

Heads are rolling

Deficit fiasco shocks councillors



COY KRISTINE'S AN EQUESTRIAN HEROINE

Six-year old Kristine Semanyk of Oakville was just one of about 20 girls and boys competing in last Saturday's "ponyrama", hosted by Ames Farms of Georgetown at Fairgrounds Park. It was a lively event, pitting a variety of sizes of both horses and riders against 10 different competitors. Even though

the competitors' ages ranged from six to 14; they are all outstanding riders. Unfortunately, we're a little tight for space this week, but results and more photos will appear in next week's issue of The Herald.

(Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

Developers to finance study on town's sewage capacity

By CHRIS AAGAARD
 Herald Staff Writer

A major urban area study for Georgetown, which could provide some of the answers to the community's urban growth versus sewage treatment capacity headache, was approved by Halton regional council last Wednesday and is expected to begin immediately.

The first phase of the year-long, \$119,000 study to be conducted by Garve and Storrie Ltd. and Municipal Planning Consultants Ltd. will examine the local sewage system's ability to accommodate a population greater than the 30,000 people anticipated by Halton's new official plan.

The initial phase is to be financed by five development firms with major land holdings in the area: Focal Properties Ltd., Gainsborough Farm Holdings, Relisco Holdings, Paramount Developments Corporation and Dunchurch

Developments. Their respective contributions to the study's cost will be determined according to the size of their holdings.

The first results from the sewage treatment phase of the study could come as early as December, and if they indicate that the treatment facilities can handle the liquid waste from a larger Georgetown than the one envisaged in the regional plan, a residential

planning study will begin. The \$34,850 cost of this second section of the study would be shared between the region and Halton Hills, although shared percentages are still under negotiation.

MOST POSITIVE
 Town planning board chairman Mike Armstrong called the study the "most positive step that's been taken" in the town's ongoing crisis about how much more development

its treatment system can handle. The town still faces a \$27 million breach of contract lawsuit launched by Focal Properties Ltd. in March, 1978, a legal baroque which is based largely on the sewage treatment capacity issue.

The company, which wishes to build 1,740 homes in Georgetown's east-end Hungry Hollow area south of Silver Creek claims that the town is obliged to allow the 361-acre project to proceed, providing it with sewage and water service because of four agreements signed between Georgetown's and Focal's "predecessors" between 1954 and 1969.

However, the town maintains that the immense development, which may add another 7,000 people to Georgetown's population, would use too much of the remaining capacity at the Georgetown treatment plant.

THREE MILLION
 The plant, which was expanded in 1977 is designed to process three million gallons of sewage per day. A Currie, Coopers and Lybrand Ltd. study that same year reports that of the 800,000 gallons per day capacity remaining for new development, 85 per cent would be used by the Focal Properties homes.

Continued on page A2

Teen killed in crash

A 15-year-old Georgetown youth was killed in a single-car accident Monday night.

Richard George Allan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Allan of Metcalfe Court, was killed in

the accident. Richard, a Herald carrier for the past two years, was a passenger in the car. His father, who is in Calgary, was notified late Monday night.

Halton Regional Police are still investigating the accident, which occurred on 15 Sideroad about 200 feet west of the Eighth Line. The name of the driver is not being released.



Alfred and Jane Wellar are off in Hawaii for a three-week honeymoon following their wedding at 117 Roxway Drive in Georgetown Saturday evening. The septuagenarians "are like a couple of 18-year olds", according to Jane's daughter, Mrs. Nick Haarsma, who hosted the ceremony. Mrs. Wellar has seven children from a previous marriage, 47 grandchildren and "almost" 17 great grandchildren.

(Herald photo)

'Love Boat' honeymoon for septuagenarians

Hollywood's greatest romance writer couldn't have prepared a better wedding scenario: a delightful backyard ceremony with friends and family, then off to Hawaii for a three-week island cruise aboard a real-life "loveboat".

But that's just the way it is for septuagenarians Alfred and Jane (Jones) Wellar who tied the knot Saturday night at the home of the bride's daughter, Cathy Haarsma.

