

# Halton Hills will hire development officer

After considerable discussion Monday and several tie votes Halton Hills council decided to hire a development officer. The development officer will work in the engineering department on subdivision agreements.

Council started the debate by trying to decide if the discussion should be held behind closed doors but those who claimed it wasn't a personnel item since nobody had been hired to fill the post, won out and deliberations were held in full public view.

Mayor Tom Hill said he wanted to know what this new employee would do when he wasn't working on subdivision agreement and suggested if there aren't many approvals given this year there won't be any work for the person.

Engineer Robert Austin said the person would be kept busy since his department might have to comment on 10

draft plans of subdivision, none of which would be approved by council. He said the new worker would work with road cutting permits also.

He said his department doesn't have the best of accommodations but there is room for another worker who will share existing engineering secretarial staff and be paid \$13,000 to \$15,000 a year.

Austin said right now he and deputy-engineer Ted Ballinger are looking after all work with respect to subdivision engineering and agreements. He said subdivisions aren't getting the attention they deserve since he and Ballinger just don't have the time.

Councillor Roy Booth agreed the town needs better subdivision control but questioned the timing in light of the fact building permits were down 50 per cent last year.

"I would like to see the position filled someday. It

would be an asset to the town but I can't justify the cost right now," Booth stated.

Austin said the new employee's work would have no relation to building permits and noted his department must comment on many proposed developments which never get off the ground or must be changed many times.

He said the development officer would do inspections of land being turned over to the town, municipal services and handle correspondence with various government agencies who have an interest in developments.

The engineer told council the development officer's wages would be recouped in time saved by himself and deputy-engineer who will have more time to devote to engineering work and won't spend as much time doing technician type work, inspections, meeting with developers and writing letters.

Hill noted McLaughlin developments are objecting to every plan the town approves before the Ontario Municipal Board and warned the town might go through 1977 without having any developments approved. He suggested there wouldn't be much work for the development officer if that happens.

Austin said besides road cutting permits the new person could be kept busy looking after the 19 projects on file now which must be dealt with. Hill said he still wasn't satisfied with the answer.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said it appears there will likely be a lot of development in the future and no one could say how much there will actually be but a person should be hired so he can be trained.

Booth and Councillor Russ Miller asked council to defeat the works recommendation that the person be hired and bring it up again when the budget is set.

Councillor Les Duby said in the past council has complained certain things which should have been done haven't been done and it is because staff was overworked. He said it was proper for the engineer to bring recommendations for staff increases to committee and council.

Former town engineer councillor Peter Morris said the engineering staff hasn't been increased since Halton Hills was born in 1974 and the staff has taken over a lot of work which consultants used to do which has saved the town a lot of money. He said there is a lot of work involved in commenting three or four times on projects which never get off the ground but council still needs the comments.

Councillor Peter Pomeroy said the person should be way and it would be best if the person was hired now rather than later only to be thrust into a "hornets nest."

Councillor Pat Patterson said after hearing the engineer and councillors arguments he thought it was a "Hell if you do, Hell if you don't" situation and urged the item be deferred until budget time.

The suggestion to defer it until budget time ended in a tie vote as did the vote on the works committee recommendation to hire the development officer.

Councillor Walter Biehn was then on the hot seat. He couldn't vote on it when it was discussed by committee of the whole council since he was chairman but later in council on a recorded vote he joined Duby, Morris, Pomeroy, Armstrong and Councillor George Maltby in endorsing the hiring of a development officer. Hill, Booth, Miller, Patterson and Councillor Peter Marks were opposed and Councillor Pat McKenzie was absent.



WINNERS OF THE annual Robert Little public speaking award had to show good knowledge of their topic and have a good delivery. Lesley Kenny, left, won the junior contest and Kathleen Nolan, right, won the intermediate event.

## Consider hydro route alternatives? No decision yet

There is still no decision on whether the expropriation hearing officer for the proposed Bradley to Georgetown hydro corridor should consider evidence and cross-examination of alternate routes.

Three judges of the Ontario Divisional Court reserved decision after hearing a five hour court case in Osgoode Hall, Tuesday. Mr. Justice Reid, the chairman, said that in view of the breadth of the issue, its importance and statements made during the case, the tribunal decided to take more time to reflect and consider before making a decision.

The court heard arguments from lawyer Leon Paroian, representing Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scott, R. R. 3, Georgetown, Dick Howitt representing the Interested Citizens Group and lawyer Tom Marshall, representing Ontario Hydro.

Mr. Paroian and Mr.

