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# the HERALD

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## Design unveiled

Halton Region last week approved a modified preliminary design of a new regional headquarters building and the incorporation of the regional health unit administration into the facility.

Approval came following a special meeting Wednesday when architects Shore, Tibbe, Henschel and Irwin unveiled the two-storey split-level design.

Council had earlier placed a limit of 40,000 square feet on the design of the structure which will be built on 10 acres of land acquired from the province at Bronte Road and the Queen Elizabeth Way.

The approval of the health

unit addition requires the construction of a sub-basement in one wing of the three-sided open space work area of the building at an additional cost of \$220,000. The total package will not exceed \$2.25 million. More than \$1.7 million remains in reserve for the project from the sale of the former Halton County building at Milton.

Architect Stephen Irwin told council the design calls for a courtyard to be the focal point of the structure encompassing the centre of the building. It will be covered by a roof with a three-sided two storey "stepped" administration area surrounding it.

Council chambers will be built in the form of a rotunda with two, and possibly three, committee rooms adjacent to it. The chambers will be directly opposite the courtyard and main entrance.

Mr. Irwin said the building is designed to be built within 130 feet of the property line on Bronte Road to allow "for a certain prominence of the building on the road" which would be lost by constructing on a declining grade toward the back of the property. The courtyard, he said, would be an orientation point for visitors to the building.



BONHOMME CARNIVAL

## LOCAL PRINCIPAL SUPPORTS INCREASE IN DRINKING AGE

Georgetown is typical of most Ontario communities where lowering the drinking age to 18 has meant high school students come to class with alcohol on their breath, says Michael Furlong, principal of Georgetown and District high school.

Mr. Furlong, elected chairman of the Ontario Secondary School Headmasters Council (OSSHC) last week in Toronto, said high school principals "overwhelmingly supported a legal drinking age of 20. Lowering the age to school age 'creates problems.'"

Principals were concerned "that lack of enforcement results in younger and younger people becoming involved

in alcohol," he said. The "effective drinking age" is down to 15 from the legal limit of 18, he said. "We see it not so much in school but at extra-curricular activities."

Asked if there were high school students drinking when he was a youth, Mr. Furlong said there were, "but not in public." Students are drinking more in public these days, he said.

At Georgetown and District high school there has been the "odd occasion where a student has had a glass of beer for lunch," he said. However, "I'm not too concerned about 18-year-olds drinking."

## 48 GDHS students skiers battle U.S. snow storm

A placid skiing holiday for 48 students at Georgetown and district high school generated more excitement than usual as they battled their way home from Vermont last week plowing through snowdrifts five feet high in places.

The annual skiing expedition by the high school students took a turn for the worst last Monday as the bus they were riding in found itself caught in the middle of a storm which caused chaos in Upper New York State and parts of southern Ontario.

The state was still digging itself out this week from the storm which left at least 22 dead and hundreds stranded without fuel or food.

Encountering the storm shortly after leaving Killington Vermont, the group headed north toward Quebec instead of northwest," Roland Beshir told the Herald.

The drive was slow as the bus slammed through drifts as high as passenger windows. The trip was scheduled to end late Monday evening but the weary students didn't arrive in Georgetown until about 6 p.m. Tuesday.

The 24 hours extra they spent on the road caused some concern since "we were not anticipating anything like this and no one had any money left, except maybe \$5, and that's what we were worried about," Roland said.

A chaperone on the trip used a credit card to house the stranded students in a motel outside Malone, New York overnight Monday. The more than \$300 cost was repaid this week, the students said.

Malone is about 30 miles from Cornwall where the group crossed the border to find eastern Ontario clear without problems of drifting snow.

"We plowed right through one snowdrift just before Malone... that's when all the big drifts started to hit us," Roland said. State police closed the town shortly after the group arrived since three of the four roads into the municipality were clogged with snow and abandoned vehicles.

Robert Heaton, a fellow-student on the trip said the bus driver continued to keep the bus moving because to stop would have meant no vehicles getting through.

The students: Roland, Robert, John Peters and Brian Rogers commended the resourcefulness of the bus driver.

## BULLETIN

Divisional Court Tuesday reserved judgment on an application by opponents to the Bradley-Georgetown high voltage transmission corridor for the hearing of evidence on alternate routing. Details of the arguments by solicitors for the Interested Citizens Group and Ontario Hydro will be published next week.

## LIBERAL LEADER TELLS SUPPORTERS

# Don't applaud Levesque

By GEORGE EVASHUK

Dr. Stuart Smith, leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, has warned Canadians must not applaud Quebec Rene Levesque when he comes to sell English Canada on the benefits that will accrue if Quebec secedes.

