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Region's growth carries on, says Fischer

Halton region is enjoying "an excellent level of growth" which is expected to continue for "quite some time", regional business development director Matthew Fischer stated recently.

Of the ongoing projects with capital costs exceeding \$500,000 in southwestern Ontario, Halton has approximately \$40.3 million worth of new growth which could generate as many as 686 additional jobs.

By the end of April, more building permits were issued in Oakville than in any of the region's other three area municipalities. Permit sales there for industrial, commercial, institutional and residential building projects amounted to over \$22 million, \$7 million more than Burlington's total.

About \$4 million in building permits were issued in Halton during the January to April period, \$1 million less than Milton.

Meanwhile, the region's finance and administration committee has agreed to support the City of Cambridge in its bid to have a micro-electronics development centre established in its area.



VARIAN'S FAMILY FUN

Katy the Clown and some of her admiring followers take time out from the busy festivities at the Varian family picnic at the Meadowdale Conservation Area Sunday afternoon. The children were not only treated to free balloons and antics courtesy of Katy, they also participated in races that invited children of all ages, even babes in arms, to join. Story, more photos inside.

(Herald photo by Astra Pape)

Just a question of 'when?'

Abitibi plant prepares for eventual shutdown

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

The operating days of one of Georgetown's main industrial institutions may be rapidly drawing to a close.

Abitibi-Price Fine Papers Ltd., headquartered in the 1 Rosetta St. plant which has been a landmark to the community's papermaking and processing history for 75 years, has told its employees that the plant's paper coating future looks grim and a full shut-down is inevitable.

Workers and management staff were told during a July 3 meeting that Abitibi hopes to keep the plant going for at least another two to three years prior to the recent sale of the Thorold, Ontario, mill to another company.

"The mill's operating life is now much shorter, but until some research, development and planning work has been done, it is impossible to set a date (for the closure)," Abitibi vice-president Tom Birchall said in a prepared statement.

"We feel that we would be able to make a decision and tell people where they stand by the end of the year."

Plant manager George Lockwood said about 150 employees will be affected by the closure but stressed that confirmation of the plant's future—and possible employee transfers—will likely await the planned year-end meeting.

"There's no question that the (Georgetown) plant will eventually be shut down," Gilbert Hay, the Canadian director of the United Paper Workers International Union told The Herald last week. "We've been given definite notice to that extent."

Mr. Hay added that the "time involved may be the next couple of years", depending on Abitibi's decision.

Because many fine paper plants—mills which produce quality paper products like stationery—have installed equipment which chemically coats the paper as part of the

manufacturing process, coating plants like the one in Georgetown have become outdated.

The Domtar plant adjacent to the Abitibi mill was closed for similar reasons about four years ago, Mr. Hay, an employee at Abitibi-Georgetown for 21 years, explained.

About the Hills



WHO'S ON STRIKE?

All talk of the major league baseball strike flew out the window last Tuesday with pitches like this one from young Greg Lawrence, in command for the Georgetown Rep Tyke team at Fairgrounds Park. Georgetown bombed their Oakville rivals to climb higher in the Tyke rankings during an eventful enough season. Greg's major league counterparts, however, remain on the bench indefinitely, with sports fans predicting a totally wasted season should the players' strike last another week. Tyke fans ask "who cares?"

(Photo by Harald Bransch)

More money for downtowns

The province's housing ministry has given the town a \$15,000 grant for "core area" studies in Acton and Georgetown. The money, added to another provincial grant of \$10,000 for studying redevelopment possibilities in the communities' business improvement areas, was the maximum amount allowable under the government program. Conducted simultaneously, the core area study

aimed at establishing planning policies in the downtown sections for the town's official plan, and the redevelopment study could help Halton Hills get additional funding to help revitalize and preserve the historical character and shopping viability of the two Main Streets. In addition to the provincial funding for the studies, the town has also committed about \$25,000 to the study program.

Barber's heritage

Paper firms a key part of our history

Paper making and Georgetown's history are synonymous, and the Abitibi-Price plant is no exception.

Fine paper coating processes have been very much a part of early Georgetown industry. At the turn of the century, there was a considerable demand for coated papers which tended to handle ink better, deteriorated less and made more handsome stationery.

The Abitibi mill has actually been known under a variety of names. It was the community's first coating operation, begun in 1905 by the famous Barber family. James Barber became the company's first president of the plant, then known as Canada Coating Mills.

Not surprisingly, the coating mill did a lot of "in house" work for the paper plant located below River Drive where DeltaCraft now lies. The River Drive plant, also owned by the Barber family, and Canada Coating Mills amalgamated in 1912 to become Barber Paper and Coating Mills.

Meanwhile, a Kalamazoo, Michigan, man was busy organizing the competition.

Edward Fleck was brought to Georgetown by the Barber family in 1905 as a kind of

technical advisor while Canada Coating Mills was built. Deciding that it would be years before he would climb the Barber executive ladder, the young Mr. Fleck, with the help of local businessmen John Wilkoughby and J.B. MacKenzie built the Georgetown Coating Mills right next door to the established Barber operation on Rosetta Street.

