

# Crisis-tamers deserving of our praise

As an afterthought to the past week's evacuation crisis in Mississauga, one reader who phoned to discuss the situation brought up an interesting and worthwhile point about both the victims of the train derailment and the gas threat that followed and about the many emergency workers who struggled to bring the crisis under control.

We couldn't agree more with the caller's suggestion that the many policemen, firefighters, ambulance drivers and other workers called into the aftermath of an accident that made headlines around the world should by now become the subjects of, at least, national acclaim.

Special citations and a round of sincere thanks from the public are clearly in order, if not, as the caller went on to suggest, a monument to their efforts at or near the accident site.

The same caller, admitting he is a railway hobbyist, also contended that the evacuees are wrong to seek financial compensation for their "lost week", but should instead be satisfied that their homes and jobs are still there to return to after the crisis was tamed.

We cannot agree that CP Rail,

which appears to be largely responsible for the emergency, regardless of how accidental and ill-fated the situation was, should be allowed to emerge from the crisis without having to pay some retribution to those affected by its apparent ignorance of the deficiencies which led to the derailment.

That such railway cars, one after another carrying deadly gases and solutions, should be allowed to pass in and out of densely populated areas is in itself deplorable. The situation, about which politicians at several levels must also answer some questions, is one which invites alternative suggestions.

At this point, indeed, many questions remain to be answered as Mississauga officials struggle to come to terms with the reality of their city's evacuation. To what extent CP Rail and the federal government are to be held responsible is one question the courts will likely have to decide.

Let us agree, though, that our first duty is to respond in kind to the efforts of the men and women who tamed the crisis during six tense days and nights when the holocaust seemed all too close for comfort.

# Yes, Virginia, we must help

As Christmas approaches, our thoughts turn to the practice of giving and receiving gifts among the ones we love on that special day.

There are times, however, when our thoughts should turn elsewhere and consider the poor and lonely of Halton Hills. Yes, Virginia, there are those among us who have little money to buy toys for their children or few friends with whom they can share the spirit of Christmas.

Halton Hills, then, is fortunate to have people like Roma Timpson and her "good neighbor" volunteers, who must wear themselves out in the weeks before Christmas each year gathering gifts and food from generous donors and delivering them to those in need.

This week, Mrs. Timpson is again appealing for aid in her worthwhile cause, the Georgetown and District Good Neighbor service, an annual demonstration of goodwill and compassion which provides us all with a shining example of the most basic Christian ethic.

For after all, there can be no better symbol of Christmas than the free and altruistic sharing of genuine affection with someone who, until the moment of sharing, had been a total stranger.

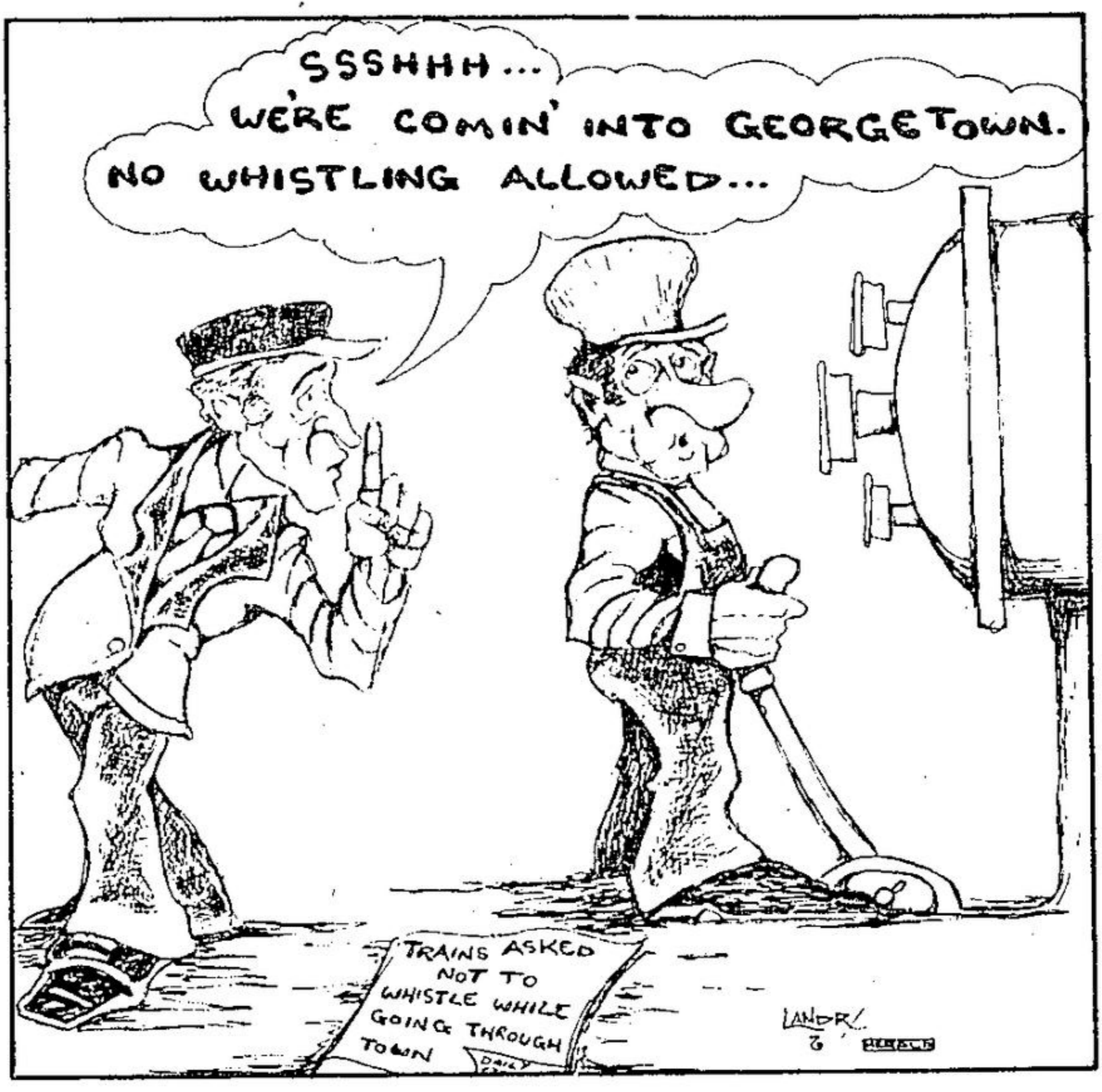
They will be strangers no more.