"If we applaud him," Dr. Smith told about 260 persons in Norval last Tuesday at a meeting where Halton-Burlington MP Julian Reed was acclaimed the Liberal candidate, "he'll take that back to Quebec and say: 'See, they don't want you!'"

But before people in Ontario "boo" Premier Levesque's expected sweet talk, the half-million strong Franco-Ontario community should be given the same rights and services that the English community has in Quebec.

"Let's put our own house in order," he said.

He said the Franco-Ontario community had suffered from not being able to speak French in some Ontario courts or to get services in their language when they are predominant in a community, as in Northern Ontario where he has toured recently.

Rene Levesque can be made to look like a liar when he says that outside of Quebec, French is second class, Dr. Smith said, if the French community can call out and say "we're first class citizens (here)."

But if they have to say otherwise, it helps the separatist aims of Premier Levesque, Mr. Smith said.

He said it was perfectly obvious that Western Canada will strike a private deal with the United States to get goods cheaper there than from Ontario manufacturers and in turn have a guaranteed market for their

oil, if Quebec leaves Confederation.

"When the market out west goes," Dr. Smith said snapping his finger sharply, "20 to 30 percent of the gross national product goes like that."

Violence in the street could result from Quebec leaving Confederation, the Ontario Liberal leader said.

Besides sitting on their hands when Premier Levesque speaks and giving Franco-Ontarians the same services, and services and rights Quebec's English community has, Canadians can also begin teaching their youngsters a second language when they first go to school, he said.

It is a genuine advantage to have two languages in Canada, he said. "We have it; the American's don't and I like it." Dr. Smith said he was born and raised in Quebec and while he had a "certain affection" for the

people there he had "a greater affection" for Canada.

Dr. Smith also criticized the performance of the provincial government under Premier William Davis in the areas of Farm Income Stabilization program, its handling of the Gray Coach affair, and group homes in Ontario.

The government has no idea why cost for some group homes for either the elderly or adolescents was \$85 per day but \$30 in others, he said.

"Superminister" Margaret Birch made only a single copy of the 26-month-old report available on the last afternoon of the session just before the Christmas recess, Mr. Smith said, and that report says that the treatment the children obtained was the same regardless of the rate.

## Repeal bylaw, complex dies

Council Monday formally rescinded a bylaw approving a \$300,000 expansion of the town's Seventh Line offices despite protests from two members that the action is "premature."

Councillors Les Dudy and Mike Armstrong voiced the only opposition to the move in a recorded vote late in the meeting.

The bylaw, approved last June, proved to be the catalyst for widespread ratepayer opposition on the basis of need not being proven.

A petition containing more than 1,700 names was presented to council Aug. 3 and resulted in a stalemate on the former council and referral to the newly elected council for further action.

The issue also figured prominently in the Dec. 5 elections and most observers feel resulted in the defeat of Ward 3 Coun. Ern Hyde, an outspoken supporter of the project.

Action Coun. Les Dudy said new members of council had not been privy to the background and study which preceded the passing of the bylaw last year, and urged a delay in action until all members are more knowledgeable about the project.

Mayor Tom Hill, however, said council must decide on one of two actions: either send the bylaw to the Ontario Municipal Board for formal provincial approval or repeal the bylaw.

Two weeks ago Coun. Roy Booth suggested the repeal bylaw to the Ontario Municipal Board for formal provincial approval or repeal the bylaw.

Both sides of the project would only defray the cost of various town departments results of which are expected by the end of the month.

Coun. Booth added that the public would surely oppose any further approval of the project and urged council to shelve the bylaw and save the expense of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

All other members of council with the exception of Coun. Pat McKenzie who is on vacation, voted in favor of repealing the bylaw.

The status of the project is not in doubt, however, since most council members have voiced privately a need for ultimate expansion of the town offices.

It was revealed two weeks ago that a public institutions inspection panel, the successor to the Grand Jury abolished last year, had inspected the town offices in November and found them "totally inadequate for the duties that are performed under regional

government."

The inspection panel also found that the building and engineering departments, located in a garage, "are not only hampered" but have reduced space in which to work.

Mr. Hyde who expressed outward concern over the findings of the inspection panel said Monday he felt "the public was deliberately misled by some of the (former) council members" on the issue for political reasons.

"If this (the expansion of town offices) could be such an obvious need to an independent objective public body," he said "then it had to be obvious to every member of council and at one point it was."

