

# User-pay rents wrong approach

Halton Hills council are taking the wrong approach when they approve rental hikes for community service organizations using facilities at Cedarvale Park.

As Coun. Russ Miller declared at last week's meeting, the town is continuing its steady move towards user-pay rental rates at facilities. This policy recently reared its head during the ice rates controversy.

In cold, hard business terms the town is taking logical economic steps in trying to get as much money as possible for rental of the Cedarvale facility. The problem is, as a town council, they have some responsibility to ensure certain services are available in the community and that these services are encouraged.

The town is ignoring this responsibility when they raise rental fees.

The rental hike to the Maple Avenue Co-op Nursery is the most blatant and annoying example of this backward policy.

Certainly if there was no functioning nursery facility in this community, offering activities and care for the three to four year-olds and, a welcome break for their parents, the town would have an obligation to see such a service was available. But the parents and staff at Cedarvale are themselves working to provide such a service. By operating on a shoestring budget and, in good old co-op fashion, with the parents working on a volunteer basis at the nursery, such a facility is available in town.

But rather than encourage the group the town, choosing to view the co-op is just another tenant, is making things more difficult for them.

It is ironic that at the same meeting the co-op was told a rental hike was coming, they had intended to appeal for a rent reduction.

By raising the rent, the town leaves the co-op with only one option, to raise fees. This could lead to reduced use of the facility and possibly force lower income users of the nursery to drop out. Surely the town should not be encouraging this.

And it can't be argued that the nursery is asking for handout. The parents prove they are willing to put out for the nursery by investing their time and money in its operation. They're simply asking the town to give them a break in the rental costs of their facility.

Considering the thousands of dollars the town plunges into studies and other dubious ventures, it seems reasonable for them to forego a little in rental fees to encourage this functioning, useful organization.

Of course, the same argument can be made for the other groups, like the Red Cross and the artisans using Cedarvale facilities. All of these organizations perform a needed function in the community.

If the town is short of cash, we think they should be looking at other ways to put money in their coffers.

# Tough stance needed for gravel

It seems Halton Hills' Sixth Line residents have good reason to be upset.

They showed up en masse at last week's council meeting to let town and provincial government officials know, in no uncertain terms, they are upset with the seemingly endless extraction of gravel from pits in their area and, the apparent inability of the province to guarantee the operations conform to the exact letter of the law.

Town council responded appropriately, withdrawing approval for the mining of six pits in the area.

At the same time, council voted to tell the government, "in the strongest possible terms" they are concerned about local gravel mining operations and that they want the government to build a road exclusively for the use of gravel trucks.

The residents' and council's objections to the gravel pits and the provincial government's handling of the affair are valid. While at one

time it was thought the Oridoc pit in the area was almost exhausted, residents and council were recently stunned with the news that another 400,000 tons will likely be extracted from the pit.

Government statements that they try to police pit operations simply have not been good enough. Residents are forced to endure increased truck travel along their once sleepy rural roads. This could be bad enough but often these trucks speed and the heavy loads they carry make the poor rural roads even worse. Of course Sixth Line residents are upset.

But we don't think council's suggestion that the province construct a special gravel truck road is necessarily the answer. Firstly, why should the people of Ontario have to pay to subsidize gravel operations which seem to have difficulty conforming to traffic laws that are clearly spelled out?

Money would be better spent having local gravel operations more strictly monitored by government officials with gravel companies picking up the costs of the increased policing.