Howitt argued that expropriation hearings should not be confined to the corridor on which Ontario Hydro decided the route as the Enquiry Officer Donald Meyrick contended. They

said their clients would then be denied the intent of the Act as set out to protect citizens from expropriation unless it is proved to be fair, sound and necessary.

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CAROL GRANT 85.8



MIKE DEGEN 85.7



WANITA TARRANT 83.3



DEBRA TUFFIN 82.7

## Ontario Scholars named by school

Four Acton high school students have been named Ontario Scholars, the school announced on Monday.

The students finished their secondary education last week, when the year's first semester ended.

Carol Grant topped the list with 85.8 per cent with Mike Degen close behind with 85.7. Wanita Tarrant earned 83.3 followed by Debra Tuffin with 82.7 per cent.

An Ontario Scholar is any student who has maintained an average of 80 per cent or more in grade 13.

Other students to complete grade 13 last week were Mary Anne Bond, Diane Buckman, Colleen DeBruyn, Kathy Frost, John Gorjup and Marion Snelis Ellen Barkman and Josee Charlebois also

completed the grade, but have decided to take further grade 13 credits.

Students completing grade 12 for a secondary school graduation diploma were Gary Barrens, Melody Binnie, Linda Chaumont, Warren Coultrup, Kathy Jank, Colin King, Paula Kitching, Linda MacLeod, Linda McKenzie, Susan Mellor, Monica Mooten, Colin Muir, Kent Neilsen, Anthony Jank, Donnalee Spielvogel, Suzanne Stevenson, Diane Thompson and Gord Toth.

Cliff Britton, Laurel Murchison, Lee Robinson and Taraleen Shaw, also completed grade 12 but are staying on to pursue further credits.

Graduation exercises will be held in the fall.

# The Acton Free Press

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### Annual meeting

## Louis Charlebois heads Chamber slate

Louis Charlebois was returned as president of the Chamber of Commerce Monday in a speedy election which followed the recommendations of the nominating committee.

Kevin Conroy is first vice-president, John McNabb is second vice-president, Betty Eastwood is returned as secretary and Ian Nunes is treasurer.

Two-year directors are Elmer Dunn, Jack Rol, Ed Wood and Marlene Steckley. One year directors, elected to fill vacancies, are Bob Fleming and Jake Kulken. Directors with one year remaining of their term are Cory Van Merkestien and Paul Nielsen.

Dave Swetman proposed the slate; the president and vice-presidents were sworn in by Justice of the Peace Bob Hart.

The dinner meeting was held in the Legion Hall and attended by about 50.

B.L.A.

Bob Pollock of the Department of Industry and Tourism explained the background of the introduction of the Business Improvement Area designation to town and said it is a concept that is finding rapid acceptance in the province. He congratulated steering committee for "picking up the challenge."

He said the two university students who initially made the presentation are now

working on their Master's degrees.

Chairman of the steering committee Henry Stachyra reported on the status of the designation there have been no objections registered and a draft bylaw is pending approval. He explained the set-up of the required board of management, and said councillor Pat McKenzie was being proposed for the required councillor's seat on the board.

Merchants who pay business tax then proceeded to vote on the names listed.

Elected

Elected to the board of directors of the Business Improvement Area are Mike Kinal, Ed Wood, Dave Swetman, Henry Stachyra, Bill Yundt and Terence Gwyer. It is required that a councillor also sit on the committee, and Pat McKenzie indicated his willingness by letter. The group will choose their own chairman after their appointments are made official by council.

Assistant planner Ron Burnett again reminded the group they must establish a budget they'd like to work toward. The term "Acton" should remain, he feels. The decorative sidewalks will be a good start and other improvements and programs will come. Acton has potential as "an autonomous little community," he said, offering the guidance and expertise of the planning department.

Member of Parliament Julian Reed bounded to the microphone and gave a spirited address that covered the Chamber, Quebec, regional government and the meaning of "community."

I believe in Canada and there is only one Canada, he declared. We must not underestimate the power of the Premier of Quebec and his abilities. There will be a decision on the future of the country; let our brothers and sisters know we want and need them.

He mentioned the Actonians for Action committee.

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ELECTED president of the Chamber of Commerce for his second term Monday was Louis Charlebois.

## Soil samples taken at park

Soil samples were being taken Monday at the site of the new pump house at the end of the park. A drilling rig was brought in to obtain the samples, which were required to confirm the design of the new building.

The first samples were questioned by the regional works department, and to make sure the design for footings is adequate, samples were taken.

The well at the site has already been dug.

Tenders due

Tenders for construction of the pump house and laying of

a main were due yesterday ("Tuesday").

