

Awaits council approval

Funds for central town headquarters part of \$11.6 million capital forecast

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

The town's finance and administration committee has released its 1982-85 capital budget forecast, outlining tentative plans to spend \$11,641,000 on road improvements, general government expenditures and cultural and recreational development as well as a proposal to issue \$1 million in debentures to help

pay for a new administration building.

While councillors last Tuesday night deferred approval of the forecast until a suggestion to rearrange two projects has been studied, committee chairman Harry Levy said that original plans to borrow \$400,000 through debenture financing had to be bolstered by an additional

\$600,000 to cover the costs of the building.

Recalling his initial opposition to the need for a new facility a few years ago, Coun. Levy said he could now see the need for amalgamating the town's department under one roof.

"There are many other things we need to have done," he said, "but there can be a

great deal of saving by having a central building."

Over the last three years, the town has maintained a reserve fund for the building, using lot levy revenue and land sale proceeds except from parkland sales. The account now totals \$348,718.

Not having called upon debenture financing to fund projects for a number of years,

the town, Coun. Levy pointed out, is in a "very good position as far as debenture debt is concerned." Another \$402,000 in debentures accounted in the forecast for road and storm sewer reconstruction may not be necessary, he added.

Acton councillors want the town's public works department to proceed with storm sewer work in the Glenlea subdivision before going ahead with a project planned for Cobblehill Road. However, town engineer Bob Austin said it may not be easy to switch the timing of the two projects without affecting the operating budget.

The work planned for the Glenlea area, Mr. Austin explained, was scheduled for 1984 and was originally envisioned to span a six-year period. The less costly Cobblehill project could be conducted during 1982 and 1983.

However, he said, one option the department could examine would be to do part of the Cobblehill work as planned, as well as making an earlier start of the Glenlea project.

Other projects tentatively budgeted over the next three years include ongoing work on Guelph Street (Highway 7) through Georgetown, which could cost \$1.5 million, much of which is subsidized by the provincial transportation ministry; \$400,000 may be spent on additional work on erosion control in Glen Williams over the next few years; and the town has plans for development of soccer fields, new parks, new boards and new dressing rooms for the Acton Arena in 1982 and equipment purchases for the fire department.

Meanwhile, the Halton Hills Hydro Commission will get \$2 million of the projected budget, collected through self-liquidating debentures. These debentures will be recovered through the Commission's rates and not through the tax levy.

Two former town dumps need more gas tests - MOE

Further methane gas monitoring is needed at two former landfill sites in Halton Hills, a provincial environment ministry (MOE) report has concluded.

Prepared for the MOE last October by Gore and Storrie

and Morrison Beatty Ltd. engineering consultants, the study found trace amounts of methane gas leaking from a vacant lot near the corner of Mill and McNabb Streets in Georgetown. While residential properties in each area appear

to be in no danger from the gas concentrations, the town's public works and fire departments continued to test gas at an old dump site in the Churchhill - Longfield Roads area of Acton after the initial study, finding no trace of gas.

Already occupied by three apartment buildings, the site may be studied using more sophisticated deep-probe testing and regular monitoring during a second phase of the methane gas study. Meanwhile, the report has also recommended that future development around the old landfill site be restricted.

The Mill and McNabb Streets site, zoned partially for residential use as well as open space may not be developable property anyway, the town's planning department has said. Like the Acton site, the old Mill Street dump may get more detailed testing and monitoring at the vacant property and around nearby homes.

A third site, located on Main Street below the parking lot behind Georgetown's McGibbon Hotel, was found free of methane gas. While the ministry has indicated it would consider additional testing for the site, it may not be necessary unless the property is developed.

The ministry is currently considering testing other old dumps in Halton region, including a number of locations in rural Halton Hills.

Hefty bylaw package licenses 'everything'

A special sub-committee of town council will wade through a mammoth 72-page bylaw package outlining licensing terms for just about everything from auctioneers to bicycles.

Although acknowledging that the town already has many of these regulations in force, clerk-administrator Ken Richardson suggested in a report to the general committee Monday night that bylaw enforcement might be more effective if the regulations were consolidated.

Under the provincial Municipal Act, towns can regulate

about 100 trades at any one time, and the Halton Hills draft bylaw would cover 21.

