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## Hospital job layoffs avoids budget crisis

By MAGGIE HANNAH  
Herald staff writer

Financial constraints on health care spending by the provincial government has forced temporary lay-offs at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, it was revealed Friday by the hospital administrator.

"So far the lay-offs have been voluntary," Fred Morris says, "and we hope we'll be able to manage to keep it that way." People have been taking extra time off without pay if their work load is down and we don't have to hire replacements. We discussed it with the staff and the union (Canadian Union of Public Employees) and they're co-operating although no one's very happy about it."

The problem began April 1 when the government assigned the hospital a 4.79 per cent increase in operating funds for the fiscal year even though the inflation rate is between eight and nine per cent. With an annual budget of just under \$3 million the hospital is now facing a deficit of "between \$50,000 and \$90,000... depending on the accuracy of activity forecasts", Mr. Morris says.

The hospital has demonstrated to Ontario ministry of health officials that it is operating efficiently and negotiations are continuing over the budget. In the meantime, however, Mr. Morris feels that measures must be taken to make the budget stretch to cover operating expenses.

One of the measures was to curtail the in-service training program for the summer so that the co-ordinator could be used as a nursing supervisor and thus reduce the number of hours a relief person would be needed for the regular supervisor.

"We're looking at 800 man days per year," he explains. "That will probably hold down to three days to a week off for every employee in the hospital."

To the average person coming to the hospital as an out-patient it may mean a bit longer wait to get lab work or x-rays attended to, Mr. Morris explains.

Selective menus for patients in the hospital may have to be abandoned also, he says, to get more mileage out of the dietary staff.

Basically, the cut-backs should have only slight impact on patients but Mr. Morris feels the matter must be solved now rather than put off in hopes of later solutions.

Hospitals should be run like a business, he stressed. They can't go into debt because there is no way to get out of it.

Mr. Gardhouse endorsed council's decision to continue seeking a provincial study.

The ICG spokesman challenged Hydro's claim that delays in the construction of the Bruce to Milton corridor being caused by the ICG's opposition are costing Ontario taxpayers millions of dollars every day.

"That's a lot of malarkey," Mr. Gardhouse asserted. "It is our considered opinion that there is no power 'locked up' at Bruce."

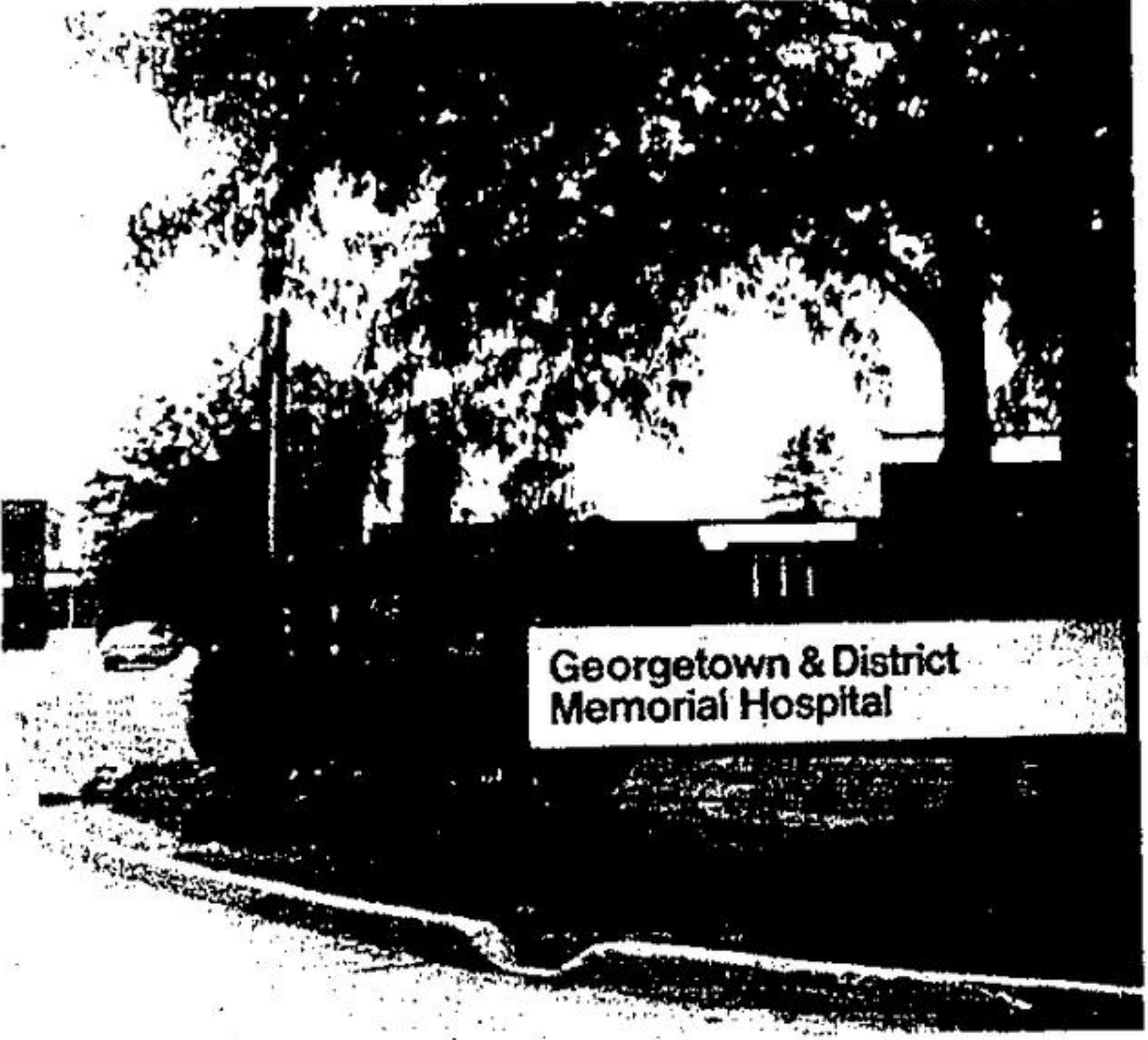
He explained that Hydro's recent decision to provide a "stop-gap measure" until the Bruce-to-Milton corridor can be built represents one of several alternatives suggested by the ICG years ago when the controversy was just getting underway. Hydro intends to construct a new line to carry power through the Kitchener area into the province-wide grid system, thus releasing power that has been "bottled up" at the Bruce nuclear power plant since production began.

