

Marywood homeowners take complaints to council



The Oldest—Vic Hazel, 79, a member of Br. 120 RCL was the oldest entrant in Saturday's walkathon

Listing a variety of complaints ranging from a streetlight installed in one homeowner's driveway to sinking streets that are hazardous to drive on, homeowners in the Marywood Meadows high income subdivision have met with town council in hopes of receiving support in fighting what one owner called "an exercise in futility" in dealing with the developer.

The Marywood Meadows Homeowners Association, which claims that it represents every homeowner in the single family homes developed with the exception on one, listed eight official complaints in a brief to town council.

Their leading problem was severe differences in the grading of the lots between what is actually there at present to what was shown on the grading plan filed by the developer, Elkton Investments, with the town. That difference, noted the association's spokesman, Stan Jackson, is not measured in inches but in feet.

Although the development agreement states that six inches of topsoil must be spread on all areas not paved or built upon there are many areas, state the homeowners, where the soil does not meet that standard and in fact little or no topsoil is a common sight in the rear of houses, away from the streets.

The homeowners also complained of excessive dirt, dust and construction debris throughout the development. They also point

to a town-owned parkette on Mary Street which has been used by the subdivision's developer, with town approval, as a refuse dump for contractors' materials. Concrete trucks, they state, have dumped at least one excess load on the Mary Street lot.

Numerous sections of curb and street paving collapsed last spring and some areas which were repaired have collapsed again. One family enacted legal action against the developer after severe damage was done to the underbody of their car when it snagged on a manhole cover protruding above the street level.

Besides the instance in which a street light was located on part of one family's driveway, thus restricting usable width of the driveway, the owners listed various other problems with their driveways.

The driveways were installed and paved prior to sidewalks being put in, they pointed out. When the sidewalks were installed so much damage was done to the driveways many homeowners claim that they will have to be now reworked and repaved.

And earth and plant berm to act as a sound barrier between homes and a nearby railway line has yet to be installed as specifically outlined in an Ontario Municipal Board agreement.

That berm, commented Councillor Roy Booth, is not going to be an easy one for the developer to put up. "It's going to be interesting to see how they plant on top of rocks." At present, said Councillor Booth, all that the berm consists of is a wire enclosed pile of rocks.

"It was the OMB," added Councillor

Harry Levy, that gave the criteria that the berm is to be made of earth and bushes instead of a gabions.

Following their meeting with council, at which it was decided that the works committee will review with the town engineer at its next meeting the homeowners' complaints, a number of the owners told the Herald of other problems they have been experiencing in the subdivision.

A typical home in Marywood Meadows costs in the neighbourhood of \$75,000.

—One owner has had to install central air conditioning to combat excessive dust.

—Outside steps have not been installed leaving doors opening to very severe drafts.

—Several specified features have yet to be installed in the new homes despite several requests by the owners to the developer.

—Landscaping has yet to be carried out.

—No notification is given to the owners prior to dumping of fill on their properties. "You come home one night and there's a huge pile of dirt on your lot."

—One incident of questionable wiring in which a live wire had been attached to a gas main, was reported.

Typical of their problems, commented one woman, is the fact that a delivery man for a local dry cleaner who used to visit the subdivision daily won't go near it now, unless he's requested to.



The Youngest—Adam Clark, 4, was the youngest thanks to the efforts of his dad, Lorne

May be the last

Low turnout for walk

"Serious consideration is being given to cancel the walk," said Keith Mills, Georgetown's "Y" representative on the planning committee for the 1976 Peel-Halton Walkathon held last Saturday.

Mills estimated that only 800 people from Georgetown, Brampton and Bramalea participated in the 23.4 mile walk.

"Last year, there were about 600 walkers from Brampton alone," remembered Mills, who added that fewer adults participated this year. The majority of the walkers were eight to 12 years old.

"The weather conditions were bad in the early morning. It was rainy and cold," justified Mills. "But interest had gradually dwindled anyway."

The planning committee had anticipated that after 10 years the novelty of the walk would wear off, and offered prizes to the first walker in, the oldest and youngest walkers, and the school with the best showing, to renew interest.

