

It's easy to pick out the persons who haven't had much experience with civic committee work. They're the ones who always get to the meetings on time.

# the HERALD

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BYE BYE BIRDIE

Chris Hay, a member of the Conrad Birdie fan club gives rock and roll super star Birdie an adoring look as he clowns around with his loyal fans. Birdie, played by John Casey, is the hero of the musical Bye Bye Birdie being presented this weekend and next weekend by students of Georgetown District High School.

School. Mairi McKay (left) and Carolyn Coulter, also members of the Birdie fan club, hold up the banner they carry to send their hero off on the beginning of his military career.

(Photo by Maggie Hannall)

## Battle is shaping up over library budget

By MICHAEL HOLLETT  
Herald editor

Halton Hills' library board has until March, 1979 to come up with a solution to the Georgetown library controversy or else face having its budget not passed by council, if Ward Three regional councillor Roy Booth prevails.

In a post-election interview with The Herald last week, Coun. Booth accused the library board of being "completely irresponsible" in their handling of the Georgetown

library question. He added that he will attempt to have the town council refuse to pass the board's budget until the board presents council with a firm solution to the issue.

### FIRM PROPOSAL

Coun. Booth elaborated on his stand this week saying he wants a firm proposal from the board by March-budget time—or else he will push the council to hold up the budget.

"If we find they are acting responsibly, it won't be necessary but if we find they are

dilly-dallying as they have in the past, it will be necessary."

Coun. Booth said, "There are five new members on the board. We don't want to put the screws to them until they have had a chance."

Coun. Booth said the library board would only be provided with funding to cover operating expenses if his motion to hold up the budget was successful.

Library board chairman Dick Howitt as well as Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwell and mayor-elect Pete Pomeroy

were unanimous in their condemnation of Coun. Booth's proposal.

"My first reaction is that the library board is not going to be intimidated by Coun. Booth's comments," said board chairman Howitt.

### BULLDOZED

"We don't get bulldozed into making a decision until we have investigated all the alternatives. We are trying to act in an orderly way."

"We shouldn't be railroaded into making a decision just to make a decision. We might

find ourselves with one that would be difficult to live with for the next 20 or 30 years."

Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwell said, "Coun. Booth's obvious intention is to pressure the board into making a decision. I believe it is the responsibility of the board as well as the council to see the best decision is made rather than just any decision."

"The library board is determined not to be stampeded. We are on an extremely constructive course of deliberations and I would hate to see that decision making process unduly hurried."

### MEMBERS IMPATIENT

Ms Cornwell said that many library board members are "impatient themselves" with the length of time it is taking to resolve the Georgetown library question.

"We want to develop a supportable, feasible and defensible decision," she said. She predicts that the library's current process of "self-definition" in which board members are seeking to define the role and responsibility of the library, should be completed sometime in the spring.

Halton Hills mayor-elect Pete Pomeroy has indicated that he will become more involved with the library board and probably take the council's board seat.

Mayor-elect Pomeroy said Coun. Booth's proposal, "Coun. Booth is responsible for what he says but we are sure not going to twist the board's arm and withhold the budget at the expense of library users."

He added, "We are going to assist them and try to help them reach a decision rather than trying to force the board."

Mayor-elect Pomeroy emphasized what he called the need for a "positive approach" to the issue rather than a negative one.

## Final council meeting is emotion charged

By PAUL DORSEY  
Herald staff writer

Town council's final meeting of the current term ended with an emotionally-charged round of thank-you's and good-bye's Monday night, with special commendations for "a job well done" reserved for departing Mayor Tom Hill.

"You're gruff and you're snarly, you're miserable and you're mean, we argue and we fight, but over the past five years I've come to learn that you've got a heart of pure gold," Coun. Roy Booth told Mayor Hill before turning to Coun. Pete Pomeroy.

"You've got one hell of a big pair of shoes to fill," he said to the mayor-elect, "but I'm here to pledge my support to you and offer to help any way I can."

Coun. Mike Armstrong

spoke on behalf of his colleagues when he told Mayor Hill it had been "a privilege and an honor" to serve on his council.

### HARD JOB

"You had one hell of a hard job," he said. "You started out with three municipalities - Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing - and now you have us all thinking as one. You've done a fantastic job. I'm going to miss you, and I'm sure all the members of this council will too."

Following some final remarks by his Ward 1 colleague Pat McKenzie, Coun. Peter Marks, who is withdrawing voluntarily from the local political scene, expressed confidence that future council members will keep tabs on his "pet priorities", particularly the provision of health and social services, in his absence.

"It's been a real experience," Coun. Peter Morris who has also chosen to step down from the post he has held for the past two years, agreed.

"I've gone through a lot of different feelings. The word that comes to mind most often is 'interesting'. Sometimes things here were exciting and sometimes they were downright boring, but they were always interesting."

Coun. Morris urged the members of the incoming council to keep the interests of Halton Hills' future residents, as well as its present residents, in mind as they make their decisions. If they do, he predicted, Halton Hills will be "a better municipality."

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson, who was hired by council about six months ago, called himself "the new boy on the street" but offered words of gratitude and admiration to Mayor Hill on behalf of the town's department heads and staff.

APPARENT SLIGHT  
Mr. Richardson recalled that Mayor Hill seemed to ignore his presence in the council chamber when he attended a meeting just prior to his appointment as clerk-administrator, and the apparent slight left him wondering.

"It turned out that my first impression of you was simply not true," he told Halton Hills' first mayor. "I was to discover that your door was always open and you were always approachable and kind, even though at times you were very straightforward with the staff. But we got the message, and maybe it's that kind of directness that a municipal staff requires."

