



TO OFFICIALLY kick off Red Cross month Karl Klien, Hill raised the Red Cross flag to fly over the town's municipal offices. Paul Farkas, Marg Pope of the Red Cross and Mayor Tom

# Halton Hills wants park

That planned park for the Black Creek Area of Georgetown is being pulled off the shelf by Halton Hills Council.

At a meeting of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority two weeks ago officials of the authority noted that plans to develop a \$70,000 central park in Georgetown may be shelved after one year of futile attempts to proceed.

The authority had included the Black Creek project in last year's budget at the request of Georgetown council. However an offer of purchase made to the owner of the land involved was not accepted. Because Halton Hills has not made any further requests to the authority to continue negotiations the CVCA is considering not including the park in its 1975 plans.

Councillor Harry Levy expressed concern last week about the authority's move. "I, for one, don't want to see them delete that project," he commented.

"At the moment it's an ungodly mess that has to be cleaned up. We would like to see it returned to its natural state to provide Georgetown with some sort of central park...I don't want this just to die because the authority ran into a stone wall."

The land in question, he noted, is currently littered with old car bodies. "It's a helluva mess," said Councillor Russ Miller.

The town, it was pointed out, is currently taking steps on its own to have the property cleaned up.

The personnel and finance committee will be making a recommendation that the town ask the authority to continue negotiations to acquire the needed properties for future development as a park.

## Sign(s) of trouble

Signs in Halton Hills which are as varied as they are numerous, are going to get a close perusal from town council sometime in the future.

In reviewing an application by Auto Master Transmission Co., 345 Guelph Street, to erect a ground sign on its property the town's committee of the whole Monday night briefly rapped the myriad collection of signs in town.

Councillor Harry Levy picked Guelph Street in particular as being over run with signs of all sorts. He nicknamed it "Sign Alley" while noting that council is powerless in stopping regulating the types and locations of the signs because of the lack of a proper sign bylaw.

"Things are getting out of hand in town," Councillor Ernie Sykes added. "Something should be done," he said, to control the use of cardboard signs, in particular, that are placed beside Highway 7.

Councillor Roy Booth explained that when a sign bylaw was first drawn up in Georgetown it was discovered that it made about 50 percent of the existing signs in town illegal. The merchants, he said, would have had to be given three years to carry out their change to legal signs. Flashing signs and rotating signs were considered illegal in the bylaw.

The matter of signs in Halton Hills will be reviewed in the near future by the town's engineer and planner.

## Trailer owners face rate increase

Owners of trailer homes located in Halton Hills will face a 100 percent rise in their municipal service charges.

The town's finance and personnel committee last Wednesday recommended to council that the first rise in 19 years for trailer home fees be granted. The fees, set out in the trailer bylaw first drawn up in 1956, are \$10 per month. The committee has recommended that the new charges be \$20 per month.

"Anyone," commented Councillor Harry Levy, "who thinks he should pay only \$10 per month for all the services provided by the town, irrespective of how small the home may be, is out of his head."

He said that the previous \$10 fee does not come close to paying for all the municipal services.

## Come to Church

<b>MOUNTAINVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Minister: Rev. H. E. Lewis Organist: Mrs. W. Townsend 9:45 a.m. Church School 11 a.m. Morning Worship Wed. 7:30 p.m. Service Conservative & Evangelical VISITORS WELCOME	<b>GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH</b> 14 Main St. S. Evangelical 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Morning Worship 7 p.m. Evening Worship Rev. Robert Gaston, of Fremont, Ohio, candidating minister at both services Everyone welcome "Come make our church your church"
<b>Immanuel Lutheran Church</b> Windsor Road at Carole St. Rev. Harold R. Patzer 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Service Church of the Lutheran Hour	<b>CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH</b> 7th Line Rev. J. W. Postman Services 10:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. Listen to CHIN FM (Dial 101) BACK TO GOD HOUR Sundays 8:00 a.m. Also CKFH (1430) 11:30 a.m.
<b>Maple Avenue Baptist Church</b> 177 MAPLE AVE. GEORGETOWN PASTOR: REV. R. C. LOHNS ASSOC. PASTOR: REV. D. R. GORRIE 9:45 a.m. Bible School with a class for everyone 11 a.m.—Morning Worship Service 4:30 p.m. Evening Fellowship Hour BIBLE STUDY HOUR WEDNESDAYS 7:30 P.M. You are welcome to attend these services.	