Prizes will not be awarded until Collection Day, at the Georgetown "Y" on Mountainview Road from 1 pm to 4 pm May 15.

Region's budget up! \$2.6 million

Taxpayers in Halton Hills will see the mill rate increase by approximately three mills, due to increases in regional costs, Don Farmer, regional treasurer, said Tuesday.

The base amount apportioned to Halton Hills this year will be \$870, 286, not including sewage costs in Georgetown and Acton. Mr. Farmer said. Sewage costs for Georgetown will be \$208,526 and \$151,543 for Acton, he added, for a total of \$1,230,355. Cont'd on Page 11.

CMHC looks into trouble along ravine

What the town of Halton Hills does to solve the problem of eroding land in the ravine between Metcalfe Court and Delrex Blvd. in Georgetown is being observed by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, a crown company which insures loans to lending institutions.

J. Warren Sanderson, manager of the CMHC office in Hamilton, told the Herald in a telephone interview.

"We're interested in any occurrence of such problems and what takes place in solving them."

He said CMHC had no direct loans in the area where residents have watched erosion occurring and land sinking—in one case exposing the foundations of a home—since 1970, although after receiving a letter from one of the residents on behalf of a number of others, CMHC did meet with the affected homeowners.

Last Thursday CMHC sent two men to get a first hand look at the ravine.

"We walked the whole length of the ravine," said Harold C. Lampan, Chief

Inspection officer of the CMHC office in Hamilton. He noted that "some places were worse than others."

The deteriorating conditions in the ravine may be due to the condition of the soil, a change in the water table or erosion caused by the creek at the bottom of the ravine, Mr. Lampan said.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is "just exploring to see if there's any danger to homes," Mr. Lampan said. "It's not that severe at the present time but who knows?"

"We hope Georgetown comes up with an answer," he added, saying that CMHC had no power to make the town or the builder solve the problem.

Trucks permitted to remove sludge

Halton Hills council has managed to pull itself out of a trap it put itself into last week when works committee decided to forbid overweight Blue Spruce Enterprises trucks from using "B" Class town roads.

The trap was created when Stephen French, operator of Blue Spruce the disposal company that has been operating a highly criticized sludge disposal site near Ashgrove, pointed out to works committee that he could not, because of the ban on his large trucks,

use Sideroad 10 to get to his site and take out the sludge as he was planning to and the ministry of the environment required him to do so.

Mr. French had been planning to dispose of the sludge in a location south of Milton.

Two members of the works committee strongly supported amending their recommendation to allow Mr. French to use

Sideroad 10 to take out sludge from the site.

"I certainly don't want to make it any more difficult or prevent this person from removing the sludge from that pit," admitted Councillor Ern Hyde to which Councillor Mike Armstrong added, "We would be happy to offer him a permit" to allow Mr. French to truck out the remaining sludge.

The permit will allow Blue Spruce to take sludge from that site but not to put any more in.

According to a comment made by Mr. French's lawyer at Monday night's meeting, the town's ban on the disposal firm's operations could have some long-range affects.

"If he's put out of business the whole of the region is going to be constipated. You can't put him out of business. He performs a necessary operation."

40th anniversary party for Little NHL

A special dinner honouring the founder of the Little NHL in Ontario, Gordon Alcott, will be held this fall to mark the Little NHL's 40th anniversary taking place this year. The special dinner will be held here in Georgetown where the Little NHL program originally began in 1936.

Rev. Leonard Self, one of the early supporters and hardest workers behind the Little NHL program in the province revealed the plans for the dinner scheduled for Friday, September 24 during town council's Monday

night meeting.

Although full details of the dinner to which present and past members of the National Hockey League will be invited are yet to be finalized, Rev. Self, now a Presbyterian Church minister in Toronto, told council that it would be definitely held somewhere in the Georgetown area.

Councillor Mike Armstrong was selected by council to act as a local representative on the planning committee for the event.



