

What do councillors do? A voter's primer

by CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

"What is it," the emphatic lady on the other end of the phone line was asking, "that these councillors do with the money we pay them?"

She later answered her own question, convinced in her opinion that whatever it is, it isn't enough. "Phooey" on the election!

However rightly or wrongly residents view their municipal council-

lors, the relationship which bonds the two together is "trust"; each councillor is keenly aware that a majority of voters have chosen him or her to stand up for them on council; they have faith at least initially, that the councillor can do the job well.

When constituents think their rep is shrinking some of the responsibilities that come with the job, the chances of that councillor returning after

the next election grows proportionately smaller.

BEAR BRUNT

When a resident is pinched by a municipal concern and can't decide whether it's a regional matter or something for local council to deal with, it's usually town councillors who bear the brunt of the first broadside.

There are eight local councillors on Halton Hills council. Four regional reps (one from each ward) and the

mayor fill out the political group which administers the 106-square mile municipality. They meet once a week in council chambers located at the clerk's office on Trafalgar Road. The first and third Mondays of each month have councillors meeting as "council"; they assemble as members of the town's

"general committee" on second and fourth Mondays.

Most of the important business is first handled by the committee which makes recommendations to council. Both types of meetings are opened to the public, but when the audience and the press are asked to leave a

session, it's actually to allow councillors or committee members to discuss a legal, personnel or property matter.

DRIVE ON

It's up to town councillors to ensure that residents have parks and arenas to use, roads (under its jurisdiction) which are safe to drive on

and planning policies which reflect unique interests of the local area.

They have nothing to do with providing subsidized day care in town, solving sewer and water problems or why the Ninth Line (Regional Road 13) has potholes deep enough to get lost in for three days.

Like their counterparts on Halton council, local councillors set a budget for the municipality every year. Most of the

money comes from residential taxes, but the province annually chips in an ever-dwindling amount. Residents who pay their taxes late force the town to borrow money (with interest) to meet revenue shortfalls until all taxes are collected.

Also like their counterparts at the region, local councillors look to town's "civil service" for information before decisions are made. If the mayor is the head of council, the

clerk-administrator is responsible for seeing that council's orders are followed.

The town's civil servants are the "carpenters" of municipal government: they know what tools are needed to administer properly, but they must ask council for permission to use them.

NOT AWARE

White residents can see their reps at work by attending meetings, or

Continued on page A2

Wards 3, 4 candidates - p. A2

877-5213

FOBERT
Real Estate Inc.
380 Guelph Street
Georgetown, Ontario

EXCELLENCE AWARD
IN CUSTOMER RELATIONS

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1982

FORD TRUCKS

CAPITAL

FORD SALES LTD
381 Guelph St. 877-6928
Highway 7 Georgetown

"THE BEST DEAL...is A CAPITAL DEAL"

Gravel policy snag at MNR, group says

Differences of opinion between the minister of natural resources and his top bureaucrats may alleviate gravel concerns in southwestern Ontario, the Foundation for Aggregate Studies says in a letter to North Dumfries council.

The message, currently being reviewed by Halton Hills staff, suggests there may not be complete agreement among the minister, his executive assistant and other ministry officials on the amount of land to be

protected for the aggregate industry in the ministry's Cambridge district.

ies township expressed concern that aggregate mapping for the area was excessive and recommended a number of

changes to the ministry's plans.

Meanwhile, Halton Hills planning staff expect to present council with a report reviewing the town's, region's and other positions on the aggregate issue.

Firm ok for worksharing

From the Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

The employment and immigration department has approved an application by another Georgetown company to participate in the federally-sponsored worksharing program.

Unilock Ltd. has been given permission to put six employees into a worksharing unit in an effort to avert two layoffs.

Under the program, the work week is reduced by one to three days. Employees are paid for the

time worked and unemployment insurance helps top up the weekly pay package. Average earnings for employees participating in work sharing units are about 90 per cent of normal levels.

Since the program was introduced in January,

the department has approved 6,145 applications to put 171,928 on work sharing, averting 73,474 layoffs. The federal government has committed \$188.4 million to the program for the balance of this year and another \$19.2 million into 1983.

MP 30 pounds lighter

By ROB DEACON
Ottawa bureau

If the federal government wants to trim some excess fat from its spending, Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid has some practical advice.

Mr. McDermid told the Commons Friday afternoon he has lost 30 pounds in the last five months.

"I did without some of those things it is nice to have," he said. "I sacrificed that. I trimmed down and I slimmed down. I cut

the fat off. That is what the government should be doing."

SPENDING UP

Government spending is up 17 per cent over last year, the Tory MP said.

"Unemployment figures in Canada are a national disgrace, especially for the young people. An unemployment rate of 12.2 per cent is not funny."

He criticized finance minister Marc Lalonde's recent announcement to

provide \$500 million to 60,000 temporary jobs over the next year and a half.

"Some money has been sent to the riding of Brampton-Georgetown. It will provide about 50 jobs."

"As of Sept. 30 in Brampton there were 8,006 registered for unemployment insurance and 1,485 in Georgetown," he said. That means over 9,500 people are now registered for unemployment.



SCARY SKATERS

The Klansmen Club of Georgetown helped residents celebrate Halloween Sunday afternoon with a costume skating party at memorial arena. Youngsters and adults alike took the opportunity to dress up like their favorite

imaginary character. The eventual prize winners, in a number of wide ranging categories (from scariest costume to the funniest), are seen above.

(Herald photo by Dave Rowney)

Not too late to join cultural centre party!

The Cultural Centre's Anniversary Week is here and the festivities are well in progress.

