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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Since 1866

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1981

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**WELCOME TO COSMOPOLITAN HALTON HILLS**

There were barbecues, amusement rides, soccer games, dancing, singing—all kinds of fun at the Feast of St. Anthony celebration held last weekend at Norval's Crostlan Centre. Zrinski-Frankophan (above) of Mississauga was one of at least a dozen folk groups taking part in the activities which also featured a parachute jump Saturday afternoon by members of the Parachute School of Toronto, fireworks and, of course, great food. The Feast

is celebrated by many ethnic people originating from south-central Europe. A few miles northwest, Scots were congregating at the Georgetown Fairgrounds for the annual Speyside Highland Games, another family thriller with the traditional tossing of the caber, hammer throw, highland dancing and a sheep dog demonstration. More photos inside.

(Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

## Auditors sort out region's fiscal mess

# No surprises this time as books set straight

Unlike last year's financial statements which eventually showed Halton region finishing the 1979 fiscal year with a \$435,000 deficit, this year's auditor's report to the finance and administration committee offers "no surprises".

Submitted by Goebelle, Wagner and MacAdam of Halton Hills and Oakville's Cheney, Glenn and Graydon, the statements show that the region spent \$51,667,642 for general administration, policing, transportation services (roads and road repair), health and social services, as well as recreation and cultural services, planning and development and other items.

Ratepayers in Halton paid \$14,943,532 through regional taxes. Residents also contributed another \$11 million through regional sewer and water rates, the provincial government grants covered another \$18.6 million of the total and other sources of revenue (interest rates on some accounts for instance) added just over \$6 million to the region's total spending account in 1980.

But the 1979 deficit, caused largely by rising interest rates on borrowed money, inflationary effects on road construction and decreased govern-

ment funding for the Centennial Manor senior citizens' residence and day care centres was left undiscovered until the auditors finished their report in July. Had it been revealed earlier, the amount might have been covered by the incoming 1980 budget, rather than incurred as a deficit.

In the 1980 the sanitary sewer system account deficit rose to over \$700,000 from the previous year's \$438,451. Although the total deficit at the end of 1980 could have amounted to \$1.1 million, a surplus in the region's water services account trimmed the shortfall to \$588,458.

In a "catch up" budget presented to council in April, the deficit and anticipated inflationary costs on expenditures were accounted for and reserves used to cover part of the 1979 operating budget deficit were partially replenished.

Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy was joined by other committee members to praise auditing representatives Gordon Glenn and Graeme Goebelle for their efforts in preparing this year's audit.

Regional treasurer Gerry Lawson, who assumed his duties in April, acknowledged

## 'Y' amalgamates with larger Toronto group

In a move designed to improve and increase programs, the Georgetown YM-YWCA will fully amalgamate with the larger, Toronto-based Central Ontario Lakeshore Y (COLY) in October.

About 80 per cent of the local association's membership voted Thursday night in favor of the decision, earlier unanimously endorsed by the Y's board of directors.

"We'll be able to operate much better quality programs with the larger resources to draw from in Toronto," recently appointed Y executive director John Wood told The Herald Monday.

Last year the local association began operating with COLY under a "letter of agreement", trying out the proposed amalgamation for the first time.

In a letter to Georgetown Y members, board president Joanna Dobbins explained that the Georgetown office's net assets will be invested for "future major emergencies or capital development in the Georgetown area"; otherwise, financing will be pooled with COLY.

Although the board of directors will now be headquartered in Toronto, local citizens will form the Georgetown Y's advisory committee, striking budgets for the community's operation, operating programs and selecting executive directors as needed. The Y will remain in its St. Andrew's Church, Mountainview Road South.

Milton and Georgetown are associated with the COLY. Oakville operates independently while Burlington is linked with the larger Hamilton Y association. Other COLY associated Ys include Metropolitan Toronto, York region, Caledon and Bolton, Pickering, Ajax and parts of Peel region.

Within Halton region, only

## Town okays 44 new homes for east Acton

Town council has endorsed a planning board recommendation allowing Acton's P. Civiero Investments Ltd. to construct 44 semi-detached homes on that community's Churchill Street North.

