

MAYOR, STAFF OPPOSED

Stewarttown solar homes project gets approval

Contrary to the advice of the town planning department and Mayor Tom Hill, planning board has endorsed a proposal to build four experimental solar heated homes on five acres of private land off Trafalgar

Road south of Georgetown. Already turned down by the board last August, Wray Gibson and his solicitor Dick Howitt this time succeeded in convincing the board that the need for further research into

the feasibility of solar heating outweighs concerns that arose over the possible setting of a precedent for the severing of lots.

Mayor Hill pointed out that the town council only appealed a decision by the Halton land division committee by which the construction of a single home on a two-acre site was approved.

"There's no way we should be supporting four houses on five acres", he contended.

The town's deputy planning director Brian Kropf admitted in his report on the proposal that the town should be prepared to support "innovative programs designed to reduce man's consumption of scarce, non-renewable resources including fuels" but not, he added at the expense of town policies and recognized planning principles.

The proposal calls for the construction of four specially-designed, two-storey solar heated homes on the west side of Trafalgar Road where Mr. Gibson owns five acres immediately south of Al's Meats. Mr. Gibson's own home is situated at the north end of the five acre lot.

Mr. Howitt cited support for

the development of solar heating at all government levels and named two federal programs through which Mr. Gibson may be able to obtain subsidy funding for his proposal. A patent is now being prepared for the unique shutter which Mr. Gibson has designed to be facing the sun at all times, he explained.

Anticipating the suggestion of several board members that the homes could better be built on land in Halton Hills that is already properly zoned for such uses, Mr. Howitt told the board that if Mr. Gibson must buy additional land for the project, his plans will no longer be financially feasible. Any concerns that Halton region may have over vehicle access onto Trafalgar Road will be resolved by the planned widening of the road between Ashgrove and Stewarttown, Mr. Howitt said.

The solicitor conceded that Mr. Gibson's proposal faces its biggest obstacle at the land division committee level, the approach to which he nevertheless described as the most practical alternative open to his client.

"I realize we're going to have problems with the com-

mittee and I appreciate that perhaps the region may say that his proposal flies in the face of all its planning guidelines," Mr. Howitt said, "but the situation is unusual enough given the desperate need for

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Mr. Howitt said, "but the situation is unusual enough given the desperate need for solar heating research, that Wray Gibson's technology is needed by the whole public sector."

Coun. Russ Miller had his own solution to the dispute when he claimed to support all severance proposals.

"There's a lot of good building lots in the area that could be developed," he said. "I just wonder if what (Coun. Pomeroy) suggested is strong enough to support the plan adequately."

"Maybe we shouldn't be appealing all these severance decisions," Coun. Pat McKenzie agreed. "In this case, two wrongs don't make a right. It's certainly not prime farmland we're discussing here."

Coun. Peter Marks offered his "total support" of the proposal, but suggested that Mr. Gibson should sell his designs to owners of land that is already zoned for such uses, then do his research on the homes at the appropriate sites.

"This is far beyond our land use policy," he warned. Mr. Gibson commented that it would be difficult to sell the designs and ensure that all agreement problems are resolved. Mr. Howitt cited the advantage of having the experimental houses close to home.

Coun. George Malby strongly advised the board not to set a precedent for severing rural land for solar homes and the like. Residential development must be prevented from encroaching onto land that is not designated for such use on the town's official plan, he said.

Additional support for Mr. Gibson's proposal came from councillors Pat Patterson and Les Doby, but board chairman Roy Booth remained wary about granting official endorsement to any research before all of the implications are known. Mankind already made one mistake by "jumping into" the use of atomic power, he cautioned.

Coun. Booth nevertheless supported the proposal and suggested that Mr. Gibson's homes be set up as a pilot experimental project and study area. He also urged the board to start re-examining its planning policies regarding severance.

"Solar energy is something we have to look at, even though its application maybe in the distant future," he commented. "We've got a proposal here that's going to put us on the map. We should be proud that we have a man here who's willing to tackle the project."

"No precedent"

Said that town council may be setting a dangerous precedent by endorsing a proposal to build four experimental solar heated homes on five acres of private land off Trafalgar

Monday night succeeded in getting the decision amended so that the solar homes will be considered a one-shot pilot project.

Others from taking the advice of council's approval of the solar homes

Wray Gibson hopes to build on his five-acre lot near Stewart-

town, the project has been designated a pilot project that is not to be considered representative of town policy.

Industrial plan interests council

Halton Hills planning board has rejected the advice of its staff in order to have a study launched into a 625-acre industrial site proposed for development northeast of Georgetown.

The planning department recommended council's disapproval of the proposal submitted by more than a dozen private landowners seeking an official plan and zoning bylaw amendment allowing the industrial and commercial use of rural and hazard lands.

The close proximity of several private residences and the anticipated loss of prime agricultural land prompted the department to reject the proposal.

The staff report also cites an opinion by regional engineers that such a development northeast of Georgetown would need to be accommodated by full municipal services, rather than private water and sewage facilities as proposed.

"It is not possible to determine at this time what impact this industrial proposal would have on the surrounding road system," the report states. "The mitigating factor would be that the ultimate mass transit system in the urban area would be designed to be integrated with greater costs if this development were to proceed."

The report also points out that the requesting official

plan and the still-to-be approved regional official plan make no provisions for any industrial development in the area in question.