Transmitting power to Kitchener had been Hydro's top priority until apparent political interference prompted the selection of a new route to Milton, Mr. Gardhouse said. Now, because of widespread opposition to the new route, he noted, Kitchener is finally getting the power which it needs and which was intended.

Mr. Gardhouse also pointed out that an independent consultant has established that the Bruce "a" plant is unsafe to produce any more than 50 per cent of the capacity for which it was intended. The Atomic Energy Commission, however, has rated the plant to produce 84 per cent of its capacity, he said.

At the same time, construction of the Bruce "B" plant has been halted by the province because of the current excess of power and is not expected to resume until early in the next decade.

"So there's still plenty of time for an independent study", Mr. Gardhouse concluded. "The disastrous effects of this corridor should not become a reality until it is proven to be the best possible route."



Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital on Princess Anne Drive.

If there's no money in the budget to meet the bills by the end of the year they can't shut the hospital down for a month. The only way to handle the problem is to cut back now before a crisis looms, he says.

## Quarry appeal rejected

An appeal by Standard Aggregates Ltd. last Tuesday to have a 600-acre Speyside area site designated for future mineral extraction failed to sway Halton Hills council's opinion about the company's proposal to mine some 145 million tons of sand and gravel at the location.

The appeal did win the support of Coun. Roy Booth, however, who is a member of the Niagara Escarpment Commission which has yet to consider the plan but is expected to side with the town in opposing Standard Aggregates' plans.

Coun. Booth agreed with company spokesman Leo Jergen that the Speyside site should be recognized as a mineral resource area, a move which he pointed out does not necessarily mean the Standard proposal will ever be accepted.

Standard Aggregates' hopes of opening a quarry at the site have been blocked at both the council and committee levels despite the company's promise to rehabilitate the quarry area once mining operations are finished, flood the pits and deed the twin lakes that will result to the Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA).

Mr. Jergen urged council to designate the Speyside site for mineral extraction so that the land will be saved from other kinds of development. For Standard's proposal to be accepted, he noted, approval of a quarrying application will first have to be granted by several authorities as well as the public at open hearings.

Coun. George Malby speculated that ultimately there will be a quarry at the site, a possibility which he said residents of the area who are opposing the plan probably also accept. At present, however, Halton Hills already supports three major gravel operations and the need for yet another has not been proven, he said.

Coun. Booth said he would like to see the site designated for mining now, since the extraction would be precluded if any housing development is ever approved for the location.

Coun. Russ Miller cited his experience as a member of the HRCA and asserted that it is "nearly impossible" to get any form of development approved for the area in question.

"We're not trying to stop any industry from starting up," he told Mr. Jergen, "but I feel the (planning) committee was being fair (in rejecting the Standard proposal)."

Coun. Peter Marks added that Standard, like anyone else, has the right to object to any other development proposals involving the Speyside site.

