



Georgetown District High School principal Michael Furlong consults firefighters about the extent of damages to a girls' washroom in the school, where a small fire broke out Thursday hours after the school had cancelled scheduled fire drills because of poor weather conditions. All students followed directions to vacate the building while firefighters battled thick smoke to bring the fire under control.

(Herald photo)

GDHS has a real fire after drills postponed

A fire at Georgetown District High School Thursday forced the evacuation of the building shortly after a series of planned fire drills was cancelled because of bad weather.

Principal Mike Furlong said the school had planned three fire drills, as required by regulations, but they were cancelled because of the drizzle. The staff intended to reschedule them when weather conditions were more favorable, he said, but events took a sudden ironic turn when a fire started in one of the girls' washrooms.

The fire was set in paper stuffed in one of the toilets. The

toilet will have to be replaced, and the washroom cleaned and re-painted, Mr. Furlong said. He said he doesn't have an estimate yet on how much the clean-up will cost.

Mr. Furlong said the students evacuated the building within a reasonable amount of time, but "it could have been better." He said most of the students were aware that the alarm wasn't a drill, and they assumed it was a false alarm, something which happens from time to time.

One 15-year old student at the high school, has been charged in connection with the fire.

Town is alarmed about vandalism

A town staff report on vandalism in Halton Hills has prompted strong reactions from several council members.

The report, received as information by the committee, lists costs incurred from vandalism at \$8,764.34, for 1979.

Coun. Roy Booth said Monday night he was "appalled that people can go out and commit an act of vandalism and not be apprehended". He suggested that if a harder line were taken with offenders, there would be a reduction in the losses suffered.

"Where I get upset", said Coun. Pat Patterson, "is with the police administration".

It was his opinion that when the OPP patrolled the area prior to 1974 "we had more action". He emphasized that he was upset with the methods of the police administration and not with the actions of the

officers. A number of councillors suggested that much of the blame must rest with the parents of the offenders.

"If the parents of these children had trained them properly", Mayor Pete Pomeroy commented, "these incidents wouldn't occur".

A large portion of the damage, totalling \$5,015, was inflicted upon 51 of Georgetown's illuminated street signs.

Coun. Walter Biehn questioned the necessity of the illuminated signs and suggested that perhaps the Town should obtain signs similar to those used in Etobicoke.

"The signs on Islington Avenue are easier to read", he said, "and they are the type of signs that don't appear to encourage vandalism". Etobicoke signs are made of metal and raised about three feet off the ground by two wooden posts.

CORRECTION

A report in the October 31 edition of The Herald concerning a local car dealership's zoning concerns incorrectly stated that independent dealer Dave Wilson had once employed a neighbor in a supervisory capacity. In fact, the neighbor was never an employee of Wilson Car Sales. The Herald regrets the error.

Officials visit Ashgrove to see sludge lagoon

Halton Hills Coun. Russ Miller last week led a delegation of regional and provincial officials through an informal visit to the sewage sludge lagoon near Ashgrove in an effort to inform and reassure concerned parties about current expansion plans.

Coun. Miller and other members of the region's public works committee were joined by representatives of the ministry of environment and the Halton Federation of Agriculture for the brief visit Thursday, prompted by complaints and concerns voiced by residents of the area.

"We have an immediate problem with the site in terms of residents' complaints," committee chairman Ron Planche of Oakville told regional council last Wednesday. "We held a meeting Monday afternoon and agreed the new site would be relocated adjacent to the present one."

Coun. Planche's remarks were prompted by Burlington Coun. Steve Toth's suggestion that a committee recommendation directing staff to study ways of improving the site's "aesthetics" was "superfluous", since staff already has a policy function to monitor problems

and advise on possible solutions.

Plans now being implemented will see the sludge lagoon at Ashgrove Farms relocated with a larger capacity to accommodate sewage sludge from area treatment plants. Complaints about the site's appearance from neighboring landowners prompted the works committee to have staff plant fast-growing trees around its perimeter, creating a visual buffer between the lagoon and the roadway.

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