

CLUSTER HOMES

Council rejects bid for hearing delay

Contrary to a week-old decision by the town planning board, council Monday night withdrew support of the Georgetown Ratepayers Association in its attempt to have the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing into the proposed Edward Street housing development postponed.

The hearing, as a result, will convene as scheduled Monday morning at 10 a.m., at which time representatives of the ratepayers' association will have their final opportunity to try and convince the OMB, that, because most of its members are on vacation, the hearing should be adjourned until a later date.

Council reversed the planning board recommendation by a recorded vote of 6-2 after hearing Rodney Smith, solicitor for Merly Developments Ltd., explain that a postponement of the hearing would mean a costly six-month delay for his client. Only Councillors Les Dudy and Pete Pomroy voted in favor of the planning board recommendation which supported the ratepayers' request for an adjournment, while Mayor Tom Hill and Councillors Russ Miller, Mike Armstrong, Pat McKenzie, Walter Biehn, George Maltby, Marilyn Serjeantson and Peter Morris rejected the advice.

Mr. Smith informed council that he approached the OMB following last week's presentation to planning board by association spokesman David Roebuck. Although the development firm, which wants to build 29 single-family homes and several cluster-type homes off Edward Street in Georgetown, had indicated to town planner Mario Venditti that it was prepared to accept a motion for adjournment as long as the resulting delay lasted no longer than four or five weeks, the OMB reported that a delay of six months was in order if the July 24 hearing was to be postponed.

If a request for adjournment came immediately, Mr. Smith said, the OMB would reschedule its hearing for the second week in November, whereas if the request was made next week, the hearing could not convene until the end of November.

Mr. Smith went on to explain his client's urgent need to have the housing project, which was approved by council in March, 1977, given the green light by the OMB. Merly Developments is concerned enough, in fact, that it is prepared to pay travelling expenses for several ratepayers' spokesmen if their work or holiday plans conflict with the scheduled date of the hearing, he said.

OMB hearings are "always inconvenient" for some people, Mr. Smith observed, but if they are so concerned, he said, they should take the time off from their vacation or work duties to attend.

"The important thing is that one OMB has the benefit of hearing at least some of the residents," he said. "They (the OMB) will be made well aware there are a lot more who are objecting to the proposal."

Mr. Smith warned that if the ratepayers come to Monday's hearing and appeal for an adjournment, he will ask "some probing questions" about their ability to attend the meetings.

Coun. McKenzie announced that he would continue to oppose the ratepayers' appeal for a postponement, pointing out that the OMB meets throughout the summer regardless of the availability of concerned parties. To delay the hearing six months, he said, would be "unbearable" for the developer involved.

Coun. Morris agreed that it would be "grossly unfair" to delay Merly's plans for the sake of some of the ratepayers who will be unable to attend. Coun. Maltby failed to have

council petition the OMB to schedule its hearings in the outlying urban areas during the evenings. Coun. Biehn noted that evening hearings would take much longer because of the fewer number of hours involved.

Coun. Armstrong stated that he had changed his mind about the matter since voting in the ratepayers' favor at last week's planning board meeting. After hearing Mr. Smith's presentation, he said, he had decided that an attempt by the citizens to have the hearing postponed could "backfire" on them and result in an even more serious situation.

David Roebuck of the newly-formed Georgetown Ratepayers Association presented the board last Tuesday with a petition appealing for the adjournment because an estimated 80 per cent of the ratepayers will be on holiday July 24.

The board recommended council's endorsement of the request, but town planner Mario Venditti warned that unless Merly Developments Ltd., which hopes to build 29 single-family homes and several cluster-type homes off Edward Street also agrees to the postponement, the hearing will likely take place as scheduled.

Mr. Venditti explained that all three parties involved - the town, the developer, and the objecting citizens - must approve the motion for adjournment or else the OMB will convene its hearing July 24 and at that time consider the ratepayer's and town's request.

If a postponement is granted Mr. Venditti added, it could be five to six months before another hearing date can be set.

Last week planning board forwarded a revised bylaw for the proposed subdivision to council for approval. The new bylaw accommodates one of

the residents' concerns involving minimum required floor space per unit.

Acknowledging that a minimum square footage of 1,000 square feet "is not compatible with abutting properties", the planner recommended an amendment to the zoning bylaw to increase the minimum floor space to 1,200 square feet.

The revised bylaw also allows for increased parking space, in accordance with the wishes of neighboring property owners.

Mr. Roebuck initiated a brief dispute at the meeting when he questioned the need for the planning department to leave the required notification of ratepayers of the date of the OMB hearing until the last minute. While the ratepayers were given sufficient time to prepare their case in compliance with provincial guidelines, Mr. Roebuck had determined that the notification could have come much earlier.

As it turned out, the planning department was apparently blameless in the misunderstanding, the official notification from the OMB having been inadvertently mislaid or misdirected by another department.

A similar misunderstanding over the contents of an August, 1977, planning board meeting on the matter led to another heated discussion between Mr. Roebuck and Mayor Tom Hill. Mayor Hill denied having any recollection of Mr. Roebuck's personal input into the supposedly closed-door meeting.

