

Year's delay seniors' apts.?

It could be another year before the senior citizens' apartments on Elizabeth Dr. are ready for occupancy. Christa Hale, co-ordinator of housing for the south west region of Ontario Housing, says although the building had been expected this fall, delays have almost certainly made this impossible.

At present, the development agreement drawn up by the town is in the hands of Halton Hills solicitors, she says.

Her department had returned the development agreement to the town, with several pages of conditions and changes, according to deputy clerk Delmar French. A meeting was held with department heads and the solicitor April 28 to frame the town's reply.

Ms. Hale says she had expected the agreement back to her department before this. It has been in the works for four months. The conditions were sent to Halton Hills the

first week in April, she said. The agreement was ready in March, rather than in November as first expected.

When it is signed, further steps can be taken.

The tender call will take five weeks and then it has to be reviewed, which could take another couple of weeks. Then working drawings have to be prepared, which could take from four to six weeks. At the minimum it could be three and a half months before the builders are ready to start, Ms. Hale said.

Once building begins it should proceed pretty quickly, she said, but it could be eight or nine months from now or up to a year, she guessed.

Ms. Hale says the matter is in the solicitor's hands and "it's not our hold-up".

Since the project began, extra charges have been incurred. The plans all had to be converted to metric measurements, in compliance with government

regulations.

Halton Hills planner Brian Croft says his department has been speeding things up as much as possible. "It's all part of the process."

It had been hoped that the units would be ready for occupancy this fall, a year ago.

Approval of rezoning was only received from the Ontario Municipal Board three weeks ago.

Some senior citizens whose leases are up soon have been wondering what to do.

Even with the realization the units could be a year away yet, they still do not know if they are accepted or not.

The units are given to those who get the highest ratings for need.

"It's most disturbing", commented councillor Pat McKenzie. He said Georgetown senior citizens units were first approved in 1974 and they are just ready for occupancy now. Acton's started in the works in 1975.

Limehouse and Speyside schools will lose their principals this fall. Limehouse will be twinned with Joseph Gibbons in Georgetown. Halton Board of Education decided Thursday and Speyside will be twinned with Robert Little School in Acton.

Trustee voted 10-6 in favor of twinning Limehouse and Gibbons schools following debate and a report from the administration. Trustees Barry Shepherd, Edna Robinson, Elsie Hinson, Dr. Helen Howard-Lock, Bert Hinton and Bill Herd voted against Limehouse twinning. The vote was 9-7 on the Speyside twinning. Trustee Noel Cooper joined Limehouse twinning opponents in voting against Speyside twinning.

Twinning isn't a short term measure leading to school closing. Superintendent of Instruction John Bolch told the board. He said twinning is a concept for school administration that "stands on its own" and has nothing to do with the board's closing of small schools' policy.

Bolch said twinning is being implemented because the board doesn't want to add to difficult economic times. He believes twinning won't prevent administrative leadership in the school, safety for pupils, action in emergencies or end discipline.

New Georgetown Trustee Barry Shepherd said people in the north are concerned about school closings and closing, especially with the memory of how the board closed Norval school in 1974 still "vivid" in people's memories.

He said parents feelings must be kept in mind and the fact 70 families in Limehouse have come out opposed to the twinning shows what a worry twinning really is. Shepherd noted he went along with southern trustees in keeping a school going earlier this year and feels Limehouse should

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Limehouse, Speyside twinned by trustees

receive the same support.

There are no empty classrooms at Limehouse and the school is filled to 70 per cent of its capacity with the quality of education not suffering, Shepherd observed.

He termed the cost saving of a few thousand dollars a year minimal adding it didn't justify removing the school's leader.

Shepherd urged the board place a principal at the lowest salary level in Limehouse to save money.

"If the cost saving was more substantial I might be able to swallow this," he said, stating reasons for twinning are vague and the saving is definitely "insignificant".

A small rural school in the north is in a vastly different situation than a small urban school in the South, Acton-Esqueving Trustee Bert Hinton reminded board members, adding it is hard for urban people to "digest"

the twinning impact in the north.

He warned while the board was twinning to save it little money it could end up spending much more if Limehouse children end up being special education candidates because their school lacks a principal.

"The disadvantages of twinning far outweigh the advantages. We must think of the crucial environment of the rural school," Hinton declared.

He said better arguments were needed for twinning than he was hearing, branding reasons given as "unsubstantial".

