

Mayor addresses GARA

Sewage plant expansion possible?

By PAUL DORSEY  
Herald Editor  
With at least two industries currently seeking appropriate plant locations in the Halton Hills area, there "appears to be a possibility" that the Georgetown sewage treatment plant can again be expanded to accommodate new growth, according to Mayor Pete Pomeroy.

That possibility, which tends to support claims that expansion limitations imposed on the Mountainview Road South treatment plant by the province are unnecessary, was acknowledged by the mayor last Wednesday in a speech to the Georgetown Area Ratepayers Association in which town council's record over the past six years earned some elaborate praise.

Not only has council limited its annual tax hikes to an average of five per cent since 1974, Mayor Pomeroy said, but the town's current per capita debt stands at only \$38.

Those figures compare quite favorably to others quoted by the mayor. Halton region, he said, has boosted region-wide taxes by an average of 16 per cent a year, while the Halton Board of Education has increased its share another 14 per cent annually since 1974. Oakville's per capita debt towers over that of Halton Hills, according to the mayor, with each resident of that city now owing \$127, compared to \$101 in Milton and \$73 in Burlington.

TIMELY TOPICS  
Other timely subjects cover-

ed in Mayor Pomeroy's election-year speech included the \$6.5 million Silver Creek Towers apartment project, the proposed library-theatre complex to which ratepayers will have to contribute as much as \$300,000 in public subscription funds, and the possibility of a 1981 start on centralizing municipal departments in an expanded administration office on Trafalgar Road (see page two).

In his speech and the question period which followed, Mayor Pomeroy addressed some 10 different topics of interest to the small gathering on hand. GARA president Laurie Duggan was apologetic about the small turnout at Georgetown High School.

Determined questioning by one audience member prompted the mayor to reiterate his personal ambition to limit all future, large-scale development to lands south of Georgetown. Stressing that he is not in any way allied with Focal Properties Ltd., which hopes to build 1,740 homes in a portion of that area, Mayor Pomeroy said any residential growth which could be accommodated by expanded municipal services must "obviously" go south of Georgetown.

There, he explained, new industries and homeowners would have ready access to major air, rail and highway routes in an area already heavily urbanized by Peel region.

"It's my personal view that, someday, there's going to be development south of Georgetown," Mayor Pomeroy said. "It's going to follow a plan which council believes is in the best interests of the community. It makes sense to put it there, but of course, if we can't service it, it's likely there'll be no development south of Silver Creek."

RECONSIDER BAN

Because of new revelations made last year, the mayor added, the provincial ministry of environment is now in a position to reconsider its ban on a further expansion of the Georgetown sewage treatment plant. The town does not yet know whether an expansion that could open the door to more industrial assessment is possible, he said, nor the extent of any expansion.

A policy by which the town will guide new industrial growth is "coming slowly," Mayor Pomeroy said, but the fact remains that at present, no serviced land suitable for industry is available in the Georgetown area.

"Halton Hills is going to miss the boat if we don't get some industrial land," he warned. "We're the only municipality in Halton region that gets a half-million dollars a year subsidy from the province because we don't have much industry. It's a little plum from the province that I don't very pleased with. I don't think the province should subsidize me because of where I live."

Mayor Pomeroy was nevertheless proud of his administration.

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CHATTERING TEETH CHASE THOSE DONUTS

The first Winterfest in what the Jaycees hope will become an annual affair was held Saturday at the fairgrounds, and although Mother Nature didn't quite provide enough snow for some of the scheduled events, things proceeded without her help. Events like the children's doughnut-eating contest

went ahead, much to the delight of the youngsters. The winner of the grand prize, a trip to the Quebec Winter Carnival this weekend, was Al Duggan. For more photos, see inside.

(Herald photo by Richard Petrashek)

Highlights of mayor's speech

- Georgetown South 'obvious' place for development
- Need \$200,000 plus public donations for cultural centre
- Town's per capita debt lowest by far in Region
- See also page 2

PARTS FIRM COMING?

The town of Halton Hills is negotiating with an automobile parts manufacturing firm to purchase some land near Armstrong Avenue and Highway 7.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy said Monday the town is currently engaged in negotiations with the firm, and has undertaken some work on a storm sewer easement, one of the conditions of the sale.

Once this work is completed, the town hopes to finalize negotiations and close the deal, the mayor said. It's possible the final deal could be made within a week, he said.

Herald captures five top awards

The Halton Hills Herald has captured four out of eight possible first-place awards in the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association's competition for 1979, capping its credits with a Premier Award for Best Agricultural Story of the year.

