

Council approves \$1.5 million for 1980

Capital budget launches cultural centre



SUPER-COLLECTOR

Janet Welling shows off some of her fuzzy friends in the collection of stuffed animals she brought to Harrison School last Thursday evening. Janet is a member of the 5th Georgetown Brownie pack, and the Brownies were

exhibiting their various collections in hopes of being awarded their collector's badge.

(Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

Master parks plan meetings attract few citizens, concerns

By STEPHEN FROST
 Herald Staff Writer

If all the recommendations in the town's new Master Plan for Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities for the years 1980 through '85 are followed, the cost would exceed \$1.3 million.

It was noted in the plan, presented to the public last Wednesday at Gordon Alcott Arena, that the \$1.3 million figure is a rough estimate which does not reflect grants and other financial assistance that might be available to the town.

"This plan provides recommendations that will give the town a guide to follow for the next five or ten years," recreation director Tom Shepard told two dozen residents at the plan's unveiling. "People have to realize

that we don't have to follow the plan as if it were a Bible. We have to be flexible, changing to meet demands from year to year."

The plan provides detailed suggestions for parks and recreation development for the next five years and some general recommendations for subsequent five.

The plan took three years to complete and features input by

more than 2,000 community members.

The two boards of education, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and the local YM-YWCA were contacted, as well as any club that provides leisure activity, when the plan was being prepared.

The plan takes into account the needs of all ethnic groups, age groups and community areas as well as what is

happening in other communities across the province.

The plan was prepared by Balmer, Crapo and Associates of Waterloo and cost \$54,000, of which the town's share is \$47,000. Mr. Shepard told The Herald that to prepare the same plan today would cost twice as much.

COMPREHENSIVE
 Ministry of culture and recreation representative Bill Kreisel calls the plan "one of the most comprehensive of its kind in Ontario."

"The ministry supports and endorses parks plans," Mr. Kreisel said. "These plans are definitely new animals, but they are needed, especially when applying for grants from the ministry."

Mr. Shepard said that he has had many requests from other municipalities for copies of the plan, to give them guidance in setting up a study of their own needs.

Among the plan's main recommendations: parkland deficiencies must be alleviated; more parkland and other open space is needed for the future; a major upgrading program of existing facilities is also needed; additional facilities are needed.

Consultant Rob Lockhart said the plan may be optimistic, extending beyond the community's present resources, but added that as the town grows, that may change.

"Planning doesn't stop now that you have a Master Parks Plan," Mr. Lockhart said. "Conditions are always changing and there should never be a closed door to these changing conditions. However, I do think that the plan's general direction should hold up."

For those who missed the plan's presentation, copies will be available in the town offices and at local libraries. Any comments on the plan should be directed to the recreation department before May 30.

Other recommendations in the plan include:
BALL DIAMONDS
 - the development of three major ball diamonds and the upgrading of existing ones;
 - one new intermediate ball diamond and the upgrading of existing ones;
 - one major playing field (soccer and football) and five intermediate playing fields;
 - six lighted tennis courts in three areas (Norval and the Glen were suggested sites for four of them);
 - two outdoor natural skating rinks;

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By STEPHEN FROST
 Herald Staff Writer

Town council got a start on financing the new library and cultural centre and modifications to the Glen Williams paper mill dam Monday night by approving \$295,002 for the projects in the municipality's \$1.5 million 1980 capital budget.

The 1980 capital budget and capital forecast for the years 1981 through '84 were submitted by budget committee chairman Harry Levy.

Partial financing for the cultural centre will amount to \$185,000 while the town's share of the paper mill dam sluice gates will be \$110,002, to be charged to residents in the form of a regional tax levy.

Even with the added conservation project, the regional mill rate won't be any higher than last year's because of added provincial subsidies announced last week.

"We have to pay for the dam project as the benefitting municipality," town treasurer Ray King told The Herald. "As far as the cultural centre financing goes, we anticipated a shortfall of \$339,000 after provincial grants are received, and the \$200,000 fund-raising campaign is completed. The \$185,000 will reduce that shortfall to \$154,000 dollars."

Public works and transportation services consume the largest share of the operating budget and amount to \$676,750. However, the gross cost of public works projects and vehicle purchases comes to \$1,427,000 which the province subsidizes to the tune of \$750,250.

Some of the public works projects scheduled this year include the Maple Avenue storm sewer, the Guelph Street widening and an upgrading of street lighting in Georgetown and Acton.

Recreation and parks costs in the operating budget come to \$153,150 which is the town's share of \$192,500 gross cost. Again, provincial subsidies account for the rest or \$39,350.

Some of the recreation projects include the acquisition of a new ice resurfacer for the Gordon Alcott arena, repair and/or construction of soccer pitches and renovation of the Acton arena lighting system.

The \$192,500 being spent on parks and recreation this year is \$93,500 less than the recommended \$286,000 that the Master Parks and Recreation plan

suggested the town spend on projects in 1980.

Other funds allocated for in the operating budget include \$40,000 for the restoration of the old Acton town hall. The aerial rescue and fire fighting unit will come to \$190,000, but will be paid for with \$37,000 taken from lot levies and a \$153,000 municipal incentive grant from the province.

