

YOUR MORNING SMILE

Two income tax collectors died and arrived at the gates of heaven just behind two clergymen. St. Peter gave the first green light to the tax men. "Why are they getting in ahead of us?" asked the clergymen. "Haven't you succeeded in spreading the word for you?" "Yes, you have," St. Peter replied. "But those two tax men scared the hell out of a lot more people than you did!"

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WALTER GRAY

Citizen of the year, Walter Gray dies

Walter H. Gray, Georgetown councillor for eight years, died Thursday at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. He was 89. Mr. Gray was born in Amaranth Township, Dufferin County and came to Georgetown during the Second World War. He was a

Georgetown councillor for eight years. Between 1952 and 1960 he served as deputy-reeve three times, was on the board of health for four years, was road chairman for five years and was also on the welfare, lights and police committee at the time when Georgetown had to set up its own police force.

Mr. Gray was a member of the Lions Club for 25 years and acted as chairman of the committee which arranged the distribution of Christmas hampers to the needy for 21 years. He gave up the job in 1971, long after he had helped to organize the Christmas hampers from individual club donations, to a co-operative effort among a number of Georgetown's service clubs.

He also served for 21 years as treasurer of the Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club which he joined in 1942. He was an avid fisherman and once belonged to the Humber Springs Fishing Club near Orangeville. Mr. Gray was predeceased by his wife, Edith, in 1968. He leaves one sister, Bya Elizabeth Bradley, nephews William Bradley and Ezra Robinson, and nieces Leonore and Lois Robinson, all of Toronto. Funeral services were held from the McClure-Jones Funeral Home, Georgetown at 11 a.m. Saturday and interment followed at Queen'sville cemetery.

URGENT BLOOD NEED

Because so many people are away on holidays, there is an urgent need for all types of blood for surgery this week. Red Cross officials have issued a special request for donors to support the Georgetown summer blood donor's clinic being held tomorrow from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Elks' Hall, 45 Mountainview Road north.

While others pleaded with solicitors to avoid using "legalese" in rewriting the plan,

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Acton residents want park, protest park sale

Special to The Herald "Open space is precious to people," said Ross Knechtel, echoing the sentiment expressed by 22 residents Wednesday at a meeting to discuss Halton Hills rezoning of Leishman Park in Acton to residential from parkland and the town's intention to sell the park as housing lots.

The intention to sell Leishman Park agrees with Halton Hills policy developed in 1976 to sell land deemed impracticable, unnecessary or unusable.

Recreation director Gray has said Leishman Park, 100 feet by 450 feet long, is too small to develop as a park.

Wednesday's meeting at M.Z. Bennett school stemmed from Leishman Park area residents' concern about losing

the one acre park. Residents within a 400 foot radius of the park were officially informed of the zoning change June 23. Halton Hills council had given final reading to the bylaw Sept. 7, 1977.

The 22 residents expressed to ward Councillors Pat McKenzie and Peter Marks and Halton Hills planner Mario Venditti and assistant planner Brian Kropf their desire to retain the park land as open space without recreation facilities.

Mr. Venditti said the parkland is too small to be turned into a park and isn't needed for a park because the more than 10 acres of land

surrounding nearby M.Z. Bennett and McKenzie-Smith

schools is more than adequate for the area.

Venditti said: "It wouldn't make sense to have open spaces here and there that couldn't be used for anything."

"We'd be just as happy to leave it as open space," said Mr. Knechtel.

"A park doesn't necessarily have to involve a recreation director, but people," said another Leishman park supporter.

Mrs. John McHugh, one of the 22 residents at the meeting asked: "What's wrong with leaving it as a place where people can sit with benches?"

Mr. Marks said "no doubt it's an emotional issue" centering on the feeling "I'm losing something and everybody else is gaining."

Mr. Marks said council took a rational position considering

the sale of the park.

"We as your bankers said what would the people of Acton want us to do with this land when there are ample facilities nearby", he said.

Mr. Marks said the school board has made a strong effort in the last five years to turn schools into "community schools and that includes the land."

But Mrs. McHugh said the preservation of Leishman would guarantee the area a park if the schools grounds were ever closed off at 4 p.m. each day to guard against vandalism, and preserve the use originally intended for the land.

Mr. Kropf said John Leishman donated the south half of the present land to the town for parkland in 1946. In the 1960s said Mr. Kropf, the town

purchased the north half of the present land to give Leishman Park its present size.

Mr. Kropf said the proposal to sell the park for lots stemmed from a policy developed in 1976 to sell unusable bits of town-owned land. Mr. Venditti said the sale of Leishman Park would allow the town to buy parkland around Fairy Lake without debenturing money.

Halton Hills has considered buying land on the north-east corner of Fairy Lake across from the senior citizens housing project with money derived from the sale of Leishman Park. The town can divide Leishman Park into seven lots and sell each for an estimated \$20,000 or more for a total of at least \$140,000. The land at Fairy Lake would contribute to the town's goal to

have a "greenbelt" street across Acton from Fairy Lake to the Acton high school.

