

## One-tier region: Oakville citizen's alternative

A letter sent to Halton regional chairman Jack Raftis recently by Oakville resident Allen Klarer makes plenty of sense to us in light of continuing evidence that regional government has fallen far short of everyone's expectations. His proposal is one alternative worth considering. With Mr. Klarer's blessings, we'd like to reprint some excerpts:

"Many cities such as Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Thunder Bay and others are much larger in population than Halton and have been able to reach standards of good local government while maintaining local identities. If such large one-tier government systems can work well in other areas, why could Halton region not operate as efficiently as one city?"

"The problem lies not with the concept of regional government, but with the fact that the system in Halton is not one tier. If only the politicians and others who want to dominate their small empires, rather than be part of a larger team, would look beyond their selfish interests, we would take second place to no one. Wouldn't it be much better if any of the present mayors - or some other elected official - was mayor of Halton rather than having a regional council chairman appointed?"

"Thomas Plunkett's final proposal (from the pre-1974 Peel-Halton Review of Local Government, commissioned by the province) recommends two separate counties, Halton and Peel. Both would have one-tier governments, incorporating several communities. This principle still makes a good deal of practical - and not necessarily political - sense."

"The character of such unique areas as downtown Oakville, or the other historic parts of...Halton County of which we are so proud, need not be changed within this larger community. Restoration and preservation of the old blends in with the new quite successfully in such cities as Toronto and Vancouver, more successfully than our frequent attempts to achieve the same goal, because politicians had more economic and political clout and more support from the citizens in the planning stage."

"A frequently suggested solution to the problems facing Halton is to reject the regional system altogether and revert to the successful structure of the 1950s. By extension of this backward thinking, we could improve conditions even more by returning all the way to the hamlet form of government or take the ultimate step of going back all the way to block-by-block or farm-by-farm government. We could protect ourselves, hire our own teachers, put out our fires...we could even produce our own liquor and not have to pay any taxes on it."

"Clearly, while such a system worked well in the 1800s, it can't help us solve the problems of the 1980s. Nor will gazing fondly back at the century-old county system help solve Halton's problems."

"Citizens who are truly interested in understanding the forces at work in Halton should (observe for themselves) who is causing the dissension within the regional system. A close examination of council proceedings reveals a small group of egotistical, self-seeking, argumentative individuals among many dedicated representatives of their fellow citizens."

"(Disruptive or self-serving) actions by elected officials probably help discourage the many capable men and women who might otherwise run for office."

"When the captain and crew of a ship are inefficient or ineffective and do not perform according to requirements or expectations, the ship is not destroyed - the personnel are changed. This analogy applies to the current situation in Halton region. A few poor political performers are destroying what could be a most effective form of local government."

"Regional government can work for all of us if those in office are not guided by tunnel vision or following their own selfish interests. Too often, those beside the 26 to 30 per cent who vote in municipal elections are not heard from or don't wake up until after the harm is done."

"It's time to change the captain and crew of the good ship Halton - for the benefit of present and future passengers and potential investors."



### Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

## No haunting promises

I was hoping to write a column this week about the success or failure of Halton Hills' incumbent council members to meet their own election promises and predictions made two years ago on the eve of the 1978 election; a quick check of our back issues, however, established that the matter is not as straightforward as I'd expected.

I recalled that election being described as "issueless" from time to time, although the big winner at the polls, former Ward 3 Councillor, Pete Pomeroy - the new mayor-elect - insisted he'd heard plenty of concerns while campaigning that fall. So I checked back to what he and other candidates said both before and after the 1978 election and found few of the ironies I thought might provide a few embarrassing recollections.

The biggest irony is not really ironic at all, given current circumstances. This is the way an early November, 1978, Herald report on an all-candidates meeting began:

"The massive residential development proposed by Focal Properties Ltd. is clearly foremost in the minds of candidates for area council in Wards 2, 3 and 4."

Plans, proposals and hopes for resolving the Great Focal Issue were rampant that month, with a majority of candidates clearly opposed to the sudden expansion of urban Georgetown and the increased need for more municipal services that would result. Two years later, of course, the issue remains unresolved; in fact, it's barely an issue these days, largely because of the urban boundary study launched this year, by the town with some financial help from interested developers.

That study's supposed to determine ("once and for all") whether council can pursue its stated priority of opening new industrial lands AS WELL AS giving the green light to a much lower priority: Focal's 1,740 homes. Voters must decide for themselves where it's heading, but I have to say I'm not hopeful.