# OFA does not represent farmers

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture does not represent the better interests of farmers facing the realities of operating farms in the shadow of a large metropolitan area. Because of the OFA's failure to do so perhaps another body should be formed which would.

Coming after nearly two hours of often times bitter argument that suggestion—made by one member of an audience which numbered over 150—did not rest well with the man at whom it was aimed. Gordon Hill, the president of the OFA, ran into some of the toughest opposition expressed yet to the federation's land-use policy at a meeting last Thursday night in Stewarttown Senior Public School.

Ironically the meeting came one day after Mr. Hill and other OFA officials had presented a brief containing the same land-use policy to the provincial cabinet. The cabinet's response to it, however, was much more favorable than the loudly expressed opposition shown Thursday in Halton Hills.

The strongest dissension at the meeting centred on the federation's stand on the future stringent control of selling and dividing of prime agricultural land. The OFA, in its brief to the cabinet, suggested that:—Land-use planning by assessment and by the economics of the market must cease and be replaced by the process of inventory and allocation to best use.

Class 1 and 2 lands (the top two classes) must be reserved for food production and any departure from this policy should require the most searching examination.

—Agricultural designations for land should be established as permanent land use classifications. These should enjoy a new integrity and permanence.

—Agriculture should be used as a permanent zoning designation only on the land that is capable of viable, economic food production by virtue of soil classification and location in relation to markets, climatic zones and urban influences.

This was strongly opposed by a number of the farmers present who stated that they were quickly reaching a position where they wished to burn their operations over but have no one to hand them to. As one member pointed out the majority of the men at the meeting were well on in age.

Faced with the prospect of not having anyone to give the land and operation to the only alternative, some noted, was to sell the land for the best price.

"You talk about how great this land-use policy is for the rest of the country but it's a big rip-off for the farmer who has to sell his property," one person commented during the heated, three-hour question and answer period. He noted that a farmer would be severely limited having to receive just \$500 per acre for land that is zoned agricultural in comparison to receiving up to \$10,000 an acre for the same land had it been zoned for development. "How on earth do we ever make up the difference?"

Another member of the audience added, "If we ever agree to something like that we are just signing our own death warrants."

This led to the suggestion from one farmer that the OFA is not representing that segment of farming society forced, through their location in a developing area, to consider selling their farm eventually. "I would suggest," he said, "that the OFA represents the farmers wishing to remain in farming. Perhaps another group should be formed which would represent the better interests of those of us planning to sell our land."

Mr. Hill conceded that it basically was true. "If there are people in our membership who are interested only in selling their lands and getting out of farming then it's true, we can't serve them."

Mr. Hill, however, noted that farmers in Ontario had been calling for land-use plans for over 12 years and that the OFA's plans had been made into a complete package which the government must decide either to totally accept or reject.

It was also pointed out that most municipalities, in effect, already have land-use policies set out in their official plans and zoning bylaws. Three of the four municipalities, it was noted, in Halton have land-use plans. The weakness with that, a differing member commented, is that municipal bylaws are much more open to change than provincial regulations.

Another section of the OFA's presentation to cabinet, however, was greeted a little more generously by the Halton farmers. The OFA has asked the province to institute a farm income stabilization program to protect the income of farmers. Final details of the program have not been set yet, Mr. Hill noted, but action must be taken soon by the provincial government to institute an income guarantee program for farmers.

"It isn't yet but I'm very pleased with the way it was received yesterday (by the cabinet). I'm very hopeful that we'll see something being done on it very soon."

Mr. Hill explained that a program has already been set up in British Columbia which is basically a "risk sharing program" through which the province assists farmers in making up part of their losses should their costs exceed the market price for their produce. "That's not the type of program we'll have here," he pointed out. "I'm not sure what kind of plan is coming but I'm optimistic that a plan is indeed coming."

The consuming public, he suggested, would not mind seeing farmers receiving some form of farm income stabilization program.

"I don't think the consumers expect to get their food for less than the farmer produces it. They're not opposed to farmers earning a decent income."

He added, "Consumers, however, want to be assured that they are not getting ripped-off or being held up for ransom."

Any farm income program would be voluntary, he said, both through marketing groups and through the individual farmers.