# An example to all youth

Our congratulations to Lynne Cunningham of Georgetown, selected last week as the Optimist Club's Youth of the Year, no small feat for a 16-year old, grade 11 student.

Nevertheless, Lynne fills the bill with energy to spare, dividing her spare hours throughout the year among interests in athletics, the students' council, the Calvinettes at the Christian Reformed Church and such charitable efforts as CFOT's New Year's Day telethon and the Oxfam walk-a-thon.

Even with all these credentials pointing to Lynne as the apparent winner of the prize, the Optimists - those venerable patrons of youth - must have had a hard job narrowing down the list of finalists. Also in the running and equally worthy our community's respect and admiration are Karen Fokkens, Doug Gerrits, Corinne Vande Wetering, Carolyn King and James Becker.



# The Great Non-Confidence Vote was quite an entertaining show



**Ottawa Report**  
 By Stewart MacLeod

**Ottawa Bureau Thomson News Service**

The entire cast of characters-politicians all-came up with a sparkling dramatic performance in the latest non-confidence vote. Cast members raced home from half-way around the world just to take part; those already here talk about the possible fall of the government-making it sound like the fall of the Roman Empire-while others fearfully predicted that our Christmas would not only be tainted by commercialism but with a Canadian general election.

"We have a government which has abdicated the role of government," declared Liberal Leader Pierre Trudeau, and he justified his non-confidence motion which, many feared, would bring down the minority government of Joe Clark and send the country reeling into a Yuletide campaign. By condemning the government for its handling of the energy crisis, the Liberal motion attracted the support of the New Democrats, although its leader Ed Broadbent didn't think much of the Grit motives behind it.

For days prior to the vote, the performers wound up to an emotional pitch. The round-up of voting MPs extended to faraway Korea, and Tory Robert Coates (Cumberland-Colchester

had to hurry home from there where he attended the state funeral of the assassinated president.

One Tory MP delayed a medical operation, others cancelled important trips. Prime Minister Joe Clark asked his entire cabinet to remain in Ottawa, not just for the vote itself, but for the entire week surrounding it.

**LIBERALS TOO**

Liberals were putting together the same act, promising that all 112 of them would be in place in a valiant attempt to bring down the government. With promised support from the 26-member NDP caucus, it would be close.

Dramatically, Social Credit Leader Fabien Roy unleashed a set of demands which, he said, must be met if his five-member band would support the Tories. And the Tories, with 136 members, needed that support to survive.

