

Merchants' salesmanship is put to the test

A former downtown store owner himself, Mayor Pete Pomeroy examines the crisis facing Halton Hills businessmen

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Before Pete Pomeroy became mayor of Halton Hills, he was a merchant in downtown Georgetown, selling sporting goods out of the store which is now under new management and known as North Halton Sports.

Therefore, it's not surprising to hear him discuss the nation's economic crisis (and particularly its effect on small businessmen like his former colleagues on Main Street) not only as a

politician concerned with the decline in tax revenue and other town benefits, but as someone looking at the erosion of small business as a way of life.

Perhaps more forcefully emphasized, his views on what downtown merchants must do to weather the slump are similar to those of Lynn Barnard, chairman of the Georgetown Business Improvement Area (BIA) and Halton region's business development director, Matt Fischer.

BIA, Mayor Pomeroy says, will largely depend on the imagination of the

one in which to shop. "I believe we are in a short-term slump," he

business-like fashion and continue to manage that way will survive. I'm

Georgetown and Acton".

By "short-term", he explained, he means residents shouldn't look for a full recovery for about four or five years as the slump "ripples" through various levels of consumers, merchants and manufacturers. Nevertheless, Mayor Pomeroy said he supports spending taxpayers' money on improvements in Halton Hills' two downtown areas, even though there's no guarantee that it will bring immediate relief to downtown mer-



PETE POMEROY

chants just barely holding their own against higher overhead costs and rising interest rates.

"We are trying to plan on a long-term basis, although there is a slow economy," he said of joint efforts between the town and the Acton and Georgetown BIA to plan the revitalization of the downtown cores.

"It would be wrong to simply pull a blanket over our heads. Now's the time to do the planning." There are two major reasons why he is confi-

dent that the downtown areas can survive. One, there's now greater participation from town council on BIA redevelopment plans. Last year, the town helped fund studies of the BIA's to assess their respective futures. And this year, the town helped secure loans from the province for projects which will be carried out as a result of some of the findings.

PLAZA OWNERS
Mayor Pomeroy also suspects that plaza own-

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businessmen in it to "sell" the area as an "extremely attractive"

told The Herald recently. "The people (in the BIA) who have managed in a

very positive about the future of our older commercial areas (in

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Two weeks 'til Guelph St. resurfacing

Bounce no more: road repairs on way

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Relief is in sight for motorists tired of the bone-jarring ride along Guelph Street between Rexway Drive and Sinclair Avenue.

Phase 2 of the giant four-phase Guelph Street reconstruction project will be completed in July, the town's engineering department told The Herald Monday, with the last coat of asphalt to be laid in about two weeks.

Since construction began last year to widen the stretch of road, adding left turn lanes at Mountainview Road and the Halton Hills Shopping Plaza, motorists have grumbled about construction-caused bottlenecks and slow-ups east and west along Guelph Street.

Traffic lights and left turn lanes have also been added at the Sinclair intersection in the \$1.2 million

phase of the project.

Deputy town engineer Ted Ballinger explained that there is some "remedial work" which must be done on Mountainview Road North and South near the intersection before the last coat of asphalt is laid. Traffic along Mountainview Road will be briefly inconvenienced as construction crews re-excavate a section of the road near the PetroCanada station and another near the Scotia Bank to replace material which heaved during the spring thaw.

But the work should be finished within a couple of weeks, he said, and motorists will be gliding along a firm, fresh surface of pavement.

Meanwhile, Halton region's additional construction plans for Mountainview Road South at Campbell Gate, near the marketplace entrance. In

a \$145,000 project, half of which is paid for by the province's transportation and communications ministry, traffic lights will be installed at the accident-prone intersection and turning lanes added.

During the latest phase in Guelph Street's reconstruction, handled by general contractor Fer-Mar Paving Ltd. of Mississauga, the region was responsible for sewer and watermain work at the Mountainview Road intersection. The underground work, part of which included installing new storm sewers paid for by the town, was completed by Val Dal Construction Ltd. of Rexdale.

Westbound traffic on Guelph Street approaching Mountainview had to negotiate a bottleneck caused by a temporary traffic light standard which juddered into the street last fall and winter. New

standards were installed this spring and the problem removed by Guild Electric of Toronto.

Sidewalks were recently installed on both sides of Guelph Street in the construction area, allowing pedestrians to safely walk to the Gordon Alcott Arena or to either one of the shopping centres. The sidewalks were included in the Phase 2 costs, 90 per cent of which is being paid for by the transportation ministry.

There are two more phases left in the Guelph Street project. Tentatively scheduled to be completed toward the end of 1984, more construction is planned between the vacant Shoprite store and Delrex Boulevard, widening the area for an extra traffic lane.

But first, in Phase 3, the town plans to lay new storm sewers.



