

Pomeroy addresses Georgetown Chamber of Commerce

'Don't blame us for higher taxes'

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Mayor Pele Pomeroy told a Georgetown Chamber of Commerce meeting Thursday afternoon that most of the blame for higher municipal taxes this year lies squarely on the shoulders of the federal and provincial governments.

He argued during a luncheon at the North Halton Golf and Country Club that unless there is a dramatic change in the borrowing and spending policies followed by senior government, there appears to

be little chance of relief in the future for the homeowner.

"There has been a tremendous shift (to pay for programs) back to the municipality," Mayor Pomeroy said, "because the federal and provincial governments won't change their spending habits."

The problem begins with the federal government's transfer of payments scheme to the provinces, he explained. Program cuts haven't been initiated along with reductions in transfer payments and, eventually, the province must turn to the municipalities to keep

the programs afloat.

Mayor Pomeroy suggested that more and more federal and provincial money is being used to meet high interest rates on funds the two levels of government have borrowed to start programs.

Funding, Mayor Pomeroy said, whether it comes from income tax payments or municipal taxes, "all comes out of the same pocket."

Last year, he recalled, the federal government withdrew from a program in which it paid 20 per cent of the costs of municipal sewer and water projects. Halton region, which handles major sewer and water needs for Halton Hills, Milton, Oakville and Burlington, was suddenly left without anticipated federal support, throwing the region's sewer and water program behind by as many as five years, the mayor added.

Provincial grants to Halton's board of education were also cut by about five per cent, contributing to the board's large operating budget increase this year which will draw heavily from region taxpayers.

"All that is putting pressure on you and I," Mayor Pomeroy said.

While senior governments' financial management appears to be faltering, Halton's regional administration appears to have "its own house in order," he noted.

The "anti-regionalism" which followed Halton region's formation in 1974 and heightened during the administration's budget fiasco of 1980 may well have been justified, Mayor Pomeroy maintained.

"Now, we have our act together a little better," he said, "although we still haven't tackled the problem of borrowing money."

During the past year, Mayor Pomeroy said, Halton has hired a number of top-notch administrators, many of whom work in the treasury department.

Administrative procedures have been tightened, he said. Criticism has been levelled at the region for being slow to apply for grants and sometimes not applying for them at

all. Prior to the recent administrative "shake-up", billing for local improvements projects was four years behind.

"It's cost us all a lot of money and people trying to get this in focus," Mayor Pomeroy said, adding "You can't run a

\$100 million corporation (the region) without the proper accounting procedures."

In 1980, Halton incurred a \$431,000 deficit in its general budget and a further \$724,000 shortfall in its sewer and water account, but Mayor Pomeroy

described the deficits as "not significant" considering the money which the region works with every year. One reason for the shortfall in sewer and water revenues was a reduction in water consumption that year by regional residents.



'EYES STRAIGHT!'

Georgetown army cadets were honored last Wednesday night with a visit from Lt. Col. Hespler of the Lorne Scots, who inspected troops during a brief ceremony at the Armory in Fairgrounds Park. The evening's events included awards to Georgetown's top cadets and was followed by first aid and other demonstrations inside the armory building.

(Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

Penrice heads Chamber for second term

Doug Penrice of Beaumont Knitting Mills in Glen Williams has been elected to a second term as president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. His bid for office was unopposed at a Chamber directors' meeting Thursday. Also in this year's executive are Brenda Sissett, first vice president; Rud Whiting, second vice president; Marg Tanas, secretary and Walter Biehn, treasurer. Mr. Penrice announced that the Chamber is continuing to work with the province's transportation ministry and the town towards erecting signs at the northern and southern approaches to Georgetown on Trafalgar Road—signs welcoming visitors to the community and showing what service clubs are active. While 1982 memberships have not completely been received, treasurer Walter Biehn said that there are 22 new Chamber members this year. However, the Chamber expects to lose about eight to ten members from last year's total of 249, bringing the net gain to about eleven.



GIVING GENEROUSLY

(Herald photo by Ani Federman)



Georgetown high school student Kevin MacDonald, seen in photo at left, turned 18 years old Monday, and celebrated with a little generosity at the Red Cross blood donor clinic in the Holy Cross auditorium. Toronto Red Cross nurse Jan Ritchie and her colleagues collected 360 blood packs from a total attendance of 410 people, including 50 first-timers. Shirley Wilkinson of Georgetown (above) was making her ninth donation while six-year-old son Brent watched, and despite a strong personal effort by Optimist Dan Scarborough, who donated his 45th pint, the sponsoring Kinmen Club won the clinic's Bucket of Blood competition for service clubs. The next scheduled clinic is Aug. 8.

