92 on December 7.

Mrs. Millson is the infirmarian at the Manor, is the mother of A. Y. Millson, Milton, and has been a resident of the Manor



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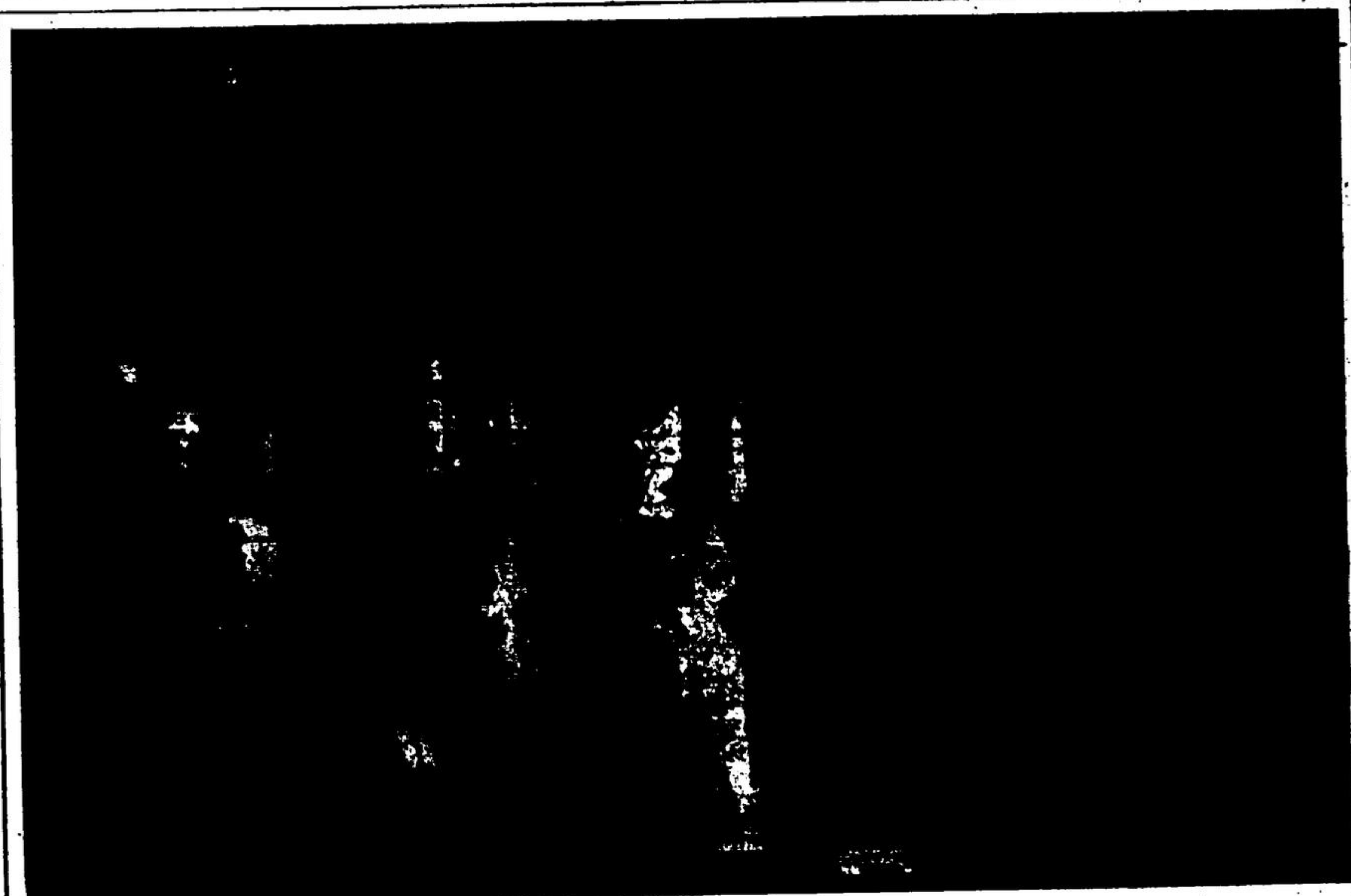
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