

# Urban planning major part of politician's career

By MAGGIE HANNAH  
Herald Staff Writer

People hate change, it is said, but when the change involves land use, neighbors have about five years in which to get used to the new idea, according to the estimates of Mayor Peter Pomeroy.

Mayor Pomeroy said planning is probably the most important part of a politician's work but he personally finds it terribly frustrating as well as frightening since mistakes are irrevocable once a building is on the ground.

One of the loudest public cries to arise over any new development usually centres on giving the development's neighbors a say in what hap-

pens to the property in question.

"The public has an opportunity for comment at three levels," he said. In tracing the conversion of an imaginary property from a farm to a residential subdivision, the process begins with the developer visiting the municipal office to determine what zoning exists on the property and what things are permitted in that zoning.

If the zoning is right the developer applies for a building permit, pays his money, works out an agreement to suit the town's needs and gets busy on construction.

If the zoning is not right the developer must apply for a zoning amendment and possi-

ly an official plan change and a five year sequence has started.

To begin with the application will be filled in, money paid, council notified and a report prepared by planning department staff. To make their report to planning board staff circulate the proposed plan to a tremendous number of commenting agencies to see that no potential problems are overlooked.

Bruce McLean, deputy planner for Halton Hills, said the agencies circulated depends on the location of the property.

In Halton Hills there are three conservation authorities to consult (Halton Region, Grand River or Credit River), the Niagara Escarpment com-

mission, the ministry of food and agriculture, the ministry of transportation and communication, the ministry of environment, the ministry of natural resources and the department of health which could all be involved in certain locations and certain types of projects.

Agencies such as the town's engineering, fire, building, police and recreation departments, the two school boards, utilities such as Halton Hills Hydro, Bell Canada, Union Gas and Halton Cable TV and the regional planning and public works department will be circulated automatically for plans starting in Halton Hills.

The agencies are requested to have their comments back to the planning staff in 30 days and if they haven't done so, town staff calls them and jogs their memory.

Planning board listens to the staff report and decides for or against the development. If they favor it, a public meeting is held because of the zone change and the neighbors get their first chance to protest or approve the plan.

An approval at town level means the plan then goes on to the region. Since the region has its own official plan and planning staff, the whole circulation and staff report routine is repeated before regional council turns thumbs up or down on the plan. Again neighbors can have input to the decision.

A favorable decision at the region sees the plan sent on to the ministry of housing for

final approval and again the public can intervene.

Ontario municipal board hearings can result from referrals or objections at any of the three levels. The decision of an Ontario municipal board can also be appealed and the final say will be made by cabinet.

Mayor Pomeroy estimates three years for such a process — "If you hurry".

After that comes the preparation of a developer's agreement to work out who pays for what and again you are looking at a minimum of a year and probably closer to two years before that is nailed down, he said.

"The whole thing is very frustrating," he said. "The

way the economy is today trends change. By the time you get a plan approved the product is no longer marketable and you have to go through the whole procedure again to change the plan."

The mayor cited two such situations going on in Georgetown:

— A Merity Homes project on Delrex Boulevard overlooking the Cedarvale Park was given Ontario municipal board approval for single family cluster homes two years ago. The demand no longer exists so they are trying to change the plan to semi-detached homes;

— And a development behind the Delrex Market Plaza was to be condominiums and now is

being changed to free hold link housing.

"Clearly the process is too slow," he said. "There should be a one or 1½ year end date on it."

As if developers didn't have enough problems with current interest rates municipalities and regions are beginning to demand that contributions for roads, water works and so on be paid up front before work begins.

Municipalities can't afford to borrow money to pay for their share of such work so they demand the developer's cash or letter of credit to us. At the present rate of bureaucracy

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FREE PARKING

## Numerous organizations prepare for gala library-cultural centre opening

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

Municipal officials are hoping to open the town's new library-cultural centre in Georgetown by mid-October, The Herald learned earlier this week.

While noting that there were still a number of arrangements which need to be worked out for the centre's gala opening ceremonies, town clerk-administrator Ken Richardson acknowledged that organizers are aiming for a ribbon cutting Oct. 18.

A lengthy list of performances and events is currently being prepared by the town's recreation department for an elongated opening celebration expected to last about two weeks following the tentative Oct. 18 date. Meanwhile, a number of local groups hope to introduce the public to the building before the official opening by holding smaller events a few days before.

Georgetown Little Theatre (GLT) is anticipating its first performance in the new centre Oct. 15. Casting is scheduled to begin shortly for Ray Cooney's and John Chapman's "Not Now Darling", a rollicking British comedy which will be directed by GLT veteran Ron Hill. Organizers are looking forward to a three-night run of the play.