In a letter forwarded to committee members, enforcement officer Jack Lusty says comprehensive licensing protects the public by often referring to the past performance and service of the operator seeking to legally operate in town.

"Licensing also eliminates unqualified tradesmen from performing work of poor quality in the municipality," Mr. Lusty adds.

Professional tradesmen, plumbers, electricians, heating contractors and even

pawnbrokers will be drawn under the draft bylaw's umbrella regulations, as well as the licensing of billiard and bagatelle rooms, tourist and trailer camps and roadside refreshment vehicles.

Licensing costs may range from a one-time \$2 charge for bicycles to \$2,500 to operate a motorcycle track every year. Fines may also vary and town council has the power to revoke licenses if regulations are breached.

The motion to appoint a sub-committee to study the bylaw draft is expected to be approved by council next Monday night.

We're learning how to prevent fires

Continued from page A1

department, fire chief Mick Holmes said in the report's summary that fire prevention efforts would continue to expand into the town's industrial areas and multi-level residential buildings.

Meanwhile, the committee approved a recommendation to install a large alarm panel at the fire station to accommodate more businesses and industries. Companies using the service will be required to sign a contract.

The Georgetown division, with 37 firefighters, three captains and three lieutenants, responded to, or followed up on 232 fire alarms, of which 140 were actual fires. About \$329,000 in damage was caused by the blazes and six people either lost their lives or were injured.

In the Acton area, there were 105 emergencies reported to the department, of which 91 were actual fires. No one was injured last year, but fire caused \$133,794 worth of property damage.

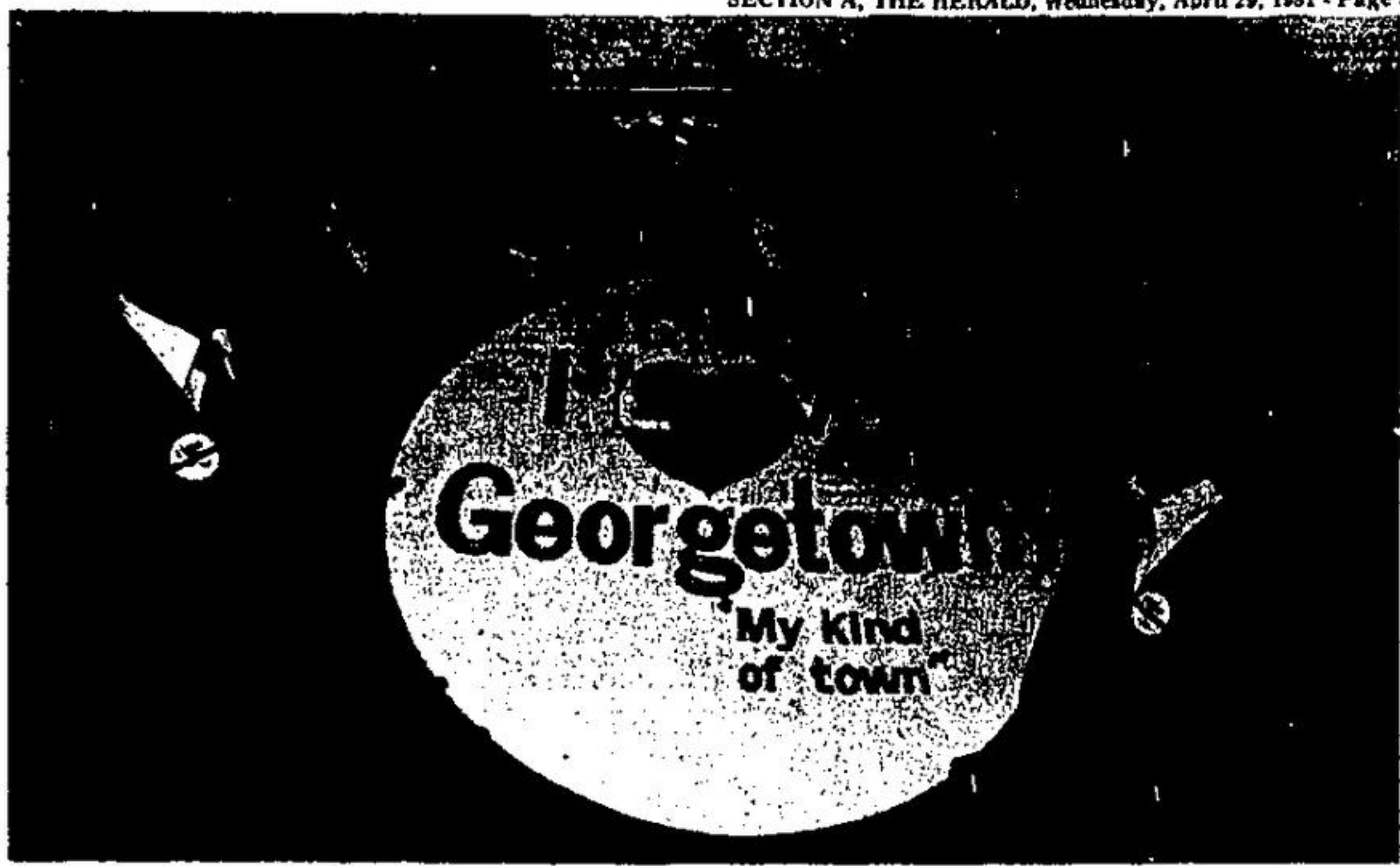
In both areas, most of the fire alarms occurred during three-hour periods following lunch hour or 6 p.m. Acton and Georgetown firefighters also responded to a large number of calls between 9 a.m. and noon, but Georgetown answered over twice as many calls during the late evening period between 9 p.m. and midnight.

