

DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN

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JULY 10-11-12

SIDEWALK SALE

Council reviews old town bylaws

Smoking could not have been too popular in 1938 when Acton councillors sat down to put municipal bylaw 708 into effect. With it they imposed a \$12 per year fee on anyone selling cigars, cigarettes or tobacco of any kind in the town.

Two years later—on December 18, 1940, to be exact—Georgetown councillors must have been in an equally disagreeable mood when they decided to pass bylaw 408. Thanks to it, a yearly fee

(albeit a small \$1 one) was imposed upon anyone in Georgetown operating either a restaurant or a "victualling house." Victualling house? Then there's Esqueuing's bylaw 22-55 passed in 1955. It imposed a yearly \$2 fee on persons operating a nursing home or boarding school in the township and a \$1 fee on those running common lodging houses.

The years have passed. The times have changed. Regional

government is even now in operation. Yet all of those bylaws are still in effect, though some are not enforced. If clerk-administrator of Halton Hills, Doug Pritchard, gets his way, however, they won't be for long. Mr. Pritchard has been working for the past several months attempting to come up with a new bylaw, or bylaws, to control various businesses and trades being plied in Halton Hills.

At one point his efforts at amalgamating the bylaws of the three former municipalities produced a sizable 60-some-page document that the personnel and finance committee reluctantly began to peruse recently.

Seeing what faced them as they waded through just the first few pages the committee eventually decided "there has to be an easier way." They tossed back to Mr. Pritchard the job of coming up with a viable bylaw and he, in turn, returned three weeks ago with a new set of bylaws which could, possibly, be the answer to a lot of problems.

He suggested that the bylaws presently in force in the three municipalities, which control businesses and trades, be re-examined. Those which could still be considered applicable should be adopted for the entire town while those which are out of date should be wiped out.

Four similar bylaws from Georgetown and Acton, governing transient traders, hawkers and pedlars, should be consolidated into two overall bylaws, Mr. Pritchard suggested.

He also suggested that a Georgetown bylaw which regulates exhibitions and carnivals with a \$200 flat fee plus a \$10 daily fee should be enforced throughout Halton Hills.

If his recommendations receive council's approval, an Esqueuing bylaw which regulates public halls would apply to all the town. It sets out a \$5 fee for halls with capacities of under 300 people and a \$10 fee for those that can hold between 300 to 600 people.



THEY'RE ON THE ROAD—Halton Regional Police Chief Ken Skerrett took delivery of the region's first new police vehicle Monday afternoon at Georgetown Chrysler. Dan Wagstaffe of our local Chrysler dealership, who had completed the details of the sale of the new fleet, turned over the keys of the first new car to Chief Skerrett.

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