



It's hard to beat the excellent morale, training and dedication of our Georgetown Volunteer Firefighters Association, said MPP Julian Reed in a short speech at the firefighters' annual general meeting. Seen here are the elected executive for 1983: (front row, left to right) Captain Bob Paul, Deputy District Chief Bill Barber,

District Chief Bruce Lewis, Captain Bernie Egerton, (back row) Volunteer Fire Prevention Officer John Murray, Lieutenant Larry Brassard, Captain Pete Hayes and Lieutenant Brian Hill. Absent: Lieutenant Appleyard.

(Herald photos by Dave Rowney)

PRAISE FIRE DEPT. FOR YEAR'S FINE WORK



The Georgetown Volunteer Firefighters Association elected its new executive Sunday at the annual general meeting. Voted in as secretary was Tom Massena (left) with Andy Murphy as chairman (centre) and Ernie Pearce as treasurer. In his opening remarks, the chairman said he hopes the brigade will keep up the fire tradition of pride among its retired members, many of whom were present at the meeting.



Mike Nixon, Ontario assistant field director for the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada was pleased to be on hand at the Georgetown Firefighter's annual general meeting to accept a cheque for \$5,000. Andy Murphy, chairman of the Association executive, made the presentation.

Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham received his "ten year clock" award for services he has performed as a part of the volunteer brigade. Chief Cunningham reached the highest rank possible for a volunteer, that of district fire chief before he was hired as the Chief of Halton Hills, following a distinguished 15-year career as a policeman. Chairman of the Firefighter's Association, Andy Murphy, made the presentation.

Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham will join his three counterparts from across Halton as well as police and ambulance representatives and regional chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin on a new committee studying the implementation of a "911" emergency telephone number. Sanctioned by regional council last week, the committee will iron out details of the proposed, \$15,700 per month system, by which all Halton residents would dial 911 for any emergency service.



Halton teacher earns M.B.A.

Bradford R.M. Fisher graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree at the November convocation of McMaster University.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger C. Fisher of Georgetown, he was awarded a McMaster Graduate Teaching Assistantship while completing the program.

The graduate of York University, the University of Toronto and Wilfrid Laurier University is a past winner of the O.P.M.T.F. Provincial Editors Award, a former Associate Teacher for Brock University and a GDHS Ontario Scholar. He is currently a secondary school teacher with the Halton board of education.

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Councillors fear lot levy's effects

Continued from page A1 and that of a number of industrial-commercial land developers and property owners.

The committee will consist of the regional chairman, chief administrative officer, treasurer, a member of the public and representatives of industry and the industrial development field and will report back to council in about 90 days.

Besides council, the capital levy issue has already been reviewed by the CAO's office and the business advisory committee and was the subject of a joint report by the region's treasury and business development departments.

Speaking on behalf of about a dozen firms opposed to the proposal, Ron Wojcicki, chairman of the Halton's Urban Development Institute chapter, warned that the levy, combined with the recession, would further slow new industrial development in Halton.

SERIOUS IMPACT
"The levies will have a serious impact not only on our industry, but on all the residents of Halton as well," he said.

Mr. Wojcicki's concerns about what he termed the region's "political attitude" in the levy issue were shared by a number of councillors, including Milton's Brad Clements and Halton

Hills mayor Pete Pomeroy.

Farther from the lucrative Hamilton-Toronto marketplace than Oakville and Burlington, north Halton has to compete that much harder to fill its industrial land and boost assessment revenues. Councillors in Milton and Halton Hills are worried that the levy will erode the attractiveness of industrial land in the north.

"It's a very sensitive subject and deserves serious consideration," Mayor Pomeroy said. "Industry is the lifeblood of our community."

Noting that the levy only affects new industrial or commercial property and that it will be some time before the region reaps any financial benefits from it, he argued that deferring the issue would do no harm.

YEARS AGO
"Commerce started this community years ago," Coun. Brad Clements said, "and if we go through with this it will destroy us."

But levy proponents argue that the servicing costs of new development should not be borne by residential taxpayers. They point to another policy in which developers "front end" the costs of servicing new residential subdivisions, alleviating the tax burden on existing homeowners.

Opponents maintain that the amount of money taxpayers shell out for new industrial-commercial development (about \$1.58 per Halton resident), is a small price to pay for the benefits enjoyed by increased industrialization. More industry means job creation and a larger tax base from which municipalities can draw to improve the well-being of their residents.

Burlington Coun. Pat McLaughlin, chairman of the region's planning and public works committee, said it's the taxpayer, not the individual resident, who ends up paying for the per capita costs, and those charges add considerably to tax and utility bills.

SCARE TACTICS
He called on council not to delay a decision on the issue and called threats that it would steer development away from the region "scare tactics".

Coun. Joan Little of Burlington warned that council's unwillingness to deal with the issue could be viewed as "dynamic inaction—doing nothing with style."

Burlington Coun. Ron Forbes urged council to "look before it leaps" into capital levies because they may price the region out of the property market.

While he still supports the concept behind the levy, Halton Hills Coun.

Mike Armstrong voted in favor of deferral to give, he told The Herald later, everyone the opportunity to review new and old information. He didn't rule out the possibility of another option, satisfactory to both parties, although a number were proposed in the joint treasury-business development departments' study last year.

Not one Halton Hills ratepayer has raised an objection to paying "a small charge to encour-

age industrial development in the community," Mayor Pomeroy said. He described the levy as "ridiculous and ludicrous."

If passed, capital levies on urban land would be set at \$2,500 per acre, but charges in the rural area would be less.

Rural industrial land serviced with water only would face capital levy charges of \$1,370 per acre. Unserviced rural industrial land would be charged \$440 per acre.



OPTIMIST CLUB

of Georgetown

A welcome for 8 new members

The Optimist Club of Georgetown welcomed eight new members at its Dec. 14 dinner meeting. They are Don Fowler, Mike Reems, Aubrey Booth, Don Poick, Adrian Beer, Donald Hesse, Larry Kelly and Bala (Bert) Nalliah. Our best wishes to these new members. Welcome one and all!

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