

OMB approves Jehovah's Centre

Continued from Page 1

The Association's Robert Nicoll, who is heading the building project, estimated that the complex should be completed by mid- or late 1980, with construction slated to begin in the near future.

Mr. and Mrs. Heller expressed concern at the OMB hearing over the manner in which municipal planning approval was granted for the project, contending that the scale of the plan should have prompted the town to seek public input before lending its endorsement.

Mr. Heller said that the Niagara Escarpment Commission initially had reservations about the proposal, which he said should have required an official plan amendment, rather than a simple zoning change.

Since a zoning bylaw amendment does not require the town to hold a special public meeting, as an official plan amendment does, he said, the project was granted "planning approval by the back door" and affected residents were left generally unaware of the project's status.

Mrs. Heller speculated that the partially-industrial use of the site proposed by the Association could ultimately leave the door open to additional industry locating nearby in what is predominantly a rural area. The size of the complex further challenges the Association's proposal to service the site with a septic tank and tile bed sewage system, she said.

Also objecting to the propos-

al was neighboring landowner Anthony Skok, who did not appear before the OMB. Brian Kropf of the town planning staff and town engineer Bob Austin defended the terms of the proposal, telling the OMB that an official plan amendment is not warranted by the proposal since the proposal use has been deemed compatible with the area in question.

TILE SYSTEM
Mr. Austin reported that the site's tile bed system has been given the go-ahead by the provincial ministry of environment, while Mr. Kropf added that a landscaping plan prepared by the Association will ensure the preservation of adjoining sections of the Silver Creek Valley.

Consulting engineer Hans Vierhuis testified that vehicles owned by site's workers and students will pose no serious problems with respect to additional traffic flow along Highway 7.

Also on hand at the hearing was Garnet Garrett, a Toronto businessman who owns a 93-acre estate near the proposed site. Mr. Garrett told the OMB and predicted that its presence will be "a real credit to the community."

In relating the OMB's decision, Mrs. Hendy expressed satisfaction with the town planning department's assessment of the proposal and agreed that a zoning bylaw amendment will suffice. The proposal, she said, complies with the intent of the former Esquimaux official plan.



CHRISTMAS DRAW WINNERS

Downtown businessman Bob Gougeon of Robert Gougeon Household Furnishing (right) and Herald advertising manager Ed Pearce drew the first five winning tickets for the downtown merchants' annual Christmas give-away Monday. Winners of a \$50 gift certificate are Irene Currie of Delrex Boulevard, Mr. S. Tilley of Market Street, Filza-

both Hayes of Hale Drive, Wayne Hume of Eden Place and D. Devine of McIntyre Crescent. Future draws in coming weeks will see lucky winners receive a color television, a microwave oven, two ski packages and a grand prize trip for two to sunny Florida. (Herald photo)

New business association

Continued from Page 1

we have never had any success with doctors and dentists, although we've made many approaches."

Mr. Gray added that the Chamber submits briefs and recommendations twice a year to its provincial and national parent organizations which in turn become part of a larger presentation to Queen's Park and Ottawa. An annual submission is also made to Halton Hills council, he said.

Mr. Lawton expressed confidence that the association's

proposed monthly bulletin, which Halton Rapid Print has offered to publish free of charge, will finally resolve the long-standing need for improved communication among Georgetown's businessmen.

By bringing together merchants and professional people from across the community and operating under the wing of the Chamber, he said, the association can become a strong voice in community planning.

Mr. Gray told the businessmen that the Chamber's board of directors will readily consider any recommendation from the association to adjust the Chamber's bylaws in order to accommodate the association's involvement in board meetings, Chamber finances and association administration.

invited on the combination name for the association so as not to exclude the participation of wholesalers, retailers, merchants and professionals. The consensus clearly demanded an open forum for all forms of business in Georgetown.

A suggestion by Bob Gougeon of Robert Gougeon Household Furnishing to let the Chamber's board of directors approve the businessmen's choice of a name for the association was accepted.

The businessmen on hand

Halton teachers want a mediator, talks appear to have broken down

Although there has been no official notification that negotiations have broken down between the Halton Board of Education and Halton's secondary school teachers, the teachers have called on the Education Relations Commission to provide them with a mediator to aid in the negotiations.

In a telephone interview Tuesday morning Bill Priestner, head of the Board's negotiating committee, said that negotiations have not been in progress for "about two weeks" but the board had not heard that negotiations had broken down.

"They were supposed to get back to us but the first thing we heard was notification that they had requested a mediator," he said, "so we assume they felt no agreement was available. We have received no official notification that negotiations have broken down."

Diane Barsoski, president of the Halton Secondary School Teachers' Federation, said in a press release, that agreement on staffing was the key to a settlement.

TEACHERS WILLING
"The teachers are willing to settle for a pupil-teacher ratio (P.T.R.) higher than the provincial average of 16.95, but do not accept the Board's argument that they cannot afford to meet student's special needs when the current P.T.R. in Halton is 18.04 - one of the highest in the province. This year the need for more teachers in our schools must be met."