The majority of board members voted to endorse the ratepayers' request for a postponement of the OMB hearing, even though Coun. Pat McKenzie pointed out that the OMB is not likely to consider the resident's rationale a good enough reason for doing so.

Coun. Pat Patterson declined to support the motion for endorsement on the grounds that the Interested Citizens Group has been ordered to bring its case against the proposed Bruce to Milton hydro transmission corridor before the OMB July 21 at a time when many of the members will be busiest on their farms.

Coun. Russ Miller added that the citizens group had also appealed for an adjournment but the request was denied.

Norval bypass plan unveiled

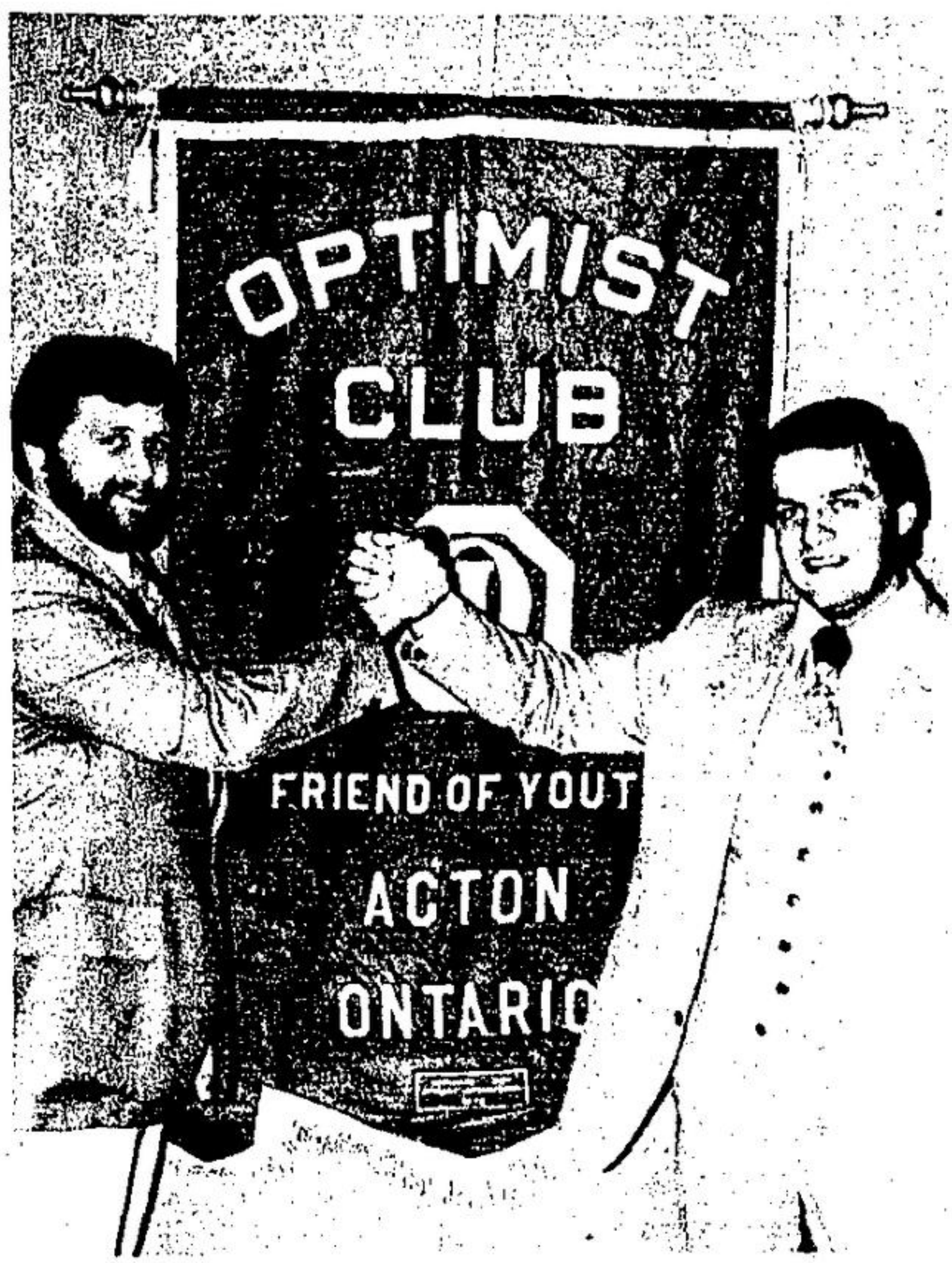
Environmental studies are now being conducted by Halton regional public works employees to assess the feasibility of constructing a 1.3-mile (two kilometers) traffic bypass near Norval's northeast boundary, plans for which were revealed to some Norval residents Thursday.

Halton and Peel regions are investigating the bypass proposal as one of two alternatives suggested by Phillips Planning and Engineering Ltd., a Burlington consultants firm, as possible solutions to traffic flow and safety problems along regional road 19 (Winston Churchill Blvd.).

