



Members of the Acton Beautification Committee went on a tour of the creeks in town Sunday afternoon. Left to right are ABC members Julie Conroy, Pat Wood, Deborah Sankey, Bill Coats, Dave Whiting, Jan Cervelli and Kathy Coats.

Photo by LYNDA HILL

Task force on official plan

Halton Hills council is going to strike a task force to steer the new official plan towards completion by the end of this year.

Monday night Halton Hills general committee approved a recommendation from clerk-administrator Ken Richardson calling for a task force consisting of the mayor and four councillors to be established.

Over a year ago the town circulated its draft official plan to other levels of government. The answers the town received from Queen's Park and the region weren't very heartening. The province suggested the plan doesn't go far enough, it is just a consolidation of the old Acton, Esqueping and Georgetown official plans, while the minister of housing wants a document which will set a course for the town for the next 20 to 25 years, Richardson reported. The province wants the official plan to look at issues like energy conservation, downtown redevelopment, transportation and heritage policies, and social issues.

Richardson said if the

town is to meet the goals established by the province and region a task force is needed to help staff identify the key issues.

Not only is the consolidation of the three old plans done, but in-depth studies like the master parks plan, Highway 7 corridor study, urban boundaries probe and core area redevelopment studies have been begun or completed. Richardson said some of the work needed to be completed for the official plan can be handled by town staff, but consultants will be required for some studies.

Councillor Harry Levy, supporting the task force idea, said he was embarrassed that after all these years of work the province and region aren't happy with Halton Hills draft official plan.

The task force and further work on the official plan will be a waste of time Councillor George Malby said since the province keeps changing what it wants in the plan. He suggested Queen's Park frame Halton Hills plan and bring it to council for approval instead of the town doing the plan

at great expense and then sending it to the province for approval.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said she was "shocked" the town's draft plan was "so far off base."

Planner Mario Venditti said at one time the region and province wanted Milton and Halton Hills official plans to be simply consolidations, and that is all Milton's plan is, but now Queen's Park wants something much more in-depth. Milton will have to amend its plan greatly to conform with the region plan and the province and region want Halton Hills to develop a plan which is compatible with the region plan.

Richardson said he wants to see the work on the official plan substantially done by the end of 1981, if studies are all completed, and also aims to have it passed and approved during the life of the present council.

Councillor Pam Sheldon said she is disappointed by the present plan. She feels the town has a unique opportunity to reflect in its plan current and future trends in Halton Hills, adding it is "ludicrous" that the reg-

ion plan, an umbrella plan, is completed and now Halton Hills must conform. She said Halton Hills plan should be a document which "reflects what we are". Sheldon is tired of the region passing planning judgement on Halton Hills when they don't understand the area or people. The region plan should be amended to conform with Halton Hills plan not the other way around, she said, adding "we must fight for what we want in our plan."

The further removed a level of government is from the people the more impractical its ideas are, observed Councillor Ross Knechtel. The town must complete its studies and its plan before starting to hash out disagreements with the province and region, he suggested. He added just because the province wants certain things in the town's plan doesn't mean they have to be included.

The town's plan doesn't have to be a "parrot" of the region plan, the region plan can be amended, Sheldon maintained.

Venditti noted Bill 151, provincial legislation governing Halton, says the local plans must conform to the region plan.

Planning chairman Mike Armstrong said he was frustrated that after seven years the town doesn't have a plan and has been told by the province it hasn't been done right. The task force must establish a "critical path and follow it."

But he added, they did a booming business with electrical shovels, especially before Christmas. He said they had sold out of safety salt and anti-icer (a salt that won't harm grass or pavement), as well as

Cold keeps tow trucks busy

The extreme cold may be a boom to tow truck operators but they aren't happy about it.

Les Pelitta of Achilles Motors, which has three trucks in operation, says cold weather means it takes three times as long to help someone with a stalled vehicle than usual.

So he concluded, instead of doing 20 calls, they can only manage 10.

Calls for tow truck service have risen drastically though, he reports. "We have had an unusual number of calls. My telephone starts ringing at five in the morning, but you can only answer so many."

"Our truck operators can't spend too much time out in the cold and the weather affects our equipment too."

He added they've answered calls for everything from frozen gas lines to frozen spark plugs.

People with unco-operative automobiles could have saved themselves a lot of trouble and expense, said Pelitta if they had a winter check-up before the cold set in.

"When the prices of spare parts were less expensive, we used to replace all worn parts in check-ups. We know if a car was going to make it through the winter or not."

"But now, with the high price of parts, people don't want to spend unless the car gives them trouble."

"Of course then it's more expensive, because they have to pay for the service call and they have the inconvenience of not having a car."

"If any vehicle is in poor shape it will have trouble starting."

According to the mechanics at L & L Ford, who operate a service truck, having your charging, starting and battery circuits checked along with a good tune-up, will prevent the frustrating whirr, whirr of an engine that's not going to start.

