

All's well with construction of new rink

Everything is going as planned, according to Doug Collison recreation director for Georgetown, referring to construction of the new arena on Highway Seven and the swimming pool at the High School.

Construction is well underway at both sites and with no anticipated delays due to lack of materials, the projects should be completed on schedule.

"We are looking at an expected completion date of mid-March for the arena," added Mr. Collison.

A one week delay in delivery of the steel has been the only setback thus far in the project. The new arena will hold 1,000 seated people as compared to the 600 seats available at the present Mill Street facility. The ice surface will be 85 by 185.

Six dressing rooms, a snack bar and sports shop have also been planned for the main floor of the new arena.

The upstairs will house a

board room and offices as well as a community hall which will hold 200 people for various functions.

Summer ice is one of the important features of the new facility, according to Mr. Collison.

One of the problems that affects the present arena is inadequate parking. The new site will be able to hold up to 250 cars and the Georgetown Market Centre, which is located across from the project, could easily handle the overflow. Once the arena is ready to begin operations the entrances at the plaza will be relocated and traffic lights installed by the town to make pedestrian traffic to the centre safer.

"If we added more parking on the site the distance would be the same as using the plaza for parking" said Mr. Collison.

The swimming pool located at the high school is, at this point, ahead of schedule because of the early shipment of the steel decking used in the roof. Once tarring and

graveling is completed on the roof interior work can begin.

Fred Zorge of Mountclair Developments noted there have been a few delays but none have set back the completion date as yet.

"The only real problem was when we discovered an extra depth of top soil which had to be removed," said Mr. Zorge. "With the help of the building supervisor and the general contractor, however, the problem was solved with no significant delay in construction."

Covered with snow and straw the interior leaves a lot to the imagination as to what the finished project will look like but with the ceramic tile that will border the pool, with its three dressing rooms, instructors' office, sick room and viewing area the new pool will provide Georgetown with something it will use many times over.

Mr. Zorge also felt the arrangement between the Halton Board of Education and

the town was very unique and practical.

"It's a fantastic arrangement," he noted. "During the day the pool is used by the school for swim classes and other physical education programs. The evening is then open to the town for public use through the recreation department."

The pool will be 84 feet, one and one-half inches long by 44 feet across with diving facilities at the deep end. The roof interior surface will be sprayed with a special fibre material to reduce noise within the swimming area. The material will be white to reflect the most light to brighten the interior.

The present pool on Dayfoot Drive is also undergoing renovations as part of a Lions Club community service project.

