

All town's request honored

## NEC plan a victory for Halton Hills



'FLOWER' GIRL AT THE FAYR

The pre-Christmas bazaar rush has started, with many local organizations holding sales of Christmas gifts and decorations. St. Paul's United Church in Norval held its Christmas Fayr Saturday, featuring many hand-crafted

Christmas decorations and gift ideas. Alexe Downey has picked a pretty bouquet of flowers from among the displays.

(Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

By LORI TAYLOR  
 Herald Staff Writer  
 Halton Hills' spokesmen got virtually "everything we asked for" in the Niagara Escarpment Commission's (NEC's) proposed plan, according to Coun. Roy Booth, Halton's representative on the commission.

Coun. Booth explained that a special committee chaired by Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson, prepared, drew up and presented the town's submission to the commission, and this submission was included almost intact in Thursday's final draft.

"I can't see anybody in Halton Hills being unhappy with this," Coun. Booth said. "At least, I hope not."

The proposed plan for the 450-mile long escarpment covers an area 63 per cent smaller than was originally set out by the province in 1974. Coun. Booth said he didn't have the exact figures on the size of the reduction in Halton region, but estimated it to be about 30 to 40 per cent.

Areas such as Acton and Glen Williams were taken out of the plan entirely, as was the greater part of Terra Cotta. A strip was taken off each side of the planning area, Coun. Booth said, cutting it back to the old development control area and in some cases beyond.

The plan covers land use policies, creation of a system for 116 parks, the adoption of a development control system to

implement the plan, the stabilizing of the Bruce Trail, and compensation or outright purchase of land where a development permit has been refused because the proposal conflicts with the plan.

### PITS AND QUARRIES

The plan also contains recommendations on the operation of pits and quarries. The NEC is recommending to the province that no new pits and quarries be permitted in the most environmentally-sensitive areas along the escarpment. This would preclude the opening of new pits and quarries in about 64 per cent of the escarpment planning area.

The plan also recommends that existing licensed pits and quarries should be permitted

to continue operations until their licences expire, at which time, if necessary, the operators would be asked to amend their site plans to reduce the operation's effects on the environment, in order to qualify for licence renewal. Wayside pits would be permitted only in certain designated areas of the planning area.

If the plan should be approved, it would effectively block the opening of the proposed quarrying operation of Standard Industries Ltd. on a 600-acre site south of Speyside.

"The plan assists to a very great extent the Halton Hills stand on pits and quarries, in that it recognizes only areas which are now licensed," Coun. Booth said. "It also makes provision for the continued operation of small sandstone quarries."

Only four of the land use designations in the plan are found along the Escarpment in Halton Hills: escarpment natural areas, escarpment protection areas, escarpment rural areas and mineral resource areas.

Of the areas designated for mineral resource extraction, the largest is at the corner of Halton Road 20 and the Fifth Line. There are other, smaller areas around Limehouse, including one on the Fourth Line south of the hamlet. Another small area is located on Halton Road 20 between the Seventh and Eighth Lines, and a larger area is located on the west side of Highway 7 at Silver Creek.

### SCENIC AREAS

The escarpment natural areas are the most significant natural and scenic areas of the escarpment and they would be subject to the most rigid land use restrictions, in order to preserve the environmental balance. Among permitted uses are single-family dwellings where a vacant lot already exists, provided the development is compatible with the goals of preserving the area, recreation related to trail activities, nature viewing and public parks, and essential transportation and utility facilities.

The plan would restrict the creation of new lots to those needed for the purpose of enlarging existing lots, to create conveyances, or those purchased by a public body in the natural areas.

In the escarpment protection areas, the land is frequently more developed with residential dwellings, agriculture, cottages or other uses. The goal of the plan is to maintain the remaining natural features of the land and to encourage use oriented to agriculture, forestry and recreation connected with land rather than uses connected with buildings.

The policies for these areas would permit the uses allowed in escarpment natural areas, and would also include recreational uses such as golf courses, picnic sites and day-use sites, institutional uses, and the opening of wayside pits subject to provincial legislation regulating these pits.

