



MARIANNE NEMETH, exhibits strength and grace in performing a straddle on the beam. Now an Intermediate, Marianne, as a Junior last year, was third in the East Haltons, third in the Haltons and fourth in the Peel Haltons.

DIANE STRACHAN, a first year member of the GDHS Junior Girls gymnastic team, demonstrates a knee scale on the beam. The team will be competing for the first time this year on Thursday when they host Bramalea High School.

Town, region oppose OMB quarry hearings

The Ontario Municipal Board is facing a two-pronged attack from the councils of Halton Hills and the region of Halton as the board prepares for its March 10 hearings to be held here in Halton Hills.

The OMB is scheduled to hear on that date, for the fourth time, legal arguments dealing with an objection filed by Consolidated Sand Gravel Co. against the former township of Esqueving's official plan. Zoning in the official plans prohibits the company from beginning quarry operations on its Esqueving property.

The town is hoping to delay the scheduled March 10 meeting while the region is now investigating the possibility that the OMB hearings should not take place at all.

Latest discussions on Consolidated Sand and Gravel's objection centred early this week in Burlington where the regional planning board was expected Tuesday to meet with its solicitors to investigate whether or not the OMB had jurisdiction over the Consolidated Sand and Gravel objection.

The request for the investigation was to be presented by Halton Hills councillor Eric Morrow. Following a special council meeting called last Wednesday night to discuss the upcoming OMB hearings, Councillor Morrow stated that he intended to take the matter of the OMB's jurisdiction up with the region's lawyers.

"Based on discussions I've had at the regional level I feel there is a fairly good possibility that the region could take the OMB to court on the basis that the OMB doesn't have jurisdiction in this matter and shouldn't be making any decisions on the case."

At that Wednesday night meeting Halton Hills council, in a unanimous vote, agreed to send a special resolution the next day to Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon, Premier William Davis, MPP for Halton East, Jim Snow and various other cabinet ministers asking that the March 10 hearings be delayed indefinitely.

A similar request made by Halton Hills' solicitor, Terence Baines, before a preliminary OMB hearing last Monday in Toronto was refused.

Council's latest request for the delay was based on five reasons. The primary one was that the Master Plan of the Niagara Escarpment, presently being drawn up by the provincially funded Niagara Escarpment Commission, has not been completed. Once finished the master plan will take precedent over all previous municipal plans, including the Esqueving official plan.

It is not expected to be completed for another six to 12 months. With that in mind, the resolution states, the March 10 date "is simply premature and ought to be adjourned pending the preparation and adoption of the Niagara Escarpment Master Plan."

The second reason is based on the provincial government's initial support and, in fact, request for special zoning of certain sections of the Niagara Escarpment to prohibit all development until the Niagara Escarpment Plan is finalized.

The resolution noted that when the Esqueving plan was in its final stages provincial government spokesmen requested an addition to the plan designating areas on the escarpment as being one of two "Special Policy Areas" depending whether or not the properties were within the pits and quarries restrictive zone of the escarpment or simply on the escarpment itself.

The Consolidated lands were specifically placed within the area designated as the pits and quarries restrictive zone thus prohibiting

development "until the provincial policy for the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment is finalized. At such time the official plan will be amended to bring it into conformity with provincial policy."

A final reason for the delay could be the costs involved. The resolution notes that, if the proceedings take the entire two weeks that have been planned, legal costs to the town could run as high as \$30,000 for the town alone. "The reason for the estimated high costs of the proceedings is simply a result of the complicated factual issues involved necessitating the attendance of a minimum of three expert witnesses."

The Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Region of Halton and the Speyde Ratepayers Association are also likely going to be officially represented throughout the hearings. The resultant high costs "are not justified" the resolution concludes.

Councillor Ern Hyde commented that council's request for the delay did not mean that its members were against the OMB hearing, or Consolidated's plans for the quarry. "We're merely supporting whether we should or should not proceed with this issue at this time."

Mayor Tom and deputy clerk Delmar French took copies of the resolution into Queen's Park early Thursday morning hoping that the provincial government will act quickly upon it.

Little Theatre might find a home

Hoping to block actions which had previously taken control of the Chapel Street and Norval schools away from local residents, citizens from throughout the former township of Esqueving last Thursday night gave tentative approval for use of the Stewarttown and Esqueving Hall by the Georgetown Little Theatre group.

Over 80 concerned residents, representing several groups that use the hall during the year, attended the Thursday meeting to hear of renovation plans for the hall. The plans were outlined by Doug Collison, recreation director for Halton Hills, whose department now controls the use of the hall.

Since the purpose of the meeting was merely to determine the use of the hall, questions of ownership and costs of renovation were not strongly dealt with. It was noted by one resident, however, that the general feeling was that residents favor the town maintaining control of the building. They did not want a re-enactment of the current school issue in which schools, sold by the town for token fees of \$1 each, are now impossible to buy back because of high costs.

Georgetown Little Theatre, since its beginnings over 10 years ago, has been looking ever since for a permanent home, one that would provide adequate storage facilities, a proper production area complete

with lighting and sound systems, as well as an adequate seating capacity.