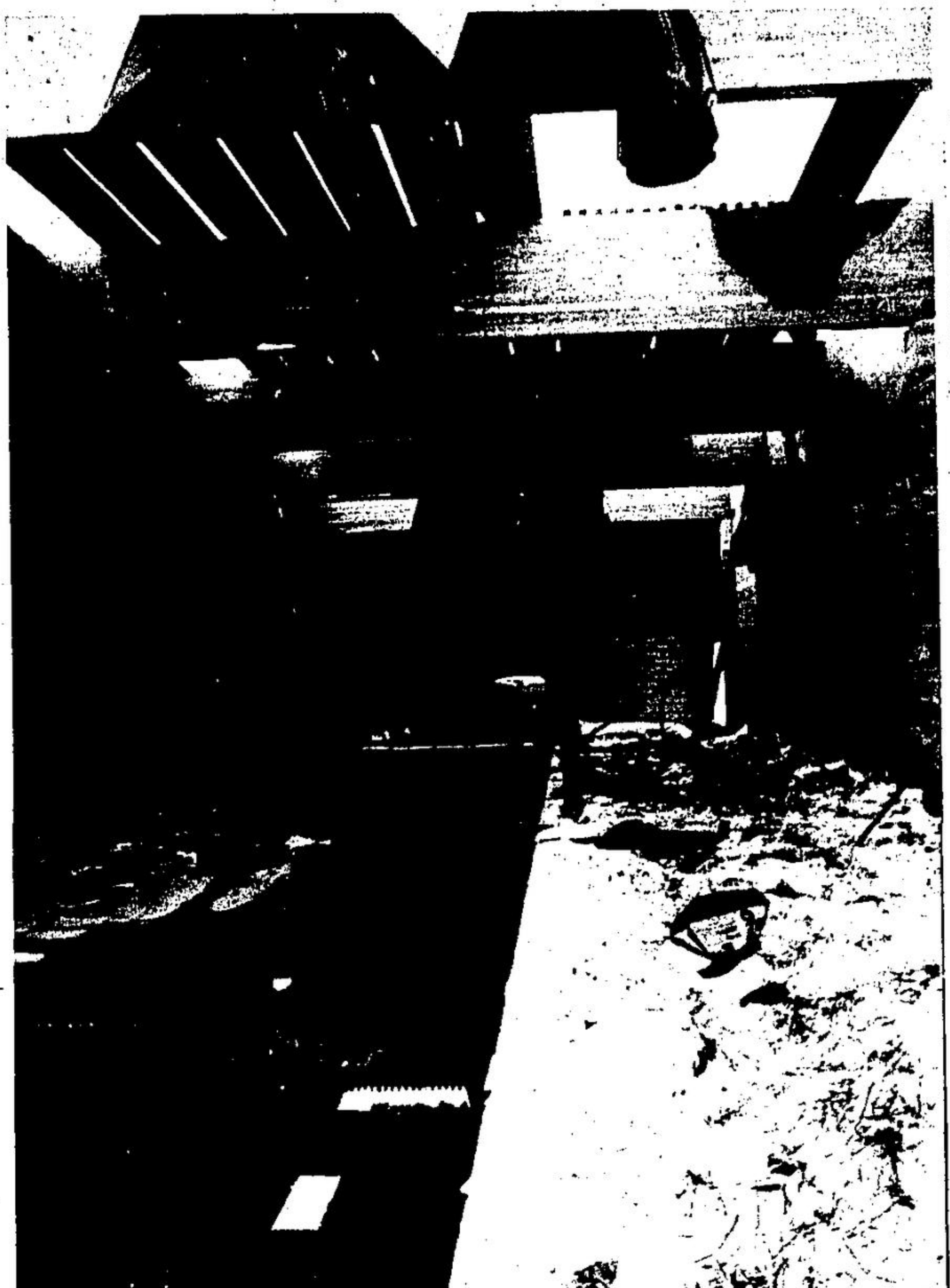
Spring is the completion date for the reconstruction project that will provide more dressing rooms and a meeting room and up-dated facilities to the Georgetown pool.

However, according to the Lions Club vandalism has provided a setback to construction. Since work began, materials have been damaged, stolen or dumped into the pool.

"It is very disturbing that there is so little regard for our community property. It is even more disturbing and disheartening that a volunteer organization such as the Georgetown Lions Club, is continuously hampered in their efforts to build a building for the community," said a spokesman for the Lions Club.

Legal action he warned, will be taken against people found on the property without the proper authorization.

With three construction projects currently underway to provide increased recreational facilities, 1975 could be the best year for the recreational activity and enjoyment for the people of Georgetown.



WORKMEN have completed the steel roofing which encloses the new GDHS pool to permit work to begin on the interior. Ceramic tile will replace the snow and straw to provide swimming facilities for the students of the school and the community.



DON'T TURN a happy Christmas into a tragedy with carelessness, warns Fire Chief, Ken Bukema, as he checks a tree for dryness. The chief claims drying out is the biggest problem with a live tree and special precautions must be taken to keep the tree moist. Water regularly, avoid putting the tree near a heater or fireplace, and never block an exit.

A poem with a point

(The following is a Christmas poem, with a point, which Fire Chief Ken Bukema has passed along to the Herald. It has a happy ending. But in a real fire during this Christmas season—perhaps even in your home—the ending is usually far from happy for everyone involved: the homeowner, his family, the fire department, and, believe us, there's nothing we dislike more than having to report that a family was left homeless a week or two before Christmas. Please be careful.)