The 1981 capital forecast shows a marked drop in the cost to Halton Hills taxpayers. The town's projected share of the gross cost of all projects and acquisitions in 1981 amounts to \$860,300 as compared to the 1980 figure of \$1,150,580.

"These figures must be taken as general figures," Coun. Levy said. "Especially the figures for 1982 through 1984. It's just too far down the road to give specific figures when no one knows just how factors such as inflation are going to affect prices."

The capital forecast for the operating budget for 1982 is \$923,250 while the forecast for 1983 is \$810,000 and the forecast for 1984 is \$791,500.



GRAND-MOM'S DAY

Emma Van Reeth reached one of those rare milestones when she celebrated her 100th birthday Friday. Her family held an open house to celebrate the occasion, with friends and family dropping in to extend their good wishes on the auspicious occasion. For a look at the family group which gathered to celebrate, see page B 1.

(Herald photo)

Anti-region army canvasses Georgetown

Several Georgetown homes are among those visited in recent weeks by Mike Majic, the Waterdown resident who has assembled a small army of petitioners to challenge regional government in Ontario.

Since his own one-man crusade against rising property taxes in Hamilton, Kitchener, St. Catharines, Mississauga and Brampton. In the latter city, he visited the house of Premier Bill Davis but was told the government's chief executive was not at home.

The Yugoslav native's petition campaign coincides with continuing efforts by two Halton region municipalities to opt out of regional government in protest over rising mill rates.

Milton councillors voted Monday night to ask Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed to introduce a private member's bill that, if passed by the legislature, would allow Milton

government too many for Canadians.

Initially overwhelmed by the show of support for his cause offered by residents throughout the province, Mr. Majic has taken to the road in his spare hours to canvass homes in Georgetown, Oakville, Kitchener, St. Catharines, Mississauga and Brampton. In the latter city, he visited the house of Premier Bill Davis but was told the government's chief executive was not at home.

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to opt out of regional government.

"We've appointed a five-member committee to help develop the proper wording for Mr. Reed," Milton mayor Don Gordon told The Herald Tuesday. "We just can't ask him to introduce a private member's bill without giving him any background and figures to work with in the debate that is sure to follow."

Mayor Gordon and regional Coun. Bill Johnson will be among the five committee members.

"If we can't get out of regional government then maybe we can stir up the waters enough so we can change it for the benefit of all concerned," Mayor Gordon said. "I can't see how a 24.6 per cent increase in our regional mill rate can be termed equitable when other municipalities are getting off with no increases at all."



POPLAR PLANTERS

Don Boufford (right), a research technician with the ministry of natural resources at the Ontario Forestry Research Centre, and Mike Hall from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, work on planting some of the 1,000 hybrid poplars comprising an experimental tree plantation on CVCA land south of 27 Sideroad. Seven types of aspen and cottonwood clones are being used in the plantation testing disease and insect resistance. Mr. Boufford said. Since poplars don't stand up well in a battle with weeds, the site will have to be cultivated and kept free of weeds for the next few years until the trees get a good start.

(Guelph Mercury Photo)

Chapel St. school meeting

There will be a public meeting concerning the proposed redevelopment of the former Chapel Street school properties May 13 at 7:30 p.m., council decided Monday. The meeting will take place at the municipal administration building on Trafalgar Road. If an amendment allowing the development to proceed were passed at some future date, the old school building would become an apartment building with up to 22 single bedroom units. The proposal also calls for the division of four lots fronting on Dayfoot Drive and Chapel Street which would contain single-family dwellings.

Bell donates new parkette on John Street

Halton Hills recreation director Tom Shepard has unveiled a proposed Bell Canada plan to install a small parkette, free of charge, in the open space located at the John Street-Mountainview Road intersection.

"The employees of Bell Canada will do the necessary work on the project using Bell Canada equipment," Mr. Shepard said Monday night. "The company originally approached us two months ago and said they were doing small community projects for their centennial this year."

"We got together and decided that the John Street site would be an ideal area for a small park. All they want is some recognition in the form of a plaque saying the park was contributed to the town as part of their centennial."

The proposed playground equipment is to be almost entirely made of telephone poles and includes a double teeter-totter, a double swing, a tire climber and a low balancing beam. All play areas will be built over sand as an added safety feature and the corners