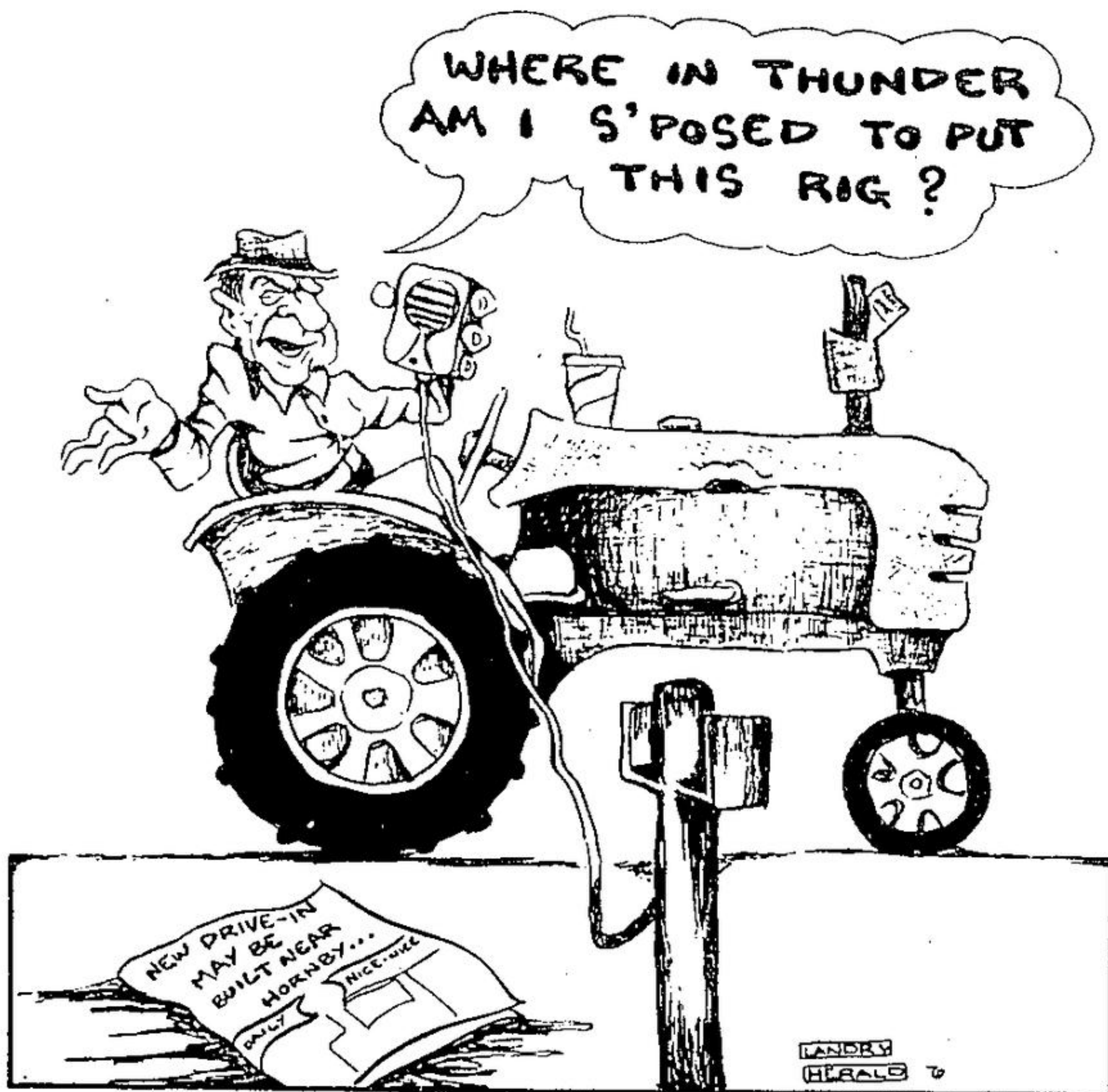
The problem of speeding, overloaded gravel trucks should surprise no one. The system of payment between gravel companies and the independent truckers transporting their product makes speeding and overloading almost inevitable.

Independent truckers are paid by the travel companies on a per-load basis. Obviously it is in the truckers interests to transport as much gravel as fast as they can to make more money, if they can get away with it. If we listen to residents. So far, they have been able to.

Obviously the local police force cannot spend sufficient time patrolling isolated rural roads searching for speeding gravel trucks. That's why a special inspector is necessary, but since the inspector is needed because of problems with the pit operations, they should foot the bill.

We suspect that if the trucks are properly monitored along with the local water table, area residents might be able to grudgingly endure the pits currently in operation until they exhaust their supplies.

And both residents and council deserve praise for their non-sense approach to the problem, it's the only way to get results.



# Apparent reporter cynicism distresses Tory ministers



Queen's Park  
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau  
Of The Herald  
TORONTO - Images all. Or at least a good chunk of what the public believes. And this is under media control.

Two very different speeches released here recently illustrate the point very well.

Ontario's Natural Resources Deputy Minister J.K. Reynolds was out in Winnipeg speaking to the annual conference of provincial mine's ministers.

And Attorney-General Roy McMurtry was in Quebec City speaking to that province's Rotary Club.

Reynolds was detailing the results of a survey Ontario undertook across Ontario to find out people's views of the mining industry.

McMurtry was trying to get across

how Queen's Park treats its Francophone minority.

In essence both were talking about images.

**DON'T LIKE**  
Reynolds said the survey found people see mining as "an undesirable industry to work in, as undesirable in environmental terms, and as a high risk investment."

He added that "most disturbingly" less than 40 per cent of people interviewed believed that benefits from mining outweighed environmental and other costs associated with mining.

(Last year mining in Ontario produced ores worth \$2.6 billion and directly employed 40,000 people.)

McMurtry acknowledged that one reason he came to speak to the Rotary was that "Ontario's views and actions are not always fairly reported or well understood in Quebec."

"On no subject is this more true than on language rights and services."

