

Engineer thinks

Works should be under one roof

Halton Hills' new engineer, Robert Austin, thinks the works department should be under one roof.

The works department should be consolidated and operate out of a central yard. Mind you I'm not saying where that yard should be, Austin said.

Halton Hills is looking into the possibility of having the entire works an engineering facilities at the Seventh Line works yard.

At present a ball diamond is being built at Speyside school, while another is being extended in the Limehouse Conservation area.

Every day the road sweeper and washer is out, the garbage is picked up, but in addition town men cut the weeds along the roadside.

Halton Hills must be covered, with a large number in the rural areas to be graded, gravelled and calcimed.

The works department has 39 permanent employees, and sixteen students. For the first time, one girl, Gail Young, is working with the outside crews.

The roads crew works out of the yard on the Seventh Line, while the remainder work out of the Maple Avenue yard, Georgetown.



Robert Austin

month. He came to Halton Hills as deputy engineer in April of last year and said he was pleased the town offered him the engineer's job when it became vacant.

A native of Sudbury, he graduated from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science in engineering and worked for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC) for four years before coming to Halton Hills.

While with the MTC Austin worked as a project supervisor in Sault Ste. Marie and White River before working on the plans for the Georgetown GO train as a member of

the MTC's transit development branch. He came to Halton Hills looking for a more challenging position and because he didn't like living in Toronto, where the MTC's transit department is located.

As town engineer he is now responsible for the overall administration of the engineering and works department and he says he likes the job. As deputy engineer he was the town's contact with various consulting and construction firms doing work in Halton Hills and oversaw survey and other work done by the town's own work crews.

In addition, the general superintendent of works reported to him, Halton Hills doesn't have a replacement deputy engineer yet.

Among the major projects he foresees in Halton Hills during the next few years are widening of Guelph Street, in the vicinity of the new arena, reconstruction or closing of the John Street underpass, both in Georgetown and reconstruction of Main and Mill Streets in Acton.

Austin, 28, says the Halton Hills part of regional government is working out well but thinks there is a breakdown in

communications and functioning at the region. He added these are becoming less and less of a problem at the region every day.

He says all areas of the town are receiving equal service from the works department and believes parks, maintenance isn't suffering.

"I think our staff is doing a very good job of maintenance at recreation buildings and parks. We are going to need more direction from council on the level of service they want in the parks."

Parking limits

Halton Hills works committee plans to bring back its controversial three hour parking limit by this fall, it was revealed at Monday's meeting.

Committee chairman Joe Hurst said the town needs something to prevent overnight parking and added it wasn't just for snow removal. He said the police are concerned about overnight parking because it causes accidents.

Hurst continued that councillor Pat McKenzie wants two hour parking limits on side streets of the downtown area of Acton and that police were probably willing to mark tires so they can enforce the parking limits.



A BASS BASS line appear to be singing after being caught by two lucky fishermen at Acton Fairy Lake. The line-up was waiting to be measured and weighed.

Litter keeps town busy — adds costs

Halton Hills works force, frequently criticized over parks maintenance, has a few beets of its own, with litter and vandalism the items most likely to raise their ire.

Works Superintendent Frank Morette says a crew of three leaves every morning at 7.30 just to pick up litter in the parks.

Apart from many other bottles, four cases of empty beer bottles were picked up in Fairgrounds Park, Georgetown, between the Monday and Thursday pick-up last week.

"We provide enough garbage cans that there's no need for the litter," said Mr. Morette. He said the gates at the Princess Anne Drive end of the park would have to be closed again to keep cars out of the park area.

This decision was not too popular with ball fans recently during a tournament who claimed there was no place to park.

Morette said the litter was not so pronounced at Prospect Park, Acton, "but there they throw picnic tables in the water." The town has chained the tables in an attempt to stop this practice.

Vandalism to street signs, play equipment, and garbage cans has proven a costly item this year.

Grass-cutting is a big chore in a town with more than 200 acres to cut. The town cuts the grass at the schools where playgrounds are held, including five elementary schools and the high school in Georgetown, M. Z. Bennett in Acton, and Speyside and Limehouse playgrounds.

At Hornby Park they do the trimming, while Alf Bridgen does the rest.

Another chore not previously under works force control is the cemeteries. They are now maintained completely by the town.

At present a ball diamond is being built at Speyside school, while another is being extended in the Limehouse Conservation area. The town uses it with the permission of the CVCA.

Every day the road sweeper and washer is out, the garbage is picked up, but in addition town men cut the weeds along the roadside. The 200 miles of roads in

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