

Drop-in uncorks questions

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Over 20 residents from Georgetown's Ward 3 attended the first "drop-in" hosted by the Ward's councillors, John McDonald, Phil Carney and Finn Poulstrup.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy, who chaired the session held last Wednesday night at the Georgetown and District High School, described the turnout as "just tremendous" and praised rookie councillors Carney and Poulstrup for their ability to answer the audience's questions.

The two-hour session which began at 7:30 p.m. dealt with many long-standing issues in the ward, and brought to light some new concerns councillors said they would look into.

Road conditions in the ward and elsewhere were of particular concern. One resident joked that the roads are so bad, "if you blind-folded yourself, you could tell when you're in Halton".

EAGER

Residents in the Byron, Shelley and Keats streets area are particularly eager to have their roads reconstructed, something which would help

control a drainage problem for some homes.

While a Byron Street reconstruction project is planned in the town's long-range public works budget forecast for 1985, and Shelley Street the following year, there's no guarantee that council won't postpone the projects until more money is available.

Another group of residents in a small subdivision flanked by Ewing and Ontario Streets says that the town has yet to provide sidewalks and other public services which they feel they should have received as part of the subdivision agreement.

Unfortunately, Coun. McDonald said, some of the items which the development is missing should have been installed within a certain time frame. Without the time frame to work with, the agreement between the town and builders becomes "open-ended" and the public works projects for the area have been postponed.

SIDEWALKS

Ratepayers were also concerned about snow on sidewalks. One resident said that snow had been piled across the sidewalk east of the Becker's store at the corner of Guelph Street and Edward Street.

Coun. McDonald said that he is aware of the trouble spot and that it will be watched in the future.

The town hasn't got a sidewalk clearing policy because of legalities involved, Mayor Pomeroy told residents. At one time, the town had equipment to clear walkways, but it didn't work that well.

With costs a major concern, it may not be possible to clear snow from all the sidewalks in town. The legal problems arise, Mayor Pomeroy said, when the town has to decide whether to clear one or all sidewalks in town.

Meanwhile, some residents living north of the CN railway tracks, notably in the Michael Street area, say they feel isolated from the rest of the community. One man suggested that this area of town (where the Abilibi plant and old Domtar mill are located) should be connected by extending the pedestrian tunnel on CN property used by commuters to get to the GO trains.

Residents also expressed concern about the culvert over John Street. It was described by one person as a narrow "bridle path" and councillors acknowledged that there seems to be some question about whether the town or CN is responsible for the structure.

Residents puzzled by municipal centre debate

Issue 'in harness' - reps

Last year's council may have moved too quickly in arranging site studies for a new municipal centre, Coun. Phil Carney acknowledged last week, but this term's council has "put the horse back in harness".

Councillors Carney, John McDonald and Finn Poulstrup were quizzed by Ward 3 residents about the town centre issue at Wednesday night's inaugural "drop-in". They assured residents that while the town has

paid a \$10,000 deposit for property on Georgetown's Maple Avenue which might become the site of the building, council hasn't committed itself to any building proposal.

The town has hired consultants for a \$7,500 study which should determine what sort of office space the municipal administration will need as Halton Hills grows. Coun. McDonald said the space needs assessment should be ready by March 7 and noted that the option to buy the Maple Avenue property, 30 acres across from the Golf course and adjacent to land owned by the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, ends March 21.

ALTERNATIVES
Although the town has invited other firms to assess the value of the property, one appraisal maintains it's worth \$650,000. Coun. Poulstrup said that, in addition to other assessments, the municipal centre building committee of which he is a member, wants alternative sites evaluated as well.

Coun. Carney commented that while there may be doubts about the property's feasibility as the municipal centre site, it would be unfair to "take pot shots at it without the (space needs) study".


In addition to the deposit, about \$11,000 has been spent on the Maple Avenue site to engineering studies. Mayor Pete Pomeroy told council last month that Halton Hills Hydro has indicated an interest in the municipal centre idea, possibly building new headquarters of its own on the site.

Mayor Pomeroy added that a municipal centre at that location, with a corresponding roadwork, could provide better access to the hospital which can now only be approached from Princess Anne Drive.