As announced by OWNA Monday, The Herald has taken first-place awards for Best Front Page, Best Composition and Layout, Best Photography and Best News and Features in its category involving Ontario weeklies with circulations between 10,001 and 16,000.

In addition, former staff writer Maggie Hannah's comprehensive August 8 newsfeature examining "The Many Faces of Halton Farming" caught the judges' eyes as the Best Agricultural Story of all member newspapers in 1979. The award is presented on the basis of writing quality, effective photography, clarity, interest and display.

The Herald's four "Special Awards", based on the judges' response to two randomly-chosen issues, gave this newspaper an overall second-place standing in its circulation category. Ranking first in the same circulation range was the Georgetown Independent, which captured three first-place awards. In third place was the Richmond Hill Liberal.

NDP's Black woos Actonians with leather quota proposals

By MAGGIE HANNAM  
Herald Special

Acknowledging the presence in Acton of the Beardmore Tannery, Halton New Democratic Party candidate Doug Black has called for an extension of the import quotas on leather and a lowering of

import rates so that potential investors will be encouraged to open and expand Canada's leather industry.

A press conference in his Acton headquarters Monday, Mr. Black said an extension of the quota period which is due to end in December is necessary in order to complete the new re-organization and modernization of the industry.

If the process can be completed, he said, the Canadian industry could be competitive within a few years, he said. If the quotas are removed, too soon, he said, the industry will eventually be re-explained.

More than 1,000 Acton residents depend on Beardmore for their livelihood, he said. The industry is of prime importance to the economy, Mr. Black commented.

The quotas which were established in 1977 have merely kept the Acton firm at a holding position, Mr. Black said, and further time will be required before renovations can begin, he said.

improvements in the business.

The industry wants clarification of some definitions in the quota so that rubber and canvas used in footwear can be brought in under the guise of textile materials and has "bought" the intent of the quota, Mr. Black said.

Under the quota system, only 45 per cent of the Canadian market can be supplied with imported footwear, while Canada produces the other 55 per cent of the merchandise required. The quota has already allowed 2,500 new jobs to be created in the industry since it was established.

The Canadian leather industry is an example of Canada's oldest industries, Mr. Black commented, since it is almost entirely Canadian-owned and a fine example of Canadians "doing it themselves."

Beardmore Tannery, established in 1844, is one of Canada's oldest tanneries. It employs 500 people, 175 of whom belong to the Canadian Union of Allied Workers, Mr. Black said.

BRAMPTON BLAZE LEAVES 19 HOMELESS

A fire which is being called the largest in the history of the city of Brampton destroyed 12 businesses and has left 19 people homeless.

The fire, which broke out at about 7 a.m. Monday in a block of buildings on the southwest corner of Main and Nelson Streets, raged on for about 11 hours. Some 65 firefighters fought the blaze in the three-storey building which was originally a foundry. Firefighters were expected to be spending most of yesterday mopping up. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

(Herald photo)

Hockey Heritage  
Georgetown honors  
its Legionnaires  
next Tuesday evening  
See Sports Week

Hinton offers addition park

HERALD SPECIAL  
Halton Hills has been offered a large house and grounds adjoining Prospect Park for recreational use by an Acton resident.

H.H. (Bert) Hinton has offered the town immediate possession of his Park Avenue home as an addition to Prospect Park to be used for future park purposes.

In return for this gift, which would be subject to a municipal tax-free life tenancy, Mr. Hinton has requested that a memorial plaque be erected at the site in honor of his late wife, Mary, and also that the park be renamed from Prospect Park to Hinton Park.

Council will consider the offer at its February 18 meeting. Citizens wishing to make proposals on the matter are invited to contact the clerk's office prior to that time.

Mr. Hinton explained this week that he and his wife realized many of their enjoy-

ments in life through Acton and its residents, and as a result, he would like to show his appreciation by making the gift to the town.

The idea resulted from a conversation a couple of years ago with Halton Hills' former clerk, Doug Pritchard, Mr. Hinton said, suggesting that "the house might be suitable for small gatherings such as fund-raising meetings, and that, eventually, part of the house might be used for a nursery school for the town."

Mr. Hinton was born and raised in Acton and operated a business in the town from 1929 to 1979. He also served on many community boards and committees, including Acton School Board, Sheridan College Board of Governors, Acton Association of Businessmen, the Halton Board of Education, Halton County Council, Halton Museum Board, Acton Agricultural Society and the Acton Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Hinton died in 1976.



BRAMPTON'S BOYS IN BLUE

Prime Minister Joe Clark was the special guest of honor at a Progressive Conservative rally Thursday in Brampton. He was joined onstage by Brampton-Georgetown MP and Conservative

candidate John McDermid (left) and Ontario Premier William Davis, a Brampton resident.