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the HERALD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1978

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

TWENTY EIGHT PAGES

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CHRISTMAS IS A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF NEW TOYS

Scenes like this took place across Halton Hills Monday morning as youngsters and grown ups alike awoke to open their Christmas presents. Trevor Ellnesky, 5, of Mountview Rd. and his 22 month old younger brother Andrew happily got up to dig into their Christmas goodies. The kids seem more than happy with their loot. Photo by Tony Panacri

OMB says no to hydro hearing adjournment

By CHRIS SILMAN
Herald special

TORONTO — The Ontario Municipal Board has denied a request from the Town of Halton Hills to adjourn hearings on the proposed Bruce to Milton hydro transmission corridor.

A hearing on whether to allow Ontario Hydro to build the 500,000-volt power line south of Orangeville to Milton will proceed Jan. 2 as planned, hearing chairman William Dyer Q.C. ruled Thursday morning.

The Town of Halton Hills asked for an adjournment on the grounds the OMB had no jurisdiction over Ontario Hydro and because it has requested a ruling from the divisional court on the matter.

TWO WEEKS
The divisional court hearing

will take one day while the OMB hearings will take two weeks. John McMillan, counsel for Halton Hills, told Dyer. The OMB hearing will be more costly and time-consuming, she said, and perhaps unnecessary if the court rules in Halton Hills' favor.

"You cannot adjourn on the grounds the divisional court will rule in favor of the appellant," Dyer told representatives from Ontario Hydro, Halton Hills and the Interested Citizens' Group.

Although a date has not been set for the divisional court hearing, the issue is not expected to come before the court before March.

Dyer said to wait until after March for the OMB hearings which were planned to allow all sides to present their views.

would cause more "hardships on the parties involved."

DELYING TACTICS
In his presentation to the OMB, John Parkinson Q.C., counsel for Ontario Hydro, accused the Town of Halton Hills of delaying tactics and said they have been "sitting on their hands," since the hearings adjourned in July at the board's direction.

He said they could have had the matter before the court earlier if they were not delaying.

As well, he said, if Halton Hills and the Interested Citizens' Group really believed the OMB had no jurisdiction over Ontario Hydro they would not have attended previous OMB hearings on the matter.

Patrick Devine, counsel for the Interested Citizens' Group, who supported Halton Hills' request, read a statement from the OMB's mandate saying it had no jurisdiction over Ontario Hydro matters.

He called it a "fundamental jurisdictional defect" and said in effect Ontario Hydro had authority to build lines wherever it wanted, regardless of a municipality's official plans.

To this Parkinson countered, Halton Hills was in a "dilemma".

"If they win the motion, they lose the case," he said.

The Town of Halton Hills wants an environmental study done on the effects the proposed corridor would have on the area along the lines. It also wants Ontario Hydro to prove the need for the corridor.

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT IN TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Negotiators for the Halton board of education and its 1,370 elementary teachers have reached a tentative agreement in their year-long contract dispute.

The agreement was reached after a marathon bargaining session in Toronto. This is the first time trustees and teachers have talked since negotiations broke off three weeks ago. Toronto economics professor Graeme McKechnie was brought in as a mediator at the request of the teachers after the release of a fact-finder's report early in December.

The agreement must be ratified by the board on January 11, and by the teachers' general membership. The teachers won't be holding a vote until after Christmas.

Final approval near for McNally apartments

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

Mayor Pete Pomeroy and members of town council have been pulling out all the stops in an effort to win a series of eleventh hour approvals for the construction of the long-delayed McNally apartment complex in Georgetown, which will open some 209 rental units to a community badly lacking in rental accommodations.

Halton regional councillors were suddenly confronted last Tuesday and Wednesday with a sheaf of reports and background information about the four-year-old proposal by Wilmet McNally Construction Ltd. to build a massive apartment complex on Park Avenue near Mill Street, where a site, formerly occupied by Beaver Lumber has been rezoned for residential use.

The developer himself was

among the parties blamed for delays in the project in a report prepared for regional council by solicitor Dennis Perlin. It was Mr. McNally's failure to win a series of approvals at the regional level during the past year, Mr. Perlin stated that has now given its approval an air of urgency, since, it was revealed, a building permit must be granted for the apartments prior to Dec. 31 if the project is to qualify for a \$210,000 municipal incentive grant from the provincial government.

MINIMUM DEBATE

In addition to regional council's granting approval to a servicing agreement for the McNally complex, as was done Wednesday with a minimum of debate, final approvals must be granted by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and the Credit Valley Conservation

Authority (CVCA).

The sudden need for approval of a servicing agreement was brought to the attention of the regional planning and administration committees last week by Mayor Pomeroy, who

SPECIAL MEETING
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explained how a battle over the allocation of treatment capacity at Georgetown's sewage plant during the past few years has stalled a number of major projects in Halton Hills.

Noting that a number of downtown Georgetown merchants are hoping the McNally apartments, if approved, will breathe new life into the downtown business core, Mayor Pomeroy told his colleagues on regional council that what started out as a \$2 million project in 1975 has now become a \$6.5 million project.