Mr. Venditti said any money derived from the sale of Leishman Park would have to be used for parkland in Acton. Mr. Venditti also said the policy of selling unusable pieces of land is working well for the town.

But Mrs. McHugh said applying this policy to Leishman Park would only lead to another Ontario Municipal Board hearing. Leishman Park supporters have already battled two attempts to rezone the land at OMB hearings in 1964 and 1968. Mrs. McHugh said Leishman Park supporters won both hearings.

If council doesn't reconsider the bylaw to rezone Leishman Park residential, a third OMB hearing is likely.

"I think you can assume that a substantial number of ratepayers are going to file objections to the OMB," said Mr. Knechtel.

Once Halton Hills officially notified ratepayers June 23 about the zone change, residents have 21 days to file comments supporting or objecting to the bylaw by registered mail to the Halton Hills Clerk's office. The final date for objections is July 17, said Mr. Kropf.

Council then has the option of reconsidering the bylaw or sending the comments and the bylaw to the OMB for a hearing. Mr. Venditti and Mr. Kropf said anyone living within 400 feet radius of the park who has not yet been officially informed will be informed.

Mr. Marks said if the town did sell Leishman Park and acquire land across from the senior citizens project, it would create more parkland for the senior citizens in that area.

But "don't forget the number of seniors in this area," said Mr. Knechtel.

One of the 22 Leishman Park supporters said: "We want it to stay right here."

Speyside ratepayers object to gravel pit on 600 acres

Members of 150 Speyside area families last week presented planning board with a petition representing firm opposition to a proposal for the establishment of a gravel pit in their vicinity.

Jim Sheldon, on behalf of Speyside ratepayers, cited increased truck traffic as the residents' chief concern over the proposal by Standard Aggregates Ltd. to mine sand and gravel at a 600-acre site near Highway 25 south of Speyside.

The board is currently awaiting a staff report on the proposal before considering the company's application for a zoning bylaw amendment.

Mr. Sheldon pointed out that the Speyside area has become home to more than a half dozen gravel pit operations and as a result, the former township of Esquesing is rapidly turning into "one great big hole".

Two of Ontario's largest quarries, Indusmin and Dufferin-operated, are situated in Halton Hills, he added. "We've got gravel trucks coming out our ears," Mr. Sheldon told the board, explaining that truck traffic in the Speyside area now varies between one truck every 45

seconds and one truck per minute. Use of trains to haul gravel is gradually being phased out, he noted, in favor of 130,000-pound slider trailers.

Highway 25, Mr. Sheldon contended, was never built to handle the present volume of truck traffic. The width of most gravel trucks forces truck drivers to avoid each other in approaching lanes by leaning into the soft shoulder, he said, which has resulted in shoulders being worn to a depth on nearly a foot below the road surface.

Mr. Sheldon estimated that the proposal in question would add another 666 truck movements a day to the traffic.

Residents of the area are "experiencing difficulties for all the time" because of the gravel trucks, Mr. Sheldon reported.

"The number of trucks we'd see if this (proposal) is approved would be just unbelievable," he said. "It boggles the mind that we should be forced to put up with this 'rape'. There'll be an awful lot of unhappy people around the Speyside area if this is approved."

As well as the concerns commonly shared by neigh-

bors of all gravel pits, such as noise from quarrying operations and blasting, truck traffic and dust and harmful effects on private wells, Mr. Sheldon said, Speyside residents are aware that the pit proposed by Standard Aggregates will probably affect tributaries of Sixteen Mile Creek. He predicted "drastic sewage problems" for Milton if the creek's watershed is altered.

Mr. Sheldon challenged the company's claim that it had successfully mined 80,000 tons of aggregate from a site opened in 1961. Mr. Sheldon's investigation of the claim uncovered no proof that such a site was ever legally established.

"Let's finish mining out Indusmin and Dufferin and see what happens then," he concluded.

The ratepayers presentation drew little sympathy from Coun. Pat McKenzie, who cited the province-wide need for sand and gravel and the willingness of company and provincial officials to upgrade roads that are used by the gravel trucks.

Coun. McKenzie pointed out that Standard's proposal calls for the twin pits of its quarry to be rehabilitated once mining is complete, turned into man-made lakes and decided to the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

"We live in a horseshoe where this product happens to abound," he said. "This is the price we have to pay to live here. If it upsets a few people in Speyside, so what?"

Coun. Russ Miller, however, argued that Halton Hills is

doing more than its share in supplying other parts of Ontario with sand and gravel. The more truck traffic is directed along Highway 25, he said, the more some of the trucks will start using side roads, causing even more problems for the town and its citizens.

Coun. Miller also observed that the Niagara Escarpment in Halton Hills is already "badly scarred" by mining operations, although board chairman Roy Booth pointed out that the Standard pit site is not located within the escarpment commission's planning area.

The ratepayers' petition was referred to town council's special committee in charge of formulating a municipal response to the recently released Escarpment draft plan.