The expansion issue was the main issue in the recent election campaign, he said. "Every

candidate used it. It was raised at every candidates meeting."

Mr. Hyde also questioned what happened to a copy of the inspection panel report which was sent to the Halton Hills Administrator Clerk Doug Pritchard at least three weeks prior to the election.

Findings of the inspection panel's visit to the Halton Hills municipal offices on Nov. 4 are contained in a report presented to Judge Alan Sprague the following day.

Halton Region Sheriff Robert Sprol said a copy of the report was sent to Mr. Pritchard, and all other department and administration heads of the various institutions inspected, the following day.

Mr. Pritchard, however, said he has no knowledge of receiving a copy of the report,

adding that the pressures of the election preparation and the large volume of paperwork near year-end may have resulted in it being overlooked. He said he is presently searching for correspondence from the ministry of housing dated Nov. 26 which has also gone astray.

There is certainly no intent to deny council the information Mr. Pritchard said in a telephone interview. There's a definite need for expansion of the town offices, he said, and the question remains when; and when funds will be available.

Mr. Sprol said, however, that the report sent to Halton Hills was addressed to the municipal offices: Seventh Line, Stewartsburg. The correct address is either RR2, Georgetown or 36 Main St., S., Georgetown.

## Chapel school inspected, town use not defined

Georgetown's Chapel Street school, for which Halton Hills has offered \$125,000 to Halton Board of Education, has had a one-over look by a group of councillors and a consulting engineer.

Councillors Roy Booth, Russ Miller, Pat Patterson and Pete Pomeroy, with consulting engineer Alan Zeegen and Pat Sheehan of the Recreation department entered the 108-year-old school Thursday for a top to bottom tour.

Closed in 1974, the school brought nostalgic memories to Ruth Forgrave, of Georgetown who taught there for three years in the 1930's and has had many close ties with it since then.

In an interview she told the Herald she had warm feelings for the school, its "only wood... the smell of the school... beautiful, large classrooms with high ceilings."

"It would be nice to see the old building put to good use like offices or cultural uses," she said.

Her husband Ernle recalled that the property had originally been purchased by the Methodist Church prior to 1885 for five shillings an acre. It was used as a cemetery until 1885, when the bodies were removed in 1892 the Methodist church sold the property between St. John's Church and the school for \$119,000 quite a sum in those days, Mr. Forgrave remarked.

The 11-room school was closed because of declining enrollment in the area and the superiority of other newer schools said Emerson Lavender, director of education for the Halton board of education. "There was nothing wrong with it structurally."

Chapel Street school was one of five or six schools closed in the past five or six years. Mr. Lavender said "The significant thing in Georgetown and

Halton is enrolment has declined."

He said he could not be certain of the condition of the heating plant and recalled that there were "bad drafts in around the windows."

According to Reg Irish of the Halton board's operation section, the gas-fired steam boiler in the 14,300 square foot school was "renovated quite recently." As well there is a 6,500 square-foot paved parking lot, he said.

Consulting engineer Alan Zeegen said the structure "doesn't look in bad condition" although to make a definite statement the stress loadings would need to be assessed, he added. "My overall impression is it's quite reasonable."

Mr. Tom Hill said he has no idea at all what the building will be used for if the town buys it. The building's uses will be decided by council following a office-space survey

by the town's department heads. "We'll find out what we need it for first," the mayor said.

When the tour at the school was over, after the group had weaved their way through dozens of empty school desks and flipped through old textbooks and encyclopedias and walked around the building, Coun. Booth said he was impressed by what the tour revealed.

Consulting engineer Alan Zeegen said the structure "doesn't look in bad condition" although to make a definite statement the stress loadings would need to be assessed, he added. "My overall impression is it's quite reasonable."

## Council extends purchase offer

An offer to purchase the Georgetown Chapel school has been extended by council until June 30 to allow study of renovation costs of the facility.

The school which sits on about two acres of land in central section of Georgetown has been declared redundant by the Halton board of education which offered the property to the municipality last year.