GREASEPAINT CHASES OFF THOSE RAINY DAY BLUES

Rallying interest in the town's summer programs for kids, members of the town's parks and recreation department were busy painting clown faces to chase away the rainy day blues. Elizabeth Kraus (left) and Hope Simmons were among several "hams" on Main Street, Georgetown for the community's Pioneer Days celebrations. See page A8 for stories and lots more photos. (Herald photo by Dave Rowney)

Another hydro line for Halton? Just conjecture, mayor says

Ontario Hydro may be looking at Halton Hills for more transmission tower space in its bid to expand its circuit network extending from the Bruce nuclear power plant to southwestern regions of the province.

In a decision reached Friday, a "consolidated hearings board" rejected Hydro's proposal to run a transmission corridor from the Bruce plant to London and a parallel line from London to Middleport, arguing that this would take 800 hectares (approximately 1,976 acres) of prime farmland out of active agricultural use.

Instead, it suggested that Hydro should run its corridor between Bruce and Essa, north of Barrie, and add another circuit parallel to one existing along Highway 401 between Milton and London.

Meanwhile, Mayor Pete Pomeroy, who met with Hydro chairman Hugh MacCaulay Tuesday morning, said that another Hydro line running west to east through the town's southern boundary is "all conjecture at this point."

"There is no indication that (another transmission line) will be built in Halton Hills in the foreseeable future," Mayor Pomeroy said.

He declined to comment further on the board's decision until he has reviewed a copy of the document, adding that Mr. MacCaulay's Halton Hills visit was planned well in advance of Friday's announcement.

The meeting included a helicopter trip over Hydro's north-south corridor through Acton and Esqueping, as well as a number of projects in which Hydro and the town share an interest. Hydro's Laura Formosa has been handling

community relations for the utility while hearings have been held to discuss Hydro's proposals for southwestern Ontario and she told The Herald Tuesday that Hydro hasn't determined the exact

route it will take to expand its southwestern Ontario power network. While the board has said Hydro must plan a route from the Bruce plant to Essa and Milton to London, further studies

would cover a broad "band" within which the new route may fall.

Studies of this route, known as M-1, would be held under Environmental Assessment Act guidelines and public hearings would

not be expected to begin until at least the late winter or early spring of 1984.

Ms. Formosa did not know if Hydro would launch an appeal.



PIONEER HIDEOUT

Keeping dry on the Main Street of Georgetown was no easy feat Saturday at the Pioneer Day celebrations, so seeking refuge under a trailer seemed like a sensible solution to (left to right) Brian Lee, 8, Cori Akers, 5, and Andy Akers, 7. By 10 a.m., the rain had enveloped the open-air mall in the downtown area, forcing cancellation

of the early afternoon parade down Main Street. However, the steam engine whistled defiantly throughout the morning rain, sending its signals skywards until the rain stopped and the shoppers returned. The rain held for the rest of the day, turning Pioneer Days into a spectacle of shopping bargains and old time exhibits.

Baby Jennifer doing fine after four-hour operation

Jennifer Doyle, the 20-month-old Georgetown baby who had a heart operation Thursday morning, is showing good signs of recovery at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children.

"She's doing real good," father Clarence Doyle said. "She's running around now."

Following the four-hour operation Thursday, Jennifer was put into intensive care until Friday afternoon. Since then she has been recovering in the cardiology ward. It's expected she'll be home shortly, perhaps Saturday.

Jennifer, the youngest of six children of Clarence

and Doris Doyle of Normandy Boulevard, had a growth inside her aorta making the artery narrow so that blood couldn't get through easily.

In another year, after she rests and gets her strength back, Jennifer will be returning to the hospital for open heart surgery.

"No matter how bad we thought it was at the time, we found out there are a lot of children in worse condition with more complications," Mrs. Doyle said.

She said when Jennifer was eight months old, the

family doctor had said Jennifer had a heart murmur. Then, in January, when Jennifer came down with a cold, the doctor said her heart murmur sounded more pronounced and sent her for tests at the Toronto hospital.

"The testing began in mid-March and that's when we first knew she had to have the operation," Mrs. Doyle said.

Jennifer went into hospital June 15 for tests in preparation for her first operation Thursday at 8 a.m.

Normandy Boulevard residents for ten years, the

Doyle family was touched by the concern of children and neighbors on their street. The family was presented with a gift of \$154 raised through a bake and garage sale last week.

"It started out as little gifts for Jennifer and kind of mushroomed," Mrs. Doyle said. "I knew the neighbors were having a garage and bake sale. But it really took me by surprise when they told me it was for Jennifer. I had even contributed to it!"

The money is going toward travel expenses, enabling the family to visit Jennifer in the Toronto hospital.



CHARMED BY ANGELS

Yvonne Oldaker's Halton Hills School of Dance returned to the Library-Cultural Centre Sunday night for another rousing presentation by children of various ages. Who among the parents, friends and fans in the

John Elliott Theatre couldn't help but be charmed by little angels like these jumping and prouetting about? (Herald photo by Harald Bransch)