Region official plan ready in six weeks

Halton region's first official plan should be ready for presentation to the provincial government within six weeks, regional planning director Ed Cumming told the Halton planning committee last week.

The draft official plan, nearly three years in the making, is now in the hands of regional solicitors, Mr. Cumming reported, and once final revisions are made, a bylaw authorizing the plan's adoption will be presented to regional council.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon suggested that council should set aside a full day to discuss details of the comprehensive official plan, which will govern all aspects of life in Halton for the next 20 years.

Committee chairman Roy Booth explained that a full-day seminar, to be held at a location other than the council chambers, is being considered. Several councillors expressed disfavor for chief administrative officer Ernest Reid's recommendation that the solicitors must revise the plan so its wording will be more adaptable to courtroom procedures.

While others pleaded with solicitors to avoid using "legalese" in rewriting the plan,

Mr. Reid pointed out that the plan is, after all, a legal document which will have to be defended in courts of law.

Mr. Cumming added that copies of the finalized plan will be forwarded to planning departments in each of Halton's area municipalities as soon as they are ready.

Cable TV rate OK'd

OTTAWA (Bureau) - Halton Cable Systems Ltd. has won federal approval to increase its rates as a means of helping to finance improvements to its service.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has granted the company permission to increase its installation charge from \$15 to \$25 and its monthly subscriber fee by \$1 to \$7.

CRTC Secretary-General Lise Oukmel explained that the increases are justified because of the high costs incurred by Halton Cable in rebuilding its Georgetown system, wiring Acton and Milton and developing its community channel.



COOLING OFF

When it comes to long, hot summer days there's nothing nicer than dipping your toes in some cool, running water. Lisa Lane, 15 months, shows her ap-

preciation for a wade in Cedarvale with a nice grin while she clings firmly to mother Helen's hand.

Photo by MAGGIE HANNAIL

Council unanimously endorses single rate

Council Monday unanimously endorsed a recommendation by town treasurer Ray King calling for municipal water and sewer

service rates to be made uniform for all four area municipalities in Halton region.

The move revives a twice-defeated proposal by which taxpayers across Halton would pay the same for specific municipal services.

The proposal has consistently won widespread support in north Halton, where ratepayers would benefit the most from Burlington and Oakville sharing in their servicing expenditures. Despite efforts by Halton Hills councilors and regional chairman Ric Morrow, however, regional council has rejected proposals for uniform rates on two previous occasions.

Mr. King, who has attended a number of meetings with neighboring municipal treasurers to prepare the latest proposal, admitted Monday that councilors in Milton, Burlington and Oakville have already rejected the proposal again at the committee levels of their respective municipal councils.

Nevertheless, he said, a

No hook-up, protests made

By PAUL DORSEY Herald staff writer

Not all Norval residents are happy about Halton region's on-going efforts to extend municipal water servicing into their community, as the regional public works committee discovered last week.

Ron Hawn, M. R. Bailey and Dr. John Thomas, whose homes occupy a private road allowance some 500 feet from Highway 7 in Norval, had appealed to the region for special consideration in connection with the plans to increase taxes for residents who will benefit from the newly-installed water system.

In a letter to regional chairman Ric Morrow, the three

homeowners explained that they will be subject to an increase of \$110 each per year in taxes, plus a third portion of the valve maintenance charge of \$29.

Their houses, however, are located from 470 to 540 feet from the watermain being installed through Norval, and a connecting main to bring the water directly to their homes would cost an additional \$3,000.

"This large cost effectively means that we are not accessible to water," the letter contended. "We request that either the supply is brought to a more reasonable distance from our homes, or that our names are removed from the

roll of persons liable to the increased taxation."

The public works committee last Wednesday denied the request after hearing works director Bob Moore attempt to justify the decision that no exceptions should be made.

Property values are increased by the close proximity of the municipal water supply, Mr. Moore explained, and the main is there ready for use in the event of wild fire. He added that fire protection is made available by the watermain, indicating a possible reduction in future insurance premiums.

Upon hearing of the committee's decision, Mr. Hawn expressed anger and frustration

that he and his neighbors, who have not had to endure the same problems with contaminated well water that some Norval residents complained about, will be forced to pay higher taxes.

"This is just not fair," Mr. Hawn told The Herald. "I don't call it easy access when the water is 700 feet down the road. My well has been perfect but then they voted this thing (the new watermain) in just before I came here. I think they should give us something. What are taxes supposed to be for?"

A two-year resident of Norval, Mr. Hawn said he is annoyed at being confronted not only by the inconvenience

of watermain installation at work, which is of no value to him and his neighbors, but also by a proposal to build a highway bypass near his home. Such developments now have him considering a move elsewhere," he said.

Mr. Hawn added that Dr. Thomas, who initiated the homeowner's appeal to regional council, was warned in advance that he would have little success fighting "city hall". There is now a possibility, however, that legal action will be undertaken to bring about what the three homeowners consider a fair deal with the water supply.

Dr. Thomas is on vacation and unavailable for comment.