

About The Hills

Food commission seminar

The People's Food Commission will hold an introductory seminar for local residents at the Actor Public Library Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. A short film will outline the Commission's goals and operation and staff member Michael Carr will make a presentation and answer questions.

More swimmers needed

Halton Hills is still looking for more people to register in the Competitive Aquatic Programs. This year there will be competitive groups in Speed Swimming, Synchronized Swimming and Diving. The town is planning on having clubs compete with other municipalities in this area. If you require further information about fees, times, etc., please contact the Recreation and Parks Department at 877-5185, ext. 60, OR Acton Pool 853-3140 OR Georgetown Pool 877-7721, during normal program hours.

NEC's control meeting

The November planning and development control meetings of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) are being held in Collingwood and Toronto. The NEC met in Collingwood on November 2 and 3, and will be meeting at the Sutton Place Hotel in Toronto on November 16, and at Queen's Park in the Humber Room, Macdonald block on November 17. Limited seating is available to members of the public who wish to attend.

Four outdoor rinks

This year, the Halton Hills Works Department will again construct and maintain ice rinks for pleasure skating at the following locations: McKenzie-Smith Middle School, Emmerson Park, Joseph Gibbons Park, Harrison School. The operation of all outdoor ice rinks is very much dependent upon weather conditions. If you and your neighbors are interested in maintaining an ice rink at a location other than mentioned above, please contact Miss Anne Pickering at 877-5185, extension 60 for further information.

Receives grant

A New Horizons project for the Belles and Beaus of Georgetown, for a total amount of \$4,905.00 was announced November 30.

The project title is "The Recovery Group of Willing Workers" and there are 140 people directly involved. The money will be used to expand the program of activities. The seniors plan to show movies borrowed from the local library. They also propose to present slides owned by the club members. In addition, a variety of games will be offered as well as social evenings followed by dancing. The President of the group is Mrs. Eadythe Peck of 11 Sargent Road, Apt. 117, Georgetown.

Parents'

General Wolfe High School in Oakville will be holding its annual term parents' night Nov. 23 between 7 p.m. and 9:30.

Hoffman at Sheridan

Abby Hoffman, one of Canada's most well-known women athletes, will be the guest speaker at next Horizon series at the Oakville campus of Sheridan College on November 9. The series is sponsored by the Centre for Women, and features monthly lectures on topics of interest to women in the community and students of the college. The lecture will be held in Room B-125 from noon to 2 p.m. Admission is free.

Auxiliary meeting

The Georgetown and District Hospital Auxiliary had its General Meeting on October 24, with 30 members present. Mrs. Roy Booth, President, presided over the meeting and announced that as our 20th anniversary is this year, we will form a "Past Presidents Club" with all former presidents invited to join.

Mrs. Roy Booth, and Mrs. Joan Hill will be the delegates to the 68th Annual Convention of the Hospital Auxiliary Association of Ontario at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, from Sunday, November 5th, to Wednesday, November 8, 1978.

Art exhibition

The Peel Museum and Art Gallery on Wellington Street in Brampton is holding an exhibition entitled "Christmas in the French Tradition". On view at the exhibition will be the Yule Log tradition, the Christmas Eve ceremony in Southern France, the Christmas tree legend and the traditional Christmas meal in France and French North America.

Board candidates discuss issues

In the election race for Halton Hills' two seats on the Halton Board of Education, incumbents and challengers alike are primarily concerned over a notable decline in the quality of education, according to views expressed at the Georgetown Jaycees' meet-the-candidates night at Georgetown high school Thursday.

Three candidates for the Wards 1 and 2 (Acton and Esquesing) seat and two for the Ward 3 and 4 (Georgetown) seat outlined their ideas and answered questions for about 200 area voters, covering such issues as core curriculum, busing, school twinning and board spending.

Also on hand was Hartley Sherk of Georgetown, who was acclaimed to his position as Halton Hills' representative on the Halton Separate School Board. Mr. Sherk thanked the voters for their confidence in him they had shown and promised to continue to "work hard" on their behalf.

On the public school board scene, however, the incumbents have been confronted by some serious competition.

WARDS 1 and 2

Ward 1 and 2 incumbent trustee H.H. (Bert) Hinton, a retired Acton merchant, told the audience "it's time to control the high cost of education" and to "increase attention to discipline, morality and physical education."

