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Send your entry to:  
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Draw made Monday noon.  
Mail your entries in early.

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Red Cross volunteer worker Connie Stewart is named Georgetown citizen of the year by the Georgetown Lions Club.

An extension of the Metropolitan Toronto Better Business Bureau begins in North Halton and is greeted with enthusiasm.

**MAY**

Halton region chairman Ric Morrow condemns a proposed budget move by administration committee which would see \$200,000 removed from a capital working fund to offset expected tax increases in the 1977 budget. He calls the move unsound business practice.

The money is part of a fund eventually to be pegged at about \$1 million which the municipality uses to provide operating funds during periods when taxes are being collected. Annual budget of Halton region is expected to top \$29 million.

Chapel Street ratepayers petition council to zone the school property for single family or semi detached dwellings.

A recommendation for the demolishing of the former Acton townhall is delayed on requests from Acton Chamber of Commerce and Coun. Les Duly. Council is to decide the fate of the building at a meeting next week.

About 20 workers at HRG Stationery Company are affected by a two week shut down of the plant. The action results from a high inventory. Company officials see a return to normal during the balance of the year.

Announcement of a June provincial election brings candidates for the three political parties out in force with opening statements in the campaign.

Halton Hills Scouts and Club plant 10,000 trees as part of the planting trees for Canada program.

## Remembering 1977

Georgetown optimists honor six citizens including a police constable for community involvement. The honorees are part of the club's Respect for Law Week.

Following public pressure, council withdraws its support for the location of a new library in Georgetown's Centenary Park. School trustee Don Long presents council with a petition signed by more than 3,000 people opposing the site.

Progressive Conservative candidate George Gray announces that about 1,000 jobs are coming to Halton Hills with further jobs for the Milton area.

He also states that the sale of the Donatar plant is nearing. Donatar Fine Papers closed its plant in Georgetown officially in April 1976. Jobs were lost in the closing mill.

Georgetown Jayettes, organize with Halton Hills fire department officials for Operation Rebuild, a program to provide window shutters identifying a child's room for firefighters called to a dwelling blaze.

A strike at Dixton Canada in Acton continues.

Council awaits a meeting with opponents of the Cedarvale library and library board.

Four-year-old Christine Davidson of Norval is in the hospital suffering injuries to her face after being attacked by a guard dog at the Way-Jay Club.

**JUNE**

The Herald reports on the five coverage of the bi-monthly Wintario draw from the Georgetown Memorial Arena.

An appeal to the Ontario Court of Appeal is successful for the ICG. It wins the right to present alternative routing evidence at hydro expropriation.

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# 1840 home development becomes major 1977 story

Focal Properties and its 1240 unit subdivision south of Silver Creek on Mountainview Road came into prominence toward the end of 1977 as an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing and a lawsuit began revealing facts about the project.

The OMB hearing, a lawsuit and a city council agreement with developer Rex Heslop to annex land south of the project.

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from the assessment ratio originally stipulated and Focal bought four more farms plus a 465 acre parcel of land.

As time passed the firm was never permitted to develop its holdings, the lawyers said because sewage capacity in the old plant could not handle the added effluent such a development would produce.

After re-examination Focal presented its plan for a development of 200 units south of Silver Creek to regional planning board and were told that the plan did not conform because the land had been zoned back to agricultural use in the draft official plan.

The proposal would have covered two farms and included 110 single family units, 471 semi-detached units, and 316 townhouse units, as well as schools, parks a firehall and commercial outlets.

The lawyers told the board that night that they had not received instructions which would allow them to remove objections to proposed developments within Georgetown until the board had worked out an agreement which would allow Focal to proceed with its plan in some form.

The board was not prepared to make compromises because

they said the expanded sewage treatment plant would not still handle Focal's development and all the town's other planned development.

July 8 the OMB dismissed Focal's objections to the 137 unit project proposed by Garthdale Investment on Mountainview Road and Focal applied the decision to cabinet.

At that time company spokesman Ernie Bodnar said that the company believed it had valid agreements with the town dating back at least to 1975 and it might cost the town to break those contracts.

October 12 Halton Hills council told a press conference that Focal's proposed development would boost the population by 7,000 and use up all the unallocated sewage capacity in the expanded plant. Infilling could not continue if Focal's development proceeded nor would there be capacity for industrial expansion.

OMB hearings on Focal's proposal began in November in an attempt to determine if the plan was a valid one and soon degenerated into a battle to prove that allowing Focal to proceed would strangle all future development because of lack of sewage capacity.

In addition to Robert Jarvis,

Focal's lawyer, and John Bellington and Ray Steele, Halton Hills' lawyers, lawyers were also present to represent Halton Region, Paramount Development Corporation Ltd., Gainsborough Farm Holdings Ltd., Four Seasons Realty Group and Krunkite Developments Ltd. at the hearing.

Focal called only three witnesses in a month of testimony.

Nov. 16 the hearings adjourned to permit Halton Hills council to make a written statement on its priorities for sewage capacity.

Council passed a resolution Nov. 21 allocating capacity to vacant commercial and industrial land for expansion, to residential infilling and to service for Glen Williams, Norval and Stouffville if those hamlets need to connect to Georgetown's sewer system. The remaining capacity was offered to further residential growth, if it could be found. The town said that only 600,000 gallons of capacity are available although Focal claimed the amount is much larger.

S.B. McLaughlin made a dramatic appearance at planning board in mid-November, during which he told spectators that his company won't back off Halton Hills council

and were seeking damages that would shock the country.

The OMB decided that there would not be time to hear the town's side of the case and postponed the hearing until May 1, 1978.

The last week of November was spent in hearing Focal's objection to Four Seasons' plans to put 141 condominiums on the south side of the Detrex Market plaza. The proposal would require an official plan amendment and a zoning change and Focal contended such changes are too major to be done on an ad hoc basis.

The town produced witnesses to prove that the entire area now zoned for a shopping plaza could not be filled until the area had a population of 100,000 to 150,000 residents. Other witnesses testified that water sources can only serve a population of 30,000. Hearings ended Dec. 1.

In mid-December Bruce McLaughlin wrote an open letter to area residents pointing out how patient the company has been in waiting to begin development and reminding citizens that the proposed infilling will be of a high density nature which will increase traffic in the downtown core.

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