In order to make the Stewarttown hall suitable for production, it was revealed Thursday, renovations would have to be carried out to enlarge the stage area and to build a much higher ceiling over the stage to house lighting and other support materials.

As yet no study has been undertaken by either the recreation department or the Little Theatre to determine whether the building could be easily converted. That study will come after the recommendations made at Thursday's meeting have been discussed at up-coming council meetings.

"We want to keep the hall as functional as

possible for all groups that may use it," said Mr. Collison, chairman of the meeting. Concern was expressed by many residents over the existing kitchen facility but, since no final use has been determined yet for the hall, Mr. Collison noted that any renovation could include a kitchen.

Changes to the hall would not reduce the available floor space, according to Little Theatre president, Derek Joyne, who represented the group. "We just want to make the stage area more suitable for production."

Members of the Ashgrove and Silverwood Women's Institute and the Georgetown Agricultural Society predicted use of the hall at two or three times per year by each of their groups, while the True Blues estimated monthly use of the hall.

Little Theatre organizers estimated for their current schedule they would be using the hall, or some part of the building, about 200 times a year. Allowances were made for monthly meetings, rehearsals and set construction which would not tie up the main hall if the back area was available.

"The back of the building houses a garage which would be ideal for set construction and rehearsals," noted Mr. Joyne. "The hall could be kept as free as possible that way."

The report of the meeting will be carried to council by the recreation department and from there, if council agrees in principle to the sharing of the hall, a feasibility study will be undertaken to determine what renovations can be done to permit full-scale theatrical productions.

"I feel that the Little Theatre can do a lot for Stewarttown and Halton Hills if they had a proper place to work," added Mr. Collison. He further noted that there was no lack of meeting halls in the area with the new arena, Cedarvale, schools and churches available to the public.

"I think it is a marvelous idea. Surely we can get along," said Mrs. Ian Carmichael, secretary of the Silverwood Women's Institute.

Controlling snowmobilers

In preparation for the 1975-76 snowmobile season, members of the town's work's committee have begun discussions of the amendments to the snowmobiling bylaw that will cover the whole of Halton Hills.

As it stands now there are three bylaws for residents to consider when snowmobiling in the areas of Acton, Esqueving and Georgetown.

The curfew of 11 o'clock in the evening will be imposed throughout the municipality with no authorized use until 7 a.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. Sunday.

Councillor Len Coxie wondered if the nine o'clock Sunday morning curfew was adequate. "Some people sleep in late those mornings."

According to Peter Morris, the town engineer, most people will be in church at that time.

Other items being considered include mandatory five-foot safety antennas bearing flags and a reduced speed limit of 15 miles per hour in built up areas and along all streets that can be used for snowmobiling. Maple Avenue, Guelph Street and Main

Street are not to be used by snowmobilers in the Georgetown area. Many of the local parks are out of bounds to snowmobilers unless specific trails have been established through the property leading to other designated areas.

Members of the work's committee will take one more look at the new bylaw before officially accepting it at their next meeting. Once the recommendations have been finalized council will then vote on the bylaw and the ministry of transportation and communications will act upon the law to make it enforceable on the roads of Halton Hills.

Lights for Delrex

Traffic signals for the intersection of Maple and Delrex will not be available through a ministry of transportation and communications subsidy.

Extensive traffic studies at that intersection did not convince the department of highways that traffic lights are warranted. "There is a serious problem there," points out Councillor Len Coxie. "The volume may not be great but the flow is, if you're trying to turn from Delrex onto Maple."

Councillor Ern Hyde thought the idea of lights could reduce congestion along the traffic routes fed from Delrex, such as Sinclair Avenue.

"Something must be done," said Councillor Hyde. It was moved that the \$11,000 necessary for the traffic lights be budgeted for in the upcoming 1975 Capital Works Budget.

Ugly scar

A ravine between Delrex Blvd. and Metcalfe Court that has become an ugly eroding surface scar littered with garbage may be included in the town's operating budget for the coming year if Councillor Harry Levy has his way.

Councillor Levy, chairman of the town's finance and personnel committee, reported to his committee Monday night that the town engineer, Peter Morris, had requested him to consider the cleaning up of the ravine as part of the 1975 budget. He noted that a great deal of water is channelled through the ravine causing uncontrolled erosion. As well people have been throwing garbage into it creating a very unsightly situation for nearby residents.

The committee decided to endorse the request for funding and will now pass it on to the town's works committee for their consideration.

Dear OHC:

All the changes brought about by regional government have even the body that asked for them—the provincial government—slightly confused.

Chairman of the town's personnel and finance committee, Harry Levy, pointed out that the province's slip was showing in a letter supposedly sent to Halton Hills from the Ontario Housing Corporation.

The letter was addressed to the treasurer of Halton Hills, D. W. Farmer, 491 Steeles Ave., Milton.

As Councillor Levy pointed out, about the only thing right in the address was the fact that it was destined for the treasurer of Halton Hills.