So Prime Minister Clark sat down and wrote a three-page letter to Mr. Roy which satisfied his demands on oil supplies for Quebec and the Maritimes. And Tory House Leader Walter Baker undertook a series of negotiations as a party, but Mr. Baker decided "They are more than a group of independents" and he went to bat on behalf of those five votes. I suspect he was embarrassed doing so, but that's neither here nor there.

When the night of the vote arrived, the Commons galleries were full. MPs paced the floor nervously, like actors awaiting their call for an opening-night drama.

"Do you think the government will fall?" people kept asking.

Liberal MPs answered with determined grins; the Tories answered with inspired nonchalance. Conservative whip Bill Kempling, the MP charged with ensuring all the Tory voters were in place, added his own touch of dramatics by carrying a suede whip.

One by one the MPs stood to vote, and when this emotion-draining process had ended, and everyone voted exactly as predicted, the Clark government had survived by 140 to 138. Whew, said the Tories. What a delightfully close call, said the Liberals. And for Pierre Trudeau it was proof that his MPs are "not afraid to go into an election under my leadership."

Every ounce of drama was drained from the alleged near-miss.

But out in Athabaska, Alta., Tory MP Paul Yewchuk, an 11-year veteran of the Commons, was busy cutting the ribbon to open a new bank. Despite enormous party pressure he decided that "my constituents come first." Anyway, he said, "I knew the Socreds would support us."

Yewchuk will be called on the carpet for his behaviour, but he actually displayed a better grasp of the situation than most of his excited colleagues. Yes, it was a good dramatic performance while it lasted, but barring horrendous miscalculation, there was never any real danger of a Christmas election.

With Fabien Roy given almost no chance of re-winning his own seat, did anyone really think he would force an election? And even if he lost his senses and announced his intention of voting against the government, did anyone really think that all 112 Liberals would be in their seats, ready to hit the hustings under Trudeau's leadership? Or, if the pressure reached the final escape valve, would all 26 New Democrats be willing-just five months after an election campaign depleted their war chests-to enter another fray in which the main issue would probably be a majority government?

We'll probably get a repeat performance when the budget is brought down in a few weeks. The scenario might be different, but I suspect the results will be the same.

# Davis defends proposed town as balance to westward growth



**Queen's Park**  
 By Derek Nelson

**Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald**

**TORONTO** - Once upon a time there was Cedarwood. Then there was North Pickering. Now there is Seaton.

That's the latest name for the same proposed town the province wants to build east of Metro Toronto. (Seaton was a pioneer resident of the area.)

And on it rolls, living proof of why government should never have got involved in the housing business in the first place.

Opposition Leader Stuart Smith wondered in the legislature why the project was still going ahead when it would be better to encourage growth in existing towns nearby like Ajax or Oshawa.

He noted how the government stumbled into trouble with their other land banking schemes such as South Cayuga, Town-

send, and Edwardsburgh.

Premier William Davis had an intriguing answer for Smith.

**BIG PIPE**

He reiterated the long-time Conservative position that development east of Metro had to be encouraged to provide some balance with the subdivisions exploding to the west of the city.

And he took a dig at the opposition by recalling how they used to urge the government to get into the land banking business back in the late 1960's.

But he also volunteered that "the province has a modest investment in the York-Durham sewer."

That massive sewer, which is big enough to drive a vehicle into at its terminus on Lake Ontario, is costing millions and is being built to handle a certain volume of population.

Smith made the somewhat exaggerated statement that the sewer was "Becoming the main planning instrument" in the province, which Davis denied.

**WHY SAY?**

But that the premier would mention the Big Pipe at all in connection with going ahead with Seaton is a bit of an eyecopener.

Originally Seaton was to be a self-contained community of 200,000 souls on 25,000 acres linked to, but separate from,

the federal government's Pickering Airport.

When the airport was shelved, and after considerable local criticism, the project was cut to 17,000 acres and 75,000 people. But the Big Pipe went ahead, unaltered in size.

MPP Mike Breagh (NDP-Oshawa), who was a regional councillor in those days, believes "They have to proceed with Seaton to pay for the pipe."

**NO GOOD**

He's probably right. And that's about as damning a criticism of Seaton as can be made.

After all, it has been on the books for eight years, and there is not a house in sight yet, which kind of dulls the argument about stimulating development east of Metro.

Worse, there appears to be no means of preventing the town from becoming just another bedroom suburb of Metro, which not even the government wants.

And still dragging on at enormous cost is the dispute over the government's tactics in acquiring the land, a battle that caused a major fight with the provincial ombudsman.

All this because the government decided it knew more about development than the private sector.

