



PRE-AUCTION SCRUTINY

Is it a Chagall or a Dabry? Both artists' works were featured at the Georgetown YMCA's art auction Friday night, held to raise money for Y events and programs in the community. Normally, many of the pieces offered for sale at the auction would be far out of financial reach for everyone but the avid collector, but Friday night's event, held in co-operation with Beaux Arts International, allowed Halton Hills residents to bid comfortably on creations by past and contemporary masters selling 129 pieces of art, the auction raised about \$3,000 for the Y. Approximately 200 people turned out for the event, held in the Holy Cross School auditorium. (Herald photo)

Alleviate rental scarcity

Towns, regions need condo guidelines

The scarcity of rental accommodations in Halton Hills underlines the need for guidelines to control the conversion of available space into condominiums, the town planning board was told Tuesday night.

A report prepared by Halton region's planning department says that next to Milton, Halton Hills has the largest amount of vacant rental housing in the region. Of the town's 653 apartments and non-suites available for rent, only one per cent are vacant.

Regional planner Dave McCleary of Halton's planning and research policy division told board members that while there are advantages

and disadvantages to potential buyers, developers and towns in converting rental dwellings into condominiums, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Commission says municipalities should not let the amount of rental vacancies fall below three per cent.

Initiated in February, 1981, the study into condominium conversions in Halton has suggested that regional and area governments adopt policies to avert chronic rental shortages which already plague metropolitan Toronto and southern Ontario.

Allowing condominium conversion, in which prospective dwellers would be able to buy their homes, means that

the homeowner benefits from a financial investment and has some control over the maintenance costs, Mr. McCleary said.

However, renters unable to afford the price of the condominium system would be forced to look elsewhere in an extremely tight rental housing market. Condominium owners may also discover unseen costs when they become part of the financial board which runs their building.

Although faced with a reduction in the rental supply and having to deal with families looking for accommodations, the town could benefit by having buildings changed to condominiums brought up to municipal standards. Developers, meanwhile, would enjoy the opportunity to quickly recover construction costs on the building, but may also face capital gains tax deductions as well as the expense of bringing the building up to municipal standards.

Despite the fact there are no rental townhouses in Halton Hills, a number of families rent condominium units owned by absentee landlords. Large-scale purchases of condominiums in a single building for rental purposes should be discouraged, Mr. McCleary said.

But each application to convert should be discussed by council "on its own merits," he advised, carefully assessing the impact on the supply of rental space. Halton's new official plan, Mr. McCleary notes, "does not have many outlets to encourage (the development) of rental units."

"But it takes the standpoint of not letting the shortage get any worse," he added.

Not expected to be developed into policies by regional and town councillors until later in the year, the study is currently being sent to Halton's apartment and townhouse developers for their opinions.

LIFE-SAVING EXECUTIVE

The Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service elected its 1981 executive Sunday night at the Guelph Street firehall. Officers are (left to right) Wally Whelan, new director of administration, Dale Moore, director of operations, Donna Massena, director of training, Darrel Giberson, president and Peter Wolfe, vice president. (Herald photo by Harald Bransch)

Trilight series brings London Symphony

Following the overwhelming success of the 1980-81 Trilight Series, the Halton Hills Arts Council has already scheduled another Series for 1981-82.

The first concert features the Travellers, a folk singing group of five who will appear next Sept. 23 at Sacre Coeur Hall. They have performed all over North America for the past 25 years, charming audiences with their lyrical memorable songs.

On Jan. 27, 1982, the second concert will be held at the Acton High School and will star Sears and Switzer. Teresa Sears and David Switzer perform a splendid satirical music revue on modern life. The Toronto Star has said "neatly trimmed song and dance, jibes and jokes are cabaret at its entertaining best." The CBC regularly commissions Sears and Switzer as comedians on their national TV and radio

programs. It should be a delightfully funny evening.

The London Sinfonia will appear for the last concert at the Halton Hills Library Arts Complex April 7, 1982. They are 25 full-time musicians (the core of the London Symphony Orchestra) performing a program of music ranging from light classical to pop. Their program will also include a solo classical guitarist thanks to a grant to the London Symphony Orchestra from the DuMaurier Council for the Performing Arts.

The ticket prices are as follows: for 1980-81 Arts Council members (up to April 8, 1981) \$16-adult and \$13-senior citizen or student. For non-members - \$20-adult and \$17-senior citizen or student. If you wish to purchase your tickets early, please telephone 877-5452 or 877-5053. Fewer tickets will be sold for the 1981-82 Trilight Series due to the limited number of seats in the Arts Complex Theatre.



Acton Rotarians host 200 at skate-a-thon

A record 200 skaters turned out for the Acton Rotary Club's annual 60-lap skate-a-thon at the Acton arena Sunday.

The turn-out was the best by far, according to Rotary Club president Ken Grubbe. Although official pledges have not all been collected, a record amount of money is expected.