**VERY GOOD**  
(Last year more than 100,000 students were in 297 French-language elementary schools and 25 secondary schools plus 34 bilingual schools.)

So why has this state of affairs come about?

Reynolds said the mining awareness

survey showed "by far the majority of people could recall hearing nothing about mining except about Inco's operations -- and then only about Inco's problems."

People knew nothing of government programs designed to control or encourage mining.

"What the public gets is the negative stories. That's about all the news media report, except in their financial pages," he said.

**SCHOOL ISSUE**  
McMurtry, after pointing how much in the way of educational opportunities are available for Ontario francophones, complained that the "situation is little-known in Quebec because the media prefer to focus on one or two isolated incidents."

"For instance, the issue currently being debated in Penetanguishene is not whether Francophone students will be educated in French. This is already guaranteed."

"The issue is simply whether these students will share a school building," a simple question of economics.

Neither Reynolds nor McMurtry had any answers -- other than the obvious one of making the speeches they were making.

It is interesting they were barely reported most places.

# Free trips to Jasper for defecting Social Credit?



Ottawa Report  
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

Now that the Clark government has openly embraced the policy of majority-by-defection, the forthcoming session of Parliament should, if nothing else, be riddled with intrigue.

Just hours after the new policy was announced, following a Quebec City cabinet meeting, the corridor whispers had already begun in Ottawa. Who, everyone wondered, would be next?

Not me, said Social Credit Leader Fabien Roy. "I am not for sale and Joe Clark should get this clear once and for all."

That would appear to settle matters for Mr. Roy, but the future may not be quite as clear for his four remaining Social Credit followers in the wake of the defection of Richard Janelle, who became the first floor-crosser since the May 22 general election. Mr. Janelle, who fought the Tories tooth and nail in that election, decided to join the enemy after a recruiting drive by Senator Martial Asselin, the minister responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency. It's not quite clear what motivated the 32-year-old Lotbiniere MP -- like most political defectors he is spending a few days in hiding -- but the move has clearly motivated the Tories to launch a crusade for additional converts.

**FAST HUMORS**

Within hours, there were published reports that two additional Social Credit MPs were also considering the tantalizing prospect of sitting on the government side -- something they will never do without defecting -- and another story said

that a Toronto-area Liberal was undergoing intensive mind-bending programming by the greedy Tories.

It makes one wonder whether Prime Minister Joe Clark is offering incentives to cabinet ministers for every new recruit brought into the fold. The chairmanship of Air Canada perhaps?

"We will not have a majority by the time Parliament reconvenes next month," says team leader Asselin, "but within six months we will." And in the event that any potential converts think that the Tory entry requirements might be too stringent, the senator said that "the door is open for anyone who wants to join us."

Supply Minister Roch LaSalle echoed these sentiments, with special emphasis on Quebec needs. "Within the next few weeks, I very much hope we will be able to increase our Francophone representation," he says. Even with Mr. Janelle's presence, the Tories still only have three MPs from the province, compared with 67 for the Liberals. The recruiting program obviously has great potential in Quebec.

And if the government can pick up a majority through the defection process, we won't have to worry about an election for another four years or so, giving the Liberals all sorts of opportunities to schedule think-tank sessions, and relaxed leadership reviews.

**CAN'T STOP**

Perhaps this is one reason why the prime minister said he didn't want to encourage speculation about additional defections -- but it doesn't really matter what he said, his recruiting team has such a momentum now, it can't be stopped. If James Jerome is re-appointed Speaker of the Commons -- a move that's highly likely -- it means that the Tories, with 136 seats in the 282-member House, need only four additional recruits to form a majority government. As they say in sporting circles, what's needed now by the recruiting team is a great second effort.

And that is bound to lead to parliamentary intrigues. Every time a Quebec Liberal is seen talking with a Tory, there will be an outburst of speculation about his

political future, particularly now that the bearded Trudeau is off in Tibet where there is a singular shortage of potential Liberal recruits. It has already been established that three Social Credit MPs have been wooed by the majority-hungry Tories and subsequently hauled on the carpet by a worried Mr. Roy. "They assured me there are no problems," said the leader, as if he could say anything else. He looked harried.

If the Tory membership drive maintains its present tempo, it won't be long before the Liberal brass begins to look that way, too. When you see some of your best young prospects drinking coffee with known enemy agents, such as the dapper Senator Asselin, it's time to start worrying. Could he be luring them with a free trip to Jasper?

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# Halton's History

From our files

**LOCAL BABY RECOVERS**  
THIRTY YEARS AGO - Little Diane Golden, 2 1/2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Golden, is making good progress toward recovery according to latest reports. The baby was stricken last Sunday with a disease which at first had the symptoms of poliomyelitis and was rushed to Toronto for treatment. It is now believed that it is a form of meningitis or influenza which she has contracted. She is being treated at Sick Children's Hospital.

