

Arts complex management steers away from bureaucracy

By JUDY ROBINSON
Herald Staff Writer
Recreation director Tom Shepard's contention that the town's new performing arts theatre would be better run by a single manager than by a board of directors came under attack last week at a special meeting examining the \$1.7 million project.

Public School in Georgetown. Members of the panel attempting to answer "everything you always wanted to know" about the new complex were Mayor Pete Pomeroy, Mr. Shepard, chief librarian Betsy Cornwell, project chairman Rex Heslop and architect Keith Wagland. Fran Baines, who is helping organize fund-raising activities for the project, chaired the meeting.

"The main reason I don't think the complex should have a board of management is because the facility is not large enough to warrant one," Mr. Shepard told The Herald later. "It's not the O'Keefe Centre."

Mr. Shepard expressed concern that a board made up of community members might not understand the confines of the department's budget and thus approve activities the town could not afford.

"It's easier to relate to one person," he commented, "because they will be expected to attend our department meetings and you can't expect a board to do that."

Mr. Shepard said that provincial grants from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation are not available for a facility run by a board of management, while there are grants for a manager's salary.

Mr. Shepard said he hopes to hire a theatre manager by the end of May, hopefully finding a candidate with "a sense of humor and a thick skin".

Other questions covered at the meeting: Q: Barring labor problems, when will the complex open? A: projected opening in mid-October; complete construction by Labor Day.

Q: How will the name for the facility be selected? A: Mayor Pomeroy said the "Georgetown library and gallery" will be named just that, but picking a name for the theatre "poses a problem".

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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1981

TWENTY-FOUR PAGES

DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN

No need to roam...
It's right here at home!

All the shops and services you need

There are 106 good reasons to shop Downtown Georgetown

FREE PARKING

About the Hills

Timely reminder

Spring ahead and fall back. It's that time of year again when clockwatchers readjust to the changing season. Before you go to bed Saturday night, set your clocks ahead one hour.

Lionesses say thank you

The Georgetown Lionesses extend a warm thank you to the residents who helped them raise funds for Halton Hills' handicapped citizens by attending the club's charity bowl-athon March 14 at the Georgetown Bowl. Pledges are still being collected, but early returns indicate that between \$600 and \$1,000 - possibly more - will be raised for local groups assisting the physically handicapped. The event was well-attended.

Jaycees cancel dance

The Georgetown Jaycees' 20th Anniversary dance has been cancelled this weekend due to lack of interest. The event was scheduled for Saturday - beginning in the Lions Club hall on Georgetown's John Street.

Flora bunda!

The Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) on tour! Ray Halevard of the Hamilton floral institution visits the temporary library in Georgetown's Guelphview Square tomorrow (Thursday) to conduct a special clinic on plant propagation. Outside, the RBG will "plant" its mobile greenhouse, open for public viewing between 2 and 6 p.m. Mr. Halevard will man the greenhouse to answer your questions, then take his expertise inside the library for the 7 to 8:30 p.m. clinic.

Share your treasures

One man's junk is another man's treasure, right? If you have any old stuff cluttering up the basement, bring it to the giant Optimist Garage Sale May 18 at the Georgetown Fairgrounds. That date should sound familiar, because it's also the Club's "Bang-o-rama", an annual festival of family fun and fireworks. The garage sale will also feature box plants, shrubs and other stock from Sheridan Nurseries, which will be on sale from 8 a.m. until it runs out. For further information, call 877-6308.

Don't want to over do it!

An item in last Wednesday's Herald intimated that the Fourth Georgetown Scout troop would be conducting its May 2 fund-raising paper drive throughout town. In fact, the scouts will be collecting used newspaper only in the Georgetown neighborhoods bounded by Mountainview Road South, Delrex Boulevard and Sargent Road. Homeowners in that area can leave bundles of paper at the curbside before 9 a.m. May 2. Funds raised help finance the scouts' trip to Jamboree '81 this July.

