

Town moves to moderate income homes

The town of Halton Hills took the first step toward participating in the OHAP (Ontario Housing Action Program), Tuesday night.

The program designed to speed up house building will grant approximately \$600 a unit to houses in the moderate income bracket.

Ten percent of the housing must be available to the family with gross incomes between \$8,000 and \$14,500 and 30 per cent to those with incomes between \$14,500 and \$20,000. The other 60 per cent are free of income restrictions, but no grant will be made on these units.

The grants are paid on the lower cost homes to give municipalities and developers an incentive to mix these homes in with higher priced ones.

In addition if the town accepts the development program, interest free loans are made for servicing, such as sewage plants, water services, drainage and creek channelization.

Don Farmer, Regional Treasurer, told Halton Hills Planning Board the interest free loan would save the town a quarter of a million dollars a year in interest. He said the estimated cost of \$4.6 million for the expansion to Georgetown's plant would be cut to 2.7 million by 15 per cent forgiveness from the Ministry of Environment, and 10 per cent from C.M.H.C. He said the million dollar saving in interest would mean Georgetown would pay \$2.7 million instead of \$3.6 million which they would pay borrowing at 10 per cent.

Mr. Farmer said the expansion to Acton's sewage disposal plant would cost \$410,000 instead of the estimated \$690,000, if the OHAP scheme was adopted.

Bryn Lloyd and Peter Martin of the Ministry of Housing, Ontario Housing Action Program, explained the program works with private industry and the municipalities to accelerate housing. They explained Halton Hills must take action before March 31, 1976, to become eligible for the grants.

Councillor Harry Levy said he was surprised to see Halton Hills designated high growth on the map, since they had been led to believe it was a slow growth area.

Mr. Martin replied the high growth was simply a tentative marking, and he did not marked all the areas so marked on the map of

southern Ontario would become high growth.

Councillor Ric Morrow asked what control the municipality would give up to obtain the loans.

"None whatsoever; the program is purely voluntary, and all proposals must be approved first by the municipality and the region before we approach the developer."

Councillor Les Duby said the restraints placed by the Ministry of Environment because of sewage facilities seemed to be at odds with the OHAP program. He said the sewage plant problem and the ability of the streams to accept effluent still remained.

Mr. Martin pointed out there are several municipalities that are eliminated from the OHAP program because of lack of sewage capacity.

In reply to a question from Levy, the OHAP representative said the grants are on new housing only, and would be available to projects now approved, but not built until the sewage plant extension is underway.

Morrow said the population in the plans already approved in Georgetown and Acton, the areas of Halton Hills on sanitary sewers, would take up a large part of the sewage plant's capacity. "That would indicate there would be no large scale development."

Councillor Joe Hurst said there may be no building in Acton, because Beardmore would take up a large slice of the sewage plant expansion.

Levy repeated, "If I had the assurance that committed plans are included I'd go along with it."

Mr. Martin said they had been included in other areas.

The regional treasurer said Georgetown was talking about an addition for 15,000 people. Planner Mario Venditti explained the plant was over capacity by 4,000 people now, so they were really talking 11,000.

Morrow pointed out industry had to be accommodated so that the population would be still lower.

The planner said the onus was on the municipality to determine how many units they wanted. "Let's say 500 units over five years, of the type that would receive the maximum subsidy."

The planning board approved participation in the OHAP program in principle, subject to receiving a sample agreement to study.



HALTON HILLS Mayor Tom Hill and Acton Fire Chief Mick Holmes looked over the new fire truck on Monday. The chief explained to the mayor the instruments at the side and told him

about the truck's capacity to pump 840 gallons of water a minute, and hold 600 gallons in its water tanks. The 1975 Ford is replacing a 1951 pumper, which has gone to Hillsburgh.

\$1756 damages in mishaps

Kate Dues, 192 Elmore Dr. suffered cuts and bruises on December 13 when she was struck by a car driven by Ted Kuipers, R. R. 1, Aylmer, as she was walking across Hwy. Seven. The mishap occurred at 12:55 p.m. at Hwy. Seven and Lakeside Ave.

