

Make Willow S. one-way street

If Halton Hills approves the proposals that Willow St. South between Mill and Church Streets be closed to through traffic, Paul Nielsen would like to see one-way traffic only on the one block of Willow.

Last month the Halton Hills Parking Authority, of which Nielsen is chairman, passed a resolution urging "that Willow St. between Mill and Church Streets in Acton be closed to through traffic and incorporated into the new parking lot."

Further elaborating on Parking Authority thoughts on improving traffic flow and parking downtown, Nielsen said they'd like to see Willow for one-way traffic going south only.

Entrance and exit from both the existing parking lots off Willow as well as the large new parking lot being developed at the corner of Church and Willow would be off Willow.

Willow would be signed "no through traffic" but there wouldn't be a barrier at either end.

Nielsen thinks in

conjunction with making Willow one-way south, there should be angle parking on one side of the street and possibly parallel parking on the other.

Besides enhancing traffic flow in the area and improving parking, Nielsen says making Willow one-way would eliminate the difficult and sometimes dangerous left and right turns onto Mill from Willow south.

Parking and traffic changes on Willow St. will need Halton Hills council approval.



A house was demolished on Church St. facing onto Mill Street where the new Salvation Army Citadel will be built.



The Salvation Army Citadel to be built on Mill Street is now under construction.

Grubbe says goodbye with gifts for Town

Terry Grubbe, retiring Acton member of Halton Hills council, has given two gifts to the municipality.

She couldn't attend Monday's final meeting, but her colleague Ross Knechtel read a letter and presented one of two wooden plaques Grubbe had made for the municipality.

One of the plaques is of the Town coat of arms. The other, as yet uncompleted, will be of the Halton Hills Library Cultural Centre in Georgetown, which she described as a major accomplishment of the outgoing council and Mayor Peter Pomeroy. The coat of arms plaque signifies her hope that

the new council will continue to work towards unifying the whole Town. The two plaques are made by Roy Young, an artist at the Hide House.

She said in her letter that sitting on council was a privilege and experience she won't forget. Grubbe expressed thanks to the Town staff for their assistance, adding she had made some "dear friends" and hopes to keep seeing the old colleagues from council.

Grubbe hopes the plaques will be displayed in the new Halton Hills municipal complex once it is built. Knechtel suggested

small plates be added to the plaques showing who gave them to the Town.

Pomeroy said it was a "wonderful gift" Grubbe was giving the Town. He recalled she didn't say a lot at council meetings, but was always responsive to the people she represented. Grubbe has a "keen interest" in the people of Acton, not just those with problems in the area of municipal matters. Pomeroy also recalled her enthusiasm for the many social functions and fun sporting events councillors must get involved with and praised her efforts in those areas.

Plan public meeting for Greenore homes

Halton Hills council will hold a public meeting for a proposed five building semi-detached home development on Greenore Cres.

Residents in the area have been opposed to the development, feeling the land should be used for a park in the Kingham area. Part of the strip of land won't be built on, so the developer has agreed to donate this property to the municipality for a park. However, D.M. Consultants rejected a

Town request to install playground equipment on the land set aside for a park, but they will put up a sign stating the property is a playground.

The developer has agreed to fence between the rear of the lots and the huge swamp behind.

Credit Valley Conservation Authority won't block the development, but all construction and land alterations must be done above the swamp which is the floodline. Also CVCA must ap-

prove cut and fill plans for the project.

The street is serviced for water and sewers, but the developer must enter into an agreement regarding the provision of municipal water with the region. This agreement is required because of the "quality variation of water from the Prospect Well. This agreement is intended to protect the interests of the region in providing water, until this interim problem can be resolved."



Margarite Knechtel and Karen Ferguson of the North Hospice Care Inc. look over a brochure outlining their organization's activities and goals.

Hospice Care Inc. helps the dying in north

by Heles Murray

"It is always hard when a patient dies, but if it is not hard, you should not be a volunteer," says North Halton Hospice Care Inc. treasurer Karen Ferguson.

Volunteers must be prepared to devote three or four hours a week to helping make the last few months or weeks of a dying person's life more comfortable. They must be able to give up a little bit of themselves to help their patient, Mrs. Ferguson reveals.