This plant eventually was taken over by Domtar Paper and closed only a few years ago.

A year after the Barber plant incorporated, the coating mill was sold to Provincial Paper Ltd. Abitibi entered the picture in the 1930s as part of a stock exchange between the two corporations.

In 1946-1947, Abitibi became the sole owner of the coating mill and, with the exception of combining assets with Price Paper in the mid-70s, the name and operation of the plant has remained basically the same.

The Abitibi plant is one of the last of the old paper coating operations in the Toronto area. Canada Glaze Papers Ltd., owned by Roland Paper Company of Toronto, remains in operation.

Canada's economic problems concern other councils - ours files motions

There were four resolutions from other town councils looking for Halton Hills' support last week—all of them reflecting Canada's current economic woes.

The town of Tecumseh has circulated a resolution from its May 26 council meeting demanding that the federal government do something to curb spiralling interest rates.

High mortgage rates and interest on loans, combined with an unstable job market in many fields, are leading to personal and business bankruptcies, the resolution notes.

And it's not only interest rates which are hurting the people, the Kingston-area township argues. There are continued major increases in the cost of education.

The province should study other school board financing "scenarios", the township recommends, including planning subsidies based on cost forecasts.

Property tax reform is also necessary, and the provincial grant system should be amended to give more money back to municipalities, Tecumseh says.

Leamington, Ontario, wants the province to introduce a low interest mortgage program for homeowners similar to one in effect in Nova Scotia.

The Leamington proposal calls for flexible mortgage rates according to family

income. The highest rates (for families earning a maximum of \$35,000 per year) would be the province's borrowing rate plus a half per cent per year.

The unassumable owner-occupant scheme fixes interest rates for the life of the mortgage. For each \$975 below the \$20,000 maximum, the rates

would decrease one-half per cent.

Meanwhile, the united townships of Bangor, Wicklow and McClure (headquarters in Maynooth, Ontario) have asked the province to toughen the Municipal Act's tax arrears sections. Noting that outstanding

taxes force municipalities to borrow money—again at high interest rates—the townships' council wants to reduce the time limit before the municipality can claim and sell property for tax arrears.

Currently, property may be seized after three years if residents have made no effort

to pay their taxes, but the townships are demanding a two-year grace period for debtors.

Maintaining its position to receive and file most recommendations submitted from other municipalities, council declined to endorse the resolutions.

Ottawa fund-raiser

'TV star' Jaycees return

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

For some members of the Georgetown Jaycees, a bicycle seat is the last thing in the world they'll want to see for a while.

Six of them—Dale Thibideau, Doug Penrice, Paul Atkinson, Jack Wallinga, Dennis Borotalk and Jack Lee—pedalled their way to Ottawa last week, arriving in time for not only the Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill, but for the Jaycees' national convention as well. They raised about \$850 during the trip, \$650 of which will go into the local club's Youth Award bank account.

Working in one-hour shifts on the bikes, the men arrived in Ottawa at about 2:30 p.m. July 1, 22 and a half hours

after they left Georgetown's Moore Park Plaza. The time, according to Mr. Thibideau, the trip coordinator, was four hours better than last year's jaunt, which sped from a rain-soaked Glen Williams to present Jean-Luc Pepin with a Unity plaque.

When they arrived in the nation's capital, he added, they happened upon a local television film crew which was shooting at a shopping centre. Later that evening, Ottawa viewers were treated to about 10 seconds of news about the Jaycees' visit.

"It's an excellent way of raising money," Mr. Thibideau said Monday.

Other trips have earned funds for the Foster Parents Plan and the Hornby Sunshine School for the mentally

handicapped. Money raised during the most recent bike trips has been directed to the club's Youth Award, a high school bursary established yearly on the interest from funds raised.

The cyclists chose quieter highways over the more direct Highway 401, travelling to Highway 12 along Highway 7, then down to Highway 2 and finally on Highway 16 into Ottawa. Mr. Thibideau explained that they were able to cut out hours from their previous trip by using the camper truck which travelled with them as a wind screen just outside of Kingston.

There were times, he said, when some members were travelling at about 60 miles per hour—on the bikes.

The Jaycees were assisted in making the trip by Georgetown Canadian Tire manager Murray Lawton, who allowed them to purchase the bikes at a considerable discount. Meanwhile, Mr. Penrice covered the camper's gas costs.

Mr. Thibideau expressed hope that the bursary would be made available for a student in either Georgetown District High School or Acton High. Currently, there is about \$1,600 in the account.

OUR TRISH THE TRUCKER'S A HIT ALONG HIGHWAY 10



The boys down at Victoria Motors on Highway 10 see a steady stream of cars and trucks all day, but the arrival of Trish Nesset's 18-wheel rig is a highlight of each day.

The 18-year old Acton resident has been hauling gravel from one of the Caledon pits to the Keele and Wilson area for Bee Line since 1978, and the boys at Victoria who fuel and fix her truck think she's pretty special. Also known around town by her second name, Pat, Trish plays basketball with the local Celtics.