The Halton Hills Library will launch its first activity in the building Oct. 14. Soon returning to its role as the community's library branch, the old church nave will feature a collection of "mixed media" works of art by Margorie Nazer, a former Georgetown librarian.

Following a private showing, the exhibit will be opened to the public Oct. 15 and will remain in the library until the end of November.

Thanks to the assistance of the South Central Regional Library System and the provincial culture and recreation ministry's "Outreach" program, the library will host the "Family of Man" folk group in the theatre Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Interested persons are urged to pick up their free tickets by Oct. 27.

Early ticket acquisition is also advised for the library's other major presentation at the centre three days later. Erwhon Theatre will perform "Paddington Bear" for youngsters at 2 p.m. Oct. 31. A more detailed list of library sponsored events between October and December will be made

available with its September news release.

As plans for the opening ceremonies crystallize, the centre's fund-raising committee is preparing to canvass local industries for additional money to help pay the building's approximately \$1.9 million total cost.

Committee chairman Rex Heslop told The Herald Monday night that fund-raising officials would be meeting in a week to strike a sub-committee which would be in charge of soliciting funds from the town's industrial sector.

The committee, he said, hopes to come out of the summer lull with "all guns

blasting", encouraging funds from public and private parties.

Just because the centre is opening in October, Mr. Heslop noted, doesn't mean that the fund-raising is over and the building is paid for. In addition to money anticipated from industry, the committee expects to embark on a campaign prompting individual donations from the public.

To date, fund-raisers have collected \$115,399.58 in pledges and actual cash contributions, including recent donations from the University Women's Club (\$1,650), Normic Studio (\$100) and the Georgetown Choral Society (\$1,250). The

local Rotary Club has reached the two-third mark in its \$30,000 pledge to the centre, having contributed \$7,500 from Industry '81 held in Brampton in May.

The North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded has also donated books to the library, McNally Construction, \$10,000, Unilock Ltd. of Georgetown has given paving bricks and the building's general contractor, Q-Sons Ltd. of Willowdale, has made an \$8,000 donation to the project.

Georgetown Little Theatre reached its \$30,000 pledge two

months ago when Ward 4 town councillor Harry Levy purchased that last theatre seat plaque. If you missed getting your name up in perpetuity at the centre the Georgetown Rug Hookers Association can stitch it in as part of two giant wall hangings destined for the centre's foyer.

There's enough room for one hundred names (50 per hanging) and name space is selling at the same rates chosen for the set plaques: costs are \$10 paid in a lump sum or \$120 paid in monthly deposits of \$10. Contact John Roe (877-2824) for further details.



### PYRAMID POWER

Such lively and creative sights as this human pyramid of power displayed by these youngsters must have made their parents think the girls were building a solid foundation for a future in gymnastics. The girls put on an open house performance as part of the Recreation department's gymnastics class. There were about 40-odd children participating last Friday at Cedarvale Park in the program. Seen here are (left to right) Kara-Lynn Palmer, Banny Meek, Michelle Smith, Tanya Hancock, Vicki Hughes, Kerry-Lea Lewis (top of pyramid).

### Our finest face fisticuffs

What started out as a minor argument evolved into quite a scuffle early Sunday morning as Halton Regional police was assaulted by several individuals when they were called in to investigate a disturbance at Fong's Restaurant in Georgetown.

Two couples had been dining at the restaurant when an argument with a fifth patron erupted. During the course of the argument, a knife was drawn and brandished. The five then went outside to the parking lot and were fighting when police arrived. When Police Constable Joseph Martin and Sergeant Joseph Prasad tried to intervene and break up the fight, they were both assaulted.

During the scuffle, one of the women grabbed Constable Martin's revolver from its holster and started to wave it around and pointed it at Constable Martin and the crowd that had gathered. A citizen attempted to subdue the woman and was subsequently able to retrieve the revolver and return it to the officer.

Both officers received minor injuries to the face and neck. Sergeant Prasad was kicked in the head when one of the participants stood on the roof of the police cruiser. In

connection with the incident, police have charged 25-year old George Day of Georgetown with common assault, having a weapon dangerous to the public peace and obstructing police.

Thirty-year old Linda Burbine, also of Georgetown, has been charged with having a weapon dangerous to the public peace and pointing a firearm. Two counts of assaulting police have been laid against 27-year old Tom Negus of Mississauga while 25-year old Roberta Percival, also from Mississauga has been charged with assaulting and obstructing police.

#### Action disturbance

A disturbance broke out on Acton's Mill Street between 1 and 3 Saturday morning that kept Halton Regional police busy. Police attempted to disperse an unruly crowd of 40 to 50 youths who became abusive when police arrived on the scene. Police called for assistance to disperse the crowd. Three charges of drunk and disorderly behaviour were laid.

