

Recollections of the '70's, predictions for the '80's

# More industry, less farming in the 1980's, mayor predicts

By RICHARD PETRASHEK  
Herald Staff Writer

Mayor Pete Pomeroy predicts the industrial statement of the 1970's will be resolved early in the new decade.

"Hopefully, the situation will be cured in the next 12 months", he told the Herald last week.

Mayor Pomeroy said he expects an expansion of the Georgetown sewage treatment plant within a year, which will allow the town to expand the amount of serviceable land available for industry.

While Mayor Pomeroy sees a

positive picture in the 1980's for industry in Halton Hills, he also expects the decline in farming to continue.

"There's still a lot of farmland available right now, but there just isn't enough money for the farmers", he explained. "If we want to maintain enough farmland to sustain the needs of the people, we're going to have to give the farmers an adequate income for what they do."

Mayor Pomeroy predicted that farmers will be selling out to developers as the economic pressures pile up.

The mayor said that, because of the present shortage of serviced land, he had to refer seven or eight industries which wanted to locate in Halton Hills to Brampton and Mississauga.

**TWO-TIER CONTROL.** "Right now, unfortunately, there is just not enough choice for industry", he said. "Most of the land is under the control of just two people."

Mayor Pomeroy declined to identify the two individuals. "The kind of industry we need is moderate - service, technically - oriented busi-

ness that are not high water or sewer users", he explained.

"We need the industry to relieve the assessment pressure that has built up from the increasing residential development", he added.

Mayor Pomeroy said that with the increase in the cost of fuel and the recent revelations in Halton region's labor force survey, showing that almost half of the town's working residents commute to jobs outside the region, if the town does not get more industry into the area in the 1980's, there will be an exodus of Halton Hills residents headed for the

job market.

One thing Mayor Pomeroy fears will result from increased growth in the 1980's will be a loss of the volunteer fire and ambulance departments.

"We will eventually have to go to a full-time system and I can't begin to estimate the cost that has been saved by the volunteer system", he explained. "Once we change, the mill rate will definitely go higher."

Mayor Pomeroy praised the work of all the volunteer organizations in the town.

"They are dedicated and important and really don't get enough recognition", he said. "Volunteers play a key function in the community."

"I really think we're going to see a stronger community spirit in the 1980's", he added. "People will need each other more."

Mayor Pomeroy predicted increased public pressure in the 1980's to change the two-tier system of municipal government.

"I think it's difficult for the average person to relate to the region", he explained.

**TWO-TIER SYSTEM**

"While there are some advantages to the two-tier system, I would like to see some of the powers that have gone to the region be returned to the town."

Mayor Pomeroy said he believes the local politician is the most responsible official in government because of the close scrutiny of the media and the electorate.

Mayor Pomeroy also commented that vandalism in Halton Hills, which increased dramatically in the late 1970's, could be reduced in the 1980's through education.

"I really think that vandalism is connected to a void in the learning process", he said. "What we need to do in the 1980's is to get the police involved in a preventative education program in the school system."

"I think young people as a whole have a lot to do in Halton Hills and it's not just a case of boredom that's causing it", he added. "What we have to remember is that it's really just a small percentage that's disruptive."



100 YEARS OF LIGHT

The first public demonstration of the electric incandescent bulb by inventor Thomas Edison was made on December 31, 1879, one hundred years ago. Today, large industries have been created to meet the demand for light bulbs, lamps and fixtures. Lamps come in hundreds of shapes, sizes and designs now, and Margaret Howle of Aladdin Lighting shows the variety of lamps available to match any mood or decor.

(Herald photo)

According to historical footnotes, Berber Queen Kahena of Aures, Algeria, kept more than 400 male concubines on hand.

