

Eighth Line homeowners annoyed

Neighbors oppose golf range proposal



These children are protesting the proposed sale of the Mary Street Parkette. The sale of the park is one of the recommendations in the Master Parks Plan, which has not yet been approved by council. Mayor Pomeroy told area residents that town council is looking for input on the parks plan so they can recommend changes.

By PAUL DORSEY
 Herald Editor

Plans to establish a golf driving range near the Steeles Avenue-Eighth Line intersection are under attack from neighboring homeowners who, according to a spokesman, are "horror-stricken" by the town's apparent failure to inform them of the proposal prior to its approval last December.

Residents of about 42 homes along the Eighth Line are nearly unanimous in their opposition to the proposal by Joe Shaw, a spokesman who asked not to be identified, told The Herald Monday.

Letters from the concerned residents to be presented to Halton Hills clerk-administrator Ken Richardson Friday, will outline their annoyance over the probable use of bright field lights for nightly recreation at the driving range as well as their fears for the welfare of their youngsters and properties because of golf balls hit further than the 250-foot range distance.

The driving range proposal was originally presented to

town council as a low-impact addition to a larger scheme involving a nursery and commercial garden centre fronting onto Trafalgar Road (Seventh Line). The nursery and garden centre proposal was turned down.

HORNBY SITE

The developer told council that his investors were eager to earn some returns on the 18.5-acre Hornby area site and were growing impatient waiting for the rezoning necessary for the overall proposal. The driving range, council agreed, could proceed without approval for the adjacent activities. Third reading formally approved the driving range last December 17.

The residents' spokesman told The Herald that some 42 homes were canvassed along the Eighth Line over the week-end, producing "99 per cent" opposition to the plan.

"Almost everyone agrees we should have been notified before the third reading," the spokesman commented. "We feel the lights would be terrible, there'd be extra traffic - and this is already a bad corner (Eighth and Steeles) - and, after all, this is a greenbelt area."

"It's basically agricultural

land, and everyone's saying they want to preserve it, that it's important to maintain, but then they drop something like this on us; it's contrary to everything they say."

The spokesman noted that the land's previous owner raised crops on the site until the sale last year.

The driving range proposal includes plans for a 50-foot buffer zone. The range would point southeast, as would the floodlights, while the Eighth Line homes in question face east. Homeowners were not officially informed of council's actions for the most part because their properties lie outside the 400-foot notification boundary dictated by bylaw.

The spokesman cited two other driving ranges in the area, one which "went belly-up" due to poor gate receipts and the other still in operation, much to the alleged annoyance of neighbors.

"I can see this being the same kind of late-night operation, with spotlights so bright they made my backyard look like an airport," he said. "It just seems here as though, if it's recreation, it's okay with the town. We keep thinking maybe it's a mirage being painted up there."

John St. plaza concerns

The town's planning board has deferred its decision on the proposed shopping plaza at John Street and Mountainview Road above Glen Williams until further information is obtained about sidewalks and school children in the area.

Coun. Russ Miller noted at last Tuesday's board meeting that the area has no sidewalks. "A commercial centre such as this one would get a lot of walking traffic," Coun. Miller said. "That's a factor that has to be considered and I don't see any mention of it in the planner's report."

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson asked town planner Mario Venditti if the school busing situation had been examined. "The board of education hasn't expressed any concern over the situation," Mr. Venditti said. "Their response to our queries are usually very short."

In a letter to the town last week, nearby residents Mr. and Mrs. Del Majurey expressed concern over possible hazards to children crossing the road to use the stores in the proposed plaza as well as buses dropping children off at the corner. They also noted that there is often a long line of traffic backed up at the bottom of the hill in the winter when the weather is bad.

Georgetown hospital again accredited

Health care at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital has again been recognized for its high quality by the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation. It was announced last week.

The hospital's board of directors and administration announced Friday that the Council's recent report, based on a March 7 survey, grants the facility full accreditation under a program that has promoted improvement in quality health care for the past 50 years.

"It is with some pride that your hospital is pleased to make this announcement that the accreditation is for a three-year period, a category generally reserved for the more outstanding hospitals that meet or excel all standards," hospital administrator Fred Morris stated.

In essence, the accreditation process is comparable to an examination by auditors on the financial health of an organization. The Accreditation examines and audits all

of the professional activities of the hospital.

The program encourages Canadian hospitals, doctors and other health workers to voluntarily accept certain basic principals of organization and administration for efficient care of the patient. This, in turn, encourages high quality hospital, medical and health care in the process.

The hospital is examined physically by a survey team, usually made up of qualified medical, nursing and administrative personnel. In addition to the actual physical survey of the hospital, a detailed questionnaire of about 1,500 questions in 17 categories, must be prepared for the survey team prior to the inspection.

The important aspect of accreditation is that it is not just a periodic inspection but engenders a system of operating that continues on a day-to-day basis between surveys.

