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FIRA ruling bumps 28 residents from jobs

Irwin-Dorsey Ltd. closes doors Dec. 31

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer
Twenty-eight Georgetown area residents were told Friday to start looking for another job: Irwin-Dorsey Ltd., a leading textbook publisher in Georgetown since 1967, is to be closed by its parent firm, Dow Jones Company of Delaware.

Irwin-Dorsey president Dick Willis told The Herald this week that the federal government's certificate came Thursday in response to the firm's Oct. 22 application to file for dissolution. Facing little hope of internal transfer, the Guelph Street plant's 28 employees were told the next day they'll lose their jobs by Dec. 31. Severance pay should be worked out by Nov. 20.

Dissolution comes six years after Irwin-Dorsey started wrangling with the federal government's Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA), which was called in to investigate Dow Jones' takeover of the Georgetown subsidiary from its original owner, also an American company.

Developed to guard Canadian business against excessive foreign investment, FIRA decided Dow Jones' 1975 takeover of the Richard D. Irwin company of Illinois should not include the Irwin-Dorsey subsidiary.

Dow Jones challenged FIRA's ruling unsuccessfully. Twice, the Governor in Council (in practice, the federal government) upheld FIRA's decision and finally the Supreme Court of Canada refused Dow Jones permission to appeal.

"It was just two hard positions," Mr. Willis commented. "The parent company's decision to close is a recognition that both sides were 180 degrees out of phase with each other."

FIRA had ruled that Dow must divest itself of the Irwin-Dorsey operation or else sell part of it to Canadian investors. Company officials considered employee profit-sharing and profit reinvestment in Canada as possible solutions, but neither proved practical. Mr. Willis told The Herald last month it was unlikely the firm's 21 office and warehouse workers and seven salesmen could raise sufficient money to buy into the operation.

"Dow Jones has said that what took place between two companies outside Canada should have no bearing on Irwin-Dorsey in Canada," Mr. Willis said, "particularly when the sale or merger in the U.S. would have brought many financial benefits to our operation."

A last-minute (Sept. 21) message from FIRA suggested

A TIME FOR CONTEMPLATION



There were Remembrance Day services throughout Halton Hills Sunday, calling on residents to briefly pause and reflect upon the sacrifices many have made in numerous world conflicts. Action's services were led by the Action Citizens' Band, (above left) and wreaths were laid at the Trinity Church cenotaph on the community's Mill Street. Meanwhile, similar events were underway in Glen Williams and Georgetown. (Herald photos by Ani Pederman)

RED CROSS
Blood Donor Clinic
Monday at Holy Cross Church

Woman guilty in assault 'deal'

A Georgetown woman was found guilty of common assault and given a conditional discharge and six months probation last Wednesday morning in Milton Provincial Court.

Betty Conaghan was charged originally with assaulting police while resisting arrest. Mrs. Conaghan told The Herald last week a deal was made with Halton regional police by which she withdrew her own charge of assault against Constable Brian Farrell if the police would reduce her charge to common assault.



SAME OLD SAGA-DANCE?

Although the venue might have indicated otherwise, rock group Saga launched its latest attempt at Canadian superstardom Thursday night at Georgetown District High School, one of only two high schools chosen for concerts by the Oakville-based band as warm-ups for a "world tour". Brandishing a new album ("Worlds Apart" is number four), a battery of special effects including dry ice fog and enough decibels to keep the wolves away, Saga was a special treat for Georgetown young people. The band played Massey Hall in Toronto Saturday night and continues onto the U.S. and Europe, where they do indeed enjoy superstar status.

(Herald photos by Harald Bransch)



Lawyer refutes concerns over Croatian cemetery bid

Farmers want land preserved

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Residents and lawyers continued to debate Monday night whether Halton Hills council should permit the Croatian Centre in Norval to landscape part of its 150-acre property as a cemetery.

Speaking before the town's general committee meeting, opponents argued that prime agricultural land should not be used for recreational purposes

other than farming. A letter from the province's ministry of food and agriculture recognizes that the Croatian Centre, at the northwest corner of Winston Churchill Boulevard and Sideroad Five, rests on good growing soil. In fact, the facility which already rents out much of its property for agricultural use, is surrounded by farms.

Halton region has apparently received comments express-

ing concern over the use of good agricultural land as a cemetery and cultural centre from its own agricultural advisory committee. Meanwhile, the advisory committee's sister organization in Peel region has not supported the use of part of the property as a cemetery.

Al Ferri, a Norval farmer for 30 years, told committee members that the country may face a critical shortage of good

growing land unless urban-type developments stop encroaching on agricultural land. As the nation's production of domestic food crops drops, he warned, our costs of importing staples will rise considerably.

But Toronto lawyer William Whiteacre, in his second appearance before the committee on behalf of the Croatian applicant who wants to build a cemetery, said that while the agricultural ministry recog-

nizes the property as being situated on good agricultural land, he also notes that its use as a cemetery does not mean a significant loss of farm land.