"Unless you put yourself on the line," she says, "you do not hear the inner feelings of the patient."

North Halton Hospice Care Inc. seeks to enhance the quality of life for those persons whose illness is in the terminal stages, their families and the community, through the provision of supportive

care services and education, according to literature given out by Mrs. Ferguson and president Marguarite Knechtel.

A palliative care organization striving to be recognized by local hospitals, they are hoping to make holistic care more readily available for people in the final stages of living; to provide supportive services for bereaved individuals, families and groups; to provide educational services in the areas of death, grief and hospice care; and to integrate hospice care principles into the existing health care delivery system.

All patients must be referred to them by their doctors, and usually require their help when the prognosis is three months remaining. However, Mrs. Knechtel points out, patients who live past the three months

will not be dropped. Palliative care should not be confused with chronic care. Mrs. Ferguson said. A person in chronic care, is not necessarily dying. So far, most of the patients have been cancer victims.

The North Halton Hospice Care group will visit a patient and help them with whatever needs they may have. Sometimes, Mrs. Knechtel said, the patient is not ready to discuss his needs with his family. The volunteers are on hand to help the patient during this time.

For example, if a patient wants pizza, but is too embarrassed to ask his family for it, the volunteer will either convey the message to the family, or get the pizza herself.

Palliative care does not stop at the hospital. The volunteers follow the patient home and

provide them with companionship, baby-sitting, shopping, transportation, etc. If the patient wants to spend the entire visit sleeping, crying or talking the volunteer will remain by his side.

Hospice Care is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service. Volunteers are given a strict, nine week course, four hours a week, before being eligible.

All volunteers' work is confidential. Once a month the volunteers get together to give each other support to get their emotions out of their system. It is not like an ordinary job, Mrs. Knechtel points out. If they have a particularly trying day they cannot go home and discuss it with their families.

The volunteers also help the family in difficult times. Sometimes the patient needs a bit more attention than

usual, and the family through grief or other reasons is just not ready to provide any services. Hospice care comes to the rescue.

Never has any patient turned the volunteers away, Mrs. Ferguson said. And the family is grateful for the extra attention given to their loved one. One family was so appreciative, Mrs. Knechtel said, that when the patient died, the family asked friends and relatives to send donations to the organization rather than flowers to the funeral.

The local organization began almost two years ago under Eva Sansom of RR 4, Acton. Mrs. Sansom started the wheels in motion, and through the help of Barb Stevens, of the Halton Helping Hands and others, Hospice Care in north Halton has gotten as far as it has today. While it has

no regional money, it has regional support.

Mrs. Sansom pulled out of North Halton Hospice Care Inc. in June to devote more time to obtaining her masters in hospice care.

Not everyone is eligible for hospice care. The patient must be a resident of North Halton, and the prognosis of the illness must be in terms of days, weeks or months.

There must be a primary care giver in the home who is willing to take responsibility for care in a home care situation, and the attending physician must be willing to help Hospice co-ordinate care and keep open lines of communication.

Anyone wishing further information or hospice care or who would like to become a volunteer is asked to call Karen Ferguson at 877-3431 or Marguarite Knechtel at 878-5933.

Cancer wasn't biggest enemy

Joyce Elson beat cancer, but her ongoing battle is the depression and loneliness stemming from that illness.

The 37-year-old Berry Rd., Acton, resident has just completed a very difficult two years that has seen her undergo numerous operations and included a stay in Homewood Sanitarium. The uncertainty of whether or not she was cured, and the feelings she was going to die created a rift in her marriage, she lost her friends, and received no support from her mother or mother-in-law.

Joyce's problems, both mental and physical, started in October, 1980. It was not for two years that she finally received some answers from doctors, which in turn led her on the road to recovery out of the deep depression in which she had buried herself.

Joyce recalls she and her husband owned the Guelph Radio Shack when she felt something "pulling in my stomach." Because she had been having gynecological problems, she requested a hysterectomy. Prior to that, all her doctor could find were five polyps, she said. In the meantime, she was bleeding and getting progressively weaker, so much so that she was becoming unable to care for her new baby.

Joyce entered Guelph General Hospital with the premonition that she had cancer and was going to die. On February 9, 1981 doctors found a tumor on her left ovary, and what she terms as "spillage" on other parts of the abdomen.