Although not all of the almost six acres of land proposed for the development falls within the Acton urban boundary, the company would begin building between the Bovis subdivision and the local curling arena on the west side of the road.

While Civiero and other developers with properties beyond or bordering the boundary await the outcome of an urban area study, town officials have declined to allow development along the community's fringes until

Acton's sewage handling capacity is determined. The remainder of the development proposed by Civiero Investments would involve the north-eastern section of the property.

During council's meeting Monday night, 18 conditions were attached to the agreement drafted before the builder can go ahead with the project. Among the items listed were the usual requirement of developers to contribute land for parkland or cash instead, help reconstruct the stretch of Churchill Road North between the development and the north end of the Bovis subdivision, and build a sidewalk between the proposed development and McDonald Boulevard.

## About the Hills 'Watch Tower' opens this week

The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's Canadian Branch opens its massive Watch Tower complex this week, and members of the public are invited to tour the facilities tomorrow (Thursday) between 7 and 9 p.m. Under construction on Highway 7 opposite Georgetown's Moore Park subdivision for the past three years, the complex includes a printing plant which will prepare the Jehovah's Witnesses periodicals, the Watch Tower and Awake, for international distribution. Residents living near the complex will be receiving special invitations to tomorrow's open house, while the media and area dignitaries will be touring the site today.

## Hospital's annual

The annual meeting of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Association will be held in the hospital cafeteria at 8 p.m. June 24. Honorable life members and 1980-81 members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

## Unkind obstacles

The physically handicapped also have the privilege of using the town's sidewalks, Delrex Boulevard resident J.G. Albert writes in a letter to municipal reps, but homeowners should also be considerate of this fact. Mr. Albert suggested Monday that councillors imagine themselves as handicapped individuals strolling along the street during a summer's evening, suddenly and awkwardly dodging cars parked over the sidewalk or risking getting drenched by a nearby lawn sprinkler. Although Mr. Albert wonders aloud whether the town still has a bylaw regulating sidewalk obstructions, a note from town staff assures that the matter has been presented to the town's bylaw enforcement officer.

## The livin' is easy

Well, even town councillors like to make the best of their summer evenings. So, starting in July, they've trimmed the number of times they'll meet over the next two months to discuss the town's business. Council and general committee meetings have been combined for sessions July 6, Aug. 4 and 17. On July 21, reps will sit down for a council-planning board meeting, while the next planning board session will be held Aug. 18.

## Few building starts

Construction began on a total of three dwellings in Halton Hills during the first quarter of 1981, Statistics Canada has reported. At the same time, the federal fact-finding agency said work was completed on 19 dwellings in the community. During the same period last year, there were 65 starts and eight completions. Statistics Canada said work was still under way on 81 homes at the end of March.

## Board wants teachers free - will hire lunch supervisors

The Halton Board of Education has approved paid supervision for pupils during lunch hours at a cost of \$241,000 per school year.

Elementary schools will be able to hire personnel this September to supervise the children during lunch hours, freeing teachers and principals for other duties.

Under the new guidelines set down by the Ontario Ministry of Education, each child has the right to stay in school for lunch whether they live two miles or two blocks from the school. Subsequently, the number of children remaining in school during lunch hours has increased substantially.

At the board meeting Thursday night, various trustees endorsed the program, saying the board no longer has a choice in implementing it. The need is there, they said, and it won't go away.

At an earlier meeting, members of the Parents and Teachers Association from Glenview Public School submitted a report asking the

board to look into the matter. In their school, over half the children remain for lunch. Teachers were averaging 105 minutes per week supervising the children, time they felt could be better used in extra-curricular activities or their own lunch hours.

Teachers, they said, need a break in their day in order that they can come back to their afternoon classes more refreshed. There should be time for the teachers to supervise extra-curricular activities during lunch hours, since it's the only chance most students get to participate in these activities. Teachers and students alike would benefit from a paid supervision program, the group argued.

The board agreed and passed the motion for the new program. Along with the go-ahead, though, was encouragement from the board to the schools already operating some lunch programs of their own. It said that those who can manage with volunteers during lunch hours should

continue to do so instead of seeking help.

Funds for the \$241,000 program may be difficult to find but most of the trustees felt it would be advisable to operate under a deficit budget for the first year. Trustee Bill Herd disagreed, likening the proposal to having a car but not being able to afford to buy the gas.

