

Denial of input a 'flagrant violation'

To the editor of The Herald:
The residents of the Wildwood-Eighth Line community were extremely disappointed in the inexplicable action of council in denying our request to a public meeting on the amendment to the Glen Williams Secondary Plan.

The first that most of us heard of council's intention to add the land to the north of Wildwood Road and to the east of Eighth

Council disappoints Wildwood residents

Line into the Glen Williams Secondary Plan area as a proposed residential development was when we read about it in the paper last week. We also read at that time that the council decided not to hold a public meeting which is the usual procedure, to inform the residents of the area and to allow their concerns to be

answered. The residents do not necessarily object to any future development. We do object to being denied an opportunity to give input into a decision

already fully aware of that fact. While we may all have our private opinions about our council, none ever thought that it was acting in open fla-

grant violation of the law. We do believe, however, that the citizens of Georgetown all have a moral and historical right to have their questions answered when their neighborhoods are going to be affected.

Letters to the editor

Mr. Armstrong further argued that since there had been public meetings in 1978 and 1979 on the Glen Williams Secondary Plan that another one wasn't necessary. He ignored the fact that the majority of the residents who will be affected did not live in this area in 1979. The north side of Wildwood Road was open field at that time. Does he really believe that because a large number of people didn't live in a neighborhood three and a half years ago, that they have no right to input on a decision which affects their future?

In the council discussion which followed several councillors pointed out that our council has learned from the hard lessons of the past that when they attempt to shortcut the planning process, when they

exclude adequate and desired public participation, they end up with a longer and much more difficult issue than would have existed otherwise. To their great credit councillors Serjeantson, Sheldon and McDonald voted to hold the requested meeting.

What of Megan Developments? Several of our town's leading citizens are principle participants in this company. When the residents of an area express their desire to cooperate and ask merely to be informed and to be heard, why do these pillars of our community send a hired representative to council to denigrate these people and accuse them falsely?

Does not a wise and astute developer know that the inevitable delays caused by public opposition will be much more costly than participating in a public meeting which could have been arranged within two weeks?

So what happens now? The residents of this community have no choice but to appeal to the Minister and seek to delay the process until they are given their rightful forum.

How sad. The possibility existed for cooperative development of a lovely area of town, with

which will obviously affect our lives and neighborhood, and a forum at which to have our questions answered. In the few days available for us to do so a petition was circulated requesting a public meeting. It was unanimously signed by all those residents of the area who could be contacted in such a short time.

The Town Planner, Mr. Keith, informed us that such a meeting could be arranged within two weeks. What followed was beyond reason.

Councillor Armstrong actually told the delegation that because, under the particular amending process being used a public meeting was not legally demanded, they did not have a right to one. The residents were

Juvenile arrested

A 14-year old male Actonian was arrested and charged with five break and enters that took place between Jan. 26 and March 21 of this year.

To appear in juvenile court, Halton regional police said the youth had stolen \$10,000 worth of property, most of which was jewellery and cash. Only \$150 of that sum has been recovered.

Police said approximately \$500 damage was caused to four residences and the Acton arena. The youth broke windows to gain entry.

residents, council and developers all working together to produce the best for Georgetown. Instead the belligerence of a developer and the lack of wisdom by council have started us off on a long term battle. Unbelievable. On behalf of the Wildwood-Eighth Line Community, Craig Copland, RRI, Georgetown

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Want to learn how to grease your bicycle properly? A bike safety rodeo is being held May 14 starting at 9 a.m. for all cyclists in Acton. Sponsored by the Optimist Club with the parent advisory group of McKenzie-Smith Middle School, the event will feature a safety quiz, film, bike inspection and treats. Halton regional police will be assisting. All bike enthusiasts are welcome to attend the "rodeo" at M.Z. Bennett Public School on 101 Acton Blvd.

Safety cyclist rodeo

Open House thief

A school teacher at Centennial Public School had her purse robbed of \$30 Thursday night during the school's open house for Education Week. The teacher had left her purse hanging on her desk chair. She observed a young lad 11-13 years old running out of her classroom.



RED SHIELD MONTH

May is annually the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal month. Mayor Pete Pomeroy signed the proclamation announcing the event in his office last week and was joined by the Salvation Army's Captain Wilson Perrin and David van der Bent.

St. John's United

Guatemalan exile speaks out

By PHIL GRAVELLE Herald Special
Early in 1980, the Guatemalan army put Frank LaRue's name on a death list, and mailed him a copy.

He refused to leave the country, however, until a year later when they came hunting for him from house to house.