## Come to Church

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| <p><b>ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH</b><br/>Anglican<br/>REV. ROSWELL TEES<br/>Sunday, January 6, 1980<br/>Sunday after Christmas<br/>8:00 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST<br/>9:00 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST<br/>Junior Church &amp; Nursery<br/>11:00 a.m. EUCHARIST<br/>Thursdays<br/>10:00 a.m. EUCHARIST</p>                   | <p><b>MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>177 Maple Ave. Georgetown<br/>PASTOR EDWIN H. MITCHELL<br/>Telephone 877-0320<br/>Sunday, January 6, 1980<br/>9:45 Family Bible School<br/>11:00 a.m. "OUR COVENANT OF MEMBERSHIP"<br/>8:45 p.m.<br/>"Are You Adequate For The 80's?"<br/>Nursery at all Services<br/>1980 IS OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY. JOIN US AS WE GROW FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.</p> |
| <p><b>GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH</b><br/>14 Main St. S.<br/>PASTOR PETER RALPH<br/>Sunday, January 6, 1980<br/>Sunday School 9:45 a.m.<br/>Morning Worship 11 a.m.<br/>Evening Service 8:30 p.m.<br/>Come and Make our Church Your Church<br/>Everyone Welcome<br/>P. RALPH<br/>877-9816<br/>853-3923</p> | <p><b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br/>Windsor Road at Carole St.<br/>Vacancy Pastor<br/>REV. ARTHUR RADER<br/>Sunday, January 6, 1980<br/>9:00 a.m. Worship Service<br/>10:15 a.m. Sunday School<br/>Worship Service<br/>Church of the Lutheran Hour</p>  |

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JESUS - HE'S THE ANSWER

# Council made progress in revitalizing the town

By PAUL DORSEY  
Herald Editor

In a year marked by reversed votes on two major projects and by the death of one of its most respected members, Halton Hills council nevertheless made much progress in its continuing efforts to revitalize development in the Acton and Georgetown urban areas.

With the opening of Georgetown's Cinemas Three last March offering the only substantial evidence of the former council's faltering and often aborted attempts to meet the needs and expectations of Halton Hills ratepayers, a new municipal administration took control during 1979, managing in the final analysis to shake loose some motivation and at least get several important projects underway.

And despite waffling votes on the major shopping plaza proposed for Acton's eastern boundary by the Landawa group, the huge recreation and social complex unveiled as the Croatian Franciscan Custody just south of Norval and the rest home facility proposed for the former Chapel Street public school, Mayor Pete Pomeroy's 1979-80 council has covered a great deal of new ground during its first year of office.

**EX-MAYOR DIES**

While several projects were cancelled outright or stalled and while emotions sometimes ran high in the council chamber during 1979, the year's saddest memory recalls the passing of Ward 1 Councillor Les Duby, one of Halton Hills' true veteran politicians and the last mayor of Acton.

Coun. Duby's death in June prompted a by-election for Ward 1 which, four months later, saw social worker and community organizer Terry Grubbe defeat the only other challenger in a brief and low-key election campaign.

Other highlights from the '79-80 council's first year of service:

• The arts complex, a sprawling, multi-faceted showcase for theatre, gallery art and the library was unveiled as an

architect's sketch in mid-May, four months after council granted the project an initial green light. In March, Howard Wrigglesworth public school was rejected as a possible site for the complex, council later settling upon the existing public library site for renovation and re-development.

• Landawa's major shopping centre, complete with a Zehr's department store, was the subject of some of council's most intense meetings as several members reacted with bitterness to the angry comments of Landawa chief Jerry Sprackman. A resounding vote of approval by the vast majority of the 200 Actonians who attended a special planning board meeting last March in their community failed to sway council's decision to reject the proposal.

**CROATIAN CENTRE**

• The Croatian social-recreational complex already established off Winston Churchill Boulevard near Norval prompted a similar range of reactions from councillors and ratepayers alike when its owners proposed a series of recreational facilities for the site which they said would draw thousands of visitors from around the Toronto area.

Council granted tentative approval to the project early in May, reversing its stand a week later after neighbors' complaints about noisy parties at the site created concern over the operation's scale.

• At the same time, discussions over the Croatian centre were heating up, another controversy was raging in the council chamber over the town's plan to boost rental rates for Halton Hills' three public arenas. Again facing a tough decision, council hiked the rates despite dire warnings from the groups affected that the coming winter could hold unprecedented financial hardships for arena-users.

• Neighbors were again up in arms when council responded positively toward a proposal to build a drive-in theatre off

Steeles Avenue near Hornby in October. The full story has yet to unfold.

• Throughout the year, the story of how Halton Hills and the Interested Citizens Group have opposed the Ontario Hydro transmission corridor under construction through the town continued to grow into epic proportions. The first ten months of the year saw few significant changes in a largely unsuccessful battle for civil rights.

After a lengthy Ontario Municipal Board hearing which started off the year, a decision approving the corridor was handed down in mid-February. In April, the provincial Cabinet again rejected a new citizens' appeal on the matter.