## It's a new ball game over hydro line: ICG

Ontario Hydro's recent introduction of interim measures to transmit power from the Bruce peninsula generating station into the provincial grid system has turned the controversy over the planned Bruce-to-Milton transmission corridor into a whole new ball game, according to ICG opponent Reford Gardhouse.

Mr. Gardhouse and Walter Scott of the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) met with town council last Tuesday to compare notes on the July 31 Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing which adjourned because of procedural problems before it began.

Mr. Gardhouse was informed that, in an earlier session that preceded the meeting, council had decided to go ahead with plans to seek an injunction halting construction of transmission towers within Halton Hills' boundaries.

Council at the same time rejected a suggestion by regional solicitor Dennis Perlin that municipal staff should be directed to conduct the "independent study" of alternative corridor routes which the ICG has been requesting from the province for the past five years.

Mr. Gardhouse endorsed council's decision to continue seeking a provincial study.

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## Going to the Ex then GO by bus

Halton Hills residents planning to attend the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) during its 100th anniversary can avoid traffic hassles by catching GO buses to the Port Credit GO station and taking the train directly to the CNE.

Buses leave Mill and Main in Acton at 9:25 a.m. Sunday through Friday on an hourly basis from 9:25 a.m. to 12:25 noon. These same buses leave Georgetown's Moore Park stop beginning at 9:40 a.m., the Georgetown Market at 9:47 and Norval at 9:51 a.m. The Saturday schedule touches the same points beginning an hour earlier and running until the same cut off time.

Homebound buses from the CNE leave the Port Credit station hourly from 6:48 p.m. to 12:48 midnight Monday through Friday, while Saturday and Sunday buses begin runs from 4:48 p.m. until 12:48 midnight during the three weekends of the CNE.

GO has also instituted a new Family Pass which allows up to five people to travel to the CNE and back at special low rates provided they travel together and one or two are over 18 years old.

Family Pass rates for Halton Hills travellers are: Acton, \$10, Silver Creek, \$9, Georgetown, \$8.25 and Norval, \$7.25. These passes can't be sold to customers by the bus driver, however, and passengers are asked to get them from their local ticket agent or GO ticket attendant.

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## A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

This young fellow was more interested in what went on behind the scenes at the puppet show presented by the leaders of the Halton Hills recreation department in Acton last Wednesday. Keith Norris, Mike Jameson, Annemie Grozelle, Carolynne Larner and Tina Gibbs presented

Hansel and Gretel to an enthralled audience in the Acton Community Centre. The puppet show was only a part of the activities scheduled for the day, which was planned as a water regatta. Unfortunately, rain resulted in the outdoor activities being curtailed. See story and pictures on second front page.

## About The Hills Ambulance executive

Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service has announced a recent re-organization of its executive committee. Bob Crawford takes over duties as president of the service from Andy Fenton earlier this month, while Pete Marshall is the new vice-president. Daryl Giberson has been named director of administration, Doug McLeod director of operations and Frank Tyrrell director of training.

## Legion donates \$2,000

Harold Badham of Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120 was on hand at last Tuesday's council meeting to present Mayor Tom Hill with a cheque for \$2,000, representing the Georgetown members' contribution toward the restoration of the Georgetown Memorial Arena. Area residents will recall that the Legion was among the many service clubs and organizations which banded together to raise funds for the project, completed last year.

## Board appointment

Kenneth Riley of Georgetown was recently appointed by the Halton separate school board to fill a vacancy on the Halton Hills library board created by the resignation of Mrs. F.R. Perrego. The appointment will be effective for the balance of the current year.

## Wintario meeting

Representatives of the Acton town hall restoration committee are presently arranging a meeting with the Wintario grants committee at which the possibility of funding the proposed reconstruction of the 37-year-old building will be discussed. At the restoration committee's request, town council last week appointed Councillors Les Duby and George Malby to represent the municipality's interest in the matter.

## Militia concentration

Members of Georgetown's Lorne Scots Regiment are among the 700 militia men and women participating in a two-week training session at Canadian Forces Base Borden that began Saturday. Regiments from the Hamilton, London and Windsor militia districts have gathered for intensive training in defence and withdrawal, infantry, night patrol, weapon firing and grenade handling. The training culminates Aug. 25 with a skill at arms competition in which 30-man teams from each unit take on a five-mile forced march and obstacle course in full battle order and test rifle firing skills.

## Safe cycle riding

The ministry of transportation and communications has published a brochure which should be beneficial to all moped operators. A few of the brochure's highlights are: Mopeds are not allowed on expressways or other types of highways such as the 400 series and the Queen Elizabeth Way; it is illegal for moped drivers to carry passengers on the vehicles; moped drivers must signal before turning, changing lanes, stopping or slowing down and all moped drivers must wear helmets.

