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'SHARON' A HAPPY MOMENT

Sharon Hampson of Sharon, Lola and Bram—the Canadian musicians who have won awards for their revitalization of children's songs—visited the Georgetown branch of the library Saturday, spending the morning with kindergarten teachers and the afternoon with youngsters. Teachers who were asked specifically to bring cassette recorders brushed up on old favorite game songs for kids and learned a few new ones from the Sharon, Lola and Bram repertoire. (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

Ministry of agriculture opposes plan Croatian cemetery bid decision due April 13

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Stressing agricultural concerns, the town's planning department has recommended against a bid to establish a nine-acre cemetery south of Norval; but the cemetery's Croatian proponents and neighbors against the proposal will have to wait until April 13 before councillors reach a decision on the recommendation.

For the fourth time in almost as many months, the town's Trafalgar Road council chambers Monday night were packed with people who came to hear the long-awaited findings of a staff report concerning the 2,000-plot cemetery proposed for part of the 160-acre Croatian Centre at the northwest corner of Winston Churchill Road and Sideroad Five.

But, charging that results of ministry of agriculture studies which indicate that the cemetery would conflict with surrounding farm operations wasn't made available to his clients until Monday night, Croatian Centre solicitor William Whiteacre persuaded council to defer its decision until April 13.

The extra time, he said, would allow his clients, through farm consultants Bird and Hale Ltd. of Toronto, to do their own evaluation of the agricultural problems which may arise from the establishment of the cemetery.

"I must conclude with regret that you have been presented with a very one-sided document from the ministry," Mr. Whiteacre told a general committee meeting, adding that ministry officials, didn't contact the Croatian Centre to corroborate their findings.

NO CONFLICT

Mr. Whiteacre said that the town's report relies heavily on the ministry studies and minutes from a meeting last December of the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC), which emphasized that prime agricultural land in the region should be preserved and expressed concern that the cemetery could adversely affect farm operations surrounding it.

In a letter filed with the town in September, the ministry initially said it didn't feel the cemetery represented a conflicting land use or would prevent an undue amount of land from producing crops.

However, in December, the ministry appeared to reverse its decision, and citing the field studies, said that the cemetery "is deemed incompatible with surrounding farm operations" and that it was not convinced that efforts had been made to preserve "prime agricultural soils". The ministry letter concluded that need for the cemetery has not been sufficiently proven, nor reasons why it should be located on top-quality farmland.

Although Mayor Pete Pomeroy voted against deferring council's decision on the staff recommendation, he blasted the ministry's about-face and said that there was enough other information upon which committee members could base their vote.

"The ministry of agriculture report is not worth the paper it's written on," Mayor Pomeroy argued. "You don't need that correspondence. You aren't going to get any more information that's going to change your minds anyway."

He added that Mr. Whiteacre and his clients had ample time to get the information they claim they never received before the general committee meeting, noting that the ministry's report could have been picked up from an MPP and that the December HAAC meeting was a matter of public record.

CONTOUR PLOWING

The staff report also recalled concerns from neighboring farmers that pesticides used on their fields may affect vegetation on the cemetery grounds, although Mr. Whiteacre said this problem could be avoided by contour plowing.

Mr. Whiteacre told previous public meetings regarding the proposal that there would be no funeral entourage entering the Centre because of traffic restrictions on major highways but the staff report noted that farmers are concerned that vehicles parked along Sideroad Five and Churchill Boulevard would make it difficult for wide-bodied farm machinery to pass. Peel regional council is also worried that traffic problems along Churchill might arise if vehicles have access to the cemetery from that road.

Rural policies of the Esqueping Official Plan (the document currently in force while the town awaits a consolidated official plan) notes that the rural designation of the area allows cemeteries, "but leaves the final determination to council to consider whether or not that use is necessary", the planning department report states.

"In summary, it has not been demonstrated that an established chapel or religious land use warrants the introduction of a cemetery as an associated land use."

Meanwhile, Acton Coun. Dave Whiting unsuccessfully tried to ensure that everyone involved with the cemetery issue gets their information in time to adequately present arguments before council, even if it meant giving out information before councillors themselves receive it.

However, general committee members defeated Coun. Whiting's suggestion, concerned, as Coun. Walter Biehn said, that this would set a dangerous precedent at future meetings.

