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 "YOUR BEST DEAL... IS
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Friday, May 13, 1983 - Page 1

Would welcome town hall - BIA



By CHRIS AAGAARD
 Herald Staff Writer

Downtown Georgetown businessmen feel snubbed and betrayed that a recently completed study on a future office space needs for Halton Hills' municipal administration suggests the downtown area is not an appropriate site for a larger town hall.

They held a public meeting at the John Elliott Theatre Tuesday night to express concerns with some of study's recommendations.

The businessmen, members of the Georgetown Business Improvement Area (BIA) say they feel the location of the municipal centre could affect the survival of their businesses in the years ahead.

A Walker, Wright,

Young and Associates study for the Acton and Georgetown BIAs a year and a half ago urged council to locate a municipal centre and super-market in downtown Georgetown as a means of drawing business into the area. The BIA has suffered from the recent recession and the tendency of residents to shop in plazas and malls in Georgetown and nearby Brampton.

But the Walker firm, along with Robbie Architects and Planners, collaborated on the space needs study which doesn't favor the BIA as the location for a new municipal centre.

That "180-degree about face" has Georgetown BIA members confused and embittered, BIA

treasurer George Markou told the meeting.

"It's totally unbelievable that the same firm can reverse a decision like that," he told approximately 30 people who turned up for the meeting.

"It questions the validity of the consultants doing some of these reports."

NOT COMMITTED

While BIA chairman David Page said that the BIA's concerns could be presented to town council in writing, councillors addressed the issue at the meeting.

Ward 4 (Georgetown) Coun. Finn Poulstrup, chairman of the committee looking into the town's administrative space needs, stressed that the Robbie report, adopted by council, is not an "outright" commitment" to

keep the municipal centre out of downtown Georgetown.

He said the committee would look at all possible sites and that the report "doesn't weigh heavily on the minds of committee members".

But, Coun. Poulstrup reminded the audience that council has to think of all town residents when it finally decides whether or not it will build a new municipal centre and where it will be located.

The chosen location, he suggested, will be the one most convenient and accessible to a large number of people, while at the same time keeping it an efficient administrative operation.

Another study, completed about two years ago, had suggested that

Georgetown's Highway 7 (Guelph Street) corridor would also be a suitable place for a municipal centre.

However BIA members pointed out that other businessmen in town aren't paying off a \$150,000 loan to the provincial government, a loan one merchant at the meeting said was drawn largely on the basis of the Walker core area studies.

(Acton and Georgetown BIAs took out the loans for downtown improvements under a provincial program. They each have \$150,000, payable over a period of ten years).

LOAN

Merchants, like Betty Monchamp want to know how the Robbie report fits into the town's commitment.

Continued on Page 8

FAMILY AFFAIR

The 4th Georgetown 'B' pack swelled their leadership ranks when Brenda Basinger, Cubmaster, invested a Mother and Son into the Boy Scout Movement. Here, A.C.M. Irene Hartrick and Cub Joe Hartrick congratulate each other on their initiation held recently.

(Photo by Jean Layman)



Hand-knit, the pink Jaeger mohair sweater was made by Evelyn Wilson. Getting a closer look with the help of St. John's United Church Women member Shirley Coulligan (left) was Georgetown's Sally Madill. The sweater was one of several donated articles up Saturday for a silent auction.

(Herald photo)

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