About 87 people gathered in the Haarsma garden to toast the newlyweds and wish them "bon voyage" on an occasion which Mrs. Haarsma described "simply beautiful...precious".

Alfred Wellar, 75, was bitten by the love bug at the senior citizen's club 39 in

Toronto and embarked on a year and a half courtship. Mr. Wellar is a long-time Mississauga resident and was once head of that city's parks and recreation department.

Mrs. Wellar, 76, was a widow living in Mississauga, actively involving herself with senior citizens' groups, Meals on Wheels, ceramics, crocheting and needlepoint. She and her first husband moved to Ontario in 1959 from Birch Grove, Nova Scotia where they raised seven children, who have since rewarded her with 47 grandchildren, and who, in turn, begat 16, going on 17, great-grandchildren.

Relatives from across Canada and the U.S. travelled to Georgetown to watch

Rev. Ron Styles of St. Andrew's United Church join the couple in marriage.

Harold Turnbull, Mrs. Wellar's son, gave the bride away, while her daughter Catherine attended as maid of honor. Nick Haarsma acted as Mr. Wellar's best man.

Mrs. Haarsma's daughter, Michelle, played the organ during the ceremony and son John acted as usher. Clarence Boudreau handled the toastmaster's duties at the reception.

"They're like a couple of 18-year olds," Mrs. Haarsma said. "We're all very happy about it."

The Wellars will settle in Mississauga after the honeymoon.

By CHRIS AAGAARD
 Herald Staff Writer

The dust has yet to settle over Halton region's unexpected budget deficit—now expected to go as high as \$703,600—but regional councillors are optimistic that a proposed management study will provide the opportunity for some long-overdue housekeeping within Halton's bureaucracy.

Last Thursday, regional chairman Jack Raftis announced that Halton treasurer Don Farmer, currently on holidays in Atlantic Canada, would vacate his post to assume a "less demanding role within the department," thus becoming the first regional executive to fall because of a badly bungled and miscalculated 1980 operating budget. Mr. Farmer will remain as acting treasurer until a successor is found.

Speculation continues about whether or not chief administrative officer Ernie Reid will be the next to go. The fiasco began three weeks ago during a finance and administration committee meeting when it was disclosed that the region's coffers for 1980 were short \$69,651. An anticipated surplus carried over from 1979 had also been consumed, ringing up a total shortfall of \$435,472.

BULLETIN

Questions about whether or not council is pressuring regional chairman Jack Raftis to ask for chief administrative officer Ernie Reid's resignation abounded Monday and Tuesday. There was some speculation that an announcement would be made yesterday but as The Herald went to press there was still no comment from the chairman's office.

Administration and finance committee chairman Mac Anderson of Oakville delivered another haymaker last Wednesday, revealing that there may be an additional \$268,609 incorrectly figured into the budget.

But deputy regional treasurer Jim Stewart said Monday that the accounting mistakes are on paper and do not mean that funds have been lost through mismanaged projects.

"If the audit had been closed in time, by February 28, the budget could have been adjusted," he said.

"We could have increased the levy to the level it should have been to make up the difference," Mr. Stewart said, calculating that the levy should have been increased to raise \$600,213 to correct the inaccuracies in the budget.

Mr. Stewart said his department does not want to carry the deficit into 1981, adding that staff are looking for ways to cut costs which could mean service reductions in some departments.

"We are also looking at the reserve funds we have on hand," Mr. Stewart said, indicating that money might be transferred from the \$120,000 road construction

reserve and the \$302,000 reserve for working capital.

NO STAFF
 Mr. Stewart said that part of the blame for the deficit may be due to a lack of "staff available to devote time to all of the ongoing problems in the budget." Much of the treasurer's department was involved with a data processing switchover at the time of the audit.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy told The Herald Monday that the deficit did not necessarily mean that the "financial stability of the region is under question." He said he hoped the management study scheduled to begin shortly would "get at the reasons for the late reporting of the

Continued on page A2

Charged in LSD seizure

Three Halton Hills residents have been charged with possession of a restricted drug for the purposes of trafficking after a large quantity of LSD was found in a vehicle during a search last week.