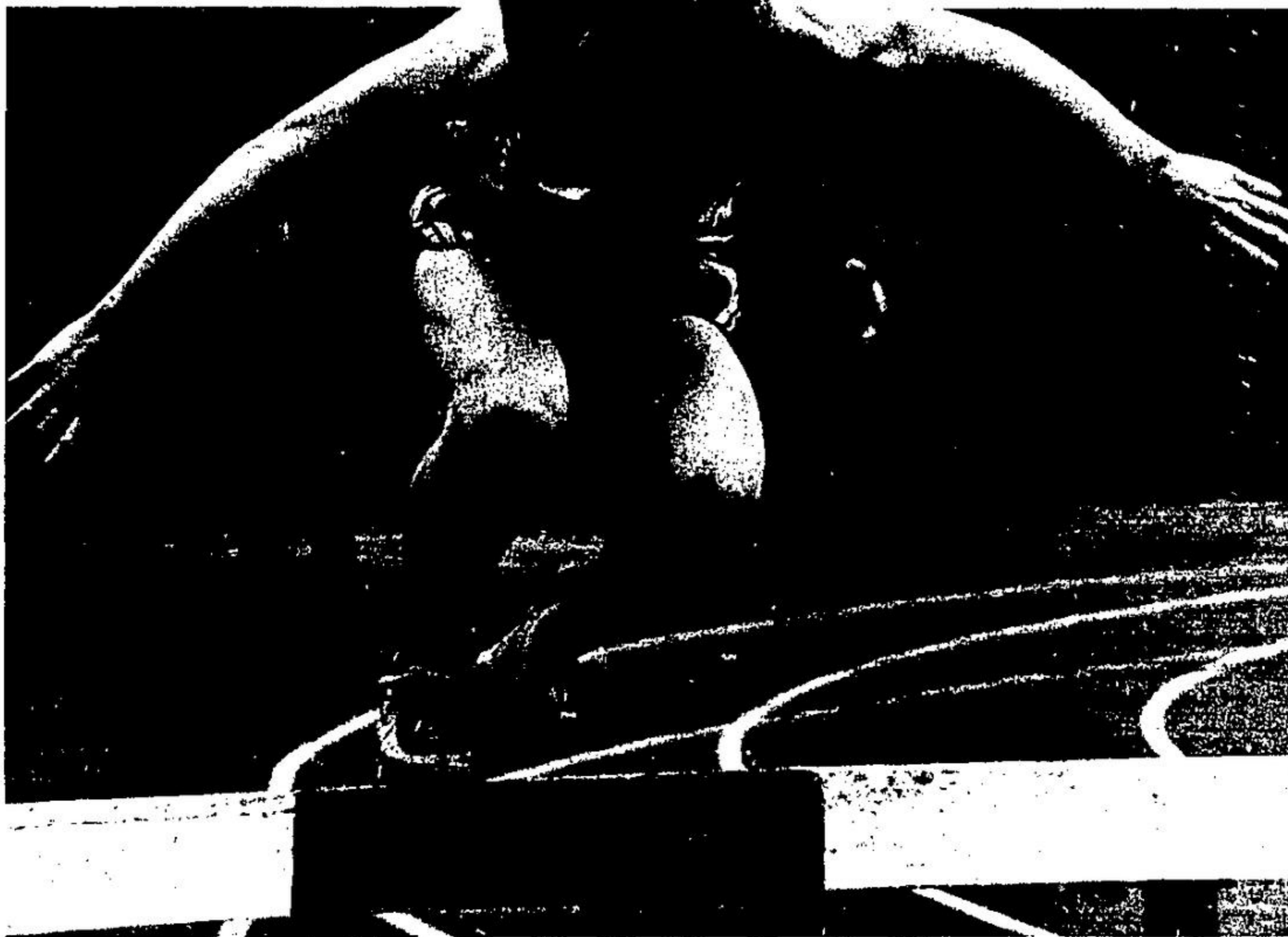


OUR COVER GIRL

Although Lisa Mouchamp is only 14 years old, she has the poise and grace of a more mature model, a talent perhaps aided by her mother, Fashion show sponsor and Lingerie Boutique owner Betty Mouchamp. More photos, page A3.