The consultants concluded from studies that an existing bridge spanning the Credit River east of Highway 7 should be replaced and that improvements should be made to regional road 19 on both sides of the highway. The bridge, built in 1965, was closed for several months last year while interim structural improvements were made.

The bypass suggested by the planning firm would require the construction of two new bridges to carry traffic over the river and across highway 7 at a point approximately a third of a mile northeast of the traffic light intersection.

A second alternative involves the replacement of the 72-year-old bridge with a new structure and improvements to traffic flow along the regional road 19 through the opening of a new route west of regional road 10 which would partially follow an unused rail railway right-of-way.



Bill Chagnon (right) president of the new Optimist Club of Acton accepts the new club banner from Bob Ives (left) past-president of the Optimist Club of Milton at Saturday's charter presentation banquet for the new Acton Club.

Acton Optimists Club receive official charter

Special to The Herald
It's official! The Optimist Club of Acton now is an officially chartered member of Optimist International after Saturday's charter presentation banquet at the Acton Royal Canadian Legion hall.

Bobby Wahby, Optimist governor for the Ontario district presented president of the Acton Optimist club Bill Chagnon the official charter midway through the evening's program.

In addition to the charter, the Acton club received congratulations, gifts and well-wishes for the future. Bob Ives, past-president of the Milton Optimist club, presented the Acton Optimists with a club banner.

Tom Hudd, president of the Milton Optimists, donated a bell and gavel, and Gord Hull, vice-president elect from the Milton club, presented the Acton club's creed banner and dinner badges.

The officially chartered club also received a Canadian flag from the Ontario district and a lecture and the promise of a fine pot from the Optimist Club of Carleton Place.

Mayor Tom Hill of Halton Hills, MP Julian Reed and MPP Dr. Frank Philbrook offered congratulations and best wishes for the future. Optimist Ab Flood, new club building chairman for the Ontario district thanked the Milton Optimist Club for launching and sponsoring the Acton club. Mr. Flood said it is not enough just to have a club start; it is a must that an experienced club helps establish and follows up the beginning of the new Acton club.

under the guidance of the Milton Optimist Club. Before Mr. Wahby presented the official charter to Mr. Chagnon, he congratulated both Milton and Acton members for the Acton club's formation and said optimism in "this area is just starting to blossom."

"Optimism has become a part of something much bigger than a solitary organization," he said.

The Acton club is the 14th club to be sponsored and chartered in Ontario this year bringing the number of Optimist clubs in Ontario to 175.

Guest speaker Moon Kawasoe, past governor of the Ontario district, emphasized to Saturday's audience that action underlies success of Optimism. Mr. Kawasoe referred to Acton Optimist Club's membership to officially install the Acton Optimists' who will charter.

With one week to go in the Acton club membership drive, said Mr. Kawasoe, the drive had attracted only 13 members. With action in the last week of the drive, the fledgling club rounded up 27 new members to surpass the needed 35 to charter.

"When you look back on the impossible that you did, it's because you took action instead of wondering and looking back," he said.

Mr. Kawasoe said too much thinking and not enough action can lead to failure.

"But of course you have to think first," he said.

Gord Watson, governor elect of the Ontario district officially installed the 38 charter members into the Optimist Club of Acton.

Mr. Watson said: "It is an honor to officially install the Acton Optimists' who will work for the betterment of community life and support

the objective of Optimists as "friends of youth". Mr. Watson said the Acton Optimists will be dedicated and will develop a talent for leadership ability for the community.

The 38 charter members of the Optimist Club of Acton installed by Mr. Watson are: Walter Barlow, Andy Berry, David Boycott, Tim Bragg, Smith, Al Burns, Marly Calver, Bill Chagnon, Brad Cripps, George DeHaan, Mike DeJong, John Dyke, John Elliott, Ken Elliott, Pat Graham, Cornelius Groenendyk, Bob Hart, Dave Henderson, Bill Hodgson, Phil Hotta, Bert Huisman, Robin Insoe, Clive Jago, Bill Johnston, John Lambert, James Markie, Charles McGinn, Gordon McKinnon, Doug McTear, Cosimo Mercuri, Erik Paterson, Tom Roduck, George Rommelaere, Peter Saxon, Harold Townsley, Harmin Vanderheide, Martin Vanderveen, Robert Warren and Roger White.

Grass fires reported

With there being no end in sight to the hot, dry weather which has been hovering over Halton Hills for the past month or more, there also doesn't appear to be an end in sight for the grass fires plaguing Halton Hills fire department.

A grass fire was sparked off on CNR property near Hillside Drive July 11, and two days later, a grass fire off Highway 7 near Silvercreek burned a large patch of grass in a field. Firefighters were able to extinguish the fire with little difficulty.

Later the same day, a car fire on Guelph Street resulted in \$2,000 damage to a car.

The fire department has concluded that two fires on two consecutive days in a hay field on Lot 18, Concession 6 were deliberately set. Some large round bales of hay were set on fire on July 14, and again on the morning of July 15. Police are investigating the incident.

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