A special meeting was held last Thursday morning by council to discuss with Mr. Roberts, the waterworks engineer, the serious situation which has arisen in town due to the depletion of the present water supply. Acting mayor Jack Armstrong said that there were two matters of paramount importance, the maintenance of adequate supplies to keep industry going and for fire protection, and coupled with that was the fact that the Board of Parks Management had planned to flood the arena last week.

From a Herald advertisement: Ros-Ann presents your new fall dress of taffeta at \$3.95. Another new high in rustling taffeta; a full, unpressed pleated skirt with the new plunging neckline, complete with a front waist-length zipper. In six exciting shades of black, grey, Royal blue, wine, brown and green.

**INDUSTRY TETEERS**  
TWENTY YEARS AGO - A new Georgetown industry teteers on the brink of a council decision, according to Harold Baird, Delrex General Manager. Addressing council Monday, Mr. Baird said there is urgency in knowing a decision on a Delrex request for release of the remaining 11,643 building lots in the subdivision. A lease was ready for signature last week with an industry which will require 18,000 square feet of space plant, he said, but Delrex is not at present in a position to accept. The catch - the firm cannot presently obtain mortgage money to construct a \$110,000 plant for lease. The answer, according to Mr. Baird, is the sale of building lots in the area requested for release.

With a crowd estimated at over 6,500 Georgetown's fall fair was another huge success this year. An extra attraction was a country music show on Friday evening, when hall exhibits were also open and midway in operation.

Georgetown is only 600 away from the 10,000 population mark. It was disclosed Tuesday by Assessment Commissioner Joseph Gibbons. The population figures as of the end of September shows a 1,131 climb since last year and now stands at 9,353.

The Business and Professional Women's Club resumed meetings for the fall and winter term with their regular dinner meeting in Knox Church Hall on September 22. The club decided to award the Business and Professional Women's scholarship of \$100 to Betty Avery.

After negotiations since early January, when they were Grand-Union-Carrolls, Steinberg's Supermarkets have turned thumbs down on plans to build a new supermarket here. The announcement that the deal had fallen through came through last week at a meeting of the Georgetown businessmen in a report by the parking committee.

Initial action to form the Georgetown High School district board was taken by council Monday when a bylaw was ordered prepared. The new board will take office the first of the year when the old North Halton district disbands, to be replaced by three new districts centering in Georgetown, Acton and Milton.

**FALL FAIR FANTASTIC**  
TEN YEARS AGO - A perfect fall day, and a generally excellent entry made Georgetown's fall fair a particularly noteworthy event Saturday. The largest crowd in the fair's over-a-century history thronged to the park to view exhibits, watch the horse and cattle show, patronize the midway and eat thousands of hot dogs, pancakes and pies while enjoying themselves in the atmosphere of a country fair.

Ben Hur rides again Friday afternoon in the park when the high school stages a chariot race to help the Ontario Rehabilitation Fund, formerly known as the March of Dimes. The design of the chariot is limited only by the imagination, but it must be drawn by two people, have one driver and any number of wheels.

Every youngster's dream has come true for a Georgetown boy. Michael Peeters, 13, has just one Canada-wide contest in which the first prize was \$2,500 in toys. The Mattel company, sponsors of the contest, will deliver the toys to the Peeters home over a five year period.

Robert Stanfield was in a "bearpit" last Thursday night but the bears were more toby than tigers. The Halton Young Progressive Conservatives, who brought Stanfield to Oakville last week, had said the opposition leader would take part in the "bearpit-style" session, and they had the bearpit set up, but the strong debating and questioning expected in such a session failed to develop.

**RIVER RUN INVESTIGATION**  
ONE YEAR AGO - L.J. DaCarlo, one of the two partners in behind Georgetown's proposed River Run housing development of River Drive, is being investigated by the Metropolitan Toronto Fraud Squad, and construction on the project has ceased, according to a member of the force. Staff Sgt. Tom Maguire told The Herald that Mr. DaCarlo operates about 150 companies with various partner and all the companies are under investigation, including Abode 1, the company behind the River Run project.

Threats of legal action and an appeal to the provincial Cabinet, and a prediction that a "floodgate of spending" will be opened, accompanied Halton regional council's decision to last Wednesday to abandon its five-year-old policy of billing member municipalities for the water and sewer services they receive on an individual assessment basis.

A recommendation from Halton Hills council that the government policy on Pits and Quarries Restrictive Zone for the Niagara Escarpment Area be modified to let J.C. Duff Ltd. get a licence was tabled by the Niagara Escarpment Commission Thursday, pending a staff report on the total aspect of the restricted pits and quarries question.