

Downtown pedestrian mall suggested

Four Georgetown and District high school students have proposed a plan to transform downtown Georgetown into a pedestrian mall bordering a large park.

Ralph Fletcher, president of the Downtown Businessmen's Association asked the students to come up with some ideas to improve the downtown core.

Connie Breen, Doug Lowe, Cathy Ward and Doug Doupage last week handed in their plan to teacher Murray Kitimer.

Main Street from Park Street to James Street and Mill Street from Market Street to Water Street would be sealed to motor traffic, creating a cross-shaped pedestrian mall, under proposed student plan.

In the area bounded by Main Street and Silver Creek, Maple Avenue and Park Street, a park "would further enhance

the attractiveness of the downtown area and turn an unused, unglamorous piece of land into something to be proud of," says the report.

After receiving the assignment and with some supervision by Mr. Kitimer and fellow teacher Stan Hall, the four began by planning their solution.

A detailed map of downtown was drawn, and a survey made of customers and merchants both downtown and in shopping plazas.

"Cathy and I looked after questioning the people on the street," Doug Lowe told The Herald. "Connie and the other Doug concentrated on the merchants." With library research and a study of other towns, the group brought together all their information, talked it over then wrote their report, Lowe said.

The downtown core's problem, one shared by many other downtowns, is that trade has moved to nearby shopping centres, says the report. Contributing to the problem is that downtown buildings are deteriorating, streets are often dirty and not wide enough, advertising by the merchants is insufficient and many townsmen are not interested enough in revitalizing the core.

The shopping malls, on the other hand, attract shoppers because they are closer to population clusters, have more stores than the downtown ("selling basically the same stuff"), better parking facilities and are sealed off from bad weather.

In arriving at their proposal, the students discovered that other downtowns rehabilitated themselves by making the core



DOUG DOUPAGNE, CONNIE BREEN, DOUG LOWE AND CATHY WARD

"something to be proud of."

Georgetown's core is still at the stage of organizing a committee to plan a "general modernizing of communities; brighter colors, better parking, better lighting (and re-construction)." But the downtown uniqueness a "very important" factor the students said, is its friendly atmosphere, slow pace, old buildings, past history and fewer parking hazards.

"When asked though," the report states, "the people found it very difficult to think in ways in which our downtown is unique as compared with plazas."

The students did not ignore parking downtown. Their report suggests the parking lot near the Mill Street police station could be enlarged along with the area behind the Union

Gas Building at Main Street and Wesleyan Street. Sufficient parking also exists behind Fletchers Shoe Store and Goodie's hardware.

Among the general suggestions the students provided was that a full economic and market study including a detailed examination of downtown problems by specialists such as "engineers, architects, realtors and utilities people, plus citizens," be done along with maximum publicity.

The report especially noted that a questionnaire be put in local papers for people to fill in and return with their ideas and thoughts.

Among specific suggestions they provided were: That a major grocery store locate downtown along with a theatre and "restaurants aside from Chinese foods; the shops down-

town ought to have uniform business hours and the upper stores need sprucing up."

"No need to tear down old buildings, just to give them a bit of class, modernize, something we can be proud of," the report states.

The report concludes: "The future of our communities will be what we make them. If we show no concern over their present or future development, they will be mediocre, perhaps ugly and congested places. If we take an active part in building up the community, if we share in the work of planning the present and future of our communities, they can be attractive and orderly places. Not until we take an active part in shaping the future, will our towns really become 'Communities for living'."

Fendley FLORISTS
FOR ALL YOUR GIFT & FLORAL NEEDS
82 MILL ST.

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

CHIC TALKRADIO 79
John MORRIS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

28 PAGES

LIP provides \$14,960 for clean-up

Halton Hills has received approval for a LIP grant of \$14,960 for the repair of community centres.

Clean-up of Norval Hall, Hornby Hall, Georgetown Fairgrounds club house, Acton area block house, filtration and building plant, and Cedarvale Community Centre, will begin Jan. 31.

Lise Long, spokesman for Dr. Frank Philbrook, Halton MP, said the project will create four jobs for 88 weeks. Anticipated date of repair completion is July 20.

Other Halton grants, totalling \$75,000, go to the Claycrafters Retail Store, Oakville, \$13,770; Adaptive Clothing for Seniors, Oakville, \$10,200; Social Oakville Service, \$12,580; Pre-school Experience Centre, Oakville, \$23,490.

Mrs. Long explained last year Halton received \$100,000 in grants because the unemployment rate was higher last year. \$75,000 is the minimum allocation for LIP grants for federal ridings.

Landfill a timebomb, Johnson says

Environmentalist William Johnson says landfilling is nothing more than a "time bomb" and at testing of the Credit River and local landfill sites is an indication of the problems that can result.