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all across town
Not a creature was stirring; the snow drifted down.
Stockings were hung by chimneys with little care
And no thought to a fire ever happening there.
Our family was nestled all snug in each bed,
With nothing to fill our minds with dread
Until, out on the street there arose such a clatter,
We sprang from our beds to see what was the matter.
Away to the window we flew like a flash,
Tore open the drapes, and threw up the sash.
The moon shining down on the new-fallen snow
Gave a luster of midday to objects below.
When, what to our wondering eyes should appear,
A Halton Hills fire truck, and six men in full gear,
With sirens wailing, and red lights flashing,
We caught only a glimpse of them in passing.
To the corner they sped, to the right made a turn,
And there before them was a house starting to burn.
The driver braked, the officer jumped out,
Looked over the situation, to his men gave a shout.
Having dressed quite quickly, to the fire we came,
In time to hear orders given each man by name
"Greig, to the hydrant. Tom, grab a line,
Mike, get a Scott-Pak, don't waste any time,
Bob, get a ladder, and a pike pole,
Gord, we need help, radio Control.
Tell him to call both Truck 2 and Truck 4,
When Two comes in, have them lay a line."
With a nod to the hydrant man, he turned around,
And away to the building he ran with a bound.
We stood on the sidewalk with fear in our eyes
For from inside came several frightened young cries.
Straight into the house Firefighter Mike went
And never came out until his air tank was spent,
Clutched in each arm was a small child,
The people outside, with happiness, went wild.
The firefighters worked hard in the flaming light,
It looked like it might be a long fight.
The other trucks arrived with men, ladders, and hose;
And soon from the building all that arose
Were wisps of smoke, and an occasional flame
This lucky family would celebrate Christmas again.
All the children's toys were lost in the blaze,
Dolls, guns, cars, and shiny new sleighs.
Mother and father had lost presents too,
But one important thing both of them knew
Was that Christmas without presents, turkey and chives
Was better than Christmas with children's lost lives.
All this was caused by one little wire
One worn light wire had caused this fire.
The firefighters cleaned up, to their trucks gave a leap,
This time they were glad, for no one would weep.
The officer said, "Let's take 'em home, boys,
We want some time for our own Christmas joys."
But I heard them exclaim ere they drove out of sight,
"HAVE A FIRE-SAFE CHRISTMAS
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"

Author Unknown

A time to be extra careful

Halton Hills firemen would like to spend this Christmas at home with their families. So, for their sake, when you light up your Christmas tree this year, don't light up the whole house.

Fire precautions should head the list of every family's Christmas preparations, warns District 2 Fire Chief, Ken Bukema. Otherwise a happy Christmas could be turned into a tragedy within a few minutes.

"Fires are not caused by Christmas trees," Chief Bukema warned, "fires are caused by people. A few simple precautions could ensure your family a safe and happy Christmas."

The biggest problem with live trees, the chief stated, is the problem of drying out. "The minute a tree is cut it begins to dry out. Buy the freshest, greenest tree you can and store it outdoors until you are ready to decorate it. And then do anything you can to keep that tree from drying out."

One suggestion he offered was to cut one or two inches diagonally from the butt before setting it in water. Then water it regularly to a level above the cut.

Set the tree in a cool spot, away from hot air registers, baseboard heaters, fire places

not block exits, even partially. Always make sure there is an easy way out.

"Once a tree goes it becomes a ball of flame, causing a flash fire just as if you'd thrown a can of gas over the room," Chief Bukema pointed out. "Even a live evergreen will burn if you set a propane torch to it."

Check strings of electric lights carefully for worn insulation, frayed cords, broken plugs, or loose bulb sockets. Use only fire-resistant decorations and make sure your little ones are supervised at all times. "And never turn on the tree lights unless you are right in the room and switch them off before you leave the room," he warned.

"Your decorations may be fire-resistant but nothing is fireproof. Given the right conditions anything will burn, except a block of granite a mile beneath the ocean's surface." Don't overload the electrical system and use only 15 amp fuses.

Artificial trees carry a hazard all their own, shock hazard. Metallic trees should be illuminated with floodlights only. And even a green artificial tree has a metal base, the chief notes. Some plastic trees made from styrene materials are highly flammable.

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