Miss Barsoski said negotiations have made little progress since Sept. 22 and both the present agreement and the Board's latest proposal will leave Halton well behind other boards in terms of salaries, benefits, and comparability of service to students.

Mr. Priestner said that the difference in salary stems from a difference in philosophy. The board feels that since wages can't keep up with inflation the people on the lower end of the salary grid need the raise more than those on the higher end of it. The teachers want a uniform increase for everyone.

On the question of differential staffing he said the Board has a policy regarding the use of paraprofessionals. This is not included in the collective agreement however, and therefore it is grievable. This year the Board wants the policy included in the contract and the teachers want instead to get rid of these people.

Dental coverage is a brand new benefit, Mr. Priestner said, and teachers are requesting 100 per cent contribution to it from the Board. It is a very

good plan, comparable to the Blue Cross 9 coverage but the Board is not offering to support it at all, he said.

The money for professional development has always been half of one per cent of the total teachers salaries, he says, but the Board wants to fix it at a set amount, \$100,000. This is equal to a \$35,000 reduction he said, and the teachers won't accept it.

The Halton Board is also negotiating with its elementary teachers at present and Mr. Priestner said he is very optimistic as to how those negotiations are progressing. A meeting was scheduled with the elementary teachers last night (Tuesday) and he implied that a settlement may be reached with them at any time.

Taxi union defeated

Continued from Page 1
said they have been offered all the things they want but they would prefer to send money out of the country to an American-controlled union, rather than accept his offer of a legal agreement drawn up with a lawyer. He said a taxi union won't work because the business is too complex and changing for a union to keep up with it.

"The Labour Board has had 11 applications for taxi unions before and they all fell through," he said, "so now they want to try it here."

BEPN SHAPED
Mr. Devine said he has been "shafed left, right, and centre since the beginning" of the attempts to organize a union early in October and "conditions of service in this company have never been as bad as they have been in the last two months." There has been a great deal of interference in the daily business since the organizing began and it's costing the company business as customers turn to Flash Taxi rather than listen to drivers' spout union doctrine, he said.

Mr. McDowell, however, feels that the good weather has had more to do with the drop in business than passenger defection over the union.

"I would think if they'd let you check the run sheets that you'd find the business is back to what it should be since the bad weather has set in," he said.

"I expect it's a saw-off as to who talked to the passengers the most too," he said. "I know I heard passengers say things that were totally inaccurate and when I asked them where they heard these things they named people who were not members of the union. I'm sure they did as much talking as we did."

Mr. McDowell answered charges that some cabbies were intimidated by organizers saying, "There are five people on the executive board and three of them are women. Now who are they going to intimidate? Wayne (Barnaby, his co-organizer) has been intimidated by the company and they threatened me too, but I fought back."

"I'm used to personal accusations," he said. "They call me a liar, a cheat, a fraud, a communist and an instigator, among other things. The people who know me, know better. I don't bear them any grudge. They're entitled to their own opinion and I respect them for it."

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Miller announces reduction in municipal grant increases

Ontario's new treasurer, Frank Miller, has announced that the amount by which municipal grants from the provincial government will be allowed to increase during 1979 has again been reduced, this time to five per cent, and the added restraint is expected to make town council's job even

harder come budget time. Mr. Miller announced last week that the 6.9 per cent increase in grants to municipalities and boards of education allowed for 1978 has been reduced to five per cent for the 1979-80 fiscal year. The reduction will take effect April 1, 1979.

The town's new mayor, Pete Pomeroy, declined to com-

ment on the announcement before he has the opportunity to discuss its implications with town staff.

Town treasurer Ray King pointed out that he is presently unable to comment on the possible specific effects which the province's announcement will have upon Halton Hills' 1979 operating budget and town council's efforts to hold spending to an essential minimum during the year. The five per cent figure cited, he explained, is strictly an average increase projection that will likely vary once applied to each individual municipality.

"It is, though, consistent with the restraint program we've had for the last three years," Mr. King said. The treasurer speculated that continuing constraints will again see town council, as in early 1978, struggling to sort out priorities for spending. Items that end up on the bottom of the priority list could well be left over until future years.

Mr. King noted, however, that council has been fairly successful in meeting its stated objective of maintaining existing servicing levels while reducing spending in other areas.

Mr. King acknowledged that the province's municipal grants contribute "a substantial portion" of the town's budget funding, with nearly \$1 million in unconditional grants allotted to Halton Hills for 1978. General support grants totalled \$200,428, he reported, while resource equalization grants offered another \$473,000 and items under the jurisdiction of the ministry of transportation and communications brought \$427,000.

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About the Hills Christmas bazaar
The Ladies Auxiliary of the First Terra Cotta Broward and Guides will be holding a Christmas bazaar on Saturday December 2 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Terra Cotta Community Hall. There will be baking, crafts, plants, tambola, a raffle and a tea room.

Raffle winner
Susan Collins of Acton won an afghan and pillow made by the Anglican Church Women at the St. George's Church bazaar held recently.

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