

Georgetown BIA picks new candidates

Fourteen people were nominated to fill five seats on the revamped Georgetown Business Improvement Area Board of Management at the BIA's annual meeting held last Wednesday night at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

The BIA's nominating committee recommended executive positions for: Monty Hyde, Robert Gougeon, Bill Crawford, Sandy Mackenzie, Lyn Barnard and Ralph Fletcher.

BIA executive candidates nominated from the floor include: Gene Brooks, Betty Monchamp, Shirley Griffiths, Irene Graph, Lorna Davies, Jim Langadyke, Pete Pomeroy and Jim Akers.

NEW SYSTEM
Unlike in previous years, the executive members were not elected at the nominating meeting. Under a new procedure passed Wednesday night executive members are merely nominated at the general meeting. Candidates then have until Nov. 17 to decline the nomination in writing. Ballots will then be distributed to all members of the BIA with the candidates names on them. Voters will have until Nov. 24 to return their completed ballots to the BIA. The top five vote getting candidates would then take over as the BIA's new executive pending approval by the Halton Hills council.

BIA chairman Robert Gougeon explained that members hope the new voting procedure will involve more members in the process. The new procedure also gives voters

and candidates "a few days to think about," the election, he said.

DEFINE POSITIONS
BIA members also decided to define executive positions on the Board of Management this term. Mr. Gougeon said this will "spread out the work" and allow executive members concentrate working in their own areas of interest.

The executive will now consist of: chairperson, secretary-treasurer, Main Street Improvements co-ordinator, promotions co-ordinator and communications co-ordinator.

Sixteen BIA members attended the Wednesday night meeting and Mr. Gougeon said members left "with a good feeling" about the organization.

BIA officials seek GO transit route change

Members of the Georgetown BIA met Friday morning with representatives from GO Transit to discuss the possibility of re-routing the buses to stop in downtown Georgetown again.

In a re-scheduling move designed to streamline the GO schedule between Toronto and Guelph, GO Transit recently re-routed the bus, which had gone along Main Street, so that it now goes from the Georgetown Market Plaza, along Highway 7 to Moore Park Plaza, without stopping downtown.

Rick West of R.H. West Insurance and Monty Hyde met with Floyd Dumler and other representatives of GO Transit Friday to discuss the possibility of putting the bus

back downtown, and Mr. West said there appears to be some flexibility with regards to suggestions they made as to how time could be saved along the route to allow the bus to go downtown.

WEST'S CONCERN
Mr. West said that concern about the re-routing of the bus was based on three interests being served: senior citizens in the older downtown area often find it difficult to get to Moore Park Plaza or Georgetown Market Plaza; the downtown merchants are concerned about having to go out to one of the plazas for parcel pick-up and delivery service; and merchants feel the bus service to the downtown area is one of the important factors in keeping the downtown area alive.

Mr. West said they have proposed a tentative solution to GO Transit, which GO has said is acceptable providing other merchants agree. He said they will be talking to merchants in the Georgetown Market Plaza, downtown merchants, and others who will be affected by any changes, and if the group reaches agreement on a solution, work will proceed on making the necessary changes.

Mr. West said they did not want to go into details about their proposal before talking to the merchants who will be affected. He said they expected to make the details public at the meeting to form the Georgetown Retailers' Association at the North Halton Golf and Country Club November 21.



AMBULANCE TOUR

Arunas Kaspervicius of the Brampton Ambulance Service looks on as Donna Massena of the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service explains the contents of the ambulance to children from the Maple Nursery School. The children were given a tour of the ambulance and shown its inner workings. (Herald photo)

George Petrusma

Youth of the year

The Optimists Club of Georgetown has awarded its 1978 Youth of the Year citation to George Petrusma, 17, of Georgetown.

In a ceremony at North Halton Golf and Country Club last night, outgoing Halton regional chairman Ric Morrow made the presentation to Mr. Petrusma in recognition of his achievements in various fields and his participation in church and community activities.

In addition to the Youth of the Year plaque, Youth appreciation plaques were presented to Brenda Archer, 13, James Becker, 13, Michelle Mielch, 14, Cheryl Hauser, 17, and Gordon Miller, 18.