'DON'T SELL OUR PARKETTE!' KIDS SAY

Children and parents in the Mary Street - Cleveholm Crescent area of Georgetown conducted a well-organized protest Monday afternoon at the Mary Street parkette, seeking support for petitions against a new municipal proposal to sell the recreational area.

Residents reject the Halton Hills Master Parks Plan's opinion that the parkette is inadequate to meet the area's needs.

"We don't think the park is inadequate," Ivor Banks of Cleveholm Crescent said. "Even if it is inadequate, taking it away is no solution to the problem."

According to the recently-released parks plan, the area around Mary Street has more children than most other

areas of Halton Hills.

Most residents says they feel the park is fine as a formal play area.

"The new parks plan is just great, really," said one area resident, "but unfortunately the plan seems to ignore simple play areas for children. This park is used by all ages of children for a variety of activities. No one wants to send their younger kids to a park that's used only for organized sports."

Mayor Pete Pomeroy arrived at the parkette during the protest and told residents that nothing in the parks plan has been accepted by town council yet.

"This is what we are looking for," Mayor Pomeroy said. "We need public input from residents of this town on

subjects like this. If you want to present your case before the town planning board, that would be a more responsible way of protesting. It would also be more effective."

Mayor Pomeroy told concerned residents that he feels the sale of the park "probably won't carry" and that they were "pretty safe".

The children circulated a petition appealing to the mayor and council.

It isn't fair to other children if this park goes. We play in it. Like we sometimes fly kites, we play ballgames.

There are lots of kids that love this park. I'm one of the kids that like the park, and I know lots of my friends that like it to. Their names are attached.



Half the fun of the midway rides is screaming as you're whirled and swirled around, and these young ladies seem to be having a lot of fun. (Herald photo)

Transfer station again proposed

A proposal to develop a disposal transfer station on Trafalgar Road opposite the town offices was presented at a planning board meeting last Tuesday night by Jim Gillissen.

Dick Howitt, speaking for Mr. Gillissen, told the board that all the applicant wants to put on the site is a compactor no bigger than one in use at Loblaw's.

"There are already 10 to 15 compactors in the town," Mr. Howitt told the board. "We are not going to construct a huge, mammoth transfer station. It will be a small compactor that will be housed in a building on the site."

Mr. Howitt claims the compactor would allow the firm to make one run instead of eight runs to the regional dump in south Halton, resulting in a substantial savings in fuel costs.

At present, Mr. Gillissen

needs ministry of environment (MOE) approval to install a compactor.

Mr. Howitt told the board that MOE approval hinges on what the town and the region have to say about the compactor.

The site is zoned rural and an amendment to the official plan would be required for the site to be used as a transfer station.

Mr. Gillissen first made an application for the transfer station in November, 1978.

"It's bloody terrible that we haven't got going on this request before now," Coun. Armstrong said.

NO OBJECTIONS

Coun. Walter Biehn asked if there have been any objections to the proposal from surrounding neighbors and was told by town planning director Mario Venditti that there is a letter on file from the only neighbor affected, stating he has no

objection to a compactor being installed next to his property.

Coun. Russ Miller asked Mr. Gillissen whether his firm would pick up small loads from local residents who aren't serviced by the town.

"We'll pick up loads on a one-time basis if we get a call from someone," Mr. Gillissen said. "However, at the present time, we are restricted in this service because our trucks are constantly going back and forth between Georgetown and Oakville to dump garbage. If we get a compactor it would free our trucks to do more of these small pickups."

Coun. Miller suggested that garbage being dumped in country ditches might be reduced if Mr. Gillissen's proposal was approved.

Mr. Howitt was asked by Coun. Armstrong if he was aware the region is looking into the establishment of a large transfer station in the Halton Hills area.

"Yes, we're aware of that," Mr. Howitt replied. "If and when the region installs compactors of their own, then we may have to close ours down. It becomes a simple matter of economics then."

The region is discussing the possibility of locating a transfer station on Armstrong Avenue with Monarch Resource Recovery and Transfer Ltd.

Coun. Miller, chairman of the region's solid waste committee, told The Herald that the Monarch proposal has merit.

"If Monarch established a transfer station on Armstrong we might be able to purchase their services rather than build our own," Coun. Miller said. "However, we are just in the talking stages right now and we may still decide to put a transfer station to tender."

ANOTHER BIG WEEK IN HALTON HILLS

Victoria Day celebrations in Norval, Georgetown--page B1, C1, C2

Nornic Studio's closing performance--page B8

Forge gallery show--page B2

Industry '80 a big success--page C2

Halton Regional Police awards--page C3



B.C. SAYS HELLO

Students at George Kennedy Public School celebrated Victoria Day with an unusual program Friday. Each class researched one of Canada's provinces and territories, and created a presentation on the area's industries, recreation and other unique characteristics. These students are portraying a totem pole such as might be found in British Columbia. (Herald photo)