



READY, SET.....

And they're off! Sunday's soap box derby sponsored by the GT Motor Club of Georgetown was an exciting crowd and spectator pleaser despite an especially chilly bite to the weather. The event was well organized between Delrex Boulevard and Main Street South on Maple Avenue and trophies were handed out to the winners.

(Herald photo)

Acting treasurer sees no hefty tax hike for Halton in 1981

A major tax hike will not be necessary next year, but Halton's ratepayers may yet be asked to recover the \$140,000 deficit remaining in the region's operating budget.

Acting regional treasurer Jim Stewart told the region's administration and finance committee last Wednesday that all but \$37,000 of the original \$600,000 deficit

discovered last summer had been recovered from cutbacks and other savings in other departments.

But an additional \$103,191—a miscalculated difference in subdivision inspection charges—has yet to be dealt with and will likely be carried over next year, along with the \$37,000 as a shortfall in the 1980 budget.

The \$365,000 deficit revealed in July steadily climbed to \$600,000 and saw the resignation of former chief administrative officer Ernie Reid and regional treasurer Don Farmer.

The region has annual budget of \$40 million. Meanwhile Halton's treasury department has

tackled an \$873,000 deficit in the capital works budget. The finance committee learned three weeks ago that capital funding for at least four projects, including Georgetown's sewage treatment facility, would be short \$750,000.

Over-expenditures on two projects totalling \$123,000 added to the deficit.

Mr. Stewart explained that the overspending will be recovered from existing budgets. Debentures-loan agreements—will be issued to pay for the incomplete financing on the other projects.

He said there would be no effect on the mill rate next year.

Farmers upset

Region debates purchase of sludge tester

Halton's sludge use program for farmers could go down the drain today (Wednesday) if regional council fails to buy a badly needed atomic absorption emission spectrophotometer.

The region's Public Works department recommended last Wednesday that the public works committee accept a CanLab of Toronto tender and buy the equipment for \$26,273, almost \$4,000 over the department's budgeted price. The equipment is used to test sludge for heavy metals.

However, councillors waded into a lengthy debate about whether the decision to buy should be made by the present regional council or the new council expected to sit at its inaugural meeting in December. Anticipating a backlash because of the delay from regional farmers who have made use of the region's invitation to have sewage sludge—residue left over after sewage has been treated—spread over fields, some councillors insisted that the matter should be dealt with immediately.

"We have to get off our butts and get moving," Milton Coun. Bill Johnson said. "We owe something to the farmers in the area."

TESTING RESULTS
The region wishes to purchase the spectrophotometer in order to process samples in 48 hours. Farmers need to know the results of

testing—which checks the levels of mercury, cadmium, arsenic and lead in the sludge—within two or three days in order to stop the truck loads of waste from overly contaminating their fields. Testing results from private labs are costly and can take as long as three days to arrive.

"I cannot support putting this off for another council," Halton Hills Coun. Russ Miller said. "If it doesn't go through, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture will not support this (the sludge program) and we'll be right back where we started, throwing it on developers' land and having it pollute streams."

Okaville Coun. Laurie Mannell argued that the extra \$4,000 over the department's budget shouldn't be allowed to "screw something like this up."

COMMITMENT
"We've made a firm commitment to the farmers," he said. "We'll be faced with one hell of a sludge problem if this falls through."

Halton Hills Coun. Mike Armstrong said he didn't think the purchase request would be supported at today's council meeting and recommended waiting until the first sitting of the new council in December.

MTC cheated residents over Pilutti gravel pit, neighbors charge

A residents' committee is upset with a string of broken promises from the ministry of transportation and communications to close a sixth line gravel pit between the 17th and 20th avenues.

"We feel cheated," a spokesman for the group of area residents living near the "Pilutti-Pit" excavation said. He said that earlier negotiations between town council and the ministry had "made significant concessions" towards closing the pit which residents say is too close to residential property. "But now the ministry seems to be ignoring their part of the bargain," he said.

Among the string of broken promises is a written commitment from the ministry to "be out of the pit in August," the spokesman said, adding that the group feels the ministry is using the pit to make up for road contracts from pits that have been exhausted.

He said that if the group was not satisfied with the outcome of meeting next Monday between the ministry and the

town's aggregate committee headed by Coun. Russ Miller, they would go before council with their grievances. Coun. Miller could not be reached for comment before The Herald went to press.

"We'll have to come out with a strong line and make a presentation to a packed council," the spokesman said.



CRAFT DAY

Every so often Stewarttown Public School decides its students need a break from the routine of books, figures and teacher instruction so they hold elective days. Students try their creative talents at a variety of crafts, ballet, cakemaking, and sports to name a few items. Here parent-helper Sharon Morgan (left) lends a hand to some of the crafts being whipped up by (left to right) Corie Denny, Kim Martin, Janette Rundle and Lori Hook.

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Varian celebrates twenty-five good years

Varian Canada is celebrating its 25th anniversary October 24 with a luncheon at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

The luncheon will begin at noon, and will be followed by a tour of the Varian plant and a short ribbon-cutting ceremony. Representatives from all levels of government will be attending the function.

The company has also arranged a dinner-dance for Varian employees and their partners at the Holiday Inn on Airport Road October 25, and an open house at the facilities on River Drive and at 332 Guelph Street October 28 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Dr. Russell H. Varian officiated at the dedication ceremony of the first Klystron manufacturing and development facility in Canada October 21, 1955. The plant has grown since then from 8,064 square feet to a facility of 112,000 square feet of owned and leased space. The company employs 450 people, and exports more than 75 per cent of its products around the world.

PC federal exec

Herald Special
Halton Progressive-Conservative Federal Riding Association re-elected Dorothy Chamberlain as president at its annual meeting Wednesday evening in Oakville. Other executive members are vice-president (organization) - John Ford, vice-president (finance) - Paul Thibault, vice-president (community relations) - Ed Viana, vice-president (membership) - Wendy Rees, secretary - Ann Haxell, treasurer - Terry Regan. Area presidents include Roy Wood in Nassagaweya and Brian Cargill in Acton. Delegates to attend the association's annual meeting in Ottawa include Mrs. Chamberlain, Mr. Cargill, Wilf Ridd and John Ford along with two members of the Young Progressive Conservatives.

Festival may die

Herald Special
Indications are that North Halton may have had its last school Music Festival.

Doug Magwood, principal of Acton's M.Z. Bennett Public School, received 16 negative responses and only a dozen favorable ones on a recent survey of area schools interested in participating in a festival if it were to be resumed. The festival was discontinued last year on a trial basis after 51 continuous years of operation.

When the project was set aside for a year there was some suggestion that the Georgetown Kiwanis Club might be interested in helping to set it up again as a Kiwanis Music Festival. Mr. Magwood says he has heard nothing more from the club since that time.

Mr. Magwood has called a meeting of interested parties at his school on Oct. 22 and expects to move for discontinuance of the festival at that time.

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