It's perhaps safe to say that the lack of a recognizable major issue like the Focal controversy of 1978 has had much to do with the shortage of candidates in this year's election; I just hope that voters haven't been fooled into a sense of security by the current council's urban study.

Candidate Pomeroy called the mayor's office in 1978 "the strongest promotional tool in the area"

for bringing new industry to the town; well, we're still waiting for light at the end of that tunnel, too.

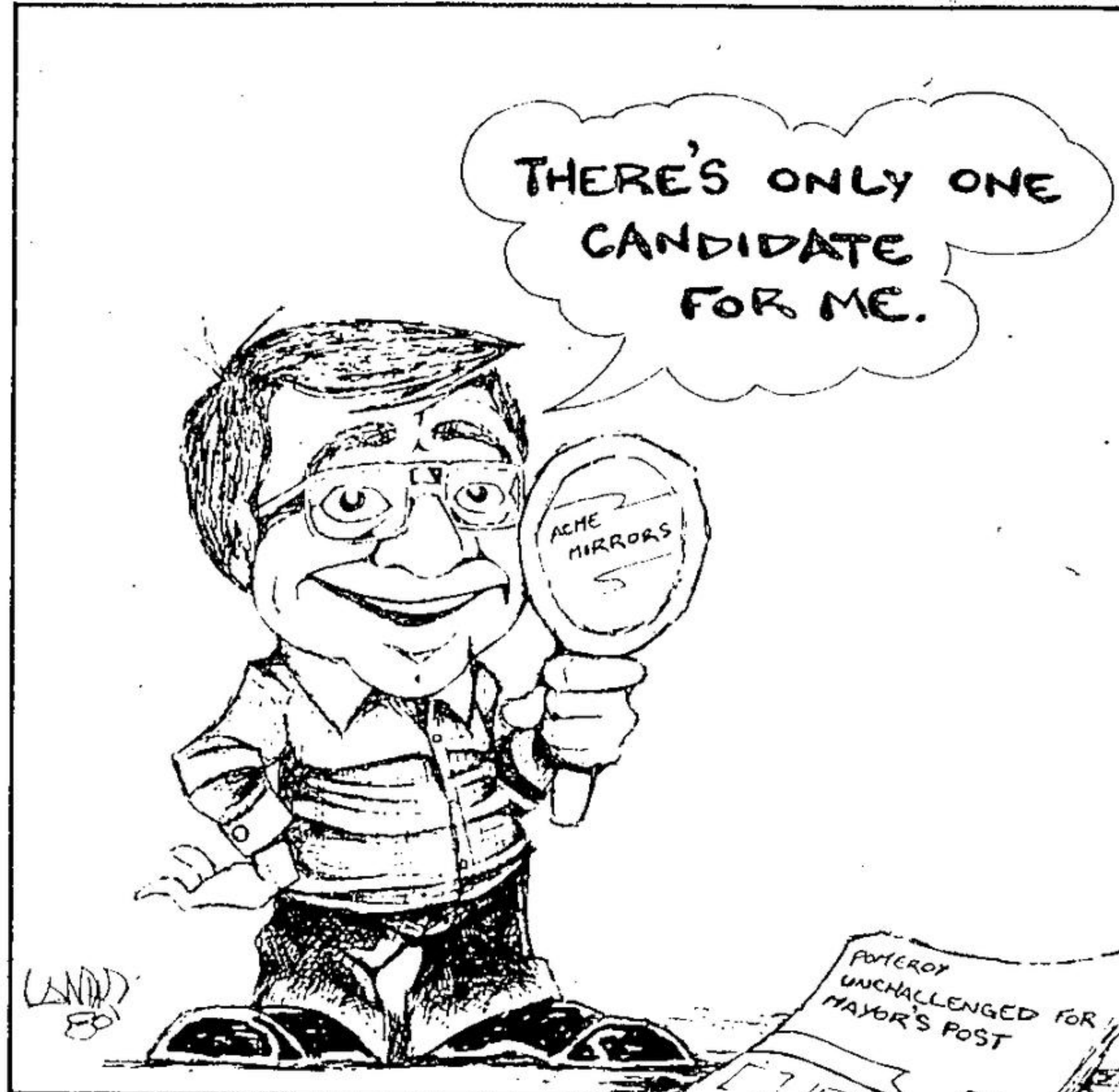
The soon-to-be-mayor spoke briefly about improving local recreational facilities as well, a project he thought could be done without spending too much money. The Master Parks and Recreation Plan produced this past year involved a lot of money even before the projects it recommends can get underway.