Ontario ministries of environment and natural resources are conducting tests in the area following disclosure that plastic bags containing traces of Mirex, a chemical of the DDT family were disposed at the former Georgetown landfill site.

"This conclusively proves that people such as myself and Pollution Probe of Georgetown were right in opposing so-called sanitary landfilling," Mr. Johnson stated.

"We've been trying to tell people about this for years."

Nevertheless, he said, communities everywhere are looking for landfill sites that will serve their areas for 20-year periods. He called the practice of long-term landfilling "insanity" in view of the "insidious chemicals" that are being discovered.

"The only solution to date, until we have reclamation plants, is to establish garbage dumps for five-year periods," Mr. Johnson suggested. "That is ample time to get on with the development of reclamation plants, where garbage can be cut back at the source, and will allow for more effective policing of the dumps."

Mr. Johnson contended that short-term landfilling should be a matter of government legislation, so that the sites would have to be kept in "immaculate" condition, or else those in charge would have to answer to the province.

Since solid waste has been shown to be an ideal source of fuel, he said, its deployment should be controlled by the ministry of natural resources, rather than the MOE.



THURSDAY IS REMEMBRANCE DAY

The statue in Georgetown's Remembrance Park, decorated with wreaths in memory of district servicemen killed in action. The vigil was stood by four members of The Lorne Scots Regiment (PDH) during Sunday's Remembrance Day service.

Domtar committee formed by workers

A four-man committee has been formed to save jobs of Domtar workers.

William Johnson, a stationary engineer at the plant, was appointed chairman Wednesday to seek the company's reconsideration of its announced closing of the Georgetown paper coating operation.

Domtar Fine Papers will close the local plant, Feb. 25, 1977 forcing 176 employees out of jobs.

The committee, Mr. Johnson said, is also seeking alternatives should the company remain adamant in its decision. "We are seeking a longer phasing out period," he said, "to allow workers more time to find employment."

As well, the committee hopes to complete a fact-finding investigation to determine whether the closing is justified and to determine whether the company has received any federal or provincial grants for its local operation.

The committee consists of: Mr. Johnson; Bill Collier, Reg Benoit, and Bill Campsty.

Mr. Johnson said the committee will augment the proposed company relocation and employment committee which began functioning Tuesday, according to plant manager Jack Crichton.

He said the committee is concerned that all employees are not denied their legal rights. The committee is prepared to offer information and legal assistance.

Several local unions are re-

Arena rates confirmed, Acton groups rebuffed

A fourth revision to the ice rental rate schedule by recreation director Glen Gray was accepted by general administration committee (GAC) Monday despite appeals for lower rates by the Acton Sabres hockey club.

Prior to the two-hour debate COUN. Ric Morrow made a motion to pass the four changes, described by Norm Elliot, spokesman for Acton ice-using associations as "unsatisfactory" because the junior and intermediate hockey clubs will pay \$30 an hour for regular games and practices and \$40 an hour for playoffs as recently passed by council. This is a 204 per cent increase over the 60-40 split effective in 1975-76.

Elliot, on behalf of the Acton Sabres, fought for the team to be reclassified as a local adult group, subject to lower rates proposed in 1974 for the 1976-77 ice season.

The other change, to offset last year's high operating deficit, is re-categorizing the

Acton hockey school as a minor sports group because ice rental rates for a non-profit organization are lower.

COUN. Roy Booth supported COUN. Morrow's motion to adopt the changes outlined by Mr. Gray. COUN. George Maltby arrived late so was unable to vote; committee chairman Les DUBY voiced his opposition.

"Does the director of recreation set the policies and the elected representatives carry them out?" asked executive member of the Acton Sabres Lou Bommette.

COUN. Morrow explained the rates were "fair" and "objective" because they are "based entirely on research on competitive ice rates and long range cost projections."

He encouraged the attitude that Halton Hills is a town, instead of the "parochial" viewpoint that Georgetown and Acton are separate entities.

"Regional government in its colossal effort to equalize everything has made a lot of things unfair," said Mr. Elliot, "communities are different and community priorities are different."

Because the population of Georgetown enables Gordon Alcott arena to draw crowds three or four times larger than Acton area, Mr. Elliot feels the ice rates should not be the same.

He also felt the controversial ice rental rate issue was the responsibility of council, which prompted COUN. Morrow's comment, "You're off your rocker." COUN. Morrow said this item should be dealt with at committee where there is more time for discussion.

Mr. Elliot, maintained ice rental rates should be geared to inflation, family wages being limited to an 8 per cent increase this year and proposed 6 per cent next year. The jump from 44 per cent to 204 per cent was termed "excessive" and a possible deterrent to registration in hockey and figure skating clubs.

"There would be a human cry if the hydro commission said they had to catch up 204 per cent," pointed out Mr. Elliot.

COUN. Maltby explained the recreation department had to increase rates to help offset their own deficit although revenues from ice rental would not cover all costs of arena operation.

