

"RUSTY" HENDY, 17 months old, seems to be looking for the gear shift in the go kart, Saturday at the North Halton Kart Club.

Committee seeks review of complex

Another attempt is being made to stop construction of a new \$300,000 municipal complex in Halton Hills.

General administration committee (GAC) has urged council to reconsider the bylaw granting approval of the new town office complex.

This recommendation would stall council from sending the bylaw to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for approval.

Coun. Roy Booth, who made the recommendation, was supported by Mayor Tom Hill and Coun. George Malby. GAC chairman Les Duby opposed.

Coun. Booth justified his recommendation with three reasons: delegations to council presented petitions opposing the complex; letters to council opposed the complex; at least one councillor who voted in favor of new offices changed his mind.

"We as a committee deal with municipal property and we should be concerned with this and it is out of my concern that I make this proposal," said Booth.

He based his recommendation on a procedural bylaw which states that no item

may be brought to council by opposing members unless the item is first brought to a committee meeting (GAC in this case) through the clerk.

Booth explained that his research concluded it was "within legal bounds" and "straight forward, not innovative" for GAC to make this recommendation to council.

"I dug around and tried to come up with something to forestall the final decision with the hope I could come to GAC and put it forth," said Booth, adding the recommendation is "only a holding tactic."

"At no time do I suggest we take any power away from any power group regardless of any power the group may hold," said Booth.

Mayor Tom Hill said he hopes all 13 councillors will be present at the Sept. 7 meeting when council plans to discuss the municipal complex issue.

"The majority of councillors and a lot of people want to squash the bylaw now on the books," said Coun. Malby. "We shouldn't bow to the OMB; we should bow to the people."

Downtown businessmen protest industrial rezoning

Georgetown's Downtown Business Association (DBA), trying to lure customers away from Georgetown Market Place and Brampton, too, have sent to council a letter protesting the proposed rezoning of land from industrial to commercial adjacent to the Gordon Alcott Arena.

The move was one of three taken at a meeting last week after about 17 merchants had heard town planner Mario Venditti outline a decade of development Georgetown will undergo beginning with the expansion of the sewage plant facilities.

Besides strip commercial development on Guelph Street, Georgetown has two nodes of commercial activity, Venditti said, downtown and the market place, which is undergoing expansion to include another strip of stores, an enclosed mall and another large department store.

"A regional shopping centre," is what's planned for the Market Place, Venditti said.

In reply to as how to put Main Street, Georgetown on the map, Venditti said: "You can't do it by signs. You need to create an identity."

He recommended the merchants develop into a specialty shop area, stressing its unique qualities.

HIGH DENSITY

The perimeter of the downtown core was zoned for high density Venditti said, although that was no guarantee construction of apartment buildings would occur. As well, Venditti felt that council likely would approve an upcoming bylaw which would allow apartments over downtown stores. Both measures would increase foot traffic downtown, Venditti said.

He said he was hoping to get a study done of downtown Georgetown and Acton, funds for which would come from the province.

Competition position

Halton board of education will be asked in September to consider a position paper on the trend to "play down and discourage competition in education."

Oakville trustee Richard Goodin brought a notice of motion Thursday asking the board to consider the contradiction posed by the trend in education to reduce competition while a major emphasis exists outside the school for competition, standards, objectives, and emotional responses.

Mr. Goodin in a prepared motion said the recent Olympic Games are only one example of the major importance attached to competition outside the school.

He asks for a "position paper on this subject at the next board meeting, in order that parents and the public may definitely know where we are at and the direction we are taking."

Mr. Goodin also wants a clear-cut policy statement from the ministry of education on the subject.

The shopping plaza waiting to go adjacent to the Gordon Alcott Memorial Complex would have a large supermarket, a Goodyear store and four or five other, smaller stores, Venditti said.

The DBA, with the single exception of Karen Sykes who said merchants should concentrate on improving their individual stores voted in favor of informing council of their opposition to the proposed rezoning. In citing their opposition, the letter says the DBA is proposing changes to the downtown core.

DBA president Ralph Fletcher said provincial Bill C-381 gave power to merchants to get improvements to a commercial zone redesignated a redevelopment area by using tax dollars. "As a merchant," Fletcher added, "I prefer to do it myself."

He explained that each merchant would be taxed according to the proportion of the improvement received.

It is an issue over which council has no say, Fletcher said. It must be voted on by the

Works gets crosswalk report

The works committee got the bad news officially Monday when it tabled the regional report turning down four Georgetown crosswalks.

Regional Coun. Dick Howitt, who also sits on the regional works committee, said if the committee had strong feelings, it should make them known, then went on:

"The one that floors me is Mountainview and Sinclair and Comset."