Mr. Hinton bemoaned the board's tendency in the past to "experiment" with education and proposed a re-evaluation of its administration. What Halton needs, he said, is a school board that will involve the general public in its educational system, set "sensible" priorities and work with other regional agencies instead of duplicating or competing with their efforts.

Municipalities urged to save energy

Provincial energy minister James Auld is urging municipalities to begin energy conservation programs in an effort to save energy and tax dollars.

Mr. Auld told the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee that most municipalities in Ontario spend an estimated eight to twelve per cent of their property tax revenue on energy.

"Municipal energy consumption at today's high levels is neither desirable nor is it necessary; there are better and cheaper ways," he said.

Mr. Auld said municipalities

While Mr. Hinton contended that there is "a reasonably convenient use of buses" by Halton schools, challenger Betty Fisher of Georgetown, a housewife, was sharply critical of a busing system which she said leaves young children sitting on buses for inappropriate lengths of time.

Busing is "a tremendous problem", Mrs. Fisher said, involving "long waits" that constitute "wrong and inhumane" treatment of students. Her appraisal of the busing system is a direct result of talking to concerned parents, she explained, some of whom have youngsters who spend more than two hours every day travelling back and forth to their schools.

CONCEPT ATTACKED

Pam Sheldon of Acton, also a housewife, attacked the concept of twinning elementary schools where enrollments are low, a move she called "a great disservice to the community and its students."

Mrs. Sheldon said that the board is responsible for "the greatest erosion of educational concepts since the mid-1960's." She urged voters to support her in order to make the most of "the greatest single expenditure of their lifetime."

Mrs. Fisher told the audience that her desire for schools to return to "sensible" education, basic subjects, smaller classes and "more effective discipline" has not altered in the five years she has been regularly attending board meetings as an observer. She opposes the closing of community schools.

Mr. Hinton agreed with Mrs. Fisher that putting special consultants and assistant co-ordinators back into the classrooms as teachers would also be a "sensible" move that would help improve Halton's teacher-pupil ratio. Mrs. Shel-



School board Candidates Pam

Sheldon, Bert Hinton and Betty Fisher

don pointed out, however, that the move would reduce the board's operating budget by about one-tenth of one per cent, savings that "wouldn't even show up on your tax bills."

In response to a question from the audience, Mrs. Fisher explained her decision as a Georgetown resident to seek the Acton-Esquesing trustee's seat.

"Yes, I come from Georgetown," she said, "but I care about what happens to all of our students, parents and taxpayers. We have a regional system of education where the only dividing line I can see is between north and south. I don't think parochialism really enters into it."

WARDS 3 AND 4

Georgetown trustee Barry Shepherd, an industrial engineer, told voters at the meeting that he has been "one of the most active trustees" on the Halton board during the six months since he was appointed to replace Don Long. He claimed perfect attendance at the meetings and said he enjoys the work.

Mr. Shepherd noted that, this year, Halton has 900 fewer students in its schools than last year, but Georgetown's enrollments, in contrast, are higher. He nevertheless called the school twinning program "incremental" in terms of the quality of education, and questioned its economic value to Halton taxpayers.

Mr. Shepherd suggested that more of the board's redundant properties, like Chapel Street Public School in Georgetown, should be sold in order to

acquire funds for worthwhile projects, such as the theatre addition proposed for Wranglersworth Public School as a joint venture by the board and Halton Hills council.

Mr. Shepherd was asked to comment on the present status of Chapel Street school, but could only say that the future of the historic building and site is now in the hands of the development firm which bought the property last month.

EVERY OPPORTUNITY

"The board gave the town every opportunity to buy the school," he said. Mundy Hyde, a Georgetown lawyer seeking to unseat Mr. Shepherd, was critical of Halton's busing system, saying that students should be accommodated in neighborhood schools close to their homes.

Early planning is the only way the school board will be able to reduce its budget, he contended, rather than the crisis-to-crisis style of planning that he said currently dominates its approach to educational needs.

Mr. Hyde advocated the elimination of such "trial" courses as industrial workshops and some art and music subjects and, in their place, greater emphasis on the three R's. Parents and taxpayers, he added, must be kept informed of the board's plans and ideas.

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