



MIKE PAYNE DID NOT get a ribbon in the javelin event, but he won the discus and was second in the shot put at the Acton High School field day Friday.

Halton Police honor 21 with civilian citation

Ontario Solicitor-General George Kerr stressed the need for co-operation between citizens and police officers after 21 civilian citations were presented at the fourth annual Halton Regional Police awards night at Burlington Tuesday (May 16).

"It is absolutely essential for the police to have the support of citizens—every day," solicitor-general Kerr said following the award presentations.

One citizen from north Halton, Ken Chappell of 196 Churchill Rd. S., Acton, was awarded a citation by police.

Mr. Chappell volunteered to drive traffic accident victim Frank Toth to Guelph General Hospital from Acton during what Halton Police Chief Ken Skerrett described as one of the worst storms of winter.

Mr. Chappell first drove off-duty Halton police constable Alex Fishbein to the accident scene, on Highway 25 north of Acton. Then Mr. Chappell made the 15-mile emergency run to Guelph. Chief Skerrett read a one page summary of the events of that day—January 26.

A strong applause swept Mr. Chappell onto the stage within the New Street Library where Halton Regional Police Commissioner Glenn Magnuson, of Georgetown, made the presentation.

With Mr. Chappell was his wife Valerie.

The Georgetown Optimist Club honored Mr. Chappell the previous week with a special award for his services in the Toth accident.

A pair of Beachville, Ontario, men who saved the life of the then two-year old Matthew Martin, of Trafalgar Road, Milton, last November, received citations.

Jack Knoop and Andrew Anderson, whose homes are near Woodstock, also received civilian citations from the Halton police.

The two men with their winch equipped truck moved a car under which the child was trapped in water. "It was only when they had moved the car that Matthew was found, and saved from drowning," chief Skerrett said.

Both men previously received certificates from the Royal Canadian Humane Association for the efforts in

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Neighbors disagree on Kingham land use

Residents voiced opposing views as to what should be done with town owned land behind Duby Road and Mill Street at Halton Hills works committee Tuesday night.

Speaking on behalf of 12 families Michael Franklin asked that a pond behind two homes on Duby be cleaned up because it is a safety hazard and also the town land behind Duby Road be cleaned up and utilized. He said the ponding problem, with as much as a foot of water in it year round, is caused by the storm sewer outfall.

He said residents wanted to do much of the work to minimize costs for the town and added residents will maintain the land afterwards.

Sue Ubbink, speaking on behalf of 13 other Duby Road

residents, said the area should be left in its natural state.

She said the homeowners objected because changing the nature of the area would be dangerous environmentally. She said fixing up the property, which homeowners knew would be left in its natural state, would be costly to the taxpayer and heavy equipment has a "disturbing influence" on the fragile environment.

Mrs. Ubbink warned against the introduction in the area of chemicals for a park or garden area because it would affect the natural environment, and this would be detrimental to water fowl and foliage.

She said an altered terrain would affect the natural flood

plains. Suggestions by Mr. Franklin the land could be used as a dog park, playground, passive park or gardens were opposed by some of his Duby Road neighbors.

"The idea of changing one of the few remaining areas of natural environment with its abundance of wildlife into a litter-filled dog station," was a concern outlined in the brief residents presented.

Mr. Franklin said a child had been hurt, chipping a tooth, in the rugged area which concerns some.

His brief stated: "The area of municipally owned land of particular concern to us lies immediately to the west of the pump house on Kingham Rd., and adjacent to the properties on the south side of Duby Rd. to approximately 16 Duby Rd. This area

includes a large, slightly sloping open area of approximately 100x150 feet; the storm sewer outfall, including a pond created by the outfall which covers approximately 20 square feet to a depth of up to one foot; and to the west of this area extending from 22 to 16 Duby Rd., a low lying area varying in width from 10 to 70 feet. This latter area is often flooded by storm water runoff.

"We propose to dike and channel the storm sewer outfall area to remove the surface water and to direct the storm water runoff to the swamp; fill the low lying area to the west by 6 to 8 inches to raise the area above the water table for a distance of 30 feet south of our property lines; and clear the dead trees and underbrush from the area.

