

## Great car debate appears settled

Regional chairman Peter Pomeroy can drive what he likes.  
Halton council last week decided it had enough of an embarrassing debate which began last month about how Mr. Pomeroy should get around on regional business.  
Two weeks ago, Halton's administration and finance committee recommended that the region lease a Ford LTD for the chairman.  
But, on Halton Hills Coun. Mike Armstrong's suggestion last week, councillors decided to pay the chairman a \$4,982 vehicle allowance to cover the cost of gas, insurance and vehicle upkeep.  
Mr. Pomeroy will provide his own car.

## Protect your children

When it's raining out, you bundle your children up in waterproof rainjackets and boots. But what do you do to prevent your children from being sexually assaulted?  
A women's action group from Oshawa, called Outreach, has put out a book "Kicking up a fuss". The book deals with the problems of sexual assault and children.  
Maureen Daigle of Outreach will be in Georgetown's George Kennedy Public School Thursday (tomorrow) at 7:30 p.m. to talk about how you can streetproof your children.  
All are welcome to attend the presentation which includes CTV's film documentary "Children Take Care".

## \$5,400 theft

A stock inventory at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area showed up a theft of \$5,400 in chain saws, portable radios, battery chargers and various hand tools.  
The theft took place between September and January. Halton regional police are investigating.

## Problems on the street

Learn how to help your children cope with problems on the street and deal with potential sexual assault at an informative meeting under the direction of the women's group "Outreach", a program endorsed by Michelle Landsberg (Cdn. Living, Sept. '83). The meeting includes film, slides followed by question and answer period. Sponsored by George Kennedy Public School, Thursday, Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

## Midwifery discussion

"Midwifery" will be the topic of discussion at the next meeting of the Brampton Birth Alternative Coalition. Everyone is welcome. The meeting will be held Monday Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. at 48 Terryhill Square. For info call 846-2161 or 873-1479.

## Police cars get stripes

There is a new look for Halton Regional Police cruisers in 1984. The changes include a reflective blue stripe down both sides of the car, reflective lettering on the rear and a new design police crest on the doors.  
The new markings are designed to increase the visibility of the cruisers, thereby reducing accidents, according to a 1982 study by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Other benefits to be expected are a greater effect on speed control, highway safety and crime deterrence.

## Cold spell costing us

It's enough to make you turn to firewood and oil lamps.

That numbing cold spell during the Christmas season not only nipped more than a few noses, it also took its toll on pocket books, as the demand for home heat soared.

A press release from Union Gas says that the cold weather, combined with high winds which added a chill factor, helped put gas bills up a whopping 54 per cent over the same time last year, not counting the utility's own six per cent increase approved by the federal government.

The average Union Gas bill for a residential customer was \$130 for 530 cubic meters of gas in December. Last year, the average bill was around \$80.

Meanwhile, the cold weather also meant soaring demands for hydro power, Ontario Hydro reports in a recent press release.

RECORDS SET  
In fact, electricity consumption set records. On Dec. 21, 18.8 million kilowatts of power was flowing in provincial homes.

A previous record was set in January, 1982 (18.1 kilowatts), and Dec. 1982, 16.9 kilowatts).

Ontario Hydro also exported about 34 per cent more power to the U.S. while North America was locked in an icy Arctic grip.

In Ontario, consumption increased by 20 per cent to about 10.1 billion kilowatt in December, compared to the 8.5 billion kilowatt hours consumed the same month in 1982.

Ontario Hydro's "talking furnace" has become a real celebrity. The two 30-second commercials were selected for awards at the International Film and Television Festival in December in New York.

There were 1,200 entries from around the world.

## Pomeroy defends Steven's deal

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer  
"It's an extremely difficult issue...a no-win situation for the councillors."

Regional chairman Peter Pomeroy reiterated his support for the Stevens property purchase Monday night and, with those words, described the criticism which has ensued since the 30-acre property was acquired last fall.

Speaking before town council, the former mayor of Halton Hills and a principal engineer in the process leading to the purchase, offered no new reasons why the deal is a good one for Halton Hills residents.

He underlined ones he has stated before: that development of the Stevens land would greatly assist assist nearby Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital which badly needs an alternative entrance preferably from Maple Avenue.

