

OHAP the only way to get \$2.7 million

The province and the region dangled a carrot in front of Halton Hills councillors last week and a juicy carrot it was. In return for an interest-free loan of approximately \$2.7 million for an addition to the Georgetown sewage treatment plant the town has only to agree to join the Ontario Housing Action Plan.

But town councillors, during last week's Halton Hills Subsidary Planning Board meeting, questioned whether the price was worth handing over some of their planning authority to the province.

Peter Martin and Bryn

Lloyd of the ministry of housing and Don Farmer, Halton regional treasurer, appeared before the board to present the benefits of having Halton Hills join the OHAP plan, a step council had previously refused to take.

Mr. Martin pointed out that the municipality if it accepts the OHAP program, then becomes eligible for interest free loans for servicing. In the region of Durham, he pointed out, the province had already provided up to \$3 million to municipalities for water and sewage systems.

In return, he added, the municipality must provide a specified amount of housing under the OHAP program. Approximately 10 percent of the new housing to be built between now and 1980, he commented as an example, might have to meet the requirements of home buyers earning between \$14,000 and \$39,000. An additional 30 percent might be for the \$39,000 to \$50,000 age bracket.

This loss of total control of the town's planning process worried Councillor Ric Morrow, who asked, "If all the

agreements are signed with the municipality, what controls in the planning process are we giving away? Why is the province willing to give all this money to us? What's in it for them?"

Mr. Martin replied that "the province is taking away no planning controls at all."

The benefit of the OHA plan to the province, he said, lies in the fact that it provides needed housing in areas designated for growth in the next four to five years.

Mr. Farmer in a later interview with the Herald, stated

bluntly that there was little alternative for the town to take if it was going to obtain the badly needed addition to its sewage treatment plant in Georgetown.

That plant is now estimated to be in the price range of \$4 million of which 15 percent would be paid for through provincial subsidies and another 16.5 percent through loans from the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. That would leave the municipality with the problem of raising an additional \$2.7 million to cover the costs of

building the plant.

Under the regional setup, Mr. Farmer noted, such a capital cost would be charged back almost totally to the residents in the urban area of Georgetown.

Similar problems would be created in financing the \$410,000 addition to the Acton sewage treatment plant next year and a \$342,000 reservoir for Acton in 1980.

"If Halton Hills attempted to raise the \$2.7 million elsewhere, perhaps on the open market, it would cost the taxpayers, over a 20-year

period something like \$3.5 million to pay back the interest and the original figure," Mr. Farmer said.

Through provincial assistance, the loan would be a 15-year proposition with the town paying no interest at all.

Mr. Martin also explained to the councillors that any homes already approved by the town and now waiting for completion of the sewage plant expansion before being built, would not be affected by the province's OHAP plan.

The OHAP plan has already

been approved by Burlington and Oakville. Planning board decided to first examine the OHAP agreements signed thus far by other area municipalities to find out, in fact, what is required by the municipality.

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Susan Earle - Rob Mackenzie

St. John's United Church was the setting of the candlelight double ring ceremony of Susan Virginia Earle to Robert John Mackenzie. Rev. Harold Martin officiated at the wedding which took place Saturday, October 18.

Susan is the daughter of Mrs. Hilda Earle of Toronto, formerly of Georgetown and of the late John Earle. Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mackenzie of Lucknow.

Vocalists for the ceremony were a local folk group, Sage, consisting of Brian Day, Jorge Lasso, Colleen Burns, Peter McCormick and Donna Brown.

The bride given in marriage by her uncle, Mr. Bert Robertson, of Toronto wore a high waisted, jersey full-length gown. Pearl embroidery outlined the neckline and a floor-length matching train was attached to the gown. She carried a matching head piece. Susan carried a nosegay of pink roses, stephanotis and baby's breath highlighted with ribbons of white velvet.

Matron of honor, Mrs. Wendy Saxe of Georgetown, sister of the bride, wore a full-skirted gown of floral design emphasizing the autumn colors. The gown was designed with a vi-neck and bell-shaped sleeves.

