

Citizen of Year sought

The Georgetown Lions' Club is now seeking nominees for its 1979 Citizen of the Year Award.

Deadline for nominations will be around January 15, selection committee chairman Dave Barrager told The Herald this week. The presentation dinner will be February 15.

The committee is looking for nominees with a record of service to the community and to private individuals, Mr. Barrager said.

"Being a Citizen of the Year means being a person who likes to help other people," he explained. "Nominees should be people who dedicate their time and energy to someone other than themselves."

Past Citizens of the Year have been Irwin and Joy Noble, Walter Gray, Conie Nieuhof, Rev. Peter Barrow and Peggy Treahy.

Members of this year's selection committee are Ray Harlow, Terry Peter, Elmer Lloyd, Carl Hansen and Dave Barrager.

Changes would speed planning

By RICHARD PETRASHEK
Herald Staff Writer

A proposed major revision to the town's planning procedures has been tabled until the first planning board meeting of the new year after receiving mixed response during an initial presentation last week.

"This is the first item that has seen so much input from all board members since I became board chairman", Coun. Mike Armstrong commented.

Coun. Roy Booth was one of the board members who viewed the proposals with some trepidation.

"The more I hear about these proposals", he said, "the less I like them".

"I think the proposals make sense", Coun. Russ Miller argued.

Board members decided they had not had sufficient time to study the proposed changes and voted to postpone further discussion until the first board meeting in 1980.

Staff said in its report on the procedural changes that their purpose was to realign the emphasis for the production of suitable development applications to the extent that the approval process may be shortened.

"What these changes will do is force developers to do more work in the early stages", clerk-administrator Ken Richardson explained.

REFERRALS LATER
"At present", the staff report noted, "plans are presented to planning board by public presentation in some instances with little planning or engineering staff input and later referred to staff".

The report indicated that this sometimes results in pre-judgment on council's part and perhaps inappropriate public reaction before the matter has been adequately assessed.

Mr. Richardson commented that he had been often approached by people on the street who believed that a certain project was going to be built, when it had in fact only been briefly considered by the board.

Once initial reports are published in the press, he pointed out, the public often forgets that a final board decision and council ratification are still to come.

"We just want to clear up confusion resulting from press reports", he said.

The staff report said that the proposed procedures will require only notice to council of the application receipt, with no presentation or dialogue on the merits of the application until receipt of a comprehensive staff report.

"I can't see any harm in public reaction to proposed developments", Coun. Walter Biehn said. "The public might think a fast one was being pulled behind scenes".

Some councillors expressed concern that the changes would negate the role of planning board by reducing its input.

"If we adopt these procedures, we won't need a planning board", Coun. Booth said. The staff report outlined the proposed changes in a series of flow charts.

Mr. Richardson noted that the changes were similar to those already adopted by the city of Brampton, the town of Milton and the Borough of Etobicoke.

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