The consulting engineers, DeLeuw Cather of Toronto, said only 12 people were seen to cross Mountainview Road during the three 45 minute periods, July 20.

"The majority appeared to be students on vacation and all cross easily and in safety," says the report.

"It staggers me to think we'd pay a consulting engineer to come up with that," said Howitt. He objected to the timing of the survey as did other councillors who all felt it should be done during the school term.

Although there are crossing guards at all four locations, which the region turned down for crosswalks, works committee chairman Mike Armstrong noted: "What have we got after school hours?"

The committee agreed to send back to the region the report asking that a traffic survey be done after the school term has started next month.

The crosswalks turned down by the region are:

Maple Avenue and Delrex Blvd., Mountainview Road and King Street; Mountainview and Sinclair Avenue and Mountainview and Comset Street.

public, he said.

50 PER CENT

"If two thirds of the property owners that control 50 per cent of the taxes don't object," Fletcher said, redevelopment of the town-town core, "can be done."

A committee of merchants would need to have a plan and a budget to present to council, Fletcher said, urging merchants to return at the next meeting with their ideas.

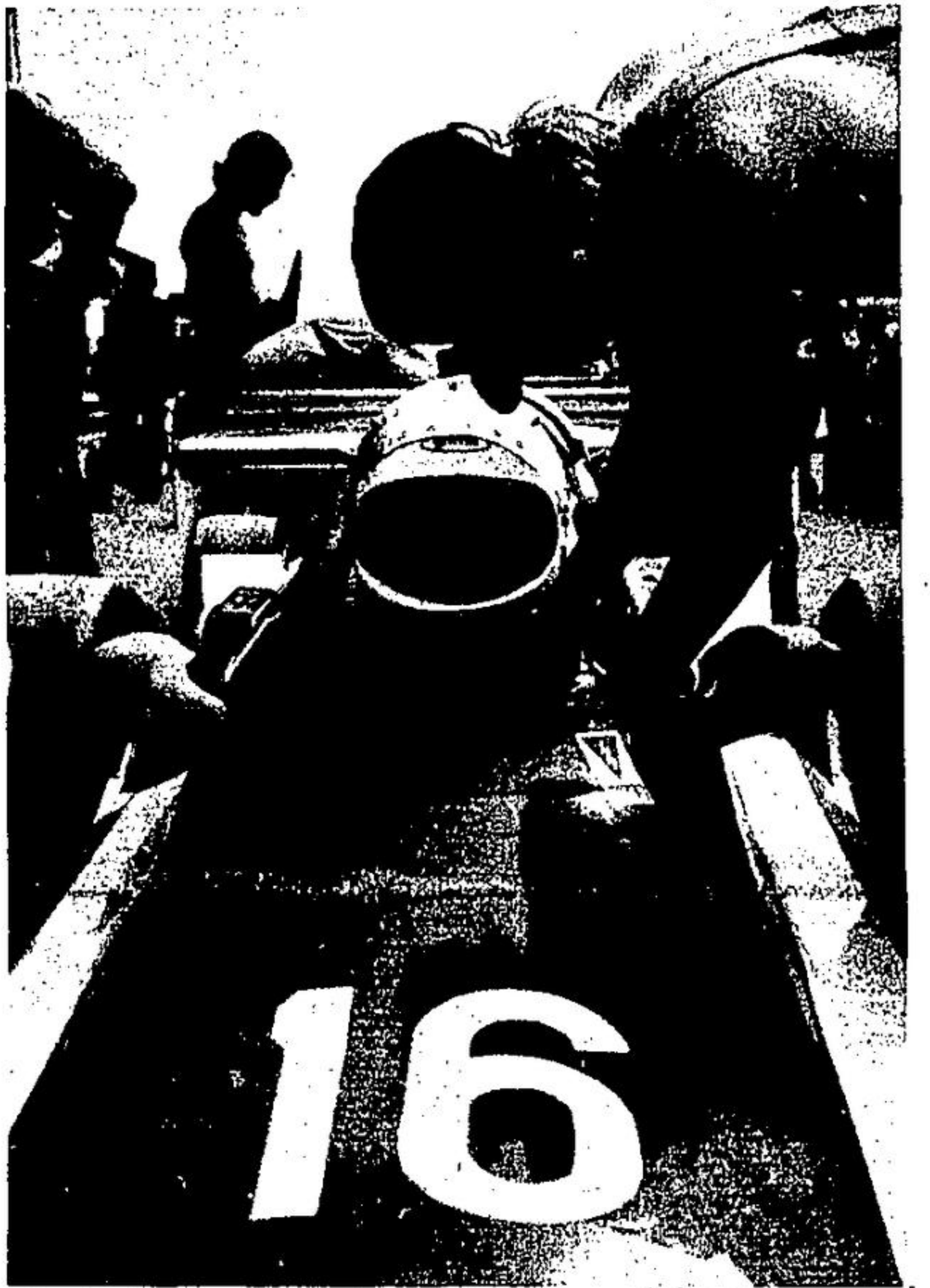
The merchants were unanimous in moving that designation as a redevelopment

area be sought.