Mayor-elect Pomeroy thanked his fellow councillors who will be leaving council next month as well as the municipal staff whom he said helped him enormously during his term as rookie councillor for Ward 3.

"I have indeed been a privilege working with you," he then told Mayor Hill. "Your door was always open and you always did your utmost to help me."

Clearly overcome by the emotion of the moment, Mayor Hill nevertheless provoked laughter among the council members as he described his impression of each member in turn and recalled some of the more memorable council sessions.

LIKE BEARPIT  
"It was just like a bearpit in here sometimes," he said. Of Coun. Les Doby, Mayor Hill said he will remember the

## Speculation surrounds new chairman choice

Now that the municipal election is over, odds-makers and poll-takers across Halton region have begun speculating on the identity of the man who will replace Ric Morrow of Georgetown as the chairman of regional council.

With council set to elect its next chairman - probably by secret ballot - on Dec. 13, four names have been suggested for the \$25,000 per annum post, one which demands a calm and patient approach to the most contentious and emotionally-charged issues.

According to outgoing chairman Ric Morrow, 39, who is retiring from the political scene to spend more time with his family, the job is definitely a full-time responsibility. Mr. Morrow, an Air Canada pilot, expected the chairmanship to be a part-time job when he entered his name into what became a five-man race for the region's top civic position in 1976.

MORROW TOPPED  
Next month, two of the candidates for the position who were topped by Mr. Morrow when all the votes were counted are expected to be back in the running again. Diametrically opposed in their view of regional council's effort to establish a major landfill site in rural Milton, Terry Mannell of Oakville and Burlington's Jack Raffis are likely contenders for Mr. Morrow's job.

Also suggested as possible candidates are Walter Mulke-wich of Burlington and McLean (Mac) Anderson, a former mayor of Oakville.

There have as yet been no nominations for the chairmanship. The post is also open to outside candidates who are not members of regional council.

The front-runner among the four candidates named has to be Jack Raffis, an electrical engineer who has headed the region's public works committee since 1974.

In that post, Coun. Raffis has won the respect of his colleagues, though not necessarily their support. He is best known as the council's leading proponent of Site "F", the location chosen by council as the best spot for a regional dump, despite its enormous agricultural value. A shrewd politician, Coun. Raffis was

kidded by fellow councillors as late as last week for his tendency to ignore the rules of procedure in pursuing his goals.

Returned to council in the recent election following a voluntary two-year absence, Oakville's Terry Mannell is a businessman and son of regional Coun. Laurie Mannell. Like Coun. Raffis, he was unsuccessful in his bid for the chairmanship last time around.

MADE IMPRESSION  
Coun. Mannell, a member of the Halton Region Conservation Authority, made an impression on the 1974-76 council with his strong opposition to the selection of Site "F" and his proposals for the reduction at source of waste material.

Chairman of the regional administration committee, Coun. Mac Anderson has a reputation as a critic of regional government and was a strong spokesman against the move to uniform water rates endorsed last month by council.

Coun. Mulke-wich, chairman of the regional health and social services committee, is regarded as a flexible politician who is open to suggestions and still strong-willed. A salesman for an educational publishing company, he is affiliated with the New Democratic Party, a factor which some observers feel may work a-

gainst him if he tries for the post of regional chairman.

There appears to be little if any chance of regional council being led once again by a Halton Hills resident. As a representative of Halton Hills' Ward 4, Mr. Morrow entered the race for the chairmanship two years ago virtually at the last minute and surprised everyone, including himself, by defeating all other candidates, among them Halton's first chairman, Allan Masson.

NOT INTERESTED  
Halton Hills' outgoing Mayor Tom Hill has indicated that he is not presently interested in the regional chairmanship, despite his good record as the town's chief representative on regional council, Ward 3 Coun. Roy Booth considers his recent re-election with a strong majority a firm mandate to continue representing the taxpayers of his ward and the town.

New mayor Pete Pomeroy and new Ward 1 regional Coun. Ed Wood are expected to have their hands full during the coming term getting acquainted with other regional representatives and the protocol of regional meetings.

There has been no speculation that either of the town's other regional councillors, Russ Miller of Ward 2 and Mike Armstrong of Ward 4, will try for the chairmanship, although both were soundly

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## This Week

### Mayor remembers

Halton Hills' first mayor, Tom Hill, recalls his Glen Williams boyhood, his days as reeve of Esquesing Township, and his political achievements as mayor and regional council member and comments on the issues facing the town's past and future councils in a retrospective interview with The Herald.

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### High school page

This week, The Herald introduces a new monthly feature of special interest to local high school students and their parents and teachers. Our first High School page appears inside.

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### Region's good-bye

The 1977-78 Halton regional council held its first and last meeting in the region's new Oakville headquarters last week. On hand to record the council members' impression, along with the business at hand, was Herald reporter Paul Dorsey.

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## SANTA'S MAILBAG

Once again The Herald will be handling letters for one of our favourite people, Santa Claus. Santa has asked local boys and girls to send their letters to him c/o The Herald, 103 Main St. South, Georgetown, Ontario, H0H 1 0H0. The letters will appear in the paper, with Santa's answers. Merry Christmas.



## A FUTURE STAR?

A Pete Maravich in the making? It's too early to tell, but one year old Ryan Vella, whose mom is a teacher at Georgetown district high school, has a head start on most of his contemporaries. Here Ryan puts in

some practise time during the Halton semi-final between Burlington Central and the Rebels. The game was held in Burlington.

(Photo by Tony Panacci)