Drivers involved are Vahio Kikorian, 1100 Mills, with \$50 damage to his car, and Weldon Morrison, Lime house, with estimated \$400 to his car.

A car driven by Franklin Thompson received an estimated \$600 damage, police say, after it slipped on the ice and ran into a telephone pole.

Two cars were in collision at the corner of Church and Elgin Sts. Tuesday morning. Drivers involved are Vahio Kikorian, 1100 Mills, with \$50 damage to his car, and Weldon Morrison, Lime house, with estimated \$400 to his car.

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Thieves rob retarded ceramics, cash gone

Thieves who broke into ARC Workshop at Hornby Monday night and stole \$300 worth of ceramic gift items and close to \$10 in cash were called "despicable" by Workshop Manager Winnifred Isham.

"I just about died when I came in to work and saw what had happened," the worried manager said Tuesday morning.

"The items that were stolen were all Christmas gifts that were ordered by customers, and some of the trainees had worked all weekend getting them ready. We have all been working so hard to get our Christmas orders ready," Mrs. Isham said.

Easily traced items

The stolen ceramics are all specialty items made only at the Hornby workshop and should be easy to trace. "They chose

New fire truck ready

Although it may not blind the eyes, there is a bright new fire truck in the fire hall.

The truck, made in Pierreville, Quebec is a 1975 Ford. It replaces a 1951 pumper, which has been taken over by the Hillsburgh fire department.

The new truck is capable of pumping 840-gallons of water a minute and has a 600-gallon water tank. Fire chief Mick Holmes explained that some equipment was taken off the old truck and put on the new and it is still awaiting a few accessories.



MARILYN ANDREWS would like her customers to know that due to unforeseen circumstances...

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Season's Greetings

MARILYN

Appointed to board

Mrs. Susan J. Henry, 21 Knox Avenue, Acton, was appointed to the Halton Hills Library Board, for a three year term, Monday night to fill the one vacant spot among council appointees. She will fill the position vacated by Mrs. Anne Currie, whose term on the board has expired.

Library boards are appointed by local council, the Halton Separate School Board and the Halton Board of Education.

Ben Boyle has been reappointed to the Library Board as representative of Halton Separate School Board, and the other vacancy, the Halton Board of Education appoint-

Regional councillor considers news column

Councillor G. W. "Pat" McKenzie wants to hear from people.

He told the Free Press this week that what he enjoys best about county work is helping the local people solve any concerns that they might have.

He points out that few people here know who to call when they have specific problems. With regional government came changes in responsibilities and office locations.

Councillor McKenzie now knows the working of the regional staff and is only too glad to help direct people to the right department.

"It's the most satisfying part of council," he admits with a big smile.

A column?

He also wonders if the Acton people would be interested in reading a regular report on council activities, during the coming year, if he were to provide it. He would take the time to prepare a column—perhaps after every regional council meeting—if people feel it would help them understand what's going on.

He suggests people interested in reports should mention it to him or the Free Press news staff.

Hyde wary of OHAP plan

Councillor Ern Hyde is suspicious of getting something for nothing. He told Halton Hills council that OHAP (Ontario Housing Action Program) to give grants for housing and interest free loans on sewage disposal plants, should not be adopted too hastily.

He said industry rather than housing should be the town's prime consideration. He said there was an expansion of an industry "in the mill", that would require a large part of the expanded sewage plant capacity. It is assumed he was referring to the Neilson Chocolate. "When you think you're getting something for nothing you should take a hard look," he warned.

Councillor Ric Morrow said he had a few doubts and had been assured that the town was making no commitment at this point. He said the town could save a quarter of a million dollars a year in debt charges on the sewage plant. He said the planner and the OHAP representatives have assured him the town was not giving up control of where and what kind of development should be in town.

Morrow said he felt the preliminary step of approving the plan should be endorsed until sample agreements and bylaws are obtained. "If we don't like, we don't sign it."

Council agreed to accept planning board's recommendation to approve the OHAP program in principle.

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