Tonight you can catch our own local performances in the second portion of "Amateur Night".

Thursday afternoon, the high schools and public schools will be performing, and later, "An Evening of Song and Music" should be a real treat with some well-known local groups and singers to entertain you.

The culmination of the week's celebrations will be a performance Friday evening by Long John Baldry, the "King of Rhythm and Blues". Come out and hear a great performer.

Saturday's presentation of "Dick Whittington and His Cat" by the Inner Stage Theatre Group will be a real thriller for children of all ages.

Don't miss these great events. Tickets at the Recreation Department (877-5185 ext. 60) or at the door.



IN SEARCH OF OUR ROOTS

Extolling the virtues of our rich Canadian folk heritage, the Guelph-based band Brigand seemed a fitting opening to the Cultural Centre's week-long first anniversary celebration. Playing a fine arrangement of nautical jigs, original airs and "born-again ballads", the five-member electric folk band were featured Monday at the John Elliott Theatre to start off a number of anniversary festivities which

include an Amateur Night, Long John Baldry, a children's production and much more! Brigand's performance was far from being a sell-out act, but many of the upcoming popular activities will require ticket purchases soon to ensure seats. For tickets and information, call 877-5185, ext. 60.

(Herald photo by Anl Pedersen)

Ratepayers maintain town didn't respond

GARA standing firm

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

The Georgetown Area Ratepayers Association (GARA) maintains it was ignored by municipal reps when it raised concern earlier this year about the Georgetown urban area review.

Its executive described comments about the group made by town planning board chairman Mike Armstrong as "untrue".

Coun. Armstrong, himself responded to statements made recently by GARA president Brian Bush, told The Herald that regional staff attempted to reach Mr. Bush several times with a written response to the group's urban boundary concerns.

Coun. Armstrong said Mr. Bush was out of the country on a lengthy business trip, could not be reached by the region's courier, and that other GARA reps failed to respond to the review at a public meeting in August.

In a written brief submitted to The Herald by executive members Monday night, GARA said it only received answers to its questions Oct. 23, following The Herald's publication of its interview with Mr. Bush. The material, which GARA says it has waited for several months, is now being reviewed by the group.

ONLY AFTER

GARA maintains that it only heard of the region's attempts to reach Mr. Yestadt when Coun. Armstrong responded to the interview with Br. Bush. Its brief asks why the region's response was not sent to the GARA mailing address, a box number, which was included with its questions to the urban boundary study earlier this year.

"Our submission, dated April 7, is in fact full of questions," the GARA brief continues. "If our input appeared non-existent to Coun. Armstrong, it can only be because these questions went unanswered

throughout the planning process."

But Coun. Armstrong says that not only did GARA miss the second public meeting to discuss the completed urban review (now being studied by the province), but it failed to bring its concerns to official plan meetings in September and October.

NOREASON

"We had no reason to hide anything from (Mr. Bush) at all," Coun. Armstrong said, commenting on GARA's brief. "GARA didn't even attend the August public meeting. At the official plan meetings, I understand they had somebody, but he, too, was called out of town. We just can't be after these people all the time."

Coun. Armstrong added that public meetings for the urban boundary review and the official plan were advertised in local newspapers. If other resi-

dents with concerns were aware of the sessions, he said, then GARA could have attended as well.

His remarks about GARA and its leadership following Mr. Bush's interview were "made in all sincerity and shared by other members of town council", Coun. Armstrong said, noting that he was "Miffed" at GARA statements that it's concerns were not being considered by the region.

Coun. Armstrong argued that Mr. Bush's sentiments did not represent the feelings of other members of the Association's executive. GARA's brief, however, endorses Mr. Bush's views published in The Herald three weeks ago.

"I don't want to get into a running battle in the press," Coun. Armstrong said. "If GARA couldn't get hold of me by phone, they could write. They can

read newspapers like everyone else and find out when the meetings are. I can't understand what the point is of going through all this now."

While GARA's brief expresses disappointment with Coun. Armstrong's

"reaction" to the interview with Mr. Bush, "nevertheless, we believe that through this discourse a better understanding of the needs of the community will be imparted to all concerned," the brief concludes.



SHOCKING!

Saturday the inmates appeared to be running the asylum. Here, Shoppers Drug Mart employee Susan Murray dresses like a 1950s teen goblin while flanked by two young proteges, Carrie Morris, 8 (left) and Carol McGee, 7. The Globe Theatre members were helping to celebrate the Halloween mood by painting faces on children in the front section of the store.

(Herald photo)

Fotomat kiosk empty

The Fotomat kiosk in the Georgetown Market Place was one of 174 retail photo outlets closed Friday. Two local employees were among the 420 staff put out of work.

Customers who had left films for developing with the company shouldn't feel nervous about ever getting them back, divisional controller Philip Bogod of Bellevue Photographic Ltd. said. Bellevue picks up, processes and delivers films to Fotomat outlets.

He assured The Herald that the films entrusted to Fotomat are "under lock and key" and have been developed by Bellevue.

"We're expecting an answer in 48 hours," Mr. Bogod said Monday. "We have a great deal of work on our premises and are

awaiting instructions as to how this work will be returned to the customers."

Attorneys for Fotomat are currently sorting out how to deal directly with the customers.

Why the company closed remains a mystery. Fotomat is a division of privately owned L.B.I. Images Inc. of Toronto. L.B.I. Images has launched a suit against Fotomat Corporation of Hartford, Connecticut, from which it holds a licence to use the Fotomat name in Canada.

Fotomat lawyer Sheldon Salzman has issued a news release stating that any further information regarding film pick-up and any reopening will be posted on Fotomat kiosks within a few days.