The plan would allow the creation of one new lot per 100 acres or original township lot, to be used only in those ways permitted in the land designation. A new lot may be created

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## Concerns voiced about BIA plans

By PAUL DORSEY  
 Herald Editor

Complaints from some downtown Georgetown shoppers about the decorative curb extensions installed this year have created reluctance among many merchants to endorse the installation of five more islands along Main Street.

While praising architect Paul Martel for the beautification work he has done thus far on the downtown core, several merchants expressed concern at last Wednesday's Business Improvement Area (BIA) meeting that the addition of more landscaped sidewalk extensions or "islands" might be carrying things too far.

The construction of five more sidewalk "bulges", complete with benches and planters, was one of several architects' recommendations presented at the meeting last week which will be referred to the 1980 board of directors for Georgetown's BIA.

Nominations due December 15, are now being collected for membership on the new board through a ballot being distributed among the 90 merchants and professionals in the downtown core. Also being circulated is a list of the recommendations for 1980 improvements, which BIA supporters will be asked to re-arrange in order of their preferred priority. The BIA spent about \$39,000 in 1979.

### OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Along with the additional islands, Mr. Martel has suggested more directional signs pointing motorists and pedestrians toward the downtown core, decorative bases for existing signs, ornamental banners to be hung from streetlights or walls in the downtown area, re-organization of entrances to the large parking lot east of Main Street, the development or beautification of up to six walkways leading onto Main and Church Streets and visual improvements to the weed-ridden embankment at the north end of the large parking lot, descending from Cross Street.

Virtually all the recommendations received a generally favourable reaction from the 30 BIA merchants and professionals in attendance, but strong concerns were voiced about the proposal to add more islands.

Mr. Martel pointed out that few parking spaces would be sacrificed for the new islands, proposed for the curbs in front of Penniesworth, the stationery store at Wesleyan Street and three other locations.

Several businessmen maintained, however, that additional islands would drive many shoppers away from the downtown core, since there have already been complaints from those who dislike parking behind the stores and prefer quick, "in-and-out parking" at curbside.

Sandy Mackenzie of J.B. Mackenzie and Son Ltd. building supplies added that any parking spaces lost on Main Street decreases revenue from parking meters, which is used by merchants to pay for snow removal. Mr. Martel had already told Fran Baines that he anticipates no snow removal problems in the immediate area of the islands.

Lawyer Monty Hyde noted that the BIA board had consciously selected sites for the existing islands where they would have the least impact on shopper's parking.

Bud Kentner of Kentner's Pharmacy reported, however, that one angry shopper told him she would boycott any stores whose proprietors allowed the islands to proceed.

Lawyer Terry Baines contended that the proposed islands, like any new innovation, will take some time to win public support.

### LEAST IMPACT

"It just takes a while for people to get used to it and appreciate the downtown beautification," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, it's great; it's the first time I've seen downtown Georgetown get off its ass and do anything in 20 years or more."

"If we just leave the three islands, it looks dumb," Judy

Pomeroy of North Halton Sports Ltd. agreed. "It's just the one block that shoppers will have to walk. In Calgary, they've got no parking downtown for four blocks."

Current problems with the existing islands were also discussed at the meeting, including drainage problems with the extensions in front of Robert Gougeon Household Furnishings and Silver's department store, both of which were revamped last week, and litter proliferating from pedestrian use of the benches.

### LITTER PROBLEM

Mr. Martel suggested that the individual merchants are largely responsible for sweeping up litter around islands in front of their stores, but assured all that the juniper bushes planted in the wooden frames will eventually provide enough ground coverage to discourage

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## Planning boss for Halton

Rasheed Mohammed, a senior policy planner for Halton region, has been named by regional council as the new planning director.

Coun. Roy Booth of Halton Hills, planning committee chairman and a member of the selection committee, told The Herald Monday that Mr. Mohammed had been carefully chosen out of approximately 38 candidates.

"We short-listed the original 38 down to 12 applicants who were queried and summarily reduced to six people who were granted extensive interviews," Mr. Booth explained.

"While all six finalists were very capable and could have done the job," he added, "we

felt that Mr. Mohammed was the best choice because she showed the most enthusiasm and already possessed a working knowledge of the regional planning department."