NO BORROWING  
And by using funds built up by lot levy contributions, the town is making a purchase without issuing debentures—a form of borrowing money.

Mr. Pomeroy was responding to questions raised two weeks ago in a citizens' group report on the Stevens land purchase.

When the reserve fund was established from lot levy contributions in 1978, there was no public opposition, he said, adding that there hasn't been when the plan has been reviewed with each new council term.

"Reserve fund financing means you don't have to borrow money to pay for capital projects," Mr. Pomeroy said.

"It makes more sense to borrow from ourselves than to borrow at high interest rates."  
He maintained that the Stevens property was chosen by council as the most favorable location for a municipal complex after the property was appraised by three firms.

OTHER SITES  
Another site at the western end of Georgetown would have been difficult to service, Mr. Pomeroy said. A location in downtown Georgetown raises questions, he added, about how quickly land for a major complex could be accumulated and at what costs.

Mr. Pomeroy also defended the \$600,000 price the town agreed to pay for the property, saying that the favored appraisal, which considers the optimum development of the land, "makes the most sense."

It is not the largest transaction the town has made or will make, he said. The town's official plan which provides planning guidelines for the next 20 years will have a financial importance at least one hundred times greater than the Stevens land buy, Mr. Pomeroy argued.

About eight acres of land would be needed for a municipal centre if one is ever built on the property.

The remaining property, Mr. Pomeroy said, would be sold for residential development, "the highest, most profitable use in the best interests of the community."

## Film crews might come to Georgetown

Georgetown's name is spreading as Hollywood north.

Friday the town was visited by a film producer who is interested in using Georgetown as the site for a hockey movie based on a 12-year-old girl.

If shooting sites here are acceptable to Martin-Paul Productions, film crews could rumble into town as early as March.

The story is about a girl hockey player who plays goal for a boys team. The plot explores her love of the game and her desire to succeed,

mixed with the off-ice problems placed on her because she is a girl.

The film is inspired by a girl in a northern community who seven years ago went to the Human Rights Commission and eventually to the Supreme Court of Canada so that she would be allowed to play on a boys' hockey team.

The script was developed in conjunction with the CBC children's television, but the film is being independently produced.

NEED EXTRAS  
Martin Harbury, the producer and Louise

Clark, the production manager, said they would be looking for lots of extras to cheer on hockey players for three 'staged games.'

The producer was pleased to hear from townspeople on his arrival Friday that Georgetown was such a hockey hotbed in its own right.

Possible scenes for shooting would be downtown Main St., a public school, outdoor hockey rink, donut shop and a house exterior.

The writer and director for the film is Paul Shapiro.



MARTIN HARBURY  
If shooting starts in March the film could be shown on television as early as the fall.

Mr. Harbury told The Herald that inquiries in



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## Anti-drug abuse

## Principals add input to program

By ANIPEDERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer  
Few parents know much about drug abuse among children and teenagers.

That's what Georgetown resident Ray Martin has found. A member of the Optimist service club, Mr. Martin has researched the effect of drugs and drug abuse. He's talked about the problem among young people to area teachers, principals, students and parents.

Jan. 17, he was talking about it again. Together with other volunteers in the anti-drug abuse committee, Mr. Martin was discussing how to better promote the Optimists' "Chicken Club", an anti-drug abuse club

for students, with Georgetown principals. All but two Georgetown schools, the Roman Catholic St. Francis of Assisi and Holy Cross, have a Chicken Club. The Chicken Club educates children about the effect of drugs and makes it okay for them to be a "chicken" and not try drugs. It gives them peer support.

With drug awareness week around the corner (Jan. 29 to Feb. 4), there were a lot of ideas tossed around by the group of school leaders as to how to make the Club stronger with the students.

TERRIFIC  
Rick Lorito of Holy Cross thought it was a

"terrific" idea to have high profile cal and North American personalities saying "I don't do drugs" on a video film about drug abuse.

Mr. Martin said slides showing a healthy brain, then a brain damaged by drug abuse, have proven effective. Seeing it on the screen seems to register with the students.

A suggestion was made to have a "Name the Chicken" contest when it was realized that the Club's mascot was a no-name bird.