She was immediately sent to Henderson Hospital, Hamilton, where she underwent further biopsies. During the next four or five

days Joyce states, she was not told what was going on. Eventually, she says, the doctors told her she had a "borderline malignancy" which she describes as having as many healthy cells as cancerous ones.

Even though the doctors were fairly certain they got all the cancer, according to Joyce, she was placed on medication.

After one month on the medication, doctors placed her on chemotherapy, she recalls. Because of this step, Joyce began to fear the doctors were keeping something from her.

The chemotherapy was not explained to her properly, she claims. She wasn't told she would be sick.

Her fears worsened after she lost her hair and by the third treatment her depression and loneliness were unbearable. Her friends avoided her, her mother and mother-in-law felt surgery was unnecessary and she felt she was all alone in the world. While undergoing chemotherapy, she was screaming for someone to help her. The hospital recommended a psychiatrist.

On July 2, 1981, Joyce underwent surgery again. When she got out, with still no word as to the condition of her cancer, she was informed her mother was very ill in Nova Scotia. In August, Joyce rushed to her mother's bedside and became ill herself because of the emotional stress. Fortunately, she says, her mother is still alive and getting stronger. Sadly though, her brother died last March of the same disease, cancer.

For Joyce, time dragged on. There was more medication, and blood work.

In February, 1982, Joyce developed severe chest pains, and she feared the cancer had progressed "into" her chest. She took antibiotics and other medication, she says. Eventually, Joyce says, the doctors took her off the medication, and told her her body had to start fighting for itself.

In early May, Joyce recalls, she took one more dose of medication. She informed the doctors she was afraid of any more operations. Around this time, she says, she started visiting a psychiatrist regularly. But



Ryan Elson, 2, claps in glee with the news that his mother Joyce beat cancer. Sister Natasha was at school, when the picture was taken, but is also glad her mommy is getting back to normal after a two year ordeal.

she says, she spent four or five sessions talking about her past history from childhood before he even dealt with the cancer, Joyce says. She was given an antidepressant tranquilizer drug, and her hormone pills were cut down.

In the meantime, Joyce says she was slipping farther and farther into depression. She was running around in circles and was unable to care for her two young children. "No one really seemed to give a damn, I felt very alone," she recalls. No one except Ina Gibson, she says. Ina was one of the few who stuck by her through thick and thin, and she owes the school teacher a debt of gratitude. Neighbor Allison Ginn was also helpful.

On August 17, Joyce called the social services office and spoke with the public health nurse Mary Lou Brock. She explained she was desperately lonely, and getting stronger. Sadly though, her brother died last March of the same disease, cancer.

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with her that she would never get well mentally until she found out what was going on physically. Another operation was scheduled, for September 27. The results finally came back—she was cured, her cells were completely clear. She remained in Homewood until October.

However, after two years of wondering, she treated the news with indifference. It was so hard to comprehend after the time she had just had, that she is still hesitant to accept the good news.

Now that she knows she does not have cancer, Joyce is struggling with another battle. To become her normal self again. She is making concerted efforts to meet new people, and would like to see a group formed in Acton for new people to avoid just what Joyce had to endure—the loneliness. She has recently found a parttime job to help her get back on her feet.

Now that most of her ordeal is over, Joyce can look back and see how wrong she was to fear Homewood. "I did not know about it, so I condemned it," she observed. "Homewood is a place that we Canadians should be proud of, that we have such a place to go and get help and work out our depression."

Joyce doesn't want anyone else to go through the loneliness and depression she has endured. That's why she stepped forward with her story, so present or future cancer victims will realize they are not alone in the world, nor are they unique.

She now sports a t-shirt—"Beat Cancer. I Did."



Crime Prevention Officer Constable Scott Pringle demonstrates the use of an engraving pencil on valuable articles. A social insurance number, engraved on an article helps the police to identify stolen property.

Is your home crime-proof?

What kind of person drops in when you're not around? Perhaps someone under 24 years of age, looking for money, alcohol or something portable and easily sold.

Are you ready for him?

