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Herald editor



If certain candidates in the November 13 municipal election have their way, the 1978-79 edition of Halton Hills council will strongly resemble municipal councils from this area in the "good ole days" before regional government, when Georgetown was still a town and Halton was a country rather than a sprawling region.

Between the incumbents and the challengers, 11 of the 21 candidates seeking office in the upcoming council elections were previously members of town or township councils in the Halton area before the town of Halton Hills was formed, on January 1, 1974.

Four of the 11 P.R. (pre-regional government) candidates are incumbents seeking re-election while seven "newcomer" candidates seeking election were members on old councils.

INCUMBENT MAYOR

Incumbent mayoralty candidate Tom Hill was formerly a member of Esquimaux council. Other incumbent "old time" council members seeking re-election include: ward one area council candidates Pat McKenzie and Les Doby; ward two area council candidate George Maltby and ward three regional council candidate Roy Booth.

Pre-region council members seeking election to Halton Hills council include: ward three area councillor candidates, Bill Hunter and Fred "Tut" Harrison; Harry Levy, running for area councillor in ward four; ward one regional council candidates Roy Goodwin and Bill Coats and; ward three regional councillor candidate Roy Booth.

Add to this list the two candidates acclaimed last week, ward two regional council member, Russ Miller and ward four regional council member, Mike Armstrong, both pre-region council members, and it emerges as a possibility that Halton Hills voters could elect a council on which only two of the 13 members were not previously members of pre-region councils.

On top of this, ward one regional councillor candidate, Ed Wood and ward two area council candidate, Nick Hunsley, both have previously run for Halton Hills council seats and the number of new faces in this election is severely diminished.

NEW FACES

Only ward three area councillor candidate, John McDonald, ward four area councillor candidate, Karen Morris and ward one area councillor candidates, Ross Knechtel and David Whiting are certifiably new faces to the Halton Hills municipal politics scene. There are those that would argue that since ward four area councillor candidate Karen Morris' husband is an incumbent councillor in that ward, she is not an entirely new face. Considering that she often mentions her work in her husband's past campaign in her campaign statements, that comment is probably not out of line.

So what's the point of all this? It's at least a little strange to me that in these days when voters are supposedly clamouring for new faces and new governments new faces are hard to find.

One candidate declares in his campaign literature that now is time for a change.

A look at the list of candidates shows that if, in fact, it is time for a change, there isn't that much possibility for any real change this time around.

If the voters are hungry for new faces it would be ironic if in sweeping out incumbent councillors they swept in even "older" faces.

I'm not saying there's necessarily anything wrong with the incumbents or, the old town councils - it's too early in the campaign to tell - but voters should be aware of who they're voting for, including their past.

My only concern about the large number of old time politicians in this year's municipal race is that a large segment of the Halton Hills population will not be represented. I'm referring to that ever increasing chunk of voters, the new, commuter resident. Certainly to govern properly, any old or new faces elected to council on November 13 will have to be conscious of serving this underrepresented segment of the Halton Hills population.

NO SIGNS? - If you're wondering why every piece of green space in Halton Hills was not buried in election signs the minute nominations closed last week, it's not because candidates have decided against their use.

Ward four area councillor candidate, Harry Levy organized an informal agreement among most candidates to hold off erecting signs until after Halloween. Mr. Levy argued that candidate's signs put up before the kids' annual food and fun fest would simply be sitting ducks for high spirited youngsters caught up in the October 31 festive mood.

Mr. Levy said he figured that the signs would more likely to fall prey to vandals and end up in pieces on somebody's lawn rather than doing its job as a piece of campaign promotion.

Most candidates appear to have gone along with Mr. Levy's idea and I wouldn't be surprised if a street full of torn up signs on the November 1 morning may have been avoided as a result.



NEW MEMBERS FOR RED CROSS YOUTH

New members of Georgetown's Red Cross Youth organization installed at a special ceremony Tuesday night are, left to right, Bonnie Kennedy, Ted Maslach, Bill Pires and Barbara Bergmann.

GEORGETOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1978
7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

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Mid-term Progress Reports will be distributed to students on Thursday, November 2.

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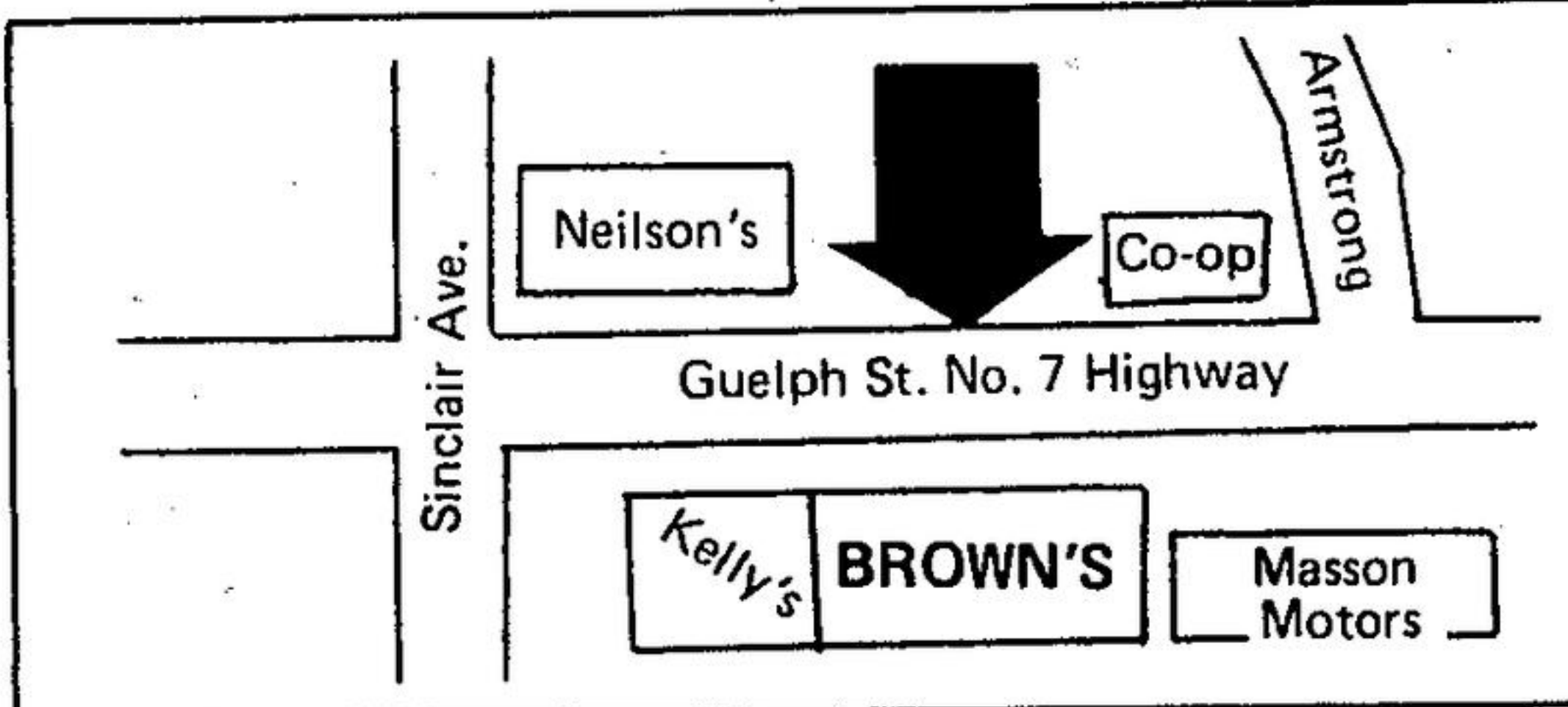
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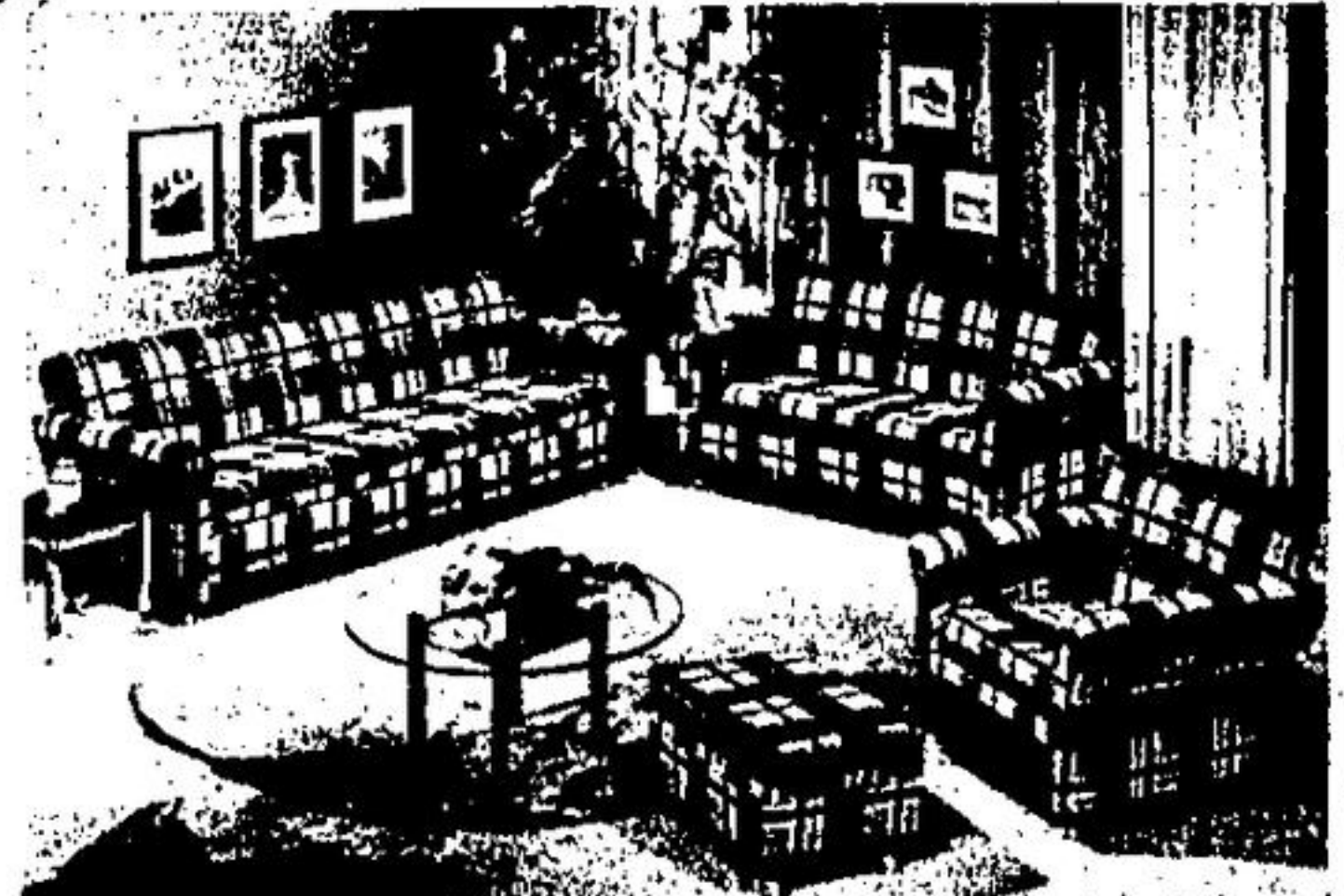
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