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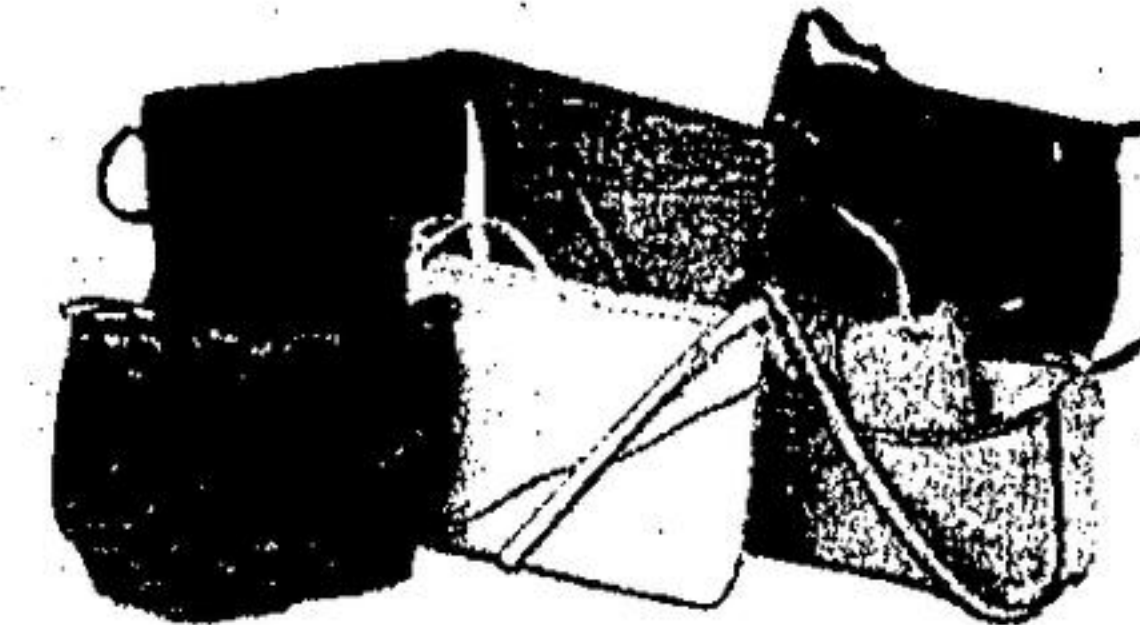
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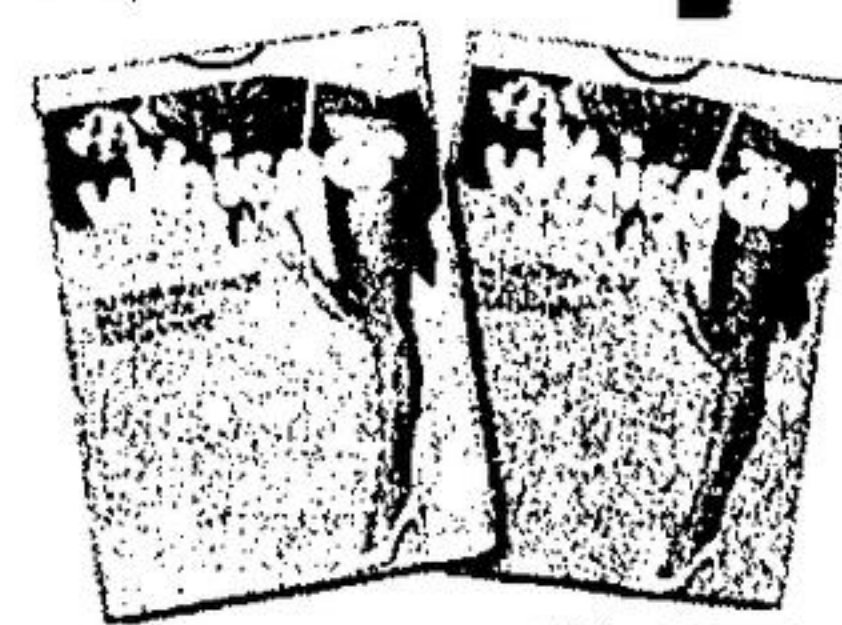
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