Also included in the federation's brief is a call for a negative capital gains tax through which a farmer who loses money because of a zoning change could be reimbursed—in a similar manner to the present capital gains tax—for his loss. It would be done either through a tax credit or an outright payment. Thus a farmer whose land is valued at \$1 million for use for development but who must sell it as farm land for half that amount would be reimbursed the additional \$500,000. That scheme however met with a varied reaction Thursday.

## PCs quiz MPP Snow

Although the thoughts of an impending provincial election seem to be the prime concerns of members of the other parties, when the Georgetown Progressive Conservative Association met last Saturday they coolly concentrated on everything else but an election.

The PCs met at an early morning breakfast meeting held in the Hunter's Inn. Georgetown PC association president, Fran Baines noted that it was "really an explanation of ideas breakfast and not an election preparation meeting."

About 40 local members questioned Halton East MPP Jim Snow on a number of important local issues. Heading the list of topics was the redistribution of provincial ridings. In Halton the redistribution could see the present two ridings expanded into three.

Burlington, Oakville and north Halton would each have separate representatives. According to Mr. Snow the chief difficulty in carrying out the change is the decision of where to separate south from north Halton, at Highway 5 or the Queen Elizabeth Way?

The resignation of George Kerr, former MPP for this area, was also discussed along with the new election expenses bill, regional government plus a number of other topical issues.

John Rhodes, provincial transportation and communications minister, was to have been guest speaker at the breakfast meeting but was unable to attend.

## Liquor charges net 13

Thirteen persons were charged under the Liquor Control Act last week in Georgetown in ten separate incidents. Four youths were charged with causing a disturbance at the Station Hotel after police investigated a complaint. There were five isolated incidents of impaired driving, and four others were charged with being drunk in a public place, or having liquor in a public place.

Some playful pilferers strung a \$150 reel of coaxial cable, stolen from Eric Bell Communications, across Guelph St., damaging the cable.

A & W Drive-In, Guelph St. reported \$80 taken from the cash box after thieves broke in Friday night.

Department store clerks are more alert to shoplifters since the recent crackdown by Georgetown managers and Halton Regional Police. Two juveniles were apprehended outside the Canadian Tire Store Saturday, and caught with one mini-knife, they had taken without paying.

## Costs may limit use of schools

The question of free public use of school buildings came up at the meeting of the Halton Board of Education last Thursday in Burlington.

Budget preparations for the current year indicated that \$61,000 would be needed in overtime pay to keep the schools open after hours.

Jim Singleton, director of education for the board, noted that many groups using the schools could not afford to pay for the facilities. An example of such a group would be the Boy Scouts.

"I'd hate to think what the consequences would be if these places were not available for the Scouts to meet," furthered Mr. Singleton.

Finance officer for the board indicated that the figure also included overtime for heating and security checks of the buildings in the Halton area.

Len Auger, a trustee of the board would like to see a further study carried out to determine the cost of extra hours and determine whether or not a charge should be made to users of the buildings.

## Benefits Scouts

Bob Gillanders of Danridge Crescent is \$1,212 richer thanks to his generosity and the Optimists Club.

In order to raise money to send local Scouts in Norway a J-50 draw was held by the club with the drawing held Saturday at Zellers. Councillor Harry Levy and Dave McKewen of the Optimists pulled the winning ticket from those sold.

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MINISTER: Mr. Al McQuaghan  
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 11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
 Place: Geo. Kennedy Public School  
 Weber Dr.  
 EVERYONE WELCOME  
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## HALTON HILLS PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY

SUNDAY MARCH 9, 1975  
 10 a.m. - Family School  
 11 a.m. - Topic - "Behold The Turtle"  
 7 p.m. - Evening Fellowship and Pastor's Topic  
 "This Same Jesus"  
 Wed. 7:30 p.m. Family Nite  
 "God's Chain of Command"  
 March 16 - 11 a.m. Ladies Missionary Day  
 Special Speaker Mrs. Carl Young - Thailand

## ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

ANGLICAN  
 60 Guelph Street  
 Rector: The Rev'd R. Gallagher, B.A., S.T.B.  
 SUNDAY, MARCH 9  
 LENT IV  
 Morning Sunday,  
 8 a.m. - The Eucharist  
 9:15 a.m. - Choral Eucharist  
 11 a.m. Morning Prayer  
 Wed. March 5 7:30 p.m. - The Eucharist  
 Sermon - Brother David, G.H.C.  
 Crib Service - 9:15 and 11 a.m.