



THESE TWO beautiful princesses entertained their guests at the Georgetown Pipe Band's annual Christmas dance, in St. George's Anglican Parish hall.

Mayor claims Halton Hills cannot accept housing subsidy

With more than 1,000 acres in Georgetown and Acton zoned for residential development, Mayor Tom Hill says Halton Hills cannot take advantage of the province's Ontario Housing Action Program (OHAP).

Mayor Hill made the comments during the Acton Chamber of Commerce dinner last Wednesday with guest speaker Robert Holmes, co-ordinator of the OHAP program in Halton, listening.

"Halton Hills has the Black Creek on one side and the Silver Creek on the other," the mayor said. "Both are over capacity with the effluent from the sewage treatment plants in Acton and Georgetown. How can we increase development with no where else for the effluent to go?"

The OHAP program is sponsored by the provincial government to increase housing development for low and moderate income families.

The program co-ordinates the work of the province, local governments and area developers and has been offered to Halton Hills.

Mayor Hill added that he does not have any faith in the program to attract development to Halton Hills even though it has been accepted by Burlington, Milton and Oakville.

More than 50 people including Ward 1 (Acton) representatives attended the meeting to listen to Mr. Holmes's explanation of the program.

BURLINGTON ACCEPTED While Halton Hills has not accepted the program, Mr. Holmes said Burlington has already completed negotiations for one housing development to supply 18 homes at prices under \$40,000.

"These are good quality homes," he said. "There is more than 1,000 square feet of space, broadroom throughout. It's a very nice proposal."

Mr. Holmes said the program's objectives are to encourage and assist an increase in housing production to meet the needs of low and moderate income families.

"Part of the problem in the past few years is that most housing sells for a high cost in a large, exclusive area," he said. "Now, with legally binding agreements, the ministry is in a position to direct developer and builder efforts toward low and moderate income family requirements."

Explaining the role of the three groups involved, Mr. Holmes said the provincial responsibility is in financial and planning functions.

By offering a system of grants under a tax stabilization program, the province hopes that municipal taxes will not increase due to costs incurred

with new housing developments, said Mr. Holmes.

MINISTRY OFFERING He added that the ministry of housing is offering municipalities \$600 for each Home Ownership Made Easy (HOME) unit, \$525 for units for moderate income groups (\$14,500 to \$20,000 annual income) and \$450 for other units.

"In addition, the province is offering mortgage financing at 10 1/2 per cent interest for families in the moderate range," he said.

Mr. Holmes said developers can qualify for the OHAP program by providing sufficient land for the construction of HOME units. The land would be purchased by HOME developers for a price "substantially below market value."

He added that the amount of land should be sufficient for the construction of units equaling 10 per cent of the subdivision's total number.

Also, the developer has to provide 30 per cent of the housing units in his subdivision for moderate income groups, guarantee price stabilization on the remaining land and meet a firm construction schedule.

Acton Councillor Joe Hurst said Halton Hills is in a dilemma that only a meeting between the town officials, the ministry of housing and the ministry of the environment can solve.

Councillor Hurst said the housing ministry is pressuring the town to develop, while the ministry of the environment is trying to slow the town's growth.

GROUPS WORK At the present time, the groups are working against each other," Councillor Hurst said. "As far as Acton is concerned, there cannot be much more development because of a lack of land within the town boundaries."

Councillor Les Dudy echoed Mayor Hill's remarks concerning the lack of facilities for treated effluent. He said development will not proceed until the problem is solved.

Mr. Holmes replied that the government has recognized the need in Halton Hills and is willing to investigate alternative possibilities, including constructing pipelines to other creeks.

"All I'm saying is don't say no without trying the program," he said. "I believe there's a potential for Halton Hills. I may be completely wrong but that's what I think."

Major food store coming

New plaza for Guelph Street

A new plaza, complete with a major grocery chain store, is planned for a five-acre area adjacent to the new Halton Hills arena on Guelph Street.