The Youth Appreciation Awards are part of National Youth Appreciation Week, which is the second week in November. The Optimists Club is involved in this process in order to recognize youth activities such as heroism, church work, tutoring of retarded children, volunteers in hospitals, outstanding scholastic achievement and other acts of service.

Mr. Petrusma is a graduate of Georgetown District Christian School and presently attends Toronto District Christian School in Woodbridge. In addition to maintaining high marks in his school work, Mr. Petrusma is president of the student council, a member of the school entertainment committee, and was elected to the yearbook editing committee.

SOCCER CAPTAIN
Mr. Petrusma is captain of the school soccer team and a member of the track and field team and the volleyball team. He is involved in theatre arts, and has organized Walk-a-Thons and ping pong tournaments at school.

He attends Georgetown Christian Reformed Church and weekly Catechism classes.

Mr. Petrusma has a stamp collection numbering between 5,000 and 6,000 stamps, and is becoming interested in photography.

In the community, Mr. Petrusma has organized Walk-a-Thons and paper drives for other groups. He also has a part-time job in a restaurant.

At present, Mr. Petrusma is considering further studies at either Sheridan College or Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where his brother is presently enrolled, and from which his father graduated.

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Child abuse on decrease, lecturer tells women's club

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

Evidence suggests that there is less child abuse than there used to be, according to the former head of a provincial task force on child abuse.

Speaking to more than 60 women at the University Women's Club at Centennial Middle School last week, Dr. Ralph Garber, Dean of Social Work at the University of Toronto said that people are more aware of abuse now. They are alert to it and respond to it when they see it.

The law defines abuse as physical injury, gross neglect or sexual molestation. Incest is almost never reported, he said so it is difficult to gauge the extent of it.

There are, however, "a lot of abuse situations that leave no marks," he said, and thus no one can tell how badly children are hurt by them. There are, for example, the parents who never allow their children to grow up as well as those who expect their youngsters to be all grown up at 17.

PHYSICAL ABUSE
"If a child isn't properly fed or clothed or is being physically abused, you can see that," he said. "But how much yelling does it take to constitute a bruise?"

Since the members of the task force foresaw problems in pinning down a workable definition on mental abuse, Dr. Garber said, they clung to working on physical abuse and "came down soft on soft abuse."

"We wanted an informed rather than informing public," he said, and noted that the

force feared a vigilante situation arising if attempts were made to enforce legislation on mental abuse.

Dr. Garber disapproves of all the publicity being given to abuse because he feels it is inaccurate and smacks of scare tactics.

Of the 40,000 youngsters in care for various reasons during the past year, he said, only 2,500 were there as reported abuse cases. Only half of those 2,500 children were actually abused while 13 of the 1,250 died of abuse. More than half of the 13 died were under three years of age.

According to the American National Institute on Child Abuse Dr. Garber said statistics show that only a tenth of the abuse cases get reported and also only a tenth of the neglect cases are reported.

The number of cases of abuse reported by the abusing parents are concerned and taking responsibility for their own actions rather than trying to avoid it.

One area where Dr. Garber feels abuse is seen and not reported is by the hospitals and medical profession. He feels doctors are not always sensitized to look for abuse when children are brought to them and thus they do not report it.

It is important, he said. If we hope to avoid problems with poorly nourished fetuses that have less than the average number of brain cells at birth and thus can never catch up with their advantaged brothers.

Since language development is well under way by the age of three, young people should be made aware before they undertake a parents' role that their child will need plenty of talking to, listening to and reading to in order to establish proper language patterns even before he is able to talk.

Experiments with various vile-tasting but non-lethal liquids have proved that youngsters at the exploring stage will drink anything with disregard for its taste or smell, he said, and thus parents should be aware of what problems they will encounter with their growing child. They need to know what is normal in order to cope with many frustrations as he experiments with every new experience. They must also learn to give him sufficient freedom to experiment and grow while still protecting him from life's dangers.

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LIMEHOUSE

By MRS. A.W. BENTON
We extend sympathy to Mrs. A.C. Patterson in the passing of her sister Mrs. Stuart Smith, of Weston following a lengthy illness.

It is pleasant to see that the wrecking yard has again moved off the roadside. We thank whoever was responsible for the cleanup.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Leferink who celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary with a family party at Ballinacree Hall on Saturday evening. The family surprised them by bringing Albert's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. John Griffin of Halverson's Graveland, Holland here for the occasion.

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