About the Hills

Have you seen the saucer?

After reading The Herald's story last week about an unidentified flying object experience shared by a local woman and her son while driving through Glen Williams recently, one caller recounted her own mysterious tale. She said she was travelling west along Highway 7 Thursday night when she heard a loud "humming" while passing the Sideroad 27 Intersection. The noise, she said, appeared to be very close and was loud enough during its brief duration, to be bothersome. She said she saw nothing and the rest of her trip continued uneventfully. In last week's story, the woman and her son reported they were bothered by a large roar while parked near the Eighth Line and Sideroad 27 Intersection and their car was shaken. Neither passenger or driver saw anything.

No condo opposition

Few objections were raised about two condominium proposals for the John and Rosetta Streets area in Georgetown, adjacent to Mountainview Road North. Both proposals will be built by the same company, Roswood Properties Ltd., although one plan of subdivision calls for 21 townhouses and another envisions 27 new homes. There were some concerns about drainage from the new developments, and local developer Al Pilutti wanted some assurance from the town that land he owns nearby would not be adversely affected by rain runoff from the developments. Residents also expressed concern about the type of fencing which will be used to divide the developments from the rest of the neighborhood and were told the issue would be settled in the final subdivision agreement.

Peterson in Milton

Ontario Liberal leader David Peterson will be the guest of MPP Julian Reed and the Halton-Burlington Provincial Liberal Association this Friday at the Milton Optimist Club. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$15 for students and seniors, and admit you to cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7, Mr. Peterson's address at 8, and dancing and entertainment from 9 on. Call the Association at 878-7415.

Winner's circle

Rick Berghammer, the Brampton-based leather craftsman who recently donated one of his large "leather paintings" to the Halton Hills Library-Cultural Centre, has come up with a real winner. With the endorsement of a patron in Texas, he has arranged to render the likeness of Kentucky Derby winner Gato Del Sol in leather. Mr. Berghammer will deliver two original leather paintings of the former long-shot to its Paris, Kentucky, owners by the end of July, creating his intricate, three-dimensional "painting" from a United Press photo. He'll then also deliver 12 reproductions of the original. Gato Del Sol started 19th in the field at the May 2 derby, a 21-1 long-shot, and amazed everyone by winning the world's most prestigious horse race.

German classes

On demand, the Halton board of education will offer German classes for elementary school children in Georgetown through the Heritage Language programme. Classes designed for pupils with no or little knowledge of the German language would start next September, and be held Saturday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Anyone interested, please call 653-1508, 877-0379 or 877-6188.

Hospital open house

Georgetown District Memorial Hospital celebrates Hospital Day today (Wednesday) with open houses this afternoon and evening. Drop by the facility and get to know more about the services and staff; they'll be happy to greet you.

Legal clinic meeting

The Halton Hills Community Legal Aid Clinic holds its annual meeting tonight (Wednesday) at 7 p.m. in its Wesleyan Street, Georgetown, offices.

Teacher resigns

Centennial Public School staff member Alec Dickson's resignation was accepted by the Halton board of education April 22, to be effective June 30.

Merchants question urban review staging

Had there been more collaboration between consultants working on the town's official plan and those who prepared the Georgetown Urban Area Review, there might be less confusion over proposed new boundaries for the community, Mayor Pele Pomeroy said Thursday.

Responding to lingering concerns the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce has about the urban boundary portion of the review, Mayor Pomeroy acknowledged that he isn't completely satisfied the boundary study produced by Toronto's Municipal Planning Consultants Ltd. is as good as the municipality expected.

A chamber committee last month concluded the urban boundary study should not have been carried out before the town's official plan is completed.

Proposed boundaries include land owned by Mascam Properties Ltd. (formerly Focal Properties Ltd.) and other developers south of Silver Creek in Georgetown. The "sewerage" portion of the urban review concluded that the Georgetown sewage treatment plant in Hungry Hollow can be modified to treat wastes generated by 41,000 people.

Developed efficiently, land south of silver Creek could house as many as 11,000

additional people. The Chamber has suggested that the official plan for the town should be approved before further studies and development plans are undertaken for southeast Georgetown.

Mayor Pomeroy argued that the town has not "put the cart before the horse" by completing the review first. "Before we could complete the official plan, we had to know how many (more) people we could put in place," he said.

Mayor Pomeroy added that the Chamber incorrectly believes that the new urban boundaries will add 1,000 acres of industrial land

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