A proposal by Al Pilutti outlining plans for the plaza was presented to the town's planning committee last Tuesday night. Questions, however, were raised by committee members about the site plan and possible traffic problems created by the plaza.

Planning committee has passed the proposal on to the municipality's department heads for their comments prior to any firm decision on the plan.

Mr. Pilutti said a zoning bylaw amendment from residential to commercial is needed on the property to accommodate the plaza. He said the land is now vacant.

"Besides the food chain store, a small office building will be located on the property near the highway (Guelph Street)," he said. "There is a possibility that two or three small stores like a bank and restaurant will be added."

He said one advantage for the town in having a plaza constructed beside the arena is the increased parking space which would be available.

The lack of adequate traffic control was a concern for some of the councillors, who questioned the choice of site of the plaza. They pointed out that special attention was being given to the arena and present plaza.

Town engineers are studying proposals to include the addition of traffic lights on the street. The present plaza is moving its entrance in line with the entrance to the arena.

The traffic lights at the intersection of the entrances with Guelph Street will control six lanes of traffic which include special turning lanes for both the arena and plaza.

Mr. Pilutti said his company is requesting only a one-way entrance to the plaza to service the traffic from the west. He added that other traffic might be able to enter the plaza using the arena entrance.

Also in agreement, Councillor Len Cox noted it would not be detrimental to the people of Halton Hills, but the information could be useful to Mr. Pilutti's competitors.

The majority of the committee agreed.

New fee for DBA For the first time Georgetown's Downtown Business Association will be charging a membership fee to cover costs of the associations various promotions throughout the year.

At Wednesday night's meeting of the association it was decided that any merchant or businessman in the downtown core wishing to join the association will have to pay a \$10 fee.

A merchant who does not pay the fee but, during the year wishes to be included in one of the association's advertising programs, will have to pay a 10 percent surcharge.



"MIRROR, MIRROR in my hand," cries the evil Queen in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" played by Vera MacDonald. Rehearsals for the play have been underway since September.

OPP warn about "ice-away" areas

Underwater currents can erode the strongest ice so that there is open water on even the coldest days.

Commissioner Graham recently said that a new problem has arisen. Many cottagers are using "ice-away" machines to protect their docks and boat-houses. Air pumped into the water creates a turbulence which prevents the formation of ice. These machines are very useful for protecting the lakeside property but present a potential hazard to any person travelling on the ice.

Every year, members of the OPP are called upon to investigate incidences of persons going through the ice, many with tragic results.

Later in the season when the ice is thicker, a thorough knowledge of prevailing ice conditions is still necessary.

Town water to Stewarttown

The press and public were barred from a meeting of the Halton Hills planning committee last Tuesday night during which a discussion on the "extension of a sewer line to the village of Stewarttown" was discussed with developer Al Pilutti.

An in camera session was requested by Mr. Pilutti but his request was questioned by

Councillor Ern Hyde who said he wanted specific reasons why the public and press should be barred.

Councillor Hyde objected to the request saying insufficient reasons were given by the developer. He added that council should vote whether to go in camera or not.

"We're excluding press and public from the meeting and I'd

like to know the reason," he said. "With the little background given, I think it should be public knowledge."

Mr. Pilutti said there are some "conflicts of interest" which his company is not prepared to let the public know about at this time. He added that if council decided to hold the meeting open, then he would continue with his

presentation.

No other explanation was given to council, which prompted Councillor Hyde to continue arguing that not enough information was given to the public.

"If an open meeting will jeopardize the company's position, then I'm willing to go along with the request," he said. "But we haven't been given sufficient reason."

Councillor Ric Morrow supported Mr. Pilutti's position pointing out that perhaps the company is purchasing more land and is dealing in private with the owners.

Also in agreement, Councillor Len Cox noted it would not be detrimental to the people of Halton Hills, but the information could be useful to Mr. Pilutti's competitors.

The majority of the committee agreed.