PM, MacEachen had minds made up, McDermid charges

Conference was all show-MP

By BOB THOMPSON
Herald Special
A "smirking" Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau used the Ottawa economic conference to showcase the government's tough stand on its fiscal policy rather than listen to suggestions from the 10 premiers, John McDermid charges.



STEPPIN' OUT

While the stock market ticks away in New York, Elisha J. Whitney (Keith Wellstead) finds time to romance Mrs. Harcourt (Maureen Burgoyne) in Globe Production's "Anything Goes" this week. Its comical fumbling and great Cole Porter music promise great entertainment for the next two weekends at the John Elliott Theatre. Read the "Globe success story" on page A2. (Herald photo)

The Brampton-Georgetown MP said this week that the "bitterness and anger" shown by the premiers is an indication of the frustration felt by provincial politicians.

The Prime Minister (Trudeau) and Finance Minister MacEachen went into the conference with their minds made up," Mr. McDermid said, "and the rest was just window dressing."

The economic summit, the first in three years, spluttered to its conclusion last Thursday with little resolved in the way of new government measures to stimulate the sagging economy and deflate the high interest rate policy partially blamed for the more than one million unemployed in Canada.

The Progressive Conservative MP said he is "bothered immensely" that the ideas of the 10 premiers were totally ignored by the prime minister, who "gave a smirking lecture Thursday to the premiers as if they were a bunch of school children."

Most premiers expressed concern over the federal government's tough stand on the monetary policy, including Premier Bill Davis. Premier Peter Lougheed of Alberta complained that Ottawa had unnecessarily tied in Canadian interest rates with U.S. levels while Newfoundland's Premier Brian Peckford was critical of the government's implication it may introduce wage controls.

While the premiers return home, finance ministers met to discuss the critical problem of transfer payments, an issue which has haunted the three-day conference and was never really resolved. The renewal of payments is scheduled for March, but the government has held fast its bid to cut back nearly \$4 billion in money allotted to the provinces as part of its war on deficit spending.

However, Mr. McDermid said the Tory Party will be introducing a series of programs and proposals later this year to counter-act the Liberal government policies, although he would not say whether a government mini-budget in the spring is likely.

Didn't start out that way, but local NDP now basking in 'Rae of hope'

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Halton Hills delegates who attended last weekend's provincial New Democratic Party (NDP) convention in Toronto are delighted with Bob Rae's landslide leadership victory and are confident that gains in the party's membership in Halton-Burlington riding as well as the rest of the province will continue to build, enabling provincial social democrats to unseat 40 years of Progressive Conservative government in 1985.

"Never have I felt the vibrations of imminent victory more than I did at that convention," Georgetown delegate Walter Behie told The Herald Monday night. Mr. Behie, along with John Nicol and Acton resident Allan Foster, joined riding association vice-president Ron Nece and Burlington's Sandy Gage as

Halton-Burlington's contingent on the convention floor.

Veteran party members called the convention the largest the provincial NDP has enjoyed in recent times; it took only one ballot Sunday afternoon to sweep Mr. Rae, the federal party's finance critic and MP for Toronto's Broadview-Greenwood seat, to the leadership. Mr. Rae's 1,236 votes captured nearly two thirds of the voting delegates, defeating Richard Johnston (512 votes) and Jim Foulds (232).

"He's young, he's articulate and he has done a hell of a good job as the NDP's federal finance critic," Mr. Foster, the riding association's Acton vice-president, said.

"He can communicate effectively with the media and with the grass roots membership and I think he's the man to shake the Davis government

upside down in the next election."

Chris Cutler, the party's candidate in Halton-Burlington during last year's provincial election, was not at the convention, having earlier committed himself to missionary work for the Mormon church, Mr. Foster explained. Mr. Cutler was unavailable for comments following Mr. Rae's election.

In the wake of Mr. Rae's victory, the party is more united than ever in Ontario. Mr. Nicol said, adding that the build-up to the convention and the final turn-out at the Harbour Castle Hotel by delegates last weekend showed a renewed enthusiasm and confidence in the party's plans for the province.

"We are the alternative party to the Tories," Mr. Nicol said. "There isn't much difference between the Liberals and the Conservatives."

Local delegates expressed unanimous optimism that Mr. Rae will head the next government and applauded his ability to convey the NDP's vision for the province to the electorate.