The 12-inch water main will be constructed from the new well to Main St. via Knox Ave.

It is hoped that the new supply of water will be ready for the peak season this summer. It is expected the pump house will be built by the end of May or the first of June.

Although Acton is not running short of water, it is needed for future growth and future demand on the system, says Jack Haffits, chairman of the region's works committee.

"We should be on stream this summer," he reports.



COOKING A FEAST FOR MANY is nothing new for this crew of Legion members who made several pots of chili Saturday night for the Legion skating party. Left to right are Doug Mason, Cal McIntyre, John Krapek and Ivan Kilby.

## Last-minute rush approaching fast

With only 16 working days left to the deadline nearly nine out of ten Actonians have not yet renewed their auto licenses.

"I've been worrying about the last minute rush for three weeks now," said Mr. Watson.

There are 4,000 renewals left to do at Watson's Music Store. To help alleviate the huge lineups which he expects, Edwin Watson is opening the store on Mondays from now until February 28, the last day for renewals. He hopes people will take advantage of the opportunity to

## Dept. heads say

Halton Hills employees urgently need more space and better accommodations a report by department heads which will be examined by finance-administration committee next week says. The decision on any expansion to the municipal building may be based on this report.

The report from engineer Robert Austin says it is quite cold, noisy and "psychologically depressing" for his department to be quartered in two bays of the works garage.

The Main Street, Georgetown, finance offices can be used another three years if \$17,500 is spent to repair the

## Town offices cramped

building and the fire chief and fire prevention officer move out Treasurer Ray King says.

Fire Chief Ken Buikema says a move by his department to the Maple Avenue fire hall is the only "logical" solution to cramped quarters while recreation director Glen Gray says his department's offices at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena are adequate as long as the town doesn't grow and more staff isn't added.

The planning department located at the Seventh Line administration building needs file storage space and much more working room planner Mario Venditti reports and washroom facilities need to be upgraded Clerk-administrator Doug Pritchard says.

Austin says there is a lot of traffic problems in the area of

the municipal building and suggests a separate entrance on Trafalgar Road for the works department. He reported there is no room in the engineering offices for proper storage of records and noted his department has been forced to purchase costly filing cabinets just to store "dead records."

He said there is a need for a staff addition but his department will be hard pressed to find room and noted there would be many benefits if his department was in an expanded administration building with other departments including better communications and improved utilization of secretarial staff eliminating the need to call on office overload from time to time.

He said the public has no town hall to identify with and people end up going all over town to pay bills and get information. Austin noted tenders are mailed to the downtown offices and then when there is a crowd waiting for them to be opened everyone must adjourn out to the administration building on Trafalgar Road.

Austin urged council in his report to give serious consideration to constructing an addition to the administration building.

Pritchard notes many groups use the administration building.

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BUILDING UP A BIG roaring bonfire behind the Legion during Saturday evening's skating party are party chairman Vic Patrick and Legion president Ab Irwin.

## Lights repaired

The Mill-Main stoplights were malfunctioning all weekend, with the problem blamed on wiring. New overhead wiring was strung up Monday to replace the underground wiring temporarily. The corner will be rebuilt during the reconstruction of Highway No. 7, set for this summer.

## Complex died Monday

The \$1 million Halton Hills municipal complex is officially dead.

Monday Halton Hills council voted 9-2 to rescind the complex by-law passed last year 6-5.

Councillor Les Duby said he couldn't vote to rescind the municipal complex by-law and said it was premature to do so. He was concerned that all councillors didn't have the proper information about the planned complex and need for it. Duby wasn't happy to see

all the work done by the last council going down the drain. He added by voting against rescinding the by-law he wasn't suggesting the complex be built tomorrow.

Mayor Tom Hill said if the town didn't rescind the by-law it would have to be sent to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval.

Duby said he was well aware of people's concerns over cost of the expansion of the Seventh Line municipal building and realized there is

strong public opposition but thought the proper thing to do was to send it on to the OMB. He added everyone who is opposed to it could then object at an OMB hearing.

Councillor Roy Booth said he could see no reason to continue the public debate over the complex and put taxpayers to the cost of an OMB hearing.

Hill, Booth, Councillors Russ Miller, Peter Morris, Peter Marks, Peter Pomeroy, Pat Patterson, Walter Biehn

and George Maltby voted to rescind the by-law while Duby and Councillor Mike Armstrong voted to have it sent on to the OMB.

While last year's complex plan has now been shot down the corner as council decided Monday to send reports from department heads dealing with accommodation requirements on to finance-administration committee which will begin delving into space needs next week.