"It would be irresponsible", he said, "to approve the program if the funds aren't there."

Trustee Florence Meares, chairman of the committee that looked into the matter,

said that they should perhaps work under a deficit budget for 1981 until the 1982 budget is approved.

The board failed to approve a motion calling for existing lunch facilities in many of the schools to be improved. At the moment, about five out of nine schools in the Georgetown area have students eating on gym floors. Miss Meares said it depends upon the community. Most parents don't mind if their children sit on the floors, she said. The board recommended that students eat in the existing areas since the cost would be too great to build new lunch facilities.

## Hungry thieves

Two Georgetown eateries were broken into last Wednesday night. Thieves broke into the Georgetown Open Kitchen Restaurant stealing approximately \$300 in cash and cigarettes. Entry to the Guelph Street diner was gained by breaking a window in the front door. Howie's Dining Lounge on Mill Street was also broken into that night with \$1,500 in cash being taken. There appeared to be no indication of entry.

## Founder's descendant, 97, is our 'Pioneer Citizen'

Barbara Elizabeth Kennedy Tost, a lifelong resident of the community her great-grandfather founded, will be honored this weekend as Georgetown's Pioneer Citizen of the Year for 1981.

The eldest living descendant of George Kennedy, Mrs. Tost, 97, is also believed to be Georgetown's oldest native-born resident.

Although ill health will prevent her from accepting the special Pioneer Days award created last year by The Herald, her daughter, Nan Wheeler, is expected to attend the 2-30 p.m. presentation on Main Street Saturday to receive a commemorative plaque on her mother's behalf.

The Queen Street resident is the award's second recipient of what is now an annually-presented award sponsored by The Herald. Colonel John Barber, descendant of the community's industrial pioneer Barber brothers, was the first recipient last summer.

Barbara Kennedy was born Aug. 21, 1884, in her parents' home on the present site of the post office at Maple Avenue and Guelph Street. Her parents were William Cyrus Kennedy and Frances Rutledge. Her grandfather, John Kennedy, was one of nine children of

George Kennedy and his wife, Elizabeth Desford. She attended school in Georgetown at Chapel Street Public School, then spent two years working as a clerk in her father's grocery store, W.C. Kennedy, on Mill Street. The store was located at the present location of the laundromat next to the McGibbon Hotel. In addition to tending the store, her father also spent a great deal of time travelling to the fall fairs each year with a horse team and wagon selling candy and popcorn.

Special Pioneer Days supplement inside

Colonel John R. Barber, proud descendant of the pioneering Barber brothers who gave Georgetown its industrial heritage, was the community's first Pioneer Citizen of the Year last June. Seen here in 1977 unveiling the historical marker which stands outside the Barber paper mill above Glen Williams, Col. Barber still helps run the downtown travel and insurance agency he co-founded. Pioneer Citizen of the Year for 1981 is Barbara Tost, great-granddaughter of the community's founder, George Kennedy.

Barbara Kennedy married Albert Tost Sept. 5, 1900, at the age of 16. Mr. Tost was born in Stewarttown, but moved to Georgetown upon his marriage. He worked as a machinist, carpenter and millwright and was co-owner of Kentner and Tost Lumber Company on the Credit River before selling the firm, which then became Georgetown Lumber Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Tost raised eleven children during their 38-year marriage in the Queen Street home where she still resides today. They had the house built themselves in the late 1920s after tearing down an older home on the property.

Seven of Mrs. Tost's children are still with her today, having presented her with 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, most of whom still reside in the Georgetown area. A few grandchildren have moved to Alberta and some live in northern Ontario.

Another lifelong resident of Georgetown who is a likely candidate for the Pioneer Citizen honor is Mrs. Tost's younger sister, Frances Wilson, who, along with Mrs. Wheeler, provided The Herald with some background information about 1981's Pioneer Citizen of the Year.



Georgetown's new Pioneer Citizen of the Year, Barbara Tost (right) is seen here enjoying a quiet afternoon some ten years ago with her friend, the late Ina Harding (left) and her sister Frances "Tye" Wilson.



What did one hedgehog say to the other hedgehog? "Meed me on page A5."