## Muscular dystrophy dance-a-thon heads for Alcott, Sept. 11, 12 and 13

Undaunted by the recent hitch originally postponing plans to hold a dance marathon raising funds for the Ontario Muscular Dystrophy Association (OMDA), organizer Kevin McLaughlan told The Herald that they will proceed with the dance-a-thon on September 11, 12 and 13.

Mr. McLaughlan, Russ Baird and Trevor Hoy have been working for three months in conjunction with the OMDA organizing and promoting the event. The three local youths had planned to hold the event on July 24 to 26 and had recruited 60 entrants when they were told by town council two weeks ago that it could not waive the rent for the Memorial Arena where the dance was to have been held until dance organizers negotiated an agreement with the recreation department.

According to Mr. McLaughlan, they had been told by a former recreation department employee that they could rent the hall for \$600 and they made their plans accordingly. Yet recreation department director Tom Shepard told council that he had only recently been made aware of the dance plans and said that no contract outlining the arena's use, staffing and liabilities of the staff had actually been signed. Also rent would be \$275 for one day's use.

Mr. McLaughlan said that the setback was unfortunate but that it was only temporary. Thanks to the intervention of former Georgetown resident Jim Barrett and the local Rotary Club, they received a cheque for \$240 to help pay for half the rent for the hall in the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena. Other problems, he said, have also been taken care of.

The format of the marathon will remain the same although the delay has meant that they will no longer be able to feature Edmonton Oilers hockey star Wayne Gretzky during the two day event. Kevin's uncle, folk-rock musician Murray McLaughlan, will be there to hand out signed copies of his albums. The organizers will also have either Dave Hodge or Fred Locking, both CFRB radio personalities.

Other celebrities they hope they can attract to the event are Darryl Sittler, Dave Keon and the Blue Jays mascot,

"B.J. Birdie".

At this point, they have had 30 to 40 people pick up sponsor sheets and Mr. McLaughlan said that he hasn't seen any confusion due to the postponement. The organizers are inviting people of all ages to participate in the marathon but prefer to keep the minimum age at 12.

The organizers said that the

participants will be dancing for 45 minutes each hour with a ten to 15 minute break to rest and grab a bite to eat. Providing the incentive to keep on dancing will be Brampton's CKMW radio personality Cliff Damas and Mr. McLaughlan himself.

Admission to the marathon is \$2.50 for participants and three dollars for spectators.

Once inside, the spectators can pay an additional dollar if they do decide to join in the fun.

Everything will start at 6 p.m. Friday evening when Mayor Peter Pomeroy will cut the official opening ribbon. The last dance will end at noon Sunday.

Records will be given away as spot prizes during the marathon to various partici-

pants in several categories including the person with the most pledges.

Those interested in obtaining sponsor sheets and participating in the dance marathon can call either Kevin McLaughlan at 877-4564 or Russ Baird at 877-4770.

## This church weathers raucus 20th century

The Knox Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Georgetown was named over one hundred years ago after John Knox, the founding father of the Presbyterian faith.

Born in Scotland in 1505, John Knox worked hard towards the establishment of a new movement, Presbyterianism, in Scotland. The Reformation movement began in Scotland in 1526 with John Knox starting to preach the new faith in 1546. With the overthrow of Catholicism in Scotland in 1560, Knox's work was complete and the Presbyterian faith was fully established in Scotland.

The Presbyterian Church underwent a major upheaval in the early 20th century. For many years previously, there had been discussions amongst church elders and the worshippers about entering a union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches. In previous polls, the congregation showed a decreasing interest in the matter and it was hastily agreed to hold a vote before the topic fell out of favor completely.

After a vote had been taken in 1925, a good two thirds of the congregation joined the new union now called the United Church of Canada. Today, the bitter struggle involved with the vote is largely forgotten but the courage of those who remained with the Church and entered into an uncertain future is not.

Today the Georgetown Presbyterian faith is strong. Knox church holds its service every Sunday at 11 a.m. for approximately 450 worshippers. There is even a babysitting service provided during the service for the smaller infants and children. Sunday school for children ages five to 15 is held prior to the service for one hour.

The church also holds Bible study groups for those members of the congregation who are interested. The length of each course and what will be studied is determined by those who enrol. Reverend Barrow says this method can make scripture study interesting and not simply a matter of reading the Bible.

**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
MORNING WORSHIP  
CHURCH SCHOOL  
REV. PETER BARROW

Reverend Peter Barrow has been the minister for Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown for the last nine years. The church is a familiar Main Street landmark having a colorful century of history. It features a beautiful stained glass window that was installed after the interior of the original church had been destroyed by fire at the turn of the century. (Herald photo)

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