"For the most part, people are not aware of how easy it is for someone to break into their homes," claims Constable Scott Pringle, Halton Regional Police Crime Prevention officer. "Then one day it happens."

Who'd expect a thief to force a door in daylight hours when everyone is at work? Who would have thought the lock on the front door was so easy to slide?

Last year, there were 2,539 break-and-enter cases investigated by Halton Regional Police, involving both houses and businesses. In most cases, according to Constable Pringle, the thieves forced a door. "People don't like to break a window," he

said. "It makes a noise, and also they could cut themselves. A door is fairly easy to force if it has a cheap lock."

Most break-ins were carried out by males under the age of 24. In many cases, the break-ins were drug or alcohol-related. "They're looking for alcohol, or the cash with which to buy drugs or alcohol," Pringle said.

Falling that, they pick up whatever is portable which can be easily sold... tape recorders, cameras, stereo components, jewellery and other items, Pringle said.

Solving a break-in is not easy, but in many cases the same gang of thieves is responsible for several break-ins in an area. "Usually when we find one person or gang, we can clear up several cases," he said.

Last year in District One—Milton, Acton and Georgetown—349 homes were broken into and 123 break-ins solved.

But it is highly unlikely the items stolen can ever be recovered.

"Unless people can positively identify their property as theirs, it cannot get recovered. That's where most people find themselves in trouble," Pringle said. "Saying 'It looks like mine' isn't enough. They need the serial number, or something equally positive."

Under Operation Identification, area residents can borrow engraving tools or an invisible magic marker from the police department and mark their valuables with a social insurance number or driver licence number, a sure way of identifying property as their own.

Under Operation Provident, business owners can mark their office equipment in the same way.

If there are antiques or items which would be defaced by engraving, photograph them, he advises.

The best idea, however, is to keep burglars out, by making your home secure against break-ins.

Most house break-ins are crimes of opportunity, not premeditated. There are few professional burglars working in Halton; the majority are youths seeking whatever they can carry out and turn into cash, Pringle explained.

A solid door with a well-constructed frame and a dead-bolt lock with a minimum one-inch throw will stop most thieves. A solid haap on a window, a screw or nail in the runner of a sliding window or patio door, will also serve as a discouragement in most cases.

Police advise to keep windows and doors clear of bushes and shrubbery; they provide good cover for criminals. Keep the outside well-lighted, especially when the occupants aren't there. Exterior lights should be high enough that a casual intruder cannot unscrew the bulb, he added.



Paul and Wayne Bowen check out their polasettias in their greenhouse. Their business, Double B Nurseries is now open for business.

Nursery family interest

Double B Nursery is a family affair, involving all the members of the Bowen clan.

Brothers Wayne and Paul are the driving forces behind the new business located on Highway 7 just past Crewson's Corners. And even though they just opened their new greenhouse doors to customers, the pair are already planning a major expansion which will more than double their present operation.

Currently the men are gearing up for Christmas, keeping their stock limited to 600 poinsettias. After the holidays they will have available bedding plants such as alyssum and patience as well as roses and fuchsias. Not too far in the future they expect to be selling shrubbery and an even wider inventory.

When the new larger

greenhouse is built in the spring, they will offer pine and lawn furniture made by brother Mark and macramé wall hangings and plant hangers by his wife Lina.

While Paul is completing his associate diploma in agriculture, horticultural division in Guelph, Wayne is handling the business end of the operation.

The nursery was a brainstorm of Paul, but Wayne quickly got swept up. They started researching their ideas in August and started building in September. That is where the complete family affair began.

Ralph Neils, husband of their sister Wendy, helped level the ground. Wayne, Paul and Mark, and Wayne's son Mark, pooled their resources and built the 20 feet x 48 feet double poly air

(inflated) greenhouse. The structure is gothic style and heated with a forced air furnace. Soothing music is continually pumped in, something Paul contends is very important to the health of the plants.

The sun heats the air between the two layers of plastic, thus providing insulation.

While the co-owners are away, brother Ralph and their mother, Florence baby-sit the greenhouse, and their father Stan looks in occasionally.

Many of their polasettias will be on sale in the Christmas Shoppe in the Artisan Village at the Hide House. Shoppers not finding a suitable plant there can pick one out at the greenhouses at RR 1 Acton.