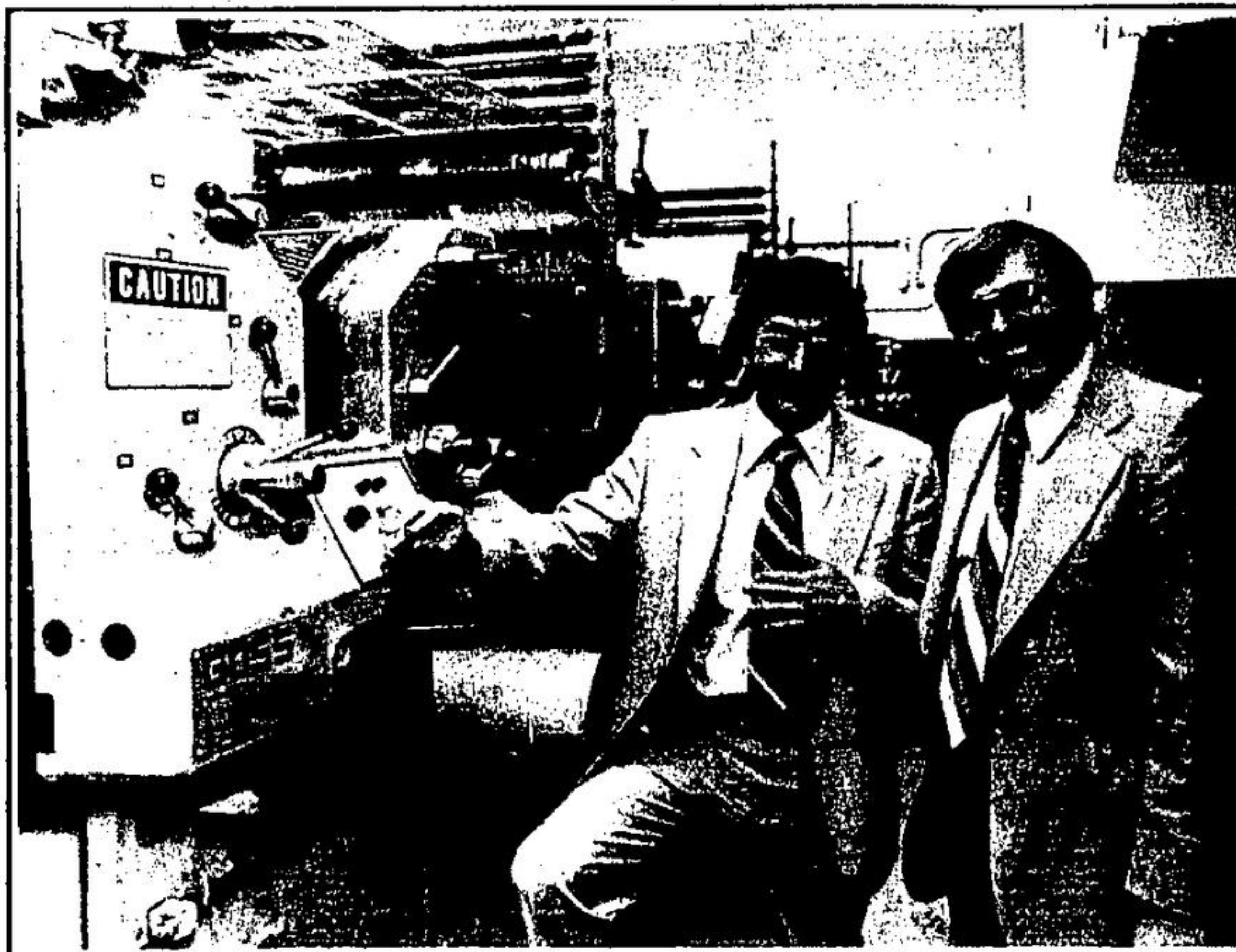
of the park will be enclosed. Ward 3 Coun. Roy Booth commented that it was a very worthy project but wondered if anyone had contacted the area residents about it.

"From the looks of the plan it's going to take up a lot of land," Coun. Booth said. "If it does take up a lot of land it will knock out the playing field for baseball and soccer."

"Actually the playing area is only 40 by 50 feet," Mr. Shepard said. "The swing which already exists in the area is farther out into the field. The playing area will be located in the far corner near the tree line and won't affect other types of sports at all."

The Acton area wasn't considered for this project because it is at present served by a different exchange.

"The Acton area will probably be approached by the Western exchange of Bell Canada," Mayor Pomeroy said. "I'm sure they have something in mind for them as well. In the meantime I think it would be appropriate to express our thanks for their efforts."



Herald publisher Bill Eydokimoff (right) invited Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy to push the button to launch the first run of The Herald's new presses Monday. For the first time in many years, The Herald is being printed in Georgetown, in the

new building on Guelph Street. Mr. Eydokimoff said he hopes to hold a grand opening and open house some time in June, when the building will be open to members of the public for a tour.

(Herald photo by Steve Frost)

INTRODUCING THE 'NEW LOOK' HERALD

Notice any differences in this week's Herald? Our brand new press facilities here at 45 Guelph St. have enabled a historic step forward for Georgetown's (and now Halton Hills') 112-year old newspaper and have opened up new opportunities for improvement and expansion.

This is the first issue printed right here in town.

The first difference readers will note is the wider page size, incorporating nine columns instead of eight and allowing for bigger and better photographs in this and future

issues. Other changes not immediately noticeable will become evident in weeks to come in the form of new Herald features (see the editor's column, page 4) and a greater ability to accommodate news and advertisements from around the district.

Still to come is The Herald's grand open house, tentatively scheduled for early June, once final changes are made to the new headquarters at Guelph and Mill Streets. Everyone, and that includes you, is invited to drop by for a look at the new building and the big four-unit press that has produced this landmark copy of The Halton Hills Herald.