The open area would then be grassed and given enough energy and time, the area would be made into a safe play area for the neighborhood children, or used for vegetable gardens, open space, or any other recreational use agreed to by the residents and approved by the municipality. We do not wish to cut down the live trees, nor extend the open area into the swamp, nor beyond the municipally owned land. We do, however, need to make this area safe for the neighborhood children, especially around the sewer outfall and pond area, since they tend to play in the area. I would point out that there are no parks in the immediate neighborhood, and this open area and pond are a natural play area for them. We have had one serious injury and do not want another, nor a drowning!" Mr. Franklin's brief stated.

Councillor Les Duby said it was easy to see both sides of the issue and added Credit Valley Conservation Authority must be involved since any clean-up must be approved by the CVCA. He suggested the entire subject be sent to CVCA for their comments and decision.

Engineer Robert Austin said to solve the storm sewer outfall problem would require the town going on private property. He said good points were made in both briefs.

Austin said CVCA approval would be needed to allow heavy equipment on the land putting in fill and added he would be surprised if the CVCA allowed it.

Councillor Peter Pomeroy said a decision should be made by committee either supporting Mr. Franklin's position or saying the land should be left in its natural state. This decision had to be made before CVCA was involved.

Councillor Mike Armstrong's suggestion that the engineer look into the whole situation and report back with CVCA comments also was accepted by committee. Armstrong said information regarding the storm sewer outfall, the ponding problem and ownership of all lands had to be answered before committee proceeded.

Terry Fagan, another resident, said there are young children on the street and a park would only attract traffic.

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Main improvements by B.I.A. outlined

Plans for the improvement of Main St. South were outlined last Wednesday to members of the Business Association by Henry Stachyra. The Business Improvement Area is directing the beautification scheme, using its \$20,000 budget allocated from participating business people.

There will be six by six foot planters, five trees, benches, trash containers and bike racks on the sidewalk in front of the businesses on the west side of Main, south of Mill. The bike racks will be in front of Ed's In and Out Variety store.

To place the outdoor furniture, 180 square feet of interlocking paving stones will be removed. These will be relaid across the street along the side of Johnson's real estate building and in the boulevard where there is

heavy pedestrian traffic. The area beside the building fills up with weeds and trash in the summer time.

A maintenance agreement is being drawn up between the town and the Business Improvement Area.

Ads will appear this week for the two students who will clean up the downtown as their summer jobs. Mr. Stachyra said. These students will cut grass, water the flowers in planters, etc. Mr. Stachyra said the B.I.A. is considering different plans for rainy days, including renting the students out to others.

Their minimum wage is 90 per cent paid by the provincial government.

Mr. Stachyra said the B.I.A. is preparing a brief for council on the subject of the proposed plaza at the east end of town.

A committee is considering signs for the town outskirts. The town's leather theme is still being discussed too. Paul Nielsen showed members the stylized international symbol for leather.

Some adjustments are being made to the allotment of the B.I.A. \$20,000 budget among members. Due to an error on the part of the town, some were assessed too high.

Work on the Main St. roadway should begin again in a week or two. Mr. Stachyra reported.

Plans were made for group advertising and for Back to Acton Days. Some store owners wished to stay open on Saturday, July 1 and others did not.

Business Association president Ed Wood chaired the meeting in the library.



DENNIS KWASNICKI, president-elect of Milton Optimists, presents Acton Optimist president Bill Chagnon with his Optimist pin. The Acton club was sponsored by the Milton Optimists, and chartered 40 members last Tuesday.

\$34,000,000 industrial construction in Halton

Permits for \$34,000,000 construction on industrial-commercial land in Halton were issued in 1977, according to Halton's Business Development Officer Bill Marshall.

In a newsletter Marshall explains that the \$34,000,000 accounts for nearly 25 per cent of all construction in the region and he points out that percentage is greater than it was for 1974 and 1975.

Marshall notes Wheelabrator Corporation is now occupying 50,000 square feet in Milton. Midland Auto Radior's new 30,000 square foot plant in Milton was officially opened in March and Reliance Products of Winnipeg

has nearly completed a new 42,000 square foot plant to produce plastic products.

Mitchell Real Estate reports the sale of a 10,000 square foot building in Georgetown. The Domtar plant with 11 acres of land was sold to Labelmasters Limited of Georgetown.