OUT OF SIGHT but not out of mind. Seven-month-old Kevin Young was plunked on the floor under the table while dad, Neil Young, president of the GT Motorsport Club, explained some of the club's activities to Gail

Bennet of the Georgetown Girl's Pipe Band at a lull in the Community Fair held by the "Y" April 27. Young Kevin, who has already been in a couple of races, didn't seem to mind at all.



WHIPPER BILLY WATSON gets an armhold put on him by Mayor Tom Hill (left) at a joint meeting of six service clubs in Georgetown in

and of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children held April 27. For story, turn to page five.

Gas company takes town to court

Petrofina is taking Halton Hills council to court in order to get a building permit to construct a self-serve gas station at the corner of Mountainview Road and Guelph Street.

Mayor Tom Hill was handed a writ, notifying him of Petrofina's intentions, on Friday.

At Monday night's council meeting a large

majority of councillors voted in favour of instructing the town's solicitor Roy Steele, to prepare and handle their case.

It has been the town's stand that a full report on the pros and cons of self-serve gasoline stations, weighed with the pros and cons of regular service stations, should be developed prior to granting permission for more than the two self-serve operations

already in existence.

Petrofina approached council late last year with plans for converting the present station to a self-serve operation but were told then that they would have to wait until the full policy is developed. At that point a Petrofina spokesman questioned the town's right to control the service stations.

Architects hired for new municipal building

With angry complaints that "This isn't the right way to be doing this" still echoing through Halton Hills council chambers, town council Monday night approved a recommendation from their special building committee that the architectural firm of Hallford and Wilson be hired to design an addition to the town offices on the Seventh Line.

If council, having seen proposed plans from the architects for the new building, decide that they wish to proceed with the project the architects' fees will be a minimum of \$36,000.

"I'm still not sure we need to get into this

building at this time," commented Councillor George Malby, one of three councillors who strongly opposed moving towards construction of the building at present time.

"I'm all in favour of the building being built but I don't think we can afford it this year."

Referring to an explanation by Councillor Ern Hyde who has been the leading proponent of amalgamation of all town services under one roof, or at least as few roofs as possible, that the architects' fees would increase as the cost of the building increases from a \$300,000 level, Councillor Malby commented "It's just like the Olympics."

Costs of the project are still not finalized.

Councillor Hyde commented once again that the new building would aid in the efficiency of the town's operations which are currently spread throughout Halton Hills from Main Street in Georgetown to Mill Street in Acton.

"We're running a \$6 millions business," in an inefficient way. The situation is becoming critical as the town's engineering department is already looking for new office space.

"I hope to see this brought to the point where it's proceeding within one year," commented Hyde.

New on page 16

Today the Herald introduces a new series to be run through the coming months on Living in Halton Hills. The series will look at where people are living, in what they're living, how much it costs and what the future may hold as far as accommodations are concerned.

We look today at one of the biggest question marks that exists on the housing scene: mobile homes.

Don't feed the ducks

If Halton Hills is going to give the ducks on Fairy Lake an unwanted feeling the town has got to start doing it immediately, warned Councillor Ern Hyde at Monday night's town council meeting.

Claiming that his remark that the ducks should be "kicked out" as quoted in last week's Herald were taken out of context Councillor Hyde told council that his intent was to make it very clear that any hopes of making the Fairy Lake waterfowl independent of man in obtaining food hinged on immediate actions by the town and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

If the ducks do not learn to feed themselves now, during the easy spring and summer months, they will be in trouble come winter and Hyde when they should fly south.

CVCA, in a letter to the town, warned that providing food for waterfowl during winter months was a dangerous practice that is resulting in more and more ducks that are totally dependent upon human handouts for their existence. They eventually lose all natural instincts to fly south during the winter, in favour of the handouts, warned the conservation authority.

The CVCA noted that it will be carrying out a public education program on the problem later this year which created Councillor Hyde's comments. He noted that the public should be told now of the problem in order to restore the duck's own desire to find food.

Mayor Tom Hill told council Monday that he will be bringing up the matter of the advertisements at the next meeting of the authority's executive scheduled for yesterday (Tuesday).

The town, on its own, will be putting up signs at Fairy Lake advising people do not feed the ducks.