The merchants also formed an advertising committee which will co-ordinate the pooling of their individual advertising into a section promoting the entire downtown as a place to shop.

Committee members are Barbara Shuttleworth, Ross Garlick, and Keith Mawlin.

Last night a representative of the provincial government was to address members of the DBA on Bill C-381.



Hugh Cree prepares for his best race of the year.

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CONSTRUCTION SCENE at the waste disposal site of Mountainview Road near Silver Creek. The expansion to the waste disposal plant is on schedule. It is expected to be completed next spring.

Educate convicts, expert tells Jaycees

Educating first-time offenders for decent jobs is the best way to reduce the number of repeat offenders, a leading lay expert on prison reform says.

Lewis Sherry told Georgetown Jaycees Tuesday "a lack of education is maybe the reason they're in jail in the first place."

Decent job training means "they won't have to go back to robbing banks, or pushing dope, to make a living," he said.

Mr. Sherry, now director of information

systems at Ontario Paper Ltd., carried out a prison rehabilitation program in Montreal during the 1960's when he was employed with a computer company.

Of the 35 St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary convicts involved in the program, only one was graduated as a convicted a second time. And then, he stressed, five years after the man had completed the program.

"A lot of guys just want a chance, an opportunity," he said. "Maybe he's a black or a Pakistani, and never had a chance. Many are willing to work to learn a skill."

RESENTED

While the prisoners were enthusiastic about the course, law-abiding citizens resented the convict getting a good job or taking jobs away from people who had not brushed against the law.

Sherry said a similar program involving car dealerships and auto mechanics failed for that very reason.

"We saw these people in the business sense," Mr. Sherry said. "They have the same skills as you and I have. And he stressed that if any convicts did not complete assignments by deadline they were not invited back to the voluntary program."

Sherry said both prison officials and government "resented the fact that we tried to teach them anything beyond the laundry room."

"Prison guards have a comic book mentality and refused to attend seminars," he added.

In the computer training class were people of ethnic minority origins, drug dealers, thieves and one murderer. But no sex offenders.

"There's no way," said Sherry, "that a sex offender should work in an office."

Further he believes jails should segregate sex offenders.

"If they're grouped with others, they get sicker, more animalistic," he believes, after discovering that new inmates are usually greeted with a gang rape.

SEGREGATED

"I'd also like to see the people who have made a mistake but want to help themselves

through education separated from the habitual criminals, the guys who 'ain't gonna do it no how' the Peter Demeters, the cop killers..."

"The criminals who are mentally imbalanced should be segregated, and given the psychiatric help they need."

Sherry said prisoners learn the most from fellow inmates.

"They find out different ways of 'how not to get caught; they hear about better contacts so they can sell heroin instead of grass..."

Because convicts pass along to each other more tricks of illegal trades, Sherry is opposed to lumping all types of criminals in cells together.

PRISON IS JUNGLE

"They live by the law of the jungle," he said, "and soon fit into the prison milieu: child molesters at the bottom of the heap and the Mafia at the top - and believe me, there's Mafia in Canada."

Sherry also believes reform is long overdue in the area of prison guards and officials, who he says, "are often grossly underpaid, live in fear that they will be taken hostage or blamed for escapes," and "play a big put-down game with the prisoners."

Another change Sherry would like to see is uniformity in the judicial system, because "courts are overcrowded, too busy, and the standards of justice differ. The rich get suspended sentences and the poor get jailed."

Sherry criticized parole groups, responsible for supervising people out on bail, because they are "divorced from other judicial agencies." He said parole officers, like social workers, "don't get any attention."

The police, said Sherry, are in "a turned-off condition" because capital punishment was abolished and bail is easy to get.

"The same criminal element gets out (on bail) and commits the same crime," Sherry said.

STOP BEING SOFT

"We've made it too damn soft on people," he continued. "Steak dinners in jail...we should stop that kind of jazz. Punishment is involved."

Sherry attacked society as an "I don't care group."

"The only time you and I as individuals care is when something happens to one of our

own," he said.

"This is one of the most unpopular subjects today, with all the other concerns we have," he said. "Prison reform receives little press and parliamentary discussions, but the budget for prisons is almost unquestioned."

Sherry said it costs \$17,000 to keep one convict jailed for one year.

"I respect the government," Sherry said, "but not their decision to spend \$400,000 to keep a guy in prison for life (25 years)."

"Prisons per se don't do anyone any good of any kind at any time."



LEWIS SHERRY