Coun. Pete Pomeroy, calling for a re-examination of the proposal by council's official plan review committee, contended that the transportation problems mentioned could be overcome so that the proposed site could be "plugged into" Halton Hills' official plan as a future industrial growth area.

"There are some very good reasons we should be looking at this proposal," Coun. Russ Miller agreed. "Contrary to what the planners have reported, it is mostly poor agricultural land in that area and I think it would be best to get some dry industry on it."

Coun. Pat Patterson also challenged the region's opinion that the area should not be developed as proposed, saying that he will never support regional government in Halton because it has not helped citizens in the rural areas "in any way, shape or form."

Coun. Peter Marks suggested that the plan, if proven unworkable at the site proposed, might be accommodated at a location adjacent to Acton, but planning director Marin Venditti observed that space is very limited in both urban areas.

Coun. George Malby noted that the proposal makes "a lot of sense" in terms of employment and service to Georgetown.

Halton's industrial development officer, Bill Marshall, informed the board that he receives one or two inquiries each day from major industries interested in developing "large areas" around Georgetown. The majority of the calls involve "dry" industry, he added, but despite a proven need in the region for such development, available space is limited.

Robbery guilty plea nets nine months

Stephen William Jones, 18, of no fixed address, has been sentenced to nine months in reformatory for his part in the July 9 armed robbery of the Royal Variety store on Queen Street in Acton.

Mr. Jones will also serve a six month sentence and two-month sentence concurrently for two related convictions handed down by Judge Reed Scott after he pleaded guilty to all three charges Monday in Milton provincial court.

Halton regional police arrested Mr. Jones last month at the Northwest campground, one of three Halton parks from which he was found to have stolen about \$150 worth of snackbar confections along with assorted camping equip-

ment. He was convicted Monday of breaking and entering and possession of stolen goods.

The third conviction on a charge of armed robbery resulted from a July 6 incident at Acton's Royal Variety, where Jones and another person threatened a store employee with a 10-inch knife before leaving the premises with between \$300 and \$500 taken from the cash register.

Cindra Elizabeth Kirby, 20, also of no fixed address, is scheduled to appear in provincial court Oct. 16 to have a trial date set. She is charged with armed robbery in connection with the Royal Variety robbery, breaking and entering and possession of stolen goods in a separate incident.

Smaller school suits new head

Special to The Herald
The new principal of Acton high school, Wally Watkins, is pleased to be a principal for the first time in his teaching career and more pleased to be the headmaster of Acton high school.

"To me, it's (Acton high) just perfect!" "I want a small school and I believe in a small school," he says.

Mr. Watkins says the relatively small size of the Acton school (approximately 750 students for 1978-79) allows "more cohesiveness... more common aim... a better school spirit."

He says the size of the Acton school will allow him to manage the high school well. In terms of management, he says the students will form a cohesive unit than students in a larger school.

"It's more like a family (in a small school) than a crowd!" he says.

The smaller school will allow Mr. Watkins to implement certain beliefs and ideas about education.

"I think I'm in a better position to implement my ideas," he says.

And the task for Mr. Watkins of implementing his ideas is made simpler "since this school is already proceeding along my lines", he says.

Mr. Watkins says his ideas of education includes giving "the feeling that the people within the school have a say with the way the school is run". And he has a "really definite insistence with good programs".

Mr. Watkins says the size of the school and the size of Acton allow the school to be a part of the community. In some places, says Mr. Watkins, there is an invisible barrier between the school and the community, but not in Acton.

To keep the feeling of community, Mr. Watkins will communicate with the citizens of Acton, the students and the teachers. Communication, he says, involves the school's newsletter and getting to know the towns people, students and teachers. Mr. Watkins says it is important for him to give support to the teachers.

When a teacher gives an excellent lesson, he says, he or she may feel "my kids know about it and I know about it, but no one else knows about it."

It's important to sit in on a good lesson and give praise when it's due, he says.

Mr. Watkins hopes his role as principal and teacher (he will teach one English class) will help communications with both teachers and students.

Referring to his responsibility of teaching one subject as well as managing the school, he says "it seems to be a good tradition in this school."

Mr. Watkins hopes the combination of good management and good communications will permit students to develop to the greatest potential and be conducive to the "art of education."

The art of education, says Mr. Watkins, "is the art of putting the right book into the right hand at the right time."



50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
Roy and Helen Norton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Ballinacree Friday evening, surrounded by family and friends. Mr. Norton, who was employed at the Dunstar paper mill for 47 years, said he and his wife met in the fall, skated together almost all winter, and married that August. "We've had a very, very good life," Mr. Norton said.

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<p>HALTON HILLS PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY Trafalgar Rd. and No. 7 Highway Pastor Rev. E. J. Friesen Sunday, August 27 10 a.m. Morning School 11 a.m. Morning Worship 7 P.M. Evening service Music Director Dave & Shannon Pringle Tuesday 7:30 Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study</p>	<p>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Windsor Road at Carole St. Vacancy Pastor Rev. Arthur Rader Sunday, August 27 11:30 a.m. Worship Service Church of the Lutheran Hour</p>
<p>MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH 177 Maple Ave. Georgetown Sunday, August 27 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. Dr. E.S. Kerr 11:00-12:15 Sunday School for the deaf Thurs. Aug. 24 7:30 p.m. DR E. S. Kerr</p>	

WALLY WATKINS

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