Although Mr. McNally, in response to a blunt question from regional chairman Jack Rafalis, told the planning committee Tuesday that he has every intention of proceeding with the project, Mayor Pomeroy admitted at the next day's council meeting that the town is still not sure whether or not approval will be granted because of "financial reasons."

In his report, Mr. Perlin explained that objections from neighboring landowners on Park Avenue failed to stop the OMB from approving Halton Hills' zoning bylaw amendments for the project in November, 1976. The approval was made conditional, however, upon the installation of a ten-inch watermain along Park Avenue.

A further delay was then instigated by Focal Properties Ltd., the development firm that is still seeking permission to build some 1,740 homes on Georgetown's eastern border. The OMB's refusal to reconsider its decision at Focal's request prompted the company to appeal that decision to the Divisional Court in late 1977. The appeal, was dismissed.

The region, meanwhile, proceeded to hire a contractor who would install watermain along Park Avenue and Mill Street for the project at the shared expense of McNally Construction Ltd. and the region itself.

Continued on Page two.

This Week

Surviving the winter

Winter is here, and with the memory of the kind of snowstorm which hit January 27 last year, people are starting to think about how they can prepare for the possibility of getting stranded in a blizzard. Georgetown resident Bill Garrard has been involved in survival techniques for almost 25 years, and he shares some tips on how to keep warm, dry and fed when that storm hits.

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Insurance pays the bills

Insurance is becoming more than a way of paying funeral expenses nowadays. More and more people are using insurance to provide a retirement income, insurance agent Peter Laughton told members of Parents Without Partners last week.

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Taxi controversy

Georgetown's Glen taxi company management and staff are currently embroiled in a unionizing dispute that could affect the entire Canadian taxi industry. This week The Herald spoke with the two principals in the dispute to get the inside story. Herald editor Michael Hollett spoke with union president Jack McDowell while staff writer Maggie Hannah spoke with company owner Denis Devine.

JACK McDOWELL

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Past and future

For a look back at the world as it was in 1973, and some speculation as to how it might be in 1979, and on into the 1980's, see Viewpoint, by Herald columnist Gerry Landsborough.

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Raiders top Thorold

The Georgetown Raiders defeated the Thorold Athletics 10-3 in Intermediate "A" action here Friday.

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Brampton driver convicted, fined after Acton fatality

A Brampton man charged with careless driving in the Sept. 5 traffic accident which killed Darinka Mosun, 22, of Acton was found guilty and fined \$200 Thursday in Milton provincial court.

Jozef Hermans, 34, of RR2 Brampton was charged with careless driving after his car struck and killed Ms. Moskun Sept. 5 while she was riding her bicycle towards Acton. The accident occurred seven-tenths of a KM east of Crowsons Corners (west of Acton) on Highway 7 at 7:15 a.m.

Mr. Hermans pleaded not guilty to the charge of careless driving. The judge for the trial in reaching a guilty verdict, Judge Robinson said he was satisfied on the basis of evidence Mr. Hermans was "not driving with due care and attention and with due regards to other people on the highway."

DEFENCE
K.R. Harris defense counsel

Judge Robinson said evidence showed Mr. Hermans was over-attentive to oncoming traffic and inattentive to the right hand side or shoulder of the road, the area in which Ms. Moskun was riding.

"I never thought of anything else on the road besides the (oncoming) cars," said Mr. Hermans.

TESTIMONY

Judge Robinson said testimony by Mr. Hermans stated he was driving faster than the maximum 80 km per hour. But it was not "excessive," said Judge Robinson. And Mr. Hermans admitted doing "nothing in the way of braking or slowing down (before the accident)," said Judge Robinson.

"He admitted in the witness box that he should have started to brake," said Judge Robinson.

Mr. Hermans said "I took my foot off the gas (at the top of the crest just before the accident scene). . . I didn't brake."

Hamlets may be signed but Region won't pay

Halton region's public works committee has rejected a suggestion by Halton Hills council that hamlets throughout the region should be identified by name on roadside signs, but permission may be granted for the area municipalities to erect signs at their own expense.

The committee last Wednesday recommended to regional council that the area municipalities should be allowed to erect signs along regionally-controlled roads identifying the hamlets within their respective boundaries.

Committee members balked at the suggestion by Halton Hills council that the region should pay for the signs after

Bob Moore, Halton's director of public works, reported that the region's 11 designated hamlets would require 22 signs at a cost of from \$200 to \$300 each. The committee decided that regional works crews could erect the signs upon request from the area municipalities, but the areas themselves would have to cover the cost.

Committee chairman Ron Plance of Oakville expressed hope that whatever hamlet signs are erected will be uniform in appearance throughout the region. Mr. Moore noted, though, that the hamlets have no legal status as such.

Councillors Miller and Mike Armstrong appeared confident that Halton Hills will take advantage of the region's stance, if approved by council. Coun. Miller suggested that Limehouse and other area villages that are not designated hamlets should also be identified on signs.



GEE SANTA...

Jay Lawrence had to think about it when Santa asked him what he'd done to help his parents during the past year. Santa talked to

Jay when he visited the kindergarten class at Limehouse public school Thursday morning. (Photo by Maggie Hannah)