

About the Hills

Credit Valley Artisans

Sculptors and potters will be organizing an administrative committee within the Credit Valley Artisans Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. Under the chairmanship of Honey Cornfoot, the meeting at The Cottage in Cedarvale Park will attempt to organize those Artisans interested in sculpture and pottery for equipment maintenance purposes and other activities. All interested residents and members are welcome.

GLT members in PT

Georgetown Little Theatre actress Pat Joynea and her son, Simon, will be appearing in the Cyclos Theatre Company's production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which previews Wednesday and Thursday in Mississauga. The comedy officially opens Friday at 8 p.m. at the Professional Theatre on Burnhamthorpe Road East, continuing until Feb. 10. Noting that tickets are less expensive for the play's two preview performances, Mrs. Joynea invites local theatre fans to phone 838-2702 for information. Tom O'Hanley is directing the Cyclos production of Wilde's famous masterpiece, which has had audiences around the world rolling in the aisles since its original debut late in the last century.

Norval paper drive

1st Norval Cubs and Scouts are holding a paper drive Saturday in Norval and Terra Cotta.

Keep hydrants clear

Halton Hills Fire Chief Mick Holmes is asking area residents to keep the fire hydrants in front of their property clear of snow.

Chief Holmes said many hydrants are buried under piles of snow as the roads are plowed or as residents clear out lawns and sidewalks. As a result, the firefighters have to waste time digging out the hydrants when they answer a call. Chief Holmes said this matter is becoming one of great concern, and he is asking residents to take the simple precaution of clearing the snow away from any hydrant located near their property.

Acton ladies' dance

Tickets to the annual Ladies Night dance in the Acton Band Hall February 10 sponsored by the Acton Agricultural Society are available now from members.

Fairy Lake fuss

Snowmobiles being operated on Acton's frozen Fairy Lake at 3 a.m. some days has at least one resident of the community upset, according to Ward 1 Coun. Ed Wood. Coun. Wood's request to town staff at Monday night's council meeting will see notices published in local newspaper aimed at reminding Halton Hills citizens that the town maintains a bylaw restricting the operation of snowmobiles to certain daylight hours.

Why no lights?

For the interest of all the Georgetown motorists who have wondered in recent years why the town has yet to install an advance green light mechanism amid the traffic lights at Highway 7 and Mountainview Road, a request by Coun. Walter Biehn at Monday night's council meeting will see the matter raised again at a forthcoming meeting. Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson reminded council that the need for an advance left turn light at the intersection was investigated by Halton region employees last summer and a report should be available by now.

Skate-a-thon collection

Georgetown Rotary Club members will be on hand Sunday, January 28 at the Memorial Arena to collect money pledged during their annual skate-a-thon held two weeks ago. Club members will be at the arena from 10 a.m. until noon. Rotary Club members remind the community that money raised from the skate-a-thon will not only be used to aid crippled children but also for many other programs run by the club including: exchange student programs, the foster child program, the local senior citizens' dinner and to aid minor hockey.

Georgetown's taxi union is Ontario's first

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Two of the five union employees dismissed in November have been re-instated. Dispatcher Elizabeth Tew returned some time ago and Wayne Barnaby is working as a company driver rather than an owner-driver until the town has processed his application to renew his licence which expired during the dispute. Neither Mr. Barnaby nor association president Jack McDowell, who has not returned to the company, were available for comment.

"We're very happy with the contract," said a company spokesman. "They didn't ask for the world and we didn't make any demands on them. It doesn't really change anything. All it does is bind them to rules that were already in practise. The only new thing is a clause preventing car owners/drivers from suddenly taking off and forming a company of their own in competition to us."

It was always possible for them to do that before but now they can't. "We take the position that we've recognized the union so our policy now will be to forgive and forget and run our business to satisfy our customers. We want to stress that this contract will in no way increase prices. All it will do is improve services."

that they haven't totally abandoned the idea but they can't afford it at this time.

"We're not prepared to spend \$15,000 to \$20,000 just to prove a point and that was what the board indicated it might cost us," a spokesman said. "We're a new company and we haven't a lot of capital behind us. We might have been looking at bankruptcy if we pushed it any further."

GOT NOTHING
"We were offered legal help by the Metro Toronto Taxi owners. They promised us the world and we got nothing. Why should I jeopardize my tiny six-car business for Metro cabs with more than 1,000 cars. One of our main concerns was the time involved. We can't be here operating our business if we have to be in Toronto all the time at hearings."

"With genuine employees running our local there's no reason for alarm. It isn't the idea of a union that's bad. It's the way this one was started." "The interesting part of it all was that the OLRB itself didn't ask for details of the agreement we reached. They were just happy that we reached one. They couldn't care less

what was in it. And the CLC people who were involved in all the running around and sorting it out think it was a very good contract even though all it does is put on paper what was already happening in practise."

While Jack McDowell will remain the head of the Ontario Taxi Association on a provincial level, employees at the Georgetown company will now have to form their own local. Mr. McDowell was unavailable for comments.

Hospital funding cuts anger administrator

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hospital funding is reduced. The government could save millions if more out-patient laboratory work was done within hospitals rather than by private laboratories. He said hospitals can do laboratory work at almost half of what the government is paying private laboratories.

Mr. Morris also questioned the necessity of the cost of district health councils. The health councils are set up across Ontario to set health policies in various regions and Mr. Morris terms the \$3 million spent on the program as "questionable".

He also accused the government of conducting unnecessary studies and wasting money.

Hospital administrators from across Ontario were brought to Toronto for Friday's announcement at a cost approximately \$50,000 and, according to Mr. Morris this was an "unnecessary expenditure".

EXPENDITURE
He said that if the government does not reconsider their proposal the hospital will be forced to reduce service.

Mr. Morris said, "I don't know where we are going to cut back."

He said that in a hospital the size of GDMH it would be difficult to reduce the number of active patient beds because the hospital's small size leaves little room for bed reductions.

Patients wishing admittance to the hospital might be faced with longer waits if service is cut back.

FEW WEEKS
Mr. Morris will be meeting with members of the hospital board over the next few weeks to consider the government's announcement and discuss possible service cuts.

He said he is not in favor of a policy of deficit financing, as is advocated by some hospital administrators who have said they will not cut services.

"Deficit financing would be suicidal," he said.

Mr. Morris also said that based on his experience, he would prefer if Ontario's health care was in the hands of private insurance companies rather than the government.

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