

OMB ruling supports estate homes project

Christmas bazaar

The Holy Cross Church Parish is holding a church bazaar with a Christmas theme Nov. 12. The bazaar will be held in the Holy Cross Church Auditorium, Georgetown, between 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Hallowe'en splash party

The recreation department's aquatics staff hopes to make waves with the younger set this Friday night as it holds a special Hallowe'en splash party.

Youngsters and their parents are invited to come and take part in the fun which begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Georgetown indoor pool.

There will be treats, tricks, and prizes for the best bathing suit costumes. The pool is located at Georgetown and District High School.

Video recorder theft

Early Thursday morning, thieves broke into the Georgetown Video Station on Guelph Street and took two video cassette recorders valued at \$950. The glass front door of the premises was smashed, and damage is estimated at \$250. Halton regional police Sgt. Keith Gregory said suspects are under investigation.

Firearms charges laid

As a result of a complaint Saturday, a 57-year old Acton man was charged with pointing a firearm, and having a weapon dangerous to the public peace.

When a male acquaintance of the accused came to visit on Cameron Street in Acton, the accused allegedly produced a handgun and put it to the neck of the visitor, threatening to kill him. The visitor fled and reported the affair to Halton regional police.

Collision injures one

An 18-year old woman was taken to Georgetown Memorial Hospital by ambulance Saturday morning following a two car collision on Main Street South.

Patricia Welsh of Georgetown was treated for minor injuries. Driver Marg Showell, 26, sustained minimal injuries in the crash.

A driver misjudged the speed of an oncoming vehicle when deciding to turn left into a Main Street South driveway. She was subsequently charged by police. There was \$3,500 damage to the cars.

C.F. fund-raiser

The Peel chapter of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is holding its eighth annual "Breath of Life Dance" Saturday, Nov. 5 at Saint John Fisher Hall, 300 Balmoral Drive, Bramalea, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets are \$8.50 per person, disc jockey, buffet, spot dances, and door prizes. Please call 457-3754 to have your tickets held at the door for you.

All proceeds are for Cystic Fibrosis research.

Combat jacket stolen

An army combat jacket and a Panasonic portable radio, together valued at \$390, were stolen during daylight hours from a Delrex Boulevard home Oct. 18. Thieves entered through an unlocked front door.

Assaulted police

Halton regional police constable Brian Farrell was punched in the face several times while trying to arrest a 20-year old Acton man for a liquor violation midnight Saturday.

The man was charged with assaulting police and possession of a narcotic after a body search at the Georgetown station. He appears in Milton provincial court Nov. 14.

St. John's bazaar

St. John's United Church annual bazaar will be Wed. Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Church Hall on Guelph Street.

Break-in solved

The May 6 break-in at the Little Red Hen Country Store in Hornby was solved Saturday by Halton regional police constable Doug McMillan. Const. McMillan arrested an 18-year old Milton youth and charged him with break and enter. He's to appear in Milton provincial court Nov. 22. Fifty cartons of cigarettes worth \$1,000 were taken.

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

An Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) panel has sided with Halton Hills and against the region by approving a proposed amendment to the old official plan for Esquesing—a move which could pave the way for a rural estate development on the southeast corner of the Highway 7-Fifth Line intersection.

The decision, handed

down by OMB members K.D. Bindhardt and A.B. Ball, had some conditions attached:

—Almond Investments Ltd., the owners of the approximately 100-acre site may have to draw a new plan of subdivision to preserve as much agricultural land as possible.

Almond Investments has owned the land since 1973 when they first proposed a residential development on the

property.

That proposal was later changed to develop 54.3 acres of the 100-acre site.

The official plan amendment is supported by town council and would change the property's current designation from rural to estate residential.

Prior to the recent OMB hearing held at the town's Trafalgar Road offices, Almond Investments had hoped to build 18 homes on the

property on lots of about two acres in size.

Through its legal counsel and several witnesses called to testify before the board, the region maintained that the development would be incompatible with nearby farms and that policies in the regional plan are meant to protect farming.

POLICIES UNCLEAR?

But the board noted that the regional plan doesn't prohibit "the re-designation of agricultural land as a matter of principle". It also noted that the surrounding area already has a number of non-farm related residential developments.

In reaching their decision in favor of the town and Almond Investments, board members Ball and Bindhardt said they found the testimony of area farmer Frank Anthony "most convincing".

As a farmer who

works about 4,500 acres of land—most of it leased—Mr. Anthony is "in all likelihood...the most knowledgeable person regarding soil capability of (the property)," the board said.

Mr. Anthony testified that he believed 80 per cent of the prime agricultural land lies outside the area of the property planned for housing. He disputed previous testimony by other witnesses that the residential site could be turned into a viable farming operation.

If the region intends to prohibit rural estate developments, its official plan should state so clearly, the board decision states.

The board said it would redraft the boundaries of the residential development to preserve good farmland. The new boundaries will likely force the developer to submit a new plan of subdivision.

Halton crime rate drops

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Reported crimes are down nine per cent over last year according to major crime statistics for 1983 released Thursday at the Halton regional police commission meeting.

Major crime statistics to date show there were 13,135 crimes reported this year of which 4,790 or 36.5 per cent were solved. This compares with 14,434 offences reported in 1982 of which 5,148 or 35.7 per cent were cleared.

Our men in uniform improved their robbery investigations considerably, solving 26 per cent more robberies this year than last year. Last year there were 22 robberies of which eight were cleared. This year there have been 45 of

which already 23 have been solved.

Statistics show there has been one murder and one attempted murder so far this year, both of which have been solved. Last year, there was one reported murder and two attempted murders, likewise solved.

Reported sex offences are up from 54 last year to 70 this year. Solving rate is down by seven per cent.

Reported assaults are down from 859 to 785, and reported frauds are down from 846 to 810.

There were 1,630 break and enters reported to police last year, of which 39.4 per cent were solved. This year there have been 1,559 reported, and 35.2 per cent solved.

down from 478 reported to 409 reported this year. The clearance rate has remained fairly stable at 36 per cent.

As for offensive weapons crimes, 103 were reported last year of which 82 were solved. This year, 100 have been reported and 73 solved.

Wilful damage to both public and private property has decreased over last year. In 1982, there were 196 cases of damage to public property and 2,217 cases of damage to private property.

This year there have been 165 cases of damage reported to public property and 1,833 cases of damage to private property.

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