Initially, Mr. Behie said, he arrived at the convention intending to support Jim Foulds after previously hearing Mr. Foulds speak and having read

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Merchants change their minds - GO buses return to plaza

GO bus service has returned to the Georgetown Market Place after a three-day interruption last week which forced commuters to catch the bus on nearby Guelph Street and embargoed Georgetown-bound parcels normally arriving at the Market Place's Delrex Restaurant and Tavern, a GO Transit agency.

GO Transit authorities say they were given "less than 24 hours notice" a week ago Sunday to stop using the plaza to pick up and drop off passengers. Caught unprepared, GO ordered buses to stop at the intersection connecting the Market Place and the Gordon Alcott Arena, a move which one irate caller told The Herald puts passengers in danger because of traffic in the area.

Joe Shai, manager of ICI Developments Ltd., owners of the Market Place, said that GO buses were reluctantly ordered out of the plaza parking lot after some merchants complained about noise, fumes and traffic problems which waiting buses allegedly cause near the stores. But the decision was quickly reversed in the face of a substantial public reaction, he said.

"We didn't want to do it," Mr. Shai said. "The bus service was good for the plaza and the community. We received a registered letter from a tenant (in the Market Place) Dec. 20 asking that the bus service be removed from the plaza. So we called GO to see what

alternative arrangements could be made."

However, GO Transit didn't immediately respond to ICI's concerns, Mr. Shai said, and late last month a tenant called to once again deplore conditions around the parking lot because of waiting buses.

Almost as soon as the service was moved to the highway, mall merchants received complaints from angered commuters threatening to take their business

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YA GOTTA HAVE HEART!

Heart Fund campaigners got a boost this weekend from the Fifth Georgetown Guides, who were out selling plastic roses (the campaign's symbol) at the Georgetown Market Place. Caught in action at Zellers were (left to right) Karen Anzureskas, Carla Jackson, Heather Brilwaite, Tiffany Bomball, Nicol Spicer, Andrea Bosman, Keira Collins, Adrienne Harris and Jody Armstrong. Nationally, the campaign is trying to raise \$17.5 million for research and treatment of heart disease and stroke; about \$7 million is expected from Ontario. The Heart Fund says "Heart disease is everyone's problem; research should be everyone's responsibility". (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

About the Hills

Volunteers on the move

We have moved. The North Halton Volunteer Centre now has an office in Georgetown, at 164 Guelph Street, Suite 6. If you'd like to get involved in your community, meet interesting people and give the gift of time, call us; we have a place for you. We serve all of North Halton and can be reached at 877-3219 Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 4:30, 853-3310 Mondays from 1 to 4:30 and 876-1244 Monday and Friday from 1 to 3.

Don't miss Art '82

The Georgetown's Palette and Pencil Club has been an important part of the community's cultural scene for years, giving artists - from beginners to skilled painters - opportunities to share ideas, learn new techniques and exhibit their work as a group. Such an exhibition begins this Friday at the Halton Hills Library-Cultural Centre gallery, continuing until Feb. 27. "Art '82" is an exhibition and sale of watercolors, acrylics and sketches by members of the club. Everyone's welcome to attend the official opening Friday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. or drop by the gallery at their leisure. Club members will be on hand at most times to answer questions and chat about the show.

Silver seminar

All that glitters is not gold - it's silver...collectable silver from 1500 to 1900. Brian Musselwhite from the European department of the Royal Ontario Museum will discuss religious and domestic silver produced from 1600 to 1900. In this slide presentation, the methods and techniques used by silversmiths, the hallmarks and how to distinguish various types of English and European silver will be discussed. This lecture will be general and will be of interest to silver enthusiasts. Admission is \$1 in advance or at the door. Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Georgetown Public Library.

Sacre Coeur cookies

If you want to stock the fridge and cookie jar for Valentine's Day, the Sacre Coeur school parents' association is holding a bake sale in Zeller's Saturday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Funds raised from the sale (which also features a raffle for a cake) will be used for activities planned during French Week in Halton Hills March 7 to 13.

Grit gathering 'live'

Just as it did last weekend with its telecast of the provincial NDP convention, Halton Cable TV will pick up proceedings of the Liberal leadership rally in Toronto this weekend beginning Friday at 6 p.m. Cable TV subscribers with converters can tune in on Channel 26 or "M". Saturday's broadcast will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until midnight, returning again Sunday at 9 a.m. and finishing at 6 p.m.