Fire started by known, miscellaneous means accounted for 98 incidents in the Georgetown district last year and 31 incidents in Acton. Known causes refer to floods, lightning and motor vehicle accidents. Unknown causes accounted for 30 fire incidents across town last year.

Mechanical and electrical fires set off 39 fires in Acton and 62 in Georgetown. In both areas, residential fires accounted for the greatest amount of property damage, while outdoor blazes, grass fires, garbage disposal sites and farm crop fires followed a close second.

Fires reported on Tuesdays and Thursdays were the lowest numbers on a per-day breakdown in Acton, but in Georgetown, Thursday fires even surpassed weekend incidents last year.

The fire department visited 251 institutes, businesses and homes in 1980 as part of its annual safety inspection program.



THEY'RE GEORGETOWNERS - AND PROUD OF IT

Proudly boasting their appreciation of their community, the Georgetown Area Ratepayers Association (GARA) and the local Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to promote "I Love Georgetown" this summer. The idea is to encourage residents, businesses and industries to carry out some sort of property improvement project to enhance the overall beauty of the community. At town council last Tuesday night to kick off the

special promotion were (left to right) Charlie Kellington, promotion co-ordinator; Brian Bush, youth group rep; Laurie Duggan, president of GARA; Doug Penrice, vice-president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce; Tom Ramnatsingh, promotion chairman; Fraser Roblin, schools rep; and button sales co-ordinator Roy Vestadi.

(Herald photo)

Council Notes

Lakeside rent up

Town council next week is expected to pass a recommendation from the recreation and parks department paying \$764 in rent to Acton's Beardmore Company to use land created by dredging Fairy Lake. The rent represents a seven per cent increase over the 1980 leasing agreement. Having been involved with the rental arrangement with the leather company for the last 11 years, the town uses the land to provide additional access to the lake as well as add to the Prospect Park area.

the town may earn \$4.43 per hour, \$4.59 if they are town employees for their second year and \$4.75 for their third year. The works program hopes to hire about 20 students this summer. The wage scale represents an eight per cent increase over last year.

Hydro replacing trees

In return for trees lost in building its corridor through Halton Hills, Ontario Hydro has offered to replant 25 acres of town land with seedlings. In a memo to the general committee Monday night, town engineer Bob Austin reported that only two areas in Halton Hills—both located in Georgetown—could healthily accommodate the trees. Hydro will probably begin planting spruce seedlings on the west-facing slope at Cedarvale Park at the corner of Maple Avenue and Main Street South, an area of about one acre. Hardy Russian olive and poplar varieties slated for the old dump site at the bottom of Maple Avenue may not be planted until next year when the trees are more mature.

Student rates reach \$5.02

The town's public works department has established its summer student wage rates for 1981. The engineering division will be hiring two students this year, with a first-year university or college student earning \$5.02 per hour, 19 cents more if he or she is in her second year and \$5.38 for third-year students. Summer students with the works department who are working their first summer with

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