"While the board will save \$5,000 a year by not having a principal at Limehouse it will spend an extra \$2,400 a year so a secretary will be in the school more time each week. Trustee Bill Lawson said the board needs a twinning policy instead of administrative (Continued on page 16)

What's inside today

Sieve Saxon winner	Page 3
Welfare cases up	Page 3
About that dump	Page 4
Canada Day	Page 9
59 Confirmed	Page 12
Countryside comments	Page 14
Kevin off to Europe	Page B1



THREE IN ONE family... three McGraths were confirmed Wednesday at St. Joseph's church. With their parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. McGrath, and Bishop Reding are Frank Richard McGrath, Kevin McGrath and Frank James McGrath.

Dumps become choosy about what's in and out

Halton Region dumps are closing their doors to some types of garbage while becoming more picky about what else they let in, residents are discovering this week.

Contractors, industrial and commercial customers are being told at dump gates they may no longer drop off certain loads, region manager of operations and maintenance Don Morrier said Tuesday.

Liquid waste will not be accepted, Morrier said. Also we will not accept construction materials from industrial and commercial establishments, he said.

Included in the ban are inert materials, which will not breakdown biologically, such as stone, brick, clay, plaster and concrete, the official said.

However, the new rules, which Morrier said came from Region Council, do not apply to private citizens or municipalities.

Councillor Pat McKenzie says he has had several calls from Acton people who were turned away from Halton Hills dump at Georgetown.

Contractor Don McIntyre said he had no notice of the change. He only knows what he read on a sign at the dump. Other people who dump regularly had no idea there were to be changes and had no idea where they should dump their waste.

Councillor McKenzie said he thought there might be a quarry site available in the Milton area where industrial waste, construction materials, cement, bricks, tires etc., could be dumped. He said the matter might be considered again at a meeting today (Wednesday). The decision was made at region council while he was on holiday.

Normal household refuse, a wide range of organic material paper, tree branches and occasional pieces of stone or brick will be accepted under the new provisions.

Homeowners may still drive up with some brick or stone in their car or pickup truck, Morrier said. He said there has been some confusion about the private citizens. The new rules are aimed at large users.

The contractors will have to find alternatives, Morrier said.

"We either refuse some materials now, or refuse all materials sooner than expected", he said.

A few phone calls have come to the Region about the changes in rules for landfill sites, Morrier said. Most of them come from the north.

The amount of industrial and commercial waste that goes into the Georgetown landfill site is not all that great, said the Region official.

In Oakville and Burlington the situation will be much worse because of the greater waste generation. "Things are starting to get very desperate", he said.

"We have received instructions from Region Council and the public works committee to increase the lifetime of our landfill sites", Morrier said.

Just how long down the line the dumps will go before they

have to be closed may be known within a week, Morrier said.

"We're biding time", he said.

BIA board gets nod

The bylaw appointing the board of management for Acton Business Improvement Area was passed Monday by Halton Hills council without comment.

Henry Stachyra is chairman; Ed Wood vice-chairman; Rick Devlin treasurer; Bill Yundt secretary; Peter Marks council's representative, and members Doff Lindsay and Paul Nelsen.

Cops to honor Acton man

One Acton man is slated to be honored during the Halton Regional Police awards night on May 16 at Burlington.

Twenty-one awards are to be presented to citizens.

Police Chief Ken Skerrett states he hopes government representatives from all levels will attend the presentations.

Most of the awards are going to people from Oakville and Burlington.

Police are keeping the names in confidence until the citizens are notified.

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Engage solicitors for town law suits

Monday night the town of Halton Hills authorized Ray Steele to act as their solicitor in the case of L and L Ford Sales Acton Ltd. against the Minister of Transportation, the town of Halton Hills and the region of Halton and Union Gas Limited.

L and L Ford is claiming compensation for serious loss of business resulting from the reconstruction on Main N. The street by Lorne Dobert's garage was closed to traffic for 10 weeks and restricted for another six weeks.

The town authorized Allan Kagen to represent them in the case of George and Pearl Holmes against the town and the Flintkote company regarding the flooding of their home on Main St.

No word on iron tests

The Region has turned the tap to "off" in the Prospect Park water pump, but test results about iron content are not known yet, according to a region official.

The official, Don Morrier, said Tuesday the results of tests by a private company and the provincial ministry of

the environment are not as yet known.