Meanwhile sales in auto and winter supplies are up, reports Wally Ella of Home Hardware, except oddly enough, snow shovels.

"Sales on snow shovels have to be up over last year," he said, "but there's not a great demand for them. We haven't even sold a single snow blower."

But he added, they did a booming business with electrical shovels, especially before Christmas. He said they had sold out of safety salt and anti-icer (a salt that won't harm grass or pavement), as well as



Ken Brooks of Achilles Motors is ready and waiting along with the "fleet". Tow truck operators are kept busy with all this cold weather, coming to the aid of stalled motorists.

gas line de-icers and lock de-icers last week, but since then have stocked more. They also sold 12 packs of booster cables in less than a week.

Snow mitts and gloves,

toques, scarves and snowmobile boots are all selling better than last year he said.

But with all this shivering, there are still a few hearty souls thinking of

spring.

"A lot of people have come in to ask for flower seeds," Ella said. "We'll be stocking seeds, potting soil and pots by the end of the month."

Daughters of Knox

Install '81 executive

The first meeting of the New Year for the Daughters of Knox was held on Monday evening, Jan. 5, in the Mary Ellen Anderson Room at the Presbyterian Church.

President Kae Hansen opened the meeting with an appropriate reading. "Living for Jesus" was sung and the club's motto repeated. The annual reports were given by Gladys Price and Faye Pink.

Mrs. Willis Young, the WMS president for the Brampton Presbytery, then performed the installation ceremony for the 1981 executive of the Daughters of Knox.

Roll-call was then answered by each member relating something nice that happened to them during the holiday season. Several items of business were then discussed. We were reminded of the debate on "The place of women in the ministry" to be held on Feb. 2, at our next meeting. After this portion of the meeting refreshments were served, and then the devotional portion followed.

Murdina Brown's group was in charge of

the worship service. "Take up thy cross" was sung. Gladys Price then gave a reading "Help me to say yes" Murdina Brown read the scripture portions from Luke. Kae Hansen read the lesson and responses were read by Vivian Swallow. Betty Ashley gave the closing prayer.

The conference hymn was sung by all. The offertory prayer was

given by Betty Ashley. The closing hymn was "Rise Up, O Men of God". Mrs. Willis Young then spoke on different aspects of the Brampton Presbytery, the Synod and General Assembly. She also told us of her responsibilities as president of the WMS. The speaker was thanked by Vivian Swallow. The meeting closed with the Mizpah Benediction.



Wally Ella of Home Hardware demonstrates a gas-powered snow shovel. Sales of all winter survival supplies, especially auto supplies are high this year, especially since the onslaught of the frigid weather.

No room discrimination in Halton Police force

There can be no place in the character of any serving police officer for racial discrimination or intolerance, according to Police Chief James Harding, in a letter urging the Halton Police Commission to formalize an anti-discrimination policy.

"There is, perhaps, no wound which smarts so bitterly as that dealt by the wickedly sharp sabre of racial discrimination

and racial intolerance," the Chief said.

The commission approved the resolution stating they and all members of the force condemn and deplore any discrimination or harassment of minority groups within the Region and that members of the force be instructed to take steps necessary to prevent racial discrimination prosecuting those involved.

The resolution also stated that each district commander and other senior officers establish a liaison with the Ontario Human Rights Commission and members of minority groups.

"In this area with tremendous growth we must readily anticipate these problems. The time to take steps to prevent problems is now," Chief Harding told the commission.

Harding said figures from January to November show of the 2,312 break and enter offences, 778 were solved by police.

He said crime prevention work within the Halton Force is well above provincial standards. "Our crime prevention work is well above standard. We are identifying the problems and putting the manpower where it's needed," Harding claimed.

Halton Regional Police last year organized a crime prevention bureau headed by Sergeant Wayne Jessop with three full-time crime prevention officers

Halton police solving 33.6 per cent break-ins

Halton Regional police officers solved 33.65 per cent of break and enter offences during the first 11 months of 1980, a figure which Chief James Harding says is as high or higher than the provincial percentage.

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Police investigate dog disappearance

Following further investigation Halton Regional Police have now classified the disappearance of a valuable dog from the fenced yard of a rural Acton resident recently as theft.

Staff Sergeant Wayne Jessop said police are investigating the disappearance of a pure-bred Great Dane from the home of Jim and Sandy Miller, R.R. 1, Acton, New Year's Day night. At first police believed the dog had just run away, but now think it may have been stolen.

There were several cases of valuable dogs disappearing mysteriously in the rural area south of Acton late last

month.

One woman phoned the Free Press this week to say a relative's valuable dog had disappeared in Acton just before Christmas. The dog was put outside and a few minutes later was gone.

The Millers put their dog Treasure, a Canadian champion a couple of years ago, out in the fenced yard with two other dogs for only three or four minutes before discovering the animal was gone.

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