The three men, ranging in age from 20 to 28, were each charged with possession of a restricted drug for the purposes of trafficking. An additional charge of possession of a narcotic for the purpose of trafficking was laid against one of the men.

Halton Regional Police discovered the drugs while searching a vehicle parked outside the Georgetown Market Plaza.

Okay delayed on 35-home subdivision

Red tape continues to delay a 35-unit residential subdivision proposed for two parcels of land located on both sides of Churchill Road north adjacent to Acton District High School.

A third attempt by Cedar Road Developments Ltd. to have Halton regional council approve changes to the Esqueping official plan, adjusting the Acton urban area to include the development site was deferred back to the region's planning committee last Wednesday. The issue has been before the region since December.

"We've never understood the objections of the region to what we're doing," company lawyer Bert Arnold told council. "The amendments we are seeking are very, very minor."

Regional solicitor Dennis Perillo and planning department staff have recommended that no amendment be made to the Esqueping plan until an Acton urban area review has been completed. Proposals for the review could go before council within a month.

The region is also concerned that it might be "unfair" in approving amendments to the plan when it has refused similar requests from other developers in the past.

Halton Hills council approved the proposed amendments last fall and Mr. Arnold said that there had been no

public objection to the development. Twenty-five homes would be built on the six-acre western parcel of the development and another 10 units are proposed for two and a half acres east of the road.

NO ANSWER
 Mr. Arnold said later that he was unable to properly answer council's concern about servicing the subdivision with sewage disposal and water facilities because he claims that he was not given enough opportunity to respond to queries raised by Oakville Coun. Ron Planché.

Mr. Arnold told The Herald Thursday that town staff have already filed a sewage and water report on the proposed development with the region.

"There would never be a capacity problem for a development as small as ours," he said, noting that sewage and water service extend to the area and curling club just north of the development.

Mr. Arnold said he was angered that a compromise to the amendment issue was presented to him minutes before his Wednesday presentation and did not allow him time to consult with his clients. The compromise, which Mr. Arnold said was not acceptable to the developer, suggests that a part of the western parcel of land be developed first since it already falls within the Acton urban area.



Ontario housing minister Claude Bennett (seated) signs Halton's first official plan at Halton Hills Coun. Roy Booth (right) chairman of the regional planning committee, and Mayor Pete Pomeroy, acting regional chairman, look on. (Photo submitted)

No fanfare for signing of regional plan

The signing of Halton region's first official plan—delayed last month due to a procedural disagreement between the Ontario Ministry of Housing and regional council—was finally completed in an unannounced ceremony at Queen's Park August 1.

Housing minister Claude Bennett signed the document in his Toronto office as regional planning committee chairman Roy Booth and acting regional chairman Pete Pomeroy looked on.

Coun. Booth later told The Herald that the press was deliberately not informed of the historic occasion because he did not want councillors to first hear of the signing in the newspapers.

Mr. Bennett would have been unable to attend a formal signing of the official plan at regional headquarters in Oakville last Wednesday.

Endorsement of the plan was embarrassingly delayed July 16 when council and the ministry disagreed on how to handle an Oakville developer's dispute with part of the plan. Council passed a resolution minutes before the scheduled signing of the plan insisting the developer take his disagreement to the Ontario Municipal Board. The ministry, however, opted for a negotiated settlement which was reached two weeks ago.

MUCH AS CAN
 "We wanted to get as much of the plan approved as possible," Mr. Farrow said, adding that as long as the plan remained unsigned, requests for parts of it to be deferred for further negotiation or even referred to the OMB continued to come in.



Halton Hills chief librarian Betsy Cornwell gave Mayor Pete Pomeroy a "subtle dig" last Monday as the two got together to turn the first sod, launching construction of the new library-cultural centre at Market and Church Streets in Georgetown. A good crowd of spectators and councillors were on hand to commemorate the event. Another photo appears on page B16

(Herald photo)