For about two weeks water from the pump poured into Fairy Lake. Briefly last month some homes near the lake were serviced by the new pump.

The machine has a capacity to pump a million gallons of water in a day.

Seniors' clinic moves to Y

The senior citizens' monthly clinic with nurses will now be held in the Y. The clinics have been in the senior citizens' drop in centre in the town hall, now closed.

The clinics are the first Wednesday of every month. A nurse is there to do foot care, take blood pressure, and talk about any problems the seniors may have.

Council switches

Refuses to back Bill changing NEC controls

Halton Hills council Monday night rejected a planning board recommendation endorsing a Private Bill which would amend the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

The Private Bill, introduced by Bob McKessock, MPP for Grey, is to be debated at Queen's Park, May 11, and support from municipalities along the escarpment affected area was sought.

At planning board Councillor Pete Pomeroy had been successful in having the bill endorsed, and sending a letter to Provincial Secretary Rene Brunell to that effect. The original motion also stated council feels the NEC have strayed from their original objectives, and had received many complaints about unreasonable planning policies.

The bill, in essence, urges only the escarpment and escarpment protection area and adjoining government owned land be included in the planning area, and urges existing lots be granted a development permit upon application, or bought by the government. It also calls for appeals to be heard by the OMB.

Councillor Roy Booth, a member of the NEC, said the resolution passed at planning board put him in an awkward position, since council has not had a chance to review the preliminary proposals put forward by the NEC "We are

going on record as opposing anything other than a 2,000 foot strip up the centre, and to the best of my knowledge this council is being used by a pressure group for what purposes I don't know".

He said as a responsible body we should have a report from our planner on the NEC preliminary proposals. He claimed if the McKessock bill is not passed, council will have no input on the plan, since they have gone on record as opposing the NEC proposals.

Mayor Tom Hill asked why they would have no input if they support McKessock's bill.

Booth said because council has gone on record that they are not going to review the

policies and proposals, and are backing McKessock to reduce the planning area to 2,000 feet.

\$39,100 permits

Building permits for Acton for the month of March total \$39,100 in value. One is for \$30,000 for repair and alterations to the Kingham condominium damaged by fire.

One for \$8,000 is for an industrial storage building on Main N., one at \$1,100 for a commercial roof alteration and one at \$2,000 for a business sign.

He claimed referring appeals to the OMB would extend delays from the present 30 days to between six months and a year. He claimed the clause saying existing lots must be built on or bought by the province, could lead to people buying land they know they could not build on, so the province would buy it.

The mayor disagreed, saying "if the bill is not passed it certainly doesn't mean we have no voice at the NEC."

The last part of the motion passed at planning board stated council felt it was never the intention of the NEC when set up to encroach on the rights of private citizens to provide for themselves a place to live or

conduct a bona fide business, and said the proposed private bill represents a return of the NEC to its original objectives.

Both termed this last paragraph "twisting the knife". He said the NEC will take this document as the way council feels.

Pomeroy pointed out the bill is to be debated May 11, and council's feelings should be made known to the province before that time. He claimed the NEC proposal had been drawn up by a bunch of idealists.

He said all he wants is a review of NEC policies and objectives, and claimed public hearings should have

(Continued on page 11)



60 YEARS OF married life were celebrated this week by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hargrave. The special cake held pictures of themselves, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Patterson says change name to Halton Hills Citizens' Band

"we are all one town now."

"Therefore I think it should be called Halton Hills Citizens' Band. How do we get this done?" Patterson asked.

His suggestion died as councillors proceeded to debate the grant issue before approving it on a recorded vote. Only Councillors Roy Booth and Patterson opposed the grant with Mayor Tom Hill, Councillors Les Doby, Peter Pomeroy, Russ Miller, Peter Morris, Peter Marks, Walter Biehn, George Malby,

Marilyn Serjeantson and Mike Armstrong all supported the grant. Councillor Pat McKenzie was absent.

Booth said the grant shouldn't be approved since the band was asked to reduce its grant request and made no attempt to cut it.

Marks said because the band has asked for the same grant this year as they have the past few years they have been reducing their grant request steadily. He observed

the band can't get as much for its \$4,860 as it has in past years because of inflation. In this way their grant keeps going "down, down, down. So in effect they are reducing their request."

Pomeroy said it is up to Halton Hills to assume responsibilities from its member former municipalities and added the band has "justified" its grant.

There was "no way" council could be critical of the band's grant, Doby observed.