The bridesmaids were; Mrs. Joan Pollard of Petawawa, sister of the groom; Miss Louise Milton of Georgetown and Miss Shirley Levers also of Georgetown, both friends of the bride.

The attendants gown's were plain sleeveless dresses complemented with shoulder-length capes, beaded with a deep ruffe accenting the autumn shades of burgundy, dusty rose and moss green.

Susan and Leigh Anne Saxe, twin nieces of the bride, wore the flower girls wearing long full-skirted rose and burgundy pinafore dresses trimmed with

Reed raps bill Monopoly on gas

TORONTO-Natural gas producers could lose some bargaining right by an Ontario Government Energy Board Act amendment, Julian Reed said Wednesday at Queen's Park.

Mr. Reed, MPP for Halton-Burlington, was arguing a bill to amend the act concerning natural gas distribution in Ontario. The bill covers a wide range of natural gas considerations.

Mr. Reed, and other MPPs, centered attention on a clause saying no person except a distributor could use gas in Ontario that was not acquired from a distributor. He questioned whether the producer had the right to sell by his own accord rather than to an official distributor only.

He said a clause in the amendment would promote a monopoly situation since it is impractical for a gas producer to deal with any distributor other than in his own locality.

"It's obvious the bargaining position of the producer is lost," Mr. Reed said. "It seems a producer could be subjected to regulations governing allocation just as easily as a distributor."

"The long-term effects seem far-reaching," he said. "It could reduce or even curtail independent exploration in Ontario. Direct sales promotes free market competition between producers and helps establish a market price for gas. This clause removes free market eliminating a true picture of the value of gas."

"Competition, exploration, future storage and the vitality of the industry in Ontario would all be going down the pipe. Unless the minister can point out my error in reasoning, I cannot support the bill."

Energy minister Dennis Timbrell said the bill did not inhibit exploration for new reserves or exploitation of known reserves.

He disputed Mr. Reed's arguments that producers can only sell to distributors.

"There is nothing in this bill stopping the producer selling his gas either to a distributor or directly. There is nothing in this amendment that changes that situation."

The particular clause argued was carried by the house.

Valentina Farms places as Reserve Junior Champions

Georgetown's record of high placings in the Royal Winter Fair's Holstein show was once again strengthened this year as a number of local entries placed high in the judging.

A large number of spectators, including visitors from Italy, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom, were on hand for the judging of the 24 animals by Judge David H. Houck, Gormley.

Price-View Pat Lu Ann, raised by Valentina Farms, Georgetown, was judged Reserve Junior Champion. Sired by Price-View Eagle Pat, Lu Ann was long and clean through the neck, with plenty of height.

Valentina Farms also bought the top junior yearling, paying \$3,000 for Oak Ridges Farms' Glan Breit Barbara. Paul Stewart of Hornby placed third in the Lawara Showmanship Competition.

In the junior Yearling Heifer class Nureland Fury Rosette entered by Fred Nurse placed third. Fifth was a heifer owned by Valentina Farms.

Claude F. Pickett's Pickland Royal Flossie was third in the dry cow category.

A cow entered by Jeff Nurse placed fourth in the two-year-old female class while in the three-year-old female class

Kiwanis honor 4-H's

The Kiwanis Club of the Kingsway honoured outstanding 4-H members and leaders from Halton at a special luncheon at the Old Mill, Toronto on Monday, December 8.

The following members received a dictionary as winners of the Kiwanis Scholarships: 4-H Homemaking-Dollie Deshaies and Diane Westelakan; 4-H Agricultural-

Judy Brown, Nancy McKinnon, Heidi Stadler, Debbie McMillan, Randy Peidde, Jamie Couper, Glenn McClure and Richard Stanley.

Valerie Richardson, winner of the J.E. Whillcock Trophy as Halton's Most Outstanding 4-H Member, was unable to be present.

Appreciation was expressed to the Kiwanis Club of the Kingsway for their support by 4-H member, Nancy McKinnon.

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