However, the right name of the town's treasurer is H. E. Henderson. Mr. Farmer happens to be the treasurer for the region of Halton.

As for the address itself, Halton Hills' treasurer's office is located on Main Street, Georgetown, many a mile from Steeles Avenue in Milton.

Fall fair lists ready now

Now is the time to begin planning your projects for the Georgetown Fall Fair, ladies. The advance prize lists for the ladies' section of the fall fair are now available. Copies may be obtained either from the fair's secretary, Mrs. Mona Milne, or at the Herald office.

A number of changes have been made in the various departments so those wishing to exhibit, either for the first time or once again, should get a copy and start preparing now. The list includes handicrafts, domestic sciences, flowers, the junior ladies' section and women's institute categories.

Taxi owners satisfied

Taxi owners from Georgetown and Acton had their opportunity Monday night to express their views on the new Halton Hills comprehensive taxi licensing bylaw. Although they had numerous suggestions on various sections of the new bylaw, the owners generally agreed they were satisfied with its content, particularly in the area of new tariffs.

The owners, headed by Del McMillan of Glen Taxes, questioned a section of the bylaw which required taxi firms with more than five licensed vehicles to provide 24-hour service, seven days a week.

Don Grien, owner of Reliable Taxis, noted that when he operated a 24-hour service during the summer, "I lost money almost every night I operated."

Mrs. Leah McMillan added that, "If it is an emergency we don't mind going out but too many of the calls are just nuisance calls." Mr. McMillan warned that the owners with more than five cars "might start ducking under the five-car clause."

Another point brought out by the owners was the licensing fee charged by the town. A new owner must pay \$500 for the licence for his first vehicle. Any additional vehicles will cost \$1,500 to license.

According to Councillor Harry Levy the reason behind the increase is the town's attempt to encourage new owners while still maintaining control of the overall number of licences issued.

The personnel and finance committee, which, with the help of the deputy treasurer Grant Usher, had drawn up the taxi bylaw, agreed to consider the suggestions made by the owners before passing on the final version to town council.

Abduction, assault among crimes

A Georgetown mother averted an apparent abduction of her six-year-old son on two separate occasions last week. Police say a dark complexioned man about 35 years of age, wearing short hair and a moustache attempted to entice the boy over to his car.

The Canadian Imperial Bank, Main St. was the target of a fraud last week, when a Toronto woman cashed a phoney cheque for \$450.51. She is described as about 32 years with heavy makeup, and long dark hair and wearing a multicolored checked coat. The cheque has since been returned and has been marked stop payment.

A Georgetown man was assaulted Friday night while sitting in his car on Main St. Police report a youth with long dirty blond hair approached the car, struck the occupant in the face, opened the door, kicked him in the

side and the fled on foot.

A car, reported stolen in Toronto on Friday, was found stopped on a Georgetown street over the weekend. The driver, Robert Vincent McHugh, 20, of Yonge St. Aurora, was arrested for theft and lodged in Milton pending bail hearing Monday.

The large front window of the A & P Supermarket on Sinclair Ave. was smashed over the weekend. The 12-foot by 12-foot glass was worth \$350. There are no suspects.

Mischief makers cut a hole in the awning at Henry's Clothing store on Main St. causing \$30 damage on Thursday.

Bradbury Vending and Mino Millwork Co. on Mountainview Rd. were broken into Thursday, but nothing appears to have been taken. But the CNR tool shed on Queen St. reports several CNR switch keys were taken after thieves broke two windows.



WHAT A WAY to spend a lunch hour. Members of the Georgetown volunteer fire department had their lunches interrupted on Thursday when they were called to a home on Delrex Blvd. to handle a report of smoke coming from a basement. The call, however, was a false alarm.

Smoke Bumps and grinds

There were no injuries and only minor damages in the few auto accidents in Georgetown this weekend. The most extensive damage, \$800, was sustained by an eastbound car on Delrex Blvd., Sunday when the driver lost control in fresh snow, crossed the roadway, mounted the boulevard, knocking down a small tree and coming to rest after hitting a hydro pole. Hubert Herwynen, the driver was uninjured.

A collision resulted in \$200 damage to

each of the two cars involved when a driver attempted to pull out of a parked position and struck a passing vehicle on John St. on Sunday. The cars were owned by Larry M. Ireland of John St. and Leslie D. Clark of Glen Williams.

A chain link fence on Norton Cres. sustained \$150 damage when a car apparently hit the fence then left the scene. Another hit and run driver struck a car belonging to Bryan Harper which was parked outside his home on Prince Charles Drive.

No sign of signs

Somewhere in rural Halton Hills there are 102 new road signs. The personnel and finance committee was not too certain of where the new signs are located or what they state but, nevertheless, Monday night the committee gave its tentative approval to pay \$2,066.84 for the mystery signs.

The bill for the signs merely stated that they were for the rural area of the town. However, Esqueving Councillor Russ Miller noted that he had not seen any of the signs. He noted that he would get further information concerning the signs before the accounts are brought before town council.