# Halton's History

From our files

**THIRTY YEARS AGO**-Monday's Rate-payers' meeting urged all Georgetown taxpayers to attend the nomination meeting on Friday evening of this week in the Public Library. Each of the members present were asked to be there and to bring as many more with them as possible.

From the Herald classified pages: New four-room cottage, situated four miles from town on main road. Lot 500 x 400. Extra room for bath. Hardwood floors. Price \$3,600. Terms: \$1,100. balance, \$12 monthly.

The snow storm on Saturday was the first serious threat of what may come. At that, we were fortunate, as to the north they had 12 inches of snow, and to the south, Buffalo had 17 inches.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**-Deputations, many of them stating views pro and con on the Delrex housing request, occupied an hour and a half of council's Monday evening meeting. Making return visits were Rev. Alex Calder, Mrs. John Cordaro, H.N. Martyn and John Henley, who reiterated opposition to the release of any more housing land to Delrex Developments.

Two Halton civil defence organizations joined forces last week for a practice scheme to give the men training and experience should the need ever arise. They were the OPP-sponsored civil defence auxiliary police and the county-sponsored Halton civil defence organization.

**WHITE PINE**

The home of Mr. Fred Ruddell, about five miles southwest of Georgetown, is being considered as one of Canada's outstanding examples of the use of White Pine in pioneer architecture. The Ruddell home is one of the many examples that have been found in the search for old homes, currently being conducted by the White Pine Bureau of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association. Earl Jacques of the bureau says the home was William Lyon MacKenzie's headquarters in the Scotch Block area. It was from here that MacKenzie was smuggled in the dead of a winter's night, across the border to save him from possible assassination by the Irish.

The Massey scholarship, a \$100 award presented by Georgetown council to Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey when he visited town this spring, has been awarded to Thomas Forgrave. The GHS graduate, son of Ernest Forgrave, 14 Union Street, is enrolled this year as a first-year medical student at the University of Toronto.

A direct descendant of Georgetown's founder, 11-year-old Martin Wheeler, has been judged the winning essayist among Georgetown and District school children who wrote on "The Industries Which Create Work and Wealth in Georgetown."

**TEN YEARS AGO**-Sharp criticism of Esqueving council's move to freeze teachers' salaries, cut school board members' pay and reduce senior administration salaries by 25 per cent was expressed by M.J. Furlong on Friday. Speaking at the commencement exercises, the high school principal termed an Esqueving motion, passed three weeks ago, as "irresponsible in almost every respect."

"I would fail in my position as principal if I didn't respond to this tonight," he told an audience of parents and students. He defended the school board, "as one who sits in on salary negotiations, I can tell you they are watching expenditures..." and his teachers. "I deeply resent derogatory criticism of a staff which, as a group, ranks with any school in the province."

**FAMILY LIFE**

Films on family life education intended for school children in grades seven and eight were viewed last week by 15 Halton County ministers. Following the presentation, Rev. Keith Hawkes of Hillcrest United Church, and his wife, a former school teacher, were asked to express their views on the films. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hawkes agreed that the entire program was excellent and indeed should be available to young people.

A detailed examination of the McKay report on religious education in schools is already under study by Halton board of education's ad hoc committee on religious education, it was reported last week. The committee, which was formed only last month, has invited interested parents to submit briefs. The committee is formed of 18 members from Halton county, ranging from senior education officials to a Grade 8 student. It was formed after some county residents demanded the board abolish compulsory religious education in schools.

**ONE YEAR AGO**-Now that the municipal election is over, odds-makers and poll-takers across Halton region have begun speculating on the identity of the man who will replace Ric Morrow of Georgetown as the chairman of regional council. With council set to elect its next chairman-probably by secret ballot-on December 13, four names have been suggested for the \$25,000 per annum post, one which demands a calm and patient approach to the most emotionally-charged and contentious issues. The four possible contenders for the position are Terry Mannell of Oakville, Jack Rafitis of Burlington, Walter Mulkeiwich of Burlington and McLean Anderson from Oakville.

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**

A Georgetown homeowner whose property abuts the proposed site of a national administration headquarters for the Jehovah's Witnesses failed to recruit town council's support Monday night to have an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing into the project postponed. Sid Heller informed council that he would be appealing to the OMB at the outset of its hearing yesterday for an adjournment, based on his contention that insufficient time was allowed for objectors to the project to prepare their submissions for the OMB prior to the hearing date.

Halton Hills' library board has until March, 1979, to come up with a solution to the Georgetown Library controversy or else face having its budget not passed by council, if Ward three regional councillor Roy Booth prevails. In a post-election interview with the Herald last week, Coun. Booth accused the Library board of being "completely irresponsible" in their handling of the library question.

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