## Recovery house grant

Ontario Health Minister Dennis Timbrell this week announced that the Halton Recovery House, Milton's eight-bed rehabilitation shelter for recovering male alcoholics, has been awarded an additional grant of \$5,040 bringing the province's total funding of the establishment to \$15,040 for the current fiscal year ending next March. The Halton grants are part of a \$429,200 funding program through which the health ministry has assisted some 29 alcohol and drug community projects during this fiscal year.

## Autumn start seen for Metcalfe ravine

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) has predicted an autumn start for the construction of a closed conduit along the full length of Metcalfe Court ravine in Georgetown, subject to approval from the ministry of natural resources.

In a bid to resolve long-standing erosion problems that have plagued private homeowners in the Delrex subdivision, the CVCA has adopted recommendations contained within a final preliminary engineering report.

Upon receipt of the CVCA

update report outlining the authority's intentions, Halton Hills council last week asked engineering staff to prepare its own report for the town public works committee.

The CVCA wishes to build a closed conduit along the ravine channel bed utilizing existing slope and profile wherever practicable.

The work is to be done in two phases, owing to the need to acquire private property downstream from town-owned lands, which the CVCA fears would unnecessarily delay construction.

## Arson suspected in mailbox blaze

Georgetown post office reports arson last week destroyed some pieces of mail and sent other mail away with scorched edges after someone tossed lighted matches into a mailbox.

Ed Quackenbush, post office supervisor suggests that anyone depositing mail in the box at the corner of Stockman Crescent and Delrex Boulevard between 4:15 p.m. Thursday Aug. 10 and 4:15 p.m. Friday Aug. 11 should get in touch with the person their mail was intended for and find out if it has arrived.

"It won't do any good to call us," Mr. Quackenbush says. "We recovered some of the mail and sent it on its way with a note explaining its conditions but some of it was completely destroyed."

The exact time of the fire can not be determined, he says. It was already out when the mailman opened the box at 4:15 Friday afternoon.

"We found two pieces of mail that had no marks at all," he says. "So they must have been dropped into the box after the fire smothered."

Police are investigating.



FRED MORRIS



## POLIO VACCINATION

Herald staffer Maggie Hannah is very stoic as she receives her polio shot from Halton Health Unit nurse Sylvia Murphy at the Georgetown clinic last Wednesday. A total of 534 people received the vaccine between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. that day. Further clinics scheduled for this week have been changed. For details see story page 13.

## FIRM SPECIALIZES IN THERMOGRAPHY

# Aid in fighting the cold

By PAUL DORSEY  
Herald staff writer

Utilized initially by the U.S. military to uncover hidden enemy snipers during the Vietnam war, the technology of thermography, or infrared heat scanning, has since been developed by a Hornby firm to the point where more than a few North American construction companies have become worried about their reputations and income.

Fishburn Thermography Group Ltd., located on Steel Avenue east of Trafalgar Road, has launched or is involved in legal actions against several builders and

developers, including one major Bramalea construction firm, as a result of their alleged failure to install adequate insulation in new structures, in accordance with revised government standards.

Company president Doug Fishburn told The Herald last week that his firm is also involved in an important federal government investigation underway in Ottawa in which the responsibility of builders to properly insulate homes and other structures is similarly being discussed.

Central to such proceedings will be Mr. Fishburn's testimony that the highly-

sensitive equipment his firm uses to detect structural heat loss has indeed revealed serious problems in current construction practices.

At the recent Canadian Construction Association conference in Vancouver, delegates expressed alarm over proposals such as those outlined in a Public Works Canada report which calls for the increased use of thermography in the construction industry.

The report advises that thermographic experiments have shown "serious constructional defects in insulation, air leakage and condensation" as "common occur-

ences in Canadian buildings".

Still in its infancy, the technology of thermography involves the infrared scanning of a given object with a special, expensive camera that detects that slightest differences in temperature and converts such information into an electrically transmitted image or thermogram.

Fishburn Thermography Group Ltd. which has become a highly respected world leader in the specialized field of roof thermography, employs five technicians who use \$50,000 camera units purchased from a Swe-

dish manufacturer. The Hornby company has developed its own expertise in the use of different lenses and other modifications to conduct heat surveys on a number of buildings across the continent.

Locally, recent projects have included thermographic scans of the Georgetown Post Office and Georgetown District high school roofs (Fishburn is a prime consultant to the Halton board of education); Peel Memorial Hospital in Brampton and the American Motors, Benson and Hedges and Lipton's

Continued on Page 8