(Herald photo)

GETTING THE JUMP



Scott Harris hops over one of the many hurdles he faced last weekend in Etobicoke during the 2,000 metre junior boy's steeplechase. In particularly unseasonable weather, Scott and the Georgetown and District High School track team faced cold and windy weather in their first meet of the season.

Harris had the misfortune of making an "unscheduled" swim stop in one of the ice-cold water hazards which later "cramped" his momentum, but he managed a respectable twelfth place finish. See SportWeek for more pictures. (Photo by Harold Bransch)

ON TRACK SEASON

GARA, Chamber promotion

Okay, all together: 'We love you, Georgetown!'

Officials of the Georgetown Area Ratepayers Association (GARA) are borrowing a page from New York State's "I Love New York" campaign to launch a similar promotion aimed at boosting community spirit among Georgetowners and improving the community's visual appearance.

More than three months of preparation were to have culminated with a presentation to town council last (Tuesday) night by GARA and Georgetown Chamber of Commerce spokesman whose groups are pooling efforts to put the words "I Love Georgetown" on the lips of each and every citizen.

Details about last night's meeting - at which Mayor Pete Pomeroy and other council members were expected to purchase the campaign's first "I Love Georgetown" lapel buttons - were unavailable at press time. The Herald will carry a full report in its weekend Extra edition this Friday.

A series of promotional contests, with cash prizes and plaques as incentive, have been devised by a joint Chamber-GARA committee headed by Georgetown District High School teacher Tom Ramnatharsingh. Five different contests in which participants are asked to devise concepts and undertake community projects to boost Georgetown an improve its appearance, will be geared to youth and school groups, service clubs, businesses and industries and individual homeowners.

"GARA is alive and well and living in Georgetown," Mr. Ramnatharsingh said in a prepared statement. "They are stepping out of their usual role as residential watchdog and are sponsoring a new and exciting community betterment program."

GARA and the Chamber are sponsoring the program, he explained, but residents are invited to make donations to the campaign as an expression of their love for and pride in Georgetown.

A brochure prepared to advertise the campaign makes the following observations and suggestions: Georgetown... We live here because we are proud of our town, its people, its culture, and its beauty;

Let's all work together this Spring to show visitors that we all have PRIDE IN GEORGETOWN; If you are a home owner or renter, let's spruce up our properties. Maybe all that is needed is cutting the grass, trimming the bushes, painting the fence;

Look around outside your house, what can you do to the property that says "I LOVE GEORGETOWN"; If you work in town, belong to a service club, youth group, or church what can you do to show PRIDE IN GEORGETOWN.



HARD-BOILED FUN

Three local youngsters paint Easter eggs for Mommy after an egg hunt at the Georgetown Public Library. Kids became amateur detectives, combing the book shelves for hidden treasure last Wednesday.

(Herald photo)

Ouch! Region taxes up 42%

Halton council approves \$41 million operating budget, \$31 million for capital expenditures

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Halton's regional councillors have passed a hefty \$40,722,630 operating budget for 1981, a move which will boost the region's share of the average homeowner's tax bill in Halton Hills by 42 per cent.

Claiming that Halton is having to play "catch up" ball this year, newly appointed regional treasurer Gerry Lawson told councillors last Wednesday afternoon that previous budget increases over the last six years have failed to keep up with inflation.

"In fact we've been demanding less of taxpayers than we were in 1976," he said. There are a number of factors compounding this year's increase in the operating budget, Mr. Lawson said, including the need to completely cover a deficit carried over from last year, lagging provincial funding for a number of health and public works projects and costs incurred by a region growing more rapidly than can safely be accounted for in a long-term budget forecast.