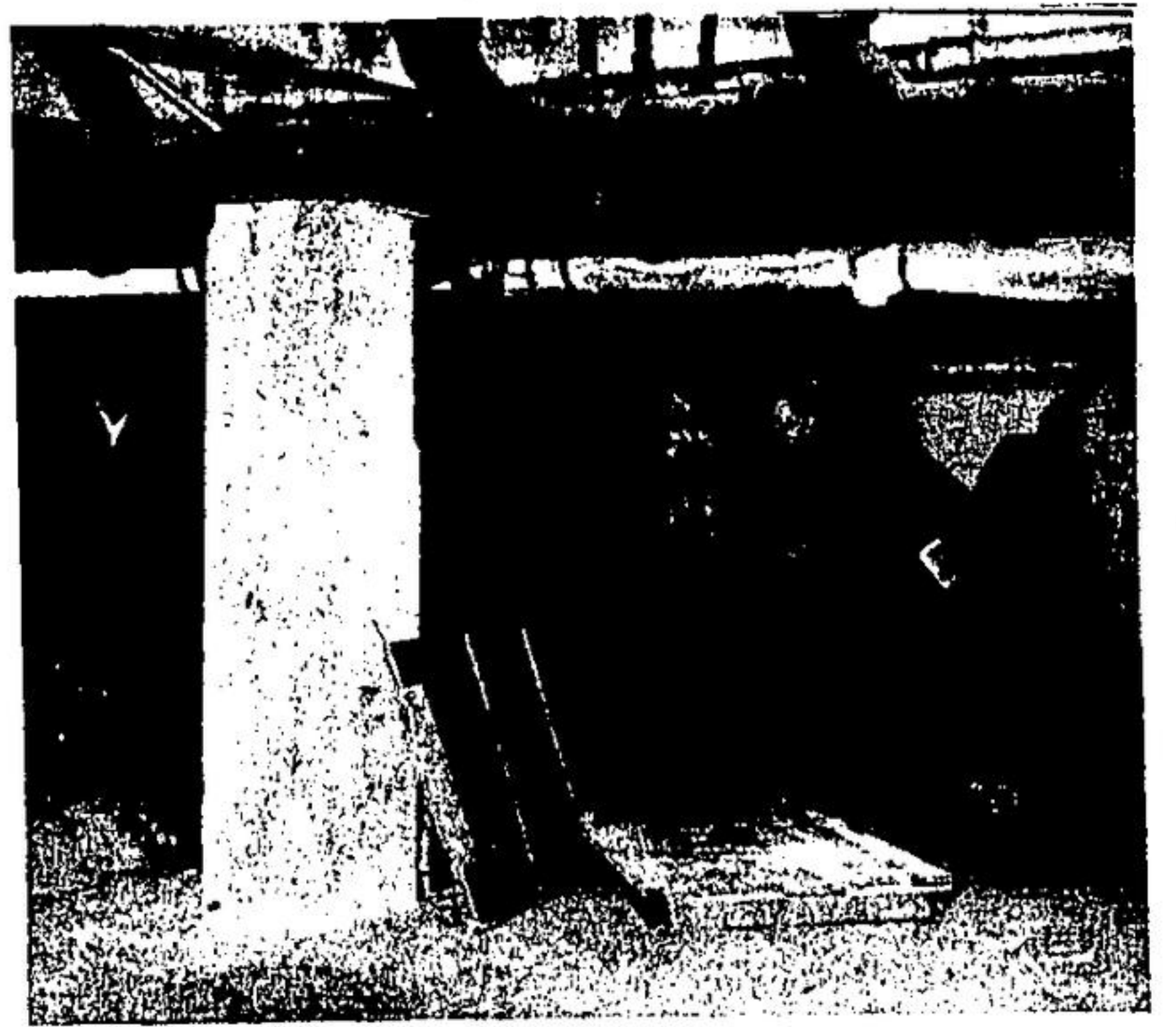
The extension approved Monday brings the purchase offer into conformity with a resolution passed last week by the board of education which extended the deadline for closing.

Council allowed the extension but rejected twice advances by Coun. Roy Booth that council approve the \$125,000 cost for the facility. Coun. Mike Armstrong strongly opposed any bid to purchase the property, but while approving the extension of the closing date, he added "the dumbest thing this

council can do is renovate it." Cost of renovating the school property could match the expected cost of restoring Cedarvale community centre complex, parts of which were closed last year because of unsafe conditions. A report on the centre's structural condition is expected shortly.

"I suspect we will have a very large cost in reconstructing Cedarvale," Coun. Roy Booth said. "We are looking at 10,000 square feet at the school instead of 3,000 square feet." He noted there are several regular citizen groups including the Red Cross and Air Cadets which use the Community Centre.

Council will discuss the proposal at its Feb. 22 meeting when approval is expected of a capital budget. Council members last week toured the school with architect Alan Zeegen who is preparing structural reports on the Cedarvale centre and the old Acton town hall.



COUNCILLORS WEAVE THEIR WAY THROUGH CHAPEL STREET SCHOOL THURSDAY.