Mr. Mohammed replaces the region's first planning director, Ed Cumming, who retired in August.

He is a graduate of Queen's University and the University of Toronto. He joined the Halton planning department in 1975 after working with the Durham region planning department. Mr. Mohammed, 33, has also worked with the provincial government and taught the planning course at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.

## This Week

### Nestle's boycott

Concerned church groups and consumer groups are urging people to boycott Nestle's products because the company encourages Third World mothers to feed their babies with infant formulas, instead of the "safer" method of breast-feeding. Page 3

### Oliver! reviewed

The performance of Oliver! by students at Georgetown District High School was of very high calibre, according to reviewer Paul Sargent. He saw the play on the first night of its run, and recorded his views for The Herald. Page 14

### Halton minister

There are a few reasons to enter the ministry, and millions of reasons not to, according to Rev. Peter Barrow, who went ahead and became a minister anyway, and he's glad he did. To read about what being a minister is like, see this week's Halton's people. Page 18

## Focal 'blackmail' angers resident seeking support

By RICHARD PETRASHEK  
 Herald staff writer

"Blackmail", "coercion" and "big stick" are some of the terms Harrison Wood of Georgetown used this week in describing the strategy of Focal Properties Limited.

Mr. Wood made the accusations at the town's general committee meeting Monday night, where he represented himself and some of his Bairstow Crescent neighbors concerning a drainage problem, but emphasized he was speaking only for himself when commenting on the Focal development issue.

"I can't understand how the town can deal with a company that threatens the town with a \$27 million lawsuit", an incredulous Mr. Wood told the committee.

Mr. Wood suggested the town should take a harder line with Focal and its parent company, S.B. McLaughlin Associates Ltd.

"As a taxpayer," he explained, "I feel that if Focal didn't like what the town's doing, there are four ways out of town - north, south, east and west - and I'd be glad to show Mr. McLaughlin the way".

### INDUSTRY PROBLEMS

The only response to Mr. Wood's comments came from Mayor Pete Pomeroy, who

described Focal Properties as part of a long-range industrial program.

Mr. Wood said that the drainage problem on Bairstow Crescent has existed since the houses were built, despite homeowners' approaches to the town and, prior to that, the township, about the problem.

"In 1953 and 1954, and from there onwards, I complained to the local governments about the drainage problems," he told committee, "and nothing's been done to date".

In a letter last March to town engineer Bob Austin last March, Mr. Wood's wife told how the water level on her property had risen within one-half inch of the back door.

"There is water on my property 365 days of the year," Mr. Wood added.

The only municipal response to the letter, according to Mr. Wood, was an acknowledgement of receipt from the town a few days after the initial posting.

Mr. Wood said he finally decided to bring the matter directly to committee after reading that Norton Crescent situated west and directly above his property, and Stevens Crescent had been slated for road improvement.

Mr. Wood felt that if Bairstow is upgraded, he and his

neighbors might not have their drainage problem.

"What bothers me", he told committee, "was that both these streets had been built long after ours and yet they're getting (higher) priority".

### HIGHER PRIORITY

Deputy engineer Ted Ballinger told Mr. Wood that Norton Crescent had been given a higher priority because it had a very definite water problem on the street, while it was staff's opinion that Mr. Wood's problem was strictly on private property and therefore not the town's responsibility.

Mr. Wood threatened to take out an injunction against further work on Norton and Stevens Crescent if "a complete review of the road building program is not instituted".

"The committee that reviews roads must be either blind or incompetent", he told committee when he was informed that Bairstow was not listed in the five-year capital cost program.

Committee voted to ask staff to prepare a report on the Bairstow Cres. drainage problem and to suggest to council whether it merits passing to the budget committee for next year.

Mr. Wood said that he was satisfied with that arrangement.



ACTON LOVES A PARADE

The Acton Citizens' Band, with leader George Elliot, shown here, was one of those who took part in the Acton Y's Men's annual Santa Claus parade Saturday. For those who missed Santa in Acton, he will be visiting Georgetown this Saturday to take part in the Lions Club parade, which starts at 1:30 p.m. at Moore Park plaza. For more pictures of the Acton parade, see page 11.