**CITIZEN SUPPORT**

Council, for its part, continued to support the Citizens Group, formally embracing its goals in a May resolution, but by November had had enough. A new resolution halted the town's involvement in the matter of approval and the OMB's order to make away for the hydro line was obeyed.

• Elsewhere in town, a major investment firm, the

Lehndorff group, injected some sorely-needed funds into the dormant River Run town-house development near Glen Williams, simultaneously kicking off a new phase of residential development which includes the Silver Creek Towers apartment project in downtown Georgetown, two major housing subdivisions in eastern Acton and several assorted home-building projects commenced throughout town during the year.

Ironically missing from the list of accomplishments is any further progress on the 1,700-home Focal Properties Ltd. subdivision proposed for southern Georgetown, which was easily the hottest election issue during the municipal campaign of November, 1978. Though the topic arose at several council and planning board meetings during 1979, the end result was invariably anger or confusion, among members with nothing substantial accomplished. Focal developer Bruce McLaughlin told the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce last month, however, that progress can be expected in the coming year.

# The presidents are optimistic about their chambers' futures

The two Halton Hills Chambers of Commerce are greeting the 1980's with a mixture of optimism and concern about the future's economic outlook.

Georgetown chamber president Bill Crawford told The Herald this week he is optimistic about the future for Georgetown, which he hopes will see "reasonable, controlled, residential growth, with

the industrial growth that will bring".

Acton's chamber president, Jake Kuiken, is optimistic about his community's future, but at the same time, says that the next six to 12 months will be "much tougher than it has been".

"Everybody is looking to the future optimistically, and it augurs well for the future of Georgetown," Mr. Crawford

said. "The rate of industrial growth has been slow, but I think that we will speed up, particularly if we have some controlled residential growth."

As far as the chamber itself is concerned, Mr. Crawford said the organization is concentrating on internal communications, keeping its members informed. The chamber has a new project, called Chamber Alert, under-

way, to protect merchants from fraud. It is also organizing an award for the Businessman of the Year.

The chamber operated a Christmas bus service for the Georgetown area to assist Christmas shoppers. Mr. Crawford said the chamber will receive a report on how well the service went early this month.

Mr. Kuiken said 1979 was a good year for Acton and for the chamber.

"Our chamber hopes to promote the town of Acton for industrial and retail growth," Mr. Kuiken said. "Our retail, I'm sure, leaves a great deal to be desired, and we hope to attract other retailers to Acton."

Mr. Kuiken said he is "very, very happy about the membership". He described the present membership of the Chambers as very enthusiastic.

"I personally look forward to the future with a lot of optimism," Mr. Kuiken said.

# Centre should expand, Acton councillor says

While saying that, overall, it's been a good year, Halton Hills Coun. Terry Grubbe has suggested in her year-end report to the board of directors for the Acton Community Services Centre that some of the centre's programs should be expanded.

"Since the health unit pulled out of Acton, we've been receiving a lot distress calls at the information centre", Coun. Grubbe, co-ordinator of the centre, told the Herald last week.

Coun. Grubbe suggested that more staff might be required to handle the increase in calls.

"Basically, I'm very pleased with the way the programs have gone and it has been a super year", she said. "People seem to be more

aware of us now. The Block Parents program is back as part of our service again", Coun. Grubbe added. "At this time we have no plans for adding any programs but intend to concentrate on expanding the existing ones."

# Reed predicts the coming year will be significant

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed sees the upcoming year as a very significant one in Canadian history.

"It's pretty obvious that for the first time in two or three generations, people are realizing they've got to find some alternative to oil," he told The Herald last week. "As a Western economy we're hooked on it and we've got to find some way to get off the hook."

Mr. Reed suspects Canadians will "sweat a good deal over what that madman in Iran is going to do" and wonders if the people will save us by overthrowing him before he plunges the world into some sort of confrontation no one wants.

He sees the American economy going through some real traumas.

"As Canadians we're going to have to look at our own strengths and assets and capitalize on our own abilities instead of riding on the shoulders of others as we have in the past," he said. "We've found it very easy to maintain a buoyant economy by selling off our resources but that may not be available to us in the future."

He hopes Canadians will find a lot of talents and capabilities and resources they can use to their advantage. Realizing this potential may require a return to a self-discipline we haven't had to exercise for some time, however, he said.

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