Servicing the site could clear up some sewer problems in the neighborhood as well, he said.

Commenting on the costs of the space needs study, Coun. Poulstrup explained that the town advertised for tenders in local newspapers and received eight replies from consultants. Toronto's Robbie Architects Planners was awarded the contract and, Coun. Poulstrup said, "we believe we got the best expertise for the best price."

BULK MEATS



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SLICED BACON Town Club 11 lb. cartons	1.89 lb. (4.17 kg)
PEAMEAL BACK BACON , Whole or portions	2.72 lb. (6.00 kg)
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MEET YOUR MPP

Halton-Burlington Liberal MPP Julian Reed chatted with Acton's John Dowdell Monday night at a Liberal party social. The event, held in the community's band hall, provided an opportunity for Mr. Reed to meet Acton constituents.

(Herald photo)

POLICE BEAT

Man faces third charge

One of two Georgetown men denied bail Thursday in Barrie Provincial Court where he faces two bank robbery charges has been charged in connection with a third bank robbery in Erin Feb. 9. William Kirk Warnock, 19, and Kenneth Mervin Werry, 19, were arrested and charged in connection with bank robberies Feb. 15 at Nobleton and Beeton. Both were denied bail Thursday and remanded in custody.

Further investigation by OPP has resulted in a third charge being laid against Mr. Warnock relating to the Erin Toronto Dominion Bank robbery Feb. 9 in which \$6,100 was stolen. Police have recovered about \$5,000 of that amount.

Co-charged with Mr. Warnock in connection with the Erin robbery is James T. McCracken, 20, also of Georgetown.

No weapons were used in any of the robberies, police said. The Beeton Royal Bank was robbed of \$3,100 and the Nobleton Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce of \$2,500.

Student struck

An eight-year old Robert Little Public School student was struck by a car last Wednesday at 4 p.m. when he ran into the car's path. John Uranick of Acton was taken to Guelph General Hospital by his parents and was treated and released for minor injuries suffered in the pedestrian-car collision.

The Edmonton, Alberta, driver was northbound on Main Street North at River Road when the boy ran from the roadside in front of him. No charges were laid.

Rabbit causes accident

Kelth Robin Bates, 45, suffered minimal injuries Thursday at 5 a.m. when he braked for a rabbit hopping into the roadway.

The Acton man was approaching the railway crossing at Trafalgar Road from Highway 7 when he put on his brakes and lost control of his vehicle. Sliding on the wet road surface, he struck a restraining pole and a hydro pole, eventually coming to rest against a guy wire.

There was \$4,000 damage to his car and \$50 damage to Halton Hills hydro property. No charges were laid.

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Concerns addressed

Four recommendations were passed by town council Monday night which address issues discussed at the Ward 3 (Georgetown) drop-in last Wednesday night. Council has asked the parking authority to review downtown Georgetown's parking inventory, possibly finding new space by re-aligning some of the existing parking squares.

Drop-in participants last week told councillors McDonald, Phil Carney and Finn Poulstrup the town should consider an internal transit system, something that would be of particular benefit to seniors who don't have their own cars.

Council will ask the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for an update on a transit study it sponsored about four years ago. Councillors and Mayor Pete Pomeroy expressed

doubt that a transit system for Halton Hills could operate economically.

The town also wants a traffic study conducted at the Maple Avenue-Delrex Boulevard intersection. The region is responsible for Maple Avenue and would have to participate in the study. Residents last week argued that the intersection needs a traffic light because of the blind approach up Maple Avenue to the intersection and the fact that there are students in the area from four different schools.

The Georgetown Marketplace on Guelph Street has also come under scrutiny as a result of last week's drop-in. Council wants the commercial centre's owners to launch a study to alleviate traffic problems on the parking lot and improve lighting in the area.

UFFI relief

Owners of homes insulated with urea formaldehyde can now do business with a Toronto-based corporation offering to solve their problem free of charge.

Can-Am Air Leakage Control Systems is telling homeowners that it will rid their houses of the dangers of UFFI gas and drastically cut their future energy bills.

The federal government will pick up the entire tab under its \$5,000 grant program.

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