Other big concerns of 1978: greater municipal control vis-a-vis the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and the Niagara Escarpment Commission (little if any improvement seen), upgrading of rural roads (little improvement seen), a municipal office for downtown Acton (little progress beyond what was already provided there), the province's plans for a new road and bridge through Norval (since greatly modified, but largely by the province acting alone) and municipal servicing of Glen Williams (still apparently a long way off).

Was anything accomplished? Candidate Pomeroy said he'd work hard to find the Georgetown library budget quarters; in the largest single progressive move of his administration, the rookie mayor of Halton Hills and his council came through in a big, big way. For many reasons, most beyond the current council's control, little if any other progress has been made in two years. The only other exception is the McNally apartments in Georgetown, a success story in itself.

The truest words I could find among Herald reports from two years ago came from political newcomer John McDonald. Without wishing to single out now-Coun. McDonald out among the current candidates, those words still carry the greatest weight and the most sincerity: Challenged at a public meeting for his lack of political experience, the corporate personnel manager contended that enthusiasm, and not experience, is the most important prerequisite for the job; he said he'd keep the channels of communication open with voters in his ward, and by all accounts, he's consistently done that on a personal level that best reflects the nature of municipal government. No doubt other incumbents have maintained that kind of liaison to the same extent, but I suspect none has done so as quietly and single-mindedly as the rookie councillor from Ward 3.

Let's hope more follow his simple example.



## Ottawa like a foreign nation when MPs forsake ridings



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart  
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Ottawa Bureau  
of The Herald

In all these federal-provincial conferences, not to mention the constant bickering that goes on between provincial capitals and Ottawa, the premiers invariably point out that they are speaking on behalf of the people of their province. And when the premiers get together, all of them speaking on behalf of their people, you sometimes come away with the idea that Ottawa is some foreign power.

Premier Revo Levesque of Quebec has frequently referred to the "foreign" people in Ottawa, and more recently he has been referring to federal negotiators as "Ottawa guys." Premier Peter Lougheed of Alberta is fond of suggesting that Ottawa doesn't understand Albertans, and Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford certainly feels he is protecting the interests of Newfoundlanders in any negotiations with Ottawa.

There are frequent complaints

about federal "intrusions" into provincial jurisdictions. In fact, not only is Ottawa sometimes considered a foreign power, it could easily be perceived as an enemy power.

#### DEFEND INTEREST

So it was good to hear Finance Minister Allan MacEachen take on this perception when he rose in the Commons to make his contribution to the constitution debate. The same comments could have been made by any of the 232 Members of Parliament, but the only one who seems to make a point of defending Ottawa's integrity as a representative of all the people are the members from Quebec. Perhaps they are more conscious of the need to issue such reminders.

But with the increasing emphasis on federal-provincial feuding, what MacEachen said seems well worth repeating. What he wanted his audience to know was that he was sent to Ottawa to represent the electors of Cape Breton-Highlands-Canso and he was not to be referred to as an "Ottawa guy."

"I happen to be a representative of the people of an important part of Canada in the province of Nova Scotia, and I regard every other Member of Parliament, not as an 'Ottawa guy' but as a person who has been given a mandate by his electors to come to the Parliament of Canada and to deliberate in the Parliament of Canada, and it happens, by accident and not by the intrinsic nature of our mandate, that the location of these deliberations is Ottawa."

"Why shrink from the opportunity to deal with this important matter in the Parliament of Canada."

#### ABO MP

Whenever a cabinet minister makes a statement and it really doesn't matter whether he is Conservative or Liberal - you tend to identify it with official Ottawa. It's easy to forget that he is also an MP representing a particular constituency, probably hundreds of miles removed from the capital. And with assistance from provincial spokesmen, it's also easy to forget that Parliament represents real people. As if to remind us of this, MacEachen did not defend the government's constitutional package as a cabinet minister, but as an MP for Cape Breton-Highlands-Canso.

"I am delighted that this particular resolution will provide to the Acadians in my constituency in the counties of Inverness, Richmond and Antigonish, the opportunity if the parents so wish, for children to be educated in the French language...."

"I find it very difficult as a representative of those Acadians not to be deeply touched at the opportunity I shall have when this motion comes to the vote to stand in this House on their behalf...and vindicate their patience...."