Referring to comments made last week when a large delegation of residents neighboring the Croatian Centre appeared before council, Mr. Whiteacre said that it is unlikely that there would be more than one funeral service a week in the proposed cemetery. He added that there would not be the long and traffic-clogging funeral processions parked along Winston Churchill Boulevard or Sideroad Five anticipated by the centre's neighbors.

There is already plenty of parking on the Croatian Centre itself, he said, and told the committee that the cemetery plans call for parking for 312 cars near the burial site. About 2,000 plots are planned for the cemetery which will take up about five acres of the entire property.

Mr. Whiteacre argued that other groups have made use of the centre, including the Peel-Halton Soccer Association which was allowed to host games on soccer pitches locat-

ed at the centre. The explosion which residents claim frightened livestock June 13 was caused by the sudden combustion of gasoline on a mound of trash left over from the Croatian Feast of St. Francis that weekend, Mr. Whiteacre said, assuring committee members that police and the fire departments were called and decided that the problem was under control.

Although the Croatians using their Halton Hills property report directly to Rome rather than to the local (Hamilton) Roman Catholic diocese, they are Roman Catholics, he stressed. Roman Catholics and other residents will be allowed to use the cemetery, although it is anticipated that most of the plots will be purchased by people of Croatian descent.

Residents interested in commenting on the application to rezone the land, allowing the cemetery to be built must present their submissions to the town office on Trafalgar Road by Friday. Within the next month, town planners will present their report to council, offering recommendations on the proposal.

Downtown studies applauded, council wary about costs

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Members of the Action and Georgetown Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) may be anxious for town council to act on the recommendations in the now completed study of the downtown cores, but Halton Hills planning director Mario Venditti has indicated that there's still a long way to go before the study's suggested policies become part of the town's official plan.

He told BIA merchants, residents and members of the planning board last Tuesday that policies concerning the downtown cores will have to be thoroughly reviewed and then go through a series of public meetings before they become part of the official plan, which is currently being polished by a special council task force.

In the meantime, Mr. Venditti said, town staff will look for

an "agreement in principle" from council to proposals made in the six-month study prepared by Walker, Wright, Young Associates, a Toronto municipal planning firm. Along with pointing out that Georgetown and Acton bias will have entirely different economic futures, the study has suggested ways in which council can bolster the areas as attractive places in which to do business and has proposed extensive physical changes ensuring that they remain the heart of their respective communities.

Suggesting that the recommendations for both BIAs be phased in over a period of 20 years, Peter Walker acknowledged that his firm estimated what council might spend for the proposed changes but declined to give the figure at the meeting.

However, Mr. Walker said,

the town and the BIA must form a partnership if the recommendations are to work.

The BIAs should not be expected to carry the major portion of the capital expenditures proposed, he added, indicating that planning for the downtown cores should be reflected in the town's 1982 budget if possible.

Both Lynn Barnard, chairman of the Georgetown BIA, and Paul Nielson, an Acton BIA member and part of the study's steering committee, praised the consulting firm and its advisors for their research. Mr. Nielson and Acton businessman Ted Tyler urged council to begin budgeting for downtown redevelopment immediately.

"I compliment the consultants for a workable and very attractive plan," Mr. Nielson said. "The ball is in our court. We support this (study)

and I think the consultants have done a very good job for us," Mrs. Barnard said. "As business people we need to offer a lot more to the people and make the downtown area the heart of our community."

Once the recommendations have been added to the town's

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John Street mishaps prompt radar patrols

Halton regional police have apparently assured Mayor Pete Pomeroy that they will begin regular radar patrols along John Street in Georgetown, near the Mountainview Road North intersection following two recent traffic accidents involving young children.

John Street resident Graham Ferguson, who stood before Monday night's general committee meeting to appeal for radar patrols and sidewalks for the quiet residential street in the older part of the community, was told that police would try and keep a careful check on speeders in

the area. But Mr. Ferguson's second request—the construction of sidewalks along John Street—can't be guaranteed until the town has set its 1982 budget, Mayor Pomeroy added. The town's public works department has been asked to report on the costs on installing pedestrian walkways.

A witness to an accident in which his neighbor's daughter was struck by a car earlier this year, Mr. Ferguson said the incident tends to "stick in his mind", and he argued that residents must concern themselves with the traffic problem in the area. Two weeks ago,

six-year old Charlie Snook was struck on Mountainview Road, north of John Street while waiting for a school bus.

Had it not been for cars travelling too fast, Mr. Ferguson maintained, the accidents may have been prevented. He asked council not only to have radar patrols increased in the area but also to order maximum speed limit signs for John Street.

There are plans to establish two housing developments below John Street near the intersection with Mountainview Road, he noted, anticipating that there will be more children playing in the area in the future.

WINNING COMBINATION



Georgetown District High School's cross country Rebels dominated their fourth consecutive OFSAA meet Saturday at Boyd Conservation Area near Brampton. The senior boys' team (left) is again number one in Ontario (members are Glen Britton, Jim McIntyre, Dave Griffiths, Stacey Wheeler and Doug Smith) while Eric Hopkins (above) of the midjet boys finished second in his division, another astounding feat for the gritty Rebels. The Herald will carry a full report on the meet in Friday's Weekend Extra. (Herald photos by Harald Bransch)