Criticizes "cheap shot"

To The Editor of The Herald: I have been following the Herald with much interest since it has been given its facelift and have been very pleased with its editorials.

However, I was very disappointed this week, to read a "gossip" story on the front page to which someone thought it of such importance as to place over it black headlines. This in my mind, was a "cheap" way for a group of parents to get front page coverage. Let's face it, if this group of complaining adults had written a letter to your newspaper it wouldn't even have been published because not one of them had enough courage or faith in what they are doing to even have a name appear with the story.

Parents have been helping children with their school work at home for many, many years but none of them have ever called a newspaper to have it printed on the front page.

How much background research was done by your reporter to check all sides of the issue?

(A) How many people constitute a "number of Georgetown parents," five, twelve, fifty or a hundred?

(B) Is this group from all parts of Georgetown or is it centred in one specific area?

(C) Is this group upset with all Georgetown Schools or one particular school, principal, teacher or is it with curriculum in general?

(D) Was the school board, principal or teacher contacted by the reporter to verify the parents' accusations.

In other words, let's have both sides of the coin shown. Information tactfully omitted can create a lot of misconceptions on the part of the general public.

In my opinion, your paper, Mr. Editor, has printed a lot of negative aspects about our

present system of Education. Let's stop thinking negative. Let's start thinking positive! Get your photographer and reporters out into the schools and find out, first hand, what's happening. I'm sure the schools will oblige. I'm even sure they would let you print names as our educators are proud to be associated with what's happening in our schools today.

Perhaps this "group" has a legitimate complaint. If so, make it specific. Don't blacklist all our schools and all our teachers for the sake of one or two. Stand up and speak out. Don't hide behind a few large headlines of a "cheap" front page story.

A Georgetown Parent (also) Lola Barrager

The big rush is on

As of tomorrow at 9 o'clock the Christmas rush in downtown Georgetown will be officially underway.

At a meeting of the Downtown Business Association held Wednesday night in the King Wah Restaurant, association members decided that store hours for almost all outlets in the downtown core would be extended officially, from tomorrow through to Christmas Eve. The new hours will run

from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

During a short discussion on the hours one member of the association commented, "When you do three times more volume in December than you do during any other month of the year, you pretty well have to be open those other hours to handle it."

VOLVO HAS REMODELED OUR SHOWROOM FOR '75.

We're wall to wall with 1975 Volvos. The new 240 series, sedans and wagons, with new fuel injection, steel-belted radials, rack-and-pinion steering, spring strut front suspension, electronic ignition and more comfortable bucket seats.

The luxurious Volvo 164 comes with air conditioning, power steering and seats that let you sit on leather. Refinements for '75 include a new, more comfortable seat design and power front windows.

Come in and see our new Volvos. Business as usual while remodeling is in progress.



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375 Guelph St. - (Hwy. No. 7) - Georgetown
877-5235 457-1952

THE CARPET BARN

SALE

Continues To Sat., Dec. 7th

\$6.95

"Hundreds of Yards" of fine quality — brand name broadloom

sq. yd.

The Carpet Barn

26 Guelph St. 877-9896



EVEN OLD SANTA himself has heard of the big Christmas things these days at Robert Gougeon Furniture in downtown Georgetown. On his pre-Christmas visit to our store we invited him to relax in one of the wide variety of our Easy Chairs we have in stock for Christmas Shoppers. We explained how we are giving away \$500. in cash in our big Christmas Shopping Spree with customers winning anything from \$1.00 to \$50. by just selecting a card from our Christmas tree. Santa didn't enter our promotion this

North Pole stock is already complete) but you can today or any day. Gifts for the home are lasting gifts and appreciated by all and the selection has never been better in our many years on Main St. For your shopping convenience we are open every night till 9 p.m., now to Christmas and our lay away plan enables you to make your choice now and take delivery later. Robert Gougeon Household Furnishing is located at 95 Main St. South, downtown.