Only when MacEachen made these remarks did I realize how long it has been since I heard another cabinet minister actually talk about people in his or her riding rather than about government policies. If more of them did, perhaps Ottawa wouldn't seem so remote from the people.

## Canada's 'top dog' status awaits Japanese green light



### Queen's Park

By Derek  
Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau  
of The Herald

The bottom line in Canada-Japan trade should and must be the CANDU nuclear reactor.

That's why it was good to hear a little straight talking from Industry and Tourism Minister Larry Grossman at the Canada-Japan Trade Council Symposium here recently.

Those who matter in the Japanese power structure will eventually either see the text of his speech, or a digest of his remarks. The world's number two industrial power should take note.

Far more than the Americans ever did, the Japanese treat Canadians as hewers of wood and miners of metal. While we have a trade surplus with Japan, our sales are 87 per cent raw materials.

And as Grossman noted, "Our

resources are not inexhaustible." Blunt to the extreme of a politician, Grossman's remarks roused the whole range of Japanese-Canadian trade difficulties, from buying our auto parts to lack of joint ventures.

#### NOT FAIR

He zeroed in on Japan's refusal to play the trade game the same way at both ends, as the Japanese demand access for their manufactured products while halting ours there through the use of non-tariff barriers.

"The federal government should be making it clear that we are not content to remain an open and passive market for the manufactured goods of any nation whose own policies largely exclude our manufactured products from its domestic market," he said.

"It should also be made clear that we are seeking market access where it counts for Canada - in high technology products."

And that's where the CANDU comes in. Nuclear technology is not just an area where Canada is among the world leaders. It is the world leader. No other country comes close.

#### TOP DOG

In a listing of the lifetime performance of 18 nuclear reactors worldwide, Canada's eight CANDUS took positions one, three through seven, 18 and 43.

Our one relative failure exceeded the performance of nine of Japan's 13 reactors, and the rest of ours exceeded all of theirs. Moreover, it is Ja; these

policy to build a heavy water reactor such as the CANDU.

Grossman warned the Trade Symposium that "we are looking for a positive decision to buy the CANDU nuclear system."

"A decision to buy our country's nuclear system will be interpreted by us as a signal that Japan is prepared to take a major step towards achieving bilateral trade in the true sense of the word."

"It will be interpreted by us as a signal that Japan is prepared to enter into a technological partnership with Canada - a partnership which is based on a spirit of co-operation."

#### MILD THREAT

What went unsaid, but which the Japanese would be blind not to see, is the kind of signals a refusal to purchase CANDU will send.

Buying the CANDU is more than a symbol. Because of the decline in the growth of demand for electricity here since OPEC in 1974, our local market no longer needs one new reactor a year, as old forecasts suggested.

Yet for the industry to avoid the fate of the Avro Arrow and remain viable, we must sell that many, hence the emphasis on exports.

The Japanese refusal to buy our competitive, proven technology is simply protectionist economics of the first order.

If it continues, then, as Grossman said, Canada "may well be forced to turn its attention to other alternatives."

## Halton's History

From our files

**THIRTY YEARS AGO** - A highlight of the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Horse Show for Mrs. Ken McMillan was Arthur Godfrey's autograph on a program. The McMillans, with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lane, attended the show last week and sat in an adjacent box to that of the famous radio star and his wife. Mr. Godfrey was showing his palomino horses.

One of the year's most anticipated parties is the Lions Masquerade which was held Monday in the Rose Room. This year the party set a new standard of quality and originality of costumes and it was no small task for the Judges to choose prize winners.

A Georgetown man, Aubrey C. (Mac) McBride was a prizewinner in the Cambridgeshire Irish Sweepstakes last week. He held a ticket on a horse which was scratched and will receive 50 pounds. Mr. McBride, who was on the staff of McClure's Home Furnishings, has been a patient in Hamilton Sanatorium for over a year. It is good to know that he is making good progress and is now able to be up for part of each day.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO** - What council hopes might be a happy precedent to establish is a "sharing arrangement" with two Shelley Street residents for sidewalk installation. John Easdale, 50 Shelley Street, and his neighbor, Norman Reese, have offered to supply materials if the town will lay the sidewalks in front of their homes.

Coun. Ian Cass wants to call a meeting inviting representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Commission, industry and other interested groups, to discuss the possibilities of a landing field for aircraft in this vicinity.