Past member of the Acton parks and recreation committee, Mr. Bommette said since regionalization three years ago wages for Acton arena staff have increased from \$24,000 to \$61,000.

Justifying this, COUN. Booth said the Town of Halton Hills had to "bring up the wages at Acton arena to match Georgetown."

The stated problem that both the recreation department and Acton Sabres face economic dilemmas could be alleviated by COUN. Maltby's suggestion.

Reed at bat for Domtar workers

TORONTO—Ontario Labor Minister Dr. Bette Stephenson has given assurance that departments of her ministry will endeavour to help Domtar Fine Papers employees through the job dilemma they are facing in the upcoming closing of the Georgetown plant.

Through questions posed by Halton-Burlington Liberal MPP Julian Reed, Mrs. Stephenson said the ministry's employment adjustment service will work behalf of and with the employees to help in finding employment for them.

Mr. Reed had asked that the Domtar employees get the "best possible shake" in terms of severance, retraining, and job opportunities available to them.

Mrs. Stephenson said the ministry assists the company, the employees and the employers in the development of an agreement with Canada Manpower in a consultative role discussing with each person and tries to assist in actually putting that employee in touch with a job which might be available to him.

She said there is a committee established under a chairman from Canada Manpower, a provincial ministry of labor official and members of the employees group with some membership by the employer. The committee works on behalf of the employees to ensure there will be some provision to find other employment for them.

"It would probably be highly unlikely these men, who are in a highly-skilled operation, would undertake to move meaning a good many of them will be candidates for retraining," Mr. Reed said.

Pagers needed, ambulance for sale

Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service will receive any monies from the sale of a now-redundant ambulance to go toward the purchase of paging devices for members of the organization.

Finance committee made the commitment Monday after it was explained the 1967 Cadillac ambulance originally purchased by the former Town of Georgetown does not meet present ministry of health ambulance standards. Resale value of the vehicle is between \$500 and \$800.

CVAS secretary John Lightowler told the committee the ambulance is sitting on "ice" following a ministry inspection three weeks ago.

The ambulance service wishes to update its paging devices from the present toning devices, used on the fire department frequency, to a designated frequency which would carry tone and voice. Cost of providing the equipment to cover the entire GVAS membership is about \$20,000.

Provincial subsidy for the service does not cover capital items, Mr. Lightowler said. He did not get a commitment from the committee for extra funds in 1977 to cover the purchase. He said the ministry only provides funds to repair paging devices.

A recently discussed proposal to have the Cadillac ambulance provide service in Acton has been "washed out" following the ministry's inspection.

Wintario grants boosted by \$15,000 Lions pledge

A donation of \$15,000 from the Georgetown Lions Club to the Wintario grants committee Wednesday hiked the amount raised by community groups for repair of Georgetown Memorial Arena up to \$28,800 said town treasurer Ray King.

The Lions have contributed a total of \$16,500; Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, \$1,500; Rotary Club, \$3,500; Elks, \$3,000; Jaycees, \$1,000; Rotary-Annes, \$300; Legion, \$3,000.

The Optimists Club offered what WGC chairman Ernie Sykes described as a "unique pledge": They will donate \$10 to the WGC for each person who gives a pint of blood at the Georgetown Red Cross clinic in December.

"The response by organizations has been extremely good," said Mr. King, who added the committee is waiting for replies from other community groups.

Anticipated total donations from local organizations said Mr. King is \$50,450, but the overall objective is \$58,000 to offset the \$8,750 expected from the town.

Approval has been given for a \$50,000 Community Centres Grant from the province and official word that the \$32,292 request from Wintario has been accepted is expected shortly, said Mr. King.

Approximately two-thirds of the estimated \$201,500 necessary for arena renovations will be government grants; the remainder must be raised locally.

What's inside today

Eugene Whelan federal agriculture minister speaks to Chamber of Commerce Page 14

Flora MacDonald, the only woman to contest the leadership of the federal Progressive Conservative Party addresses a local group Page 8

Wards 3 and 4 trustee candidate addresses seniors at Stewarttown Hall Page 2

Ducks at Acton to be fed this winter? Page 3

Three more declare for Dec. 6 Page 3

WORKER MANAGEMENT CONCEPT

Save Domtar Committee members are seeking any answer to allow continued operation of the Georgetown paper coating plant including the possibility of a worker board of management.

Chairman Bill Johnson said Monday investigations will include the gathering of as much information and material as possible from two known similar operations: a steel mill in Sydney, N.S. and a logging operation in Northern Quebec.

He said it may be possible to start operation under federal-provincial grant support.

Nominations close Monday

Last minute candidates for area and regional councils and for public and separate school boards should make their decisions quickly.

Nominations close Monday at 5 p.m. Nomination papers are available from the municipal offices and must have the signature of 10 electors for validity.