In the newsletter Marshall notes that one of the strongly

expressed desires in the draft official plan is one that would see the rural nature of the region be protected.

Marshall points out that 75 per cent of the region is one of the following areas, open space, environmentally sensitive areas, agricultural land, forested areas, mineral areas, parkway belt and Niagara Escarpment.

Free Press on microfilm

Interested in the history of your home or family? Want some information on a certain local subject?

All the copies of the Free Press since its beginning are now available on microfilm at the library. They can be read, a page at a time, on the microfilm reader there. That's 103 years' worth of papers.

Van Merkestains

Expected better settlement

After losing their home in a fierce fire last winter, the Van Merkestein family have now discovered their insurance settlement is coming as another shock.

Cory Van Merkestein had understood he would receive 80 per cent of the face value of the house. But now, after the house has been appraised, he says he is only offered about 65 per cent.

The insurance company,

Economical Mutual Insurance Company, is still talking with Mr. Van Merkestein, who is not at all satisfied. Denny's Insurance Agency is the local agent.

Mr. Van Merkestein insists he has the right to receive 80 per cent of the face value of the amount of the policy. His insurance policy was originally for \$38,500 but this was increased to \$39,500, he thinks. (The policy was lost in the fire.)

The house has been appraised and the company has offered him \$24,450 cash settlement. This amount would increase significantly if he chooses to rebuild his home.

There is no problem with rebuilding. The town's regulations say that if the house is not destroyed more than 80 per cent, it may be rebuilt as it was. The building permit must be taken out within six months of the fire.

Halton Hills planner Mario Venditti says there is no problem with rebuilding a house. But the family hasn't decided what to do.

Some days Cory thinks he would just like to sell the property. He has also considered a commercial building.

They have had two fires at that house. And he understands two people died in a fire there many years ago. After the first fire, he was well satisfied with the insurance settlement. All repairs to a value of about \$12,000 were paid for. But after that the Van Merkestains added improvements—cevestrouging, outside painting, carpeting—to the tune of \$7,000. He thinks the appraiser would not be aware of the

value of the house, seeing it after last winter's disastrous fire.

"They're hanging on to my money while I have had to borrow money to make provision for living," Mr. Van Merkestein adds. He already has a partial cash settlement on furniture. The family still has not completed a list of everything lost in the fire, he explains. "It's upsetting."

Cal Williams of Economical's claims office in Kitchener says the company will pay \$24,450 for a cash settlement. The house would have to be rebuilt the same, or much like it, to get the full value. Very few fires are out and out losses.

The Van Merkestein house was gutted by fire one cold

night in February. Elaine and Cory and their son Shawn jumped from the small second floor balcony, and were taken to hospital. Cory's back injury was the worst injury, but he recovered and is back at work with business as usual at the Chicken and Pizza spot.

The family now lives in an apartment. The house is well over 100 years old and is believed to have been a farm house at one time.

The area is zoned Commercial Holding, a special designation so homes in the commercial area could be rebuilt, if the owner desired. The designation was made by Acton planning board about 20 years ago.

Mug open house

An informal open house marking the official opening date of the Mug is planned for this evening, Wednesday.

Doors will open at seven to allow guests to view the work that has been done in the basement of the Y to create a warm atmosphere for the students built and organized coffee house.

Folk singers from George-

town will be on hand to set the mood for the evening. Special guests include members of council and private citizens and organizations who helped to make the Mug possible. Thank-you certificates will be presented.

Mug organizers have extended an invitation to the public and are hoping for good attendance this evening.

Fireworks highlight quiet weekend here

Fireworks displays were enjoyed in town on Monday evening, with perfect weather for the Victoria Day holiday.

Some areas, such as the wartime housing, pooled resources and had a community fireworks display. Others had smaller showings in their gardens.

Elsewhere, there were displays on Sunday at Rockwood and on Monday at Campbellville, Georgetown and Norval. It was a quiet weekend here.



Many were called but few were frozen

MAYBE NEXT WEEK it will be warmer in there, but it was still very cold in Fairy Lake Sunday when Angie Baschtowski went for a very brief swim. Above, she registers her surprise at

the cool waters and at right she shivers on the side, trying to warm up and dry off. Warm weather attracted many to the beach, but few tried swimming.