Meeting in Milton Tuesday evening, officials of the North Halton Retarded Children's Association and guests planned a 1960 canvass for funds to build a new Sunshine School for retarded children.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Ella were surprised on Sunday morning when a man came to their home was badly beaten up, robbed and his car had been stolen on Highway 401. Ella's called the police and they came and picked up the man.

Still hopeful that citizens will treat the new Remembrance Park with the respect which a war memorial should command, council on Monday talked about the problem of children playing in the park.

Georgetown Council, through Halton MPP Stan Hall, is seeking an audience with Minister of Highways Cass to state the town's case for a Ninth Line access road to Highway 401. There is a growing feeling in town that the town's industrial future would brighten if such a road were created.

Acton residents are up in arms about air pollution. A six-man delegation from Glenlea subdivision heard Mayor John Coy tell them council had done nothing about it air pollution since the air pollution bylaw was voted down by last year's council.

While labor opportunities will not be boosted, the town's industrial assessment will get a lift from a new building now under construction on Armstrong Avenue, near Avion plant. A 2,000 square foot concrete block structure will house a distributing centre for Canada Bread Co. Ltd. The company plans to truck bread in large vans from Toronto, then use the Georgetown building as a dispatching point for smaller vehicles on the daily run.

Highway 401 between Milton and Hespeler is expected to be put into use on November 7, about one week later than earlier forecast and one week earlier than intimated about one month ago.

**TEN YEARS AGO** - Charges are pending against two local juveniles following a bomb scare at Georgetown District High School recently. The assistance of the Bell Telephone Company and investigation by the Georgetown Police Department led to the charges.

When the reconstruction of Highway 7 is completed, Silvercreek Variety Store will be left high and dry, with little traffic or customers to keep it going. At this point, the highway will swing away in a curve, from the store, passing behind it, leaving only the Seventh Line traffic as possible visitors to the store.

Owner Dick Pedverse says it's "like sudden death, we're up against a solid rock and there's nothing we can do". He points out that there's no compensation from the Department of Highways who are taking away his business.

A two-man race for mayor and an election is either Ward 1 or Ward 2 are now definite according to the latest news on the Georgetown election front. William R. Smith, a Ward 2 councillor and council member since 1963, told The Herald this week he will be a mayoralty candidate Mayor Wheldyn Emmerson announced some time ago he will not seek re-election. And subsequently Ron Dodokin said he would be a candidate.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees representing 200 caretakers with the Halton County board of education, have taken their contract negotiations to conciliation. The contract expired July 1, but the CUPE representatives was tied up with postal negotiations at that time, so the caretakers' bargaining didn't begin until September.

A coroner's jury probing last week into the death of a construction worker recommended construction companies be required to employ one man for each job site to be responsible for seeing safety requirements are enforced. The jurors also suggested that earth-moving equipment be equipped with a second rear vision mirror. The inquest was into the death of a Galt man, Antonio Resende, who died instantly when a 40-ton earth-moving machine backed over him at the construction site of the Scotch Block conservation dam.

**ONE YEAR AGO** - Concerned rural residents would be "crazy" not to seek a tax cut next year, Mayor Pete Pomeroy admitted this week as a new draft bylaw restricting the movement of heavy trucks along certain roads emerged as the town's latest attempt to curtail problems stemming from roadside gravel pit operations in Halton Hills. Sanctioned by the general committee Monday night, the bylaw prohibits the movement of trucks weighing in excess of five tonnes along the Fourth and Sixth Lines and the 17 and 20 Sideroads between the hours of 6 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy has proposed that the land located south of Georgetown, which belongs to McLaughlin Associates, be deferred from the regional official plan until the question of sewage capacity is settled once and for all. In a notice of motion to planning board last night, Mayor Pomeroy proposed that the property located south of Hungry Hollow between the Eighth and Ninth Lines, south to 10 Sideroad, be deferred from the regional official plan, which is now awaiting approval from the Ministry of Housing. This means the plan will have "virtually no designation", under the plan and will be ineligible for development.

In the hopes of guaranteeing a provincial grant for the project, the town's general committee has recommended that council should formally indicate its intention to restore Acton's old town hall. The somewhat cautious decision came Monday night after committee members were assured that their resolution did not commit the town to restoring the historic Willow Street building, but simply represented its willingness to contribute up to \$40,000 to restoration costs, estimated at \$200,000 in total.