"I was very lucky to get out," said Mr. LaRue, speaking to a small group at St. John's United Church Tuesday night. The meeting was organized by the Georgetown Ten Days for World Development committee, and hosted by the Tri-S women's group at St. John's.

Mr. LaRue is not a criminal, but a labor lawyer. He has recently returned from a meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, where he helped convince Canada to

sponsor a resolution protesting human rights violations in Guatemala and the continued supply of weapons from the U.S. The vote was 27 to 4 in favor, with Uruguay, Argentina, Pakistan and the U.S. opposed.

He will be meeting shortly with Canadian government officials in Ottawa, hoping to secure further support for the international effort to condemn abuses of power by the Guatemalan government.

HORRIFIED Many people at the meeting were horrified by his description of some of those abuses—the mutilation of people in front of their families, the massacre of entire Indian villages (Indians make up 60 per cent of the population), and the murder or abduction of virtually every union leader, and many students, profes-

sionals and clergy. He said the current civil war is not the product of communist subversion, but of a traditionally unjust system. A succession of military governments, supported by the U.S., has squashed all normal, peaceful attempts by the people to improve their lot. The repression has reached the stage where entire villages of people are being killed, because they are suspected of being opposed to the government, he said.

The army has provoked a violent response. Negotiations are desirable, said Mr. LaRue, but in his opinion, the government will never change its course until it is overthrown in revolution. He said the ultimate insult is that a born-again Christian, Gen. Efraim Rios Montt, was installed as president in a coup. "I'm sure he believes in

God," said Mr. LaRue. "But it's not the same God I believe in, because He could not justify the level of killings." Guatemala is a relatively wealthy country, with many natural resources, but very little wealth trickles down to the general population. Next to Haiti, it has the poorest people in the region, in terms of income, infant mortality, malnutrition and illiteracy.

LEGAL EXECUTIONS He said it is true that the number of deaths has been reduced recently, which the Reagan administration used to justify new arms shipments. But that is due partly to the absence of prominent people to eliminate, and the ability of the army to maintain an atmosphere of fear with occasional "legal" executions after secret military tribunals, and attacks on villages.

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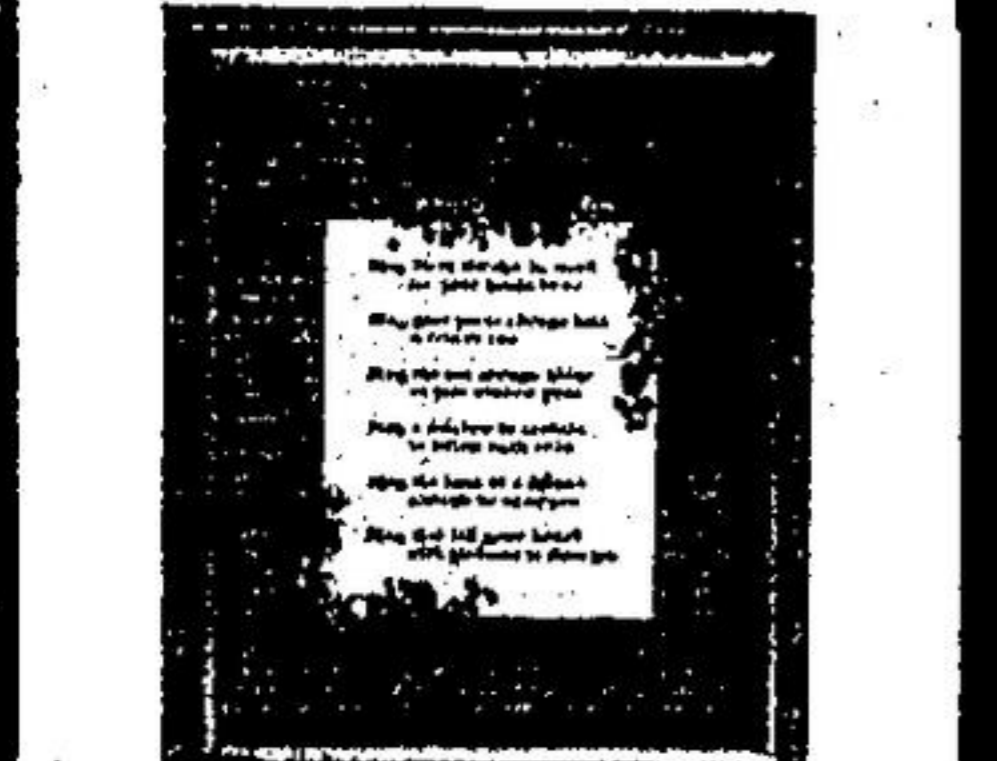
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