"A lot of the skaters turned up with two or three sheets of pledges," commented Mr. Grubbe. "The totals should be known in a couple of weeks."

Mr. Grubbe believes the major reason for the success was the availability of more

awards for the top fund-raisers than ever before. Utility sports bags were given to skaters collecting the most in pledges. Anyone who collected \$35 in pledges also received a gift.

"Since there were more prizes available, I think it may have motivated the younger participants to get out and try," said Mr. Grubbe.

The forthcoming proceeds from the skate-a-thon will be divided between Acton's M.Z. Bennett and Robert Little schools and the Rotary Club. Club profits will be used for the development of community projects.

Bus service grows

The Highway Transport Board recently granted Tyler Transport Ltd. of Acton all four service extension requests applied for at a hearing in January.

Certifications granted won't mean owner Ted Tyler can immediately establish new services, including bus service for McDunnell Douglas employees from Halton Hills to Mississauga, he said this week, but it sets the wheels in motion for further procedures necessary to get the licences.

While the board has granted him the right to carry extra-provincial charters, he said, he must now apply to other provinces and to the United States for commercial entry permits.

He was also granted permission to continue picking up passengers in Rockwood for bingo runs to Guelph and to Milton's International Centre.

Foster parents hit by CAS budget

A \$100,000 cut from the Halton Children's Aid Society budget may jeopardize the region's foster parents program.

During last Tuesday's regional health and social services committee meeting, councillors voted to drop the CAS budget from \$2.81 million to \$2.79 million, spurring concern from CAS executive director Ron Coupland, who said it may now be difficult to promote foster parenthood in the region.

While Peel and Hamilton-Wentworth Societies get considerably more money from their regional governments than Halton's, per child spending in Halton remains among the lowest in the province.

The provincial government funds about 80 per cent of the CAS budget, while the region makes up the rest. The proposed cuts have to be approved by the province and will be presented to regional council today (Wednesday) for endorsement.

Mormon lay minister, Cutler keeps active

Continued from Page A2

Mr. Cutler is also an active Boy Scout leader, the founding secretary of Beverly Minor Soccer, a member of the local advisory board of the Hamilton-Wentworth Employment Centre and a member of the local architectural conservation advisory committee in Flamborough.

As his involvement indicates Mr. Cutler is not a resident of Halton-Burlington. However, Flamborough borders on Halton and the concerns in the two areas are very similar, he said.

Economic issues are the big ones in Halton, he says. Family security, equal pay for work of equal value, plant shut-downs and layoffs are of special importance to its voters.

Mr. Cutler sympathizes with Milton area residents who are engaged in battling the proposed Site F regional garbage dump. While he applauds the government's decision to hold a hearing on the proposal under the Environmental Assessment Act he considers the announcement to be a very political one.

"I applaud the decision," he says, "but I doubt it would have been what it was without an election being called."

He agrees no one wants a dump in their backyard, but points out that they are necessary facilities and they can't go on being moved

from one backyard to the next.

"It's most important we look at how we deal with waste in this province," he says.

"Across the province we need to look at waste recycling for primary production and energy waste. Waste should either be recycled into a primary product, like recycling old cars back through the steel industry, or used for incineration as fuel or heat energy. Moving dumps from Site F to A to C, et cetera, is only delaying the decision, not making it."

Mr. Cutler feels Halton's regional government needs an independent review since it has had such financial problems and is the only one of the 12 regions which has not been reviewed.

The old county system would definitely be inadequate to meet modern needs he acknowledges, but wonders if regional system shouldn't be tailored to meet Halton's unique needs.

Mr. Cutler says a party proposal to reduce the percentage of education tax paid by property taxes, a policy of locking the rate of municipal grant funding to the growth of provincial revenue, introduction of a new form of property tax and a property tax credit system directly related to the owner's income should work well to help alleviate the burden of region's expenses born by constituents.

Kinettes dance earns \$200

The Kinetto Club of Georgetown raised more than \$300 for its community projects Saturday when a sizeable crowd over-ran all attendance expectations at the club's Jeans and T-shirts Dance.

Over 200 members and guests danced the night away at the Elks Lodge, boosting Kinetto project funds and at the same time contributing another \$100 for Toronto's soon-to-open Ronald McDonald House, a hotel for out-of-town youngsters being treated for cancer-related diseases at Sick Children's Hospital, and their parents. Specially-prepared buttons and the "Lookin' Back" album anthology of pop hits from the 1950s and '60s - being distributed locally by the Georgetown Kinsmen - were on sale at the dance.

The Kinettes extend their thanks to several local businesses which sponsored door prizes for the occasion: Galyn Shoes, Odeon Theatres, The Beauty Spot, Zellers, Tops 'n' Trends, Ted Savage and Cheryl Crawford.

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