"We have a legal mandate to provide services," Mr. Lawson warned during a demonstration about why the regional levy will be so high this year. "Although we have small latitudes of control, the bulk of the expenditures are mandated by the province."

Of the \$40 million earmarked for the general budget, \$17,296,615 will be collected from the area municipalities in taxes, about \$20 million will come from government grants and a further \$3.5 million from other revenues, including fees charged to Halton Centennial Manor residents and connecting charges for sewer and water services.

Added as part of the gross

operating budget in approximately \$18 million for sewer and water works, bringing the total budget for 1981 to \$58,536,580.

During last Wednesday's meeting, councillors also approved a \$31,186,000 capital budget, most of which will be raised through debenture financing, a form of borrowing, and will not have an effect on the regional levy. Again, provincial and federal government grants and money forwarded by developers for regional sewer and water services will cover the remainder of the budget.

Halton Hills' share of the regional levy, amounting to \$1,631,174, will mean the average homeowner who paid \$90 in regional taxes last year, will now pay about \$129.

Residents in Burlington will pay about \$28 more for regional services, bringing the bill per average home to \$132. In Oakville, homeowners face a 26.6 per cent increase in their

regional bill as taxes in that city rise from \$127 last year to \$161. The increase is lowest in Milton where the regional tax bill will jump from \$96 to \$115.

Meanwhile, region officials denied last week's Georgetown Independent report that the 1980 deficit carried over into this year's operating budget totals \$1.1 million.

Although Halton's sewer program has incurred a \$723,000 shortfall and a further \$451,000 hole remains in the general levy account, treasury department spokesman Jim Stewart explained that a half million dollar surplus in the water services budget in 1980 trims the real deficit to about \$568,000.

This year's budget marks a 19.6 per cent increase over its predecessor, or just over \$6 million worth of changes and increases to programs directly or indirectly connected with the regional administration.

Of the \$6 million, about \$510,000 will be used to implement changes in Halton's administrative structure proposed in a Hickling-Johnston Management Consultants' report completed earlier this year. While it included a scheme for revamping Halton's decision-making process among councillors, the report recommended creating several new executive positions and called for additional staff within the chief administrator's office and legal, treasury, health, social services, public works, planning and business development departments. Part of the money will also be spent providing the region with a better data processing and retrieval system.

While Halton's administrators have virtually no control over the budgets of the regional police force, conservation areas and Children's Aid Society (CAS), rising costs in these agencies accounted for \$2,670,000 of this year's budget increase.

It will cost \$13,442,750 to police Halton in 1981, an increase of over 20 per cent over last year's budget. In presenting the proposed operating and capital budgets to council last week, chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin said the police commis-

Continued on page A2

Town banquet will honor five cultural 'movers'

Five individuals who have made major contributions to the arts have been selected by the town of Halton Hills to be recognized May 13 at the annual Honor and Recognition Awards Night banquet.

Dorothy Stone, Pat Beer, Dr. George Elliott, Ted Hansen and the Georgetown Little Theatre were chosen by the Town's selection committee last Thursday.

Dorothy Stone is a talented artist and musician who designed and painted the

town emblem as well as writing a song about Halton Hills. Also a talented musician, Dr. George Elliott directs the Acton Clitzen's Band.

Ted Hansen is also a choral fan, having served as the organist and choral leader of Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton.

Pat Beer has spent over 30 years as a member of the Arts and Crafts of Georgetown.

The selection committee for the awards consists of Mayor Pete Pomeroy, town councillors, local sports editors and three representatives from the recreation department, Tom Shepard, Jennifer Linton and Joy Gwilliam.

The majority of awards to be handed out at the special presentation will recognize the sporting achievements of Halton Hills' athletes in provincial competition. See Sports Week inside for more details.