

Council gives green light for a municipal complex

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Not only do town councillors hope to have a municipal administration centre by Dec. 1, 1987, but they also anticipate having moved into it by then.

Late Monday night, in a special council meeting, councillors voted unanimously in favor of hiring a consultant to review the town's space needs and look at designing and constructing a central building for all the town departments.

Coun. Pam Johnston was absent from this meeting.

The eleventh hour (literally) resolution was the continuation of a three-hour Municipally Owned Property Committee meeting earlier that day.

The Property Committee was directed by council to interview consultants for the job of reviewing the previous Town Administration Space Requirements Study and setting out a detailed schedule for achieving a central administration building.

The Property Committee has a deadline of April 14 to come up with a consultant to take on this job. Until the centralized administration building is erected, councillors look on some interim measures to help out staff in cramped quarters.

The town engineer was given permission to lease a temporary portable close to his offices on Trafalgar Road. The recreation and parks director was given permission to buy a modular building to sit next

to his current office on James Street. The planning department will stay on in their rented offices at the Guelphview Square building on Guelph Street and Mountainview Road.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson noted the modular building to be purchased by the parks and recreation department will cost \$40,000 but that the town expects to recover \$20,000 of it two years down the road when it can sell it off and move into a central administration building.

Mayor Russ Miller explained that a 15 per cent drop in the original price is to be expected for the building annually, and that it was cheaper than renting downtown accommodation for the recreation and parks department at \$1,000 a month.



Norm Elliott
Russ Miller

Councillors identified part of the west half of Lot 18 Con. B as the location for the future municipal town hall. This is the Stevens estate property purchased in 1983 for \$600,000 by council.

In their resolutions Monday night, councillors said administrative inadequacies and cost inefficiencies exist in the present decentralized office arrangements which have been identified as insufficient to service Halton Hills.

The temporary accommodation for the engineering and parks and recreation departments have been plugged into the town's 1986 capital budget, a budget to be finalized Saturday and slated to be approved by council March 24.

"This recommendation is the culmination of many hours of negotiation and public input," coun. Norman Elliott said of the steps taken towards constructing an administration building for the town.

"This is probably one of the most critical issues facing council this year, if not in the last dozen years. A lot of soul searching has gone into this," he said. "A long process has been followed and hopefully tonight will make the watershed of Halton Hills moving towards a new future... and a new municipal home."

An attempt by Couns. Betty Fisher and Al Cook to defer passage of the resolutions to next week in order to give the public an opportunity to comment on them was defeated.

"I have a strange feeling doing that, popping from the Municipally Owned Property right to council without having general committee to get the feed-in," Coun. Fisher said.

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Board reduces budget

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff

The finance committee of the Halton Board of Education voted Monday night to give taxpayers a break. They decided to reduce the board budget by \$1.45 million. That is a 5.1 per cent increase in operating expenses over last year. The budget of the board, to be voted on at Thursday's meeting, now totals \$165,097,070. If the recommendation is accepted by the board it will mean an 8 per cent increase in the mill rate instead of the suggested 9.6 per cent. The 8 per cent increase means an increase in tax of \$59 per year for a home assessed at \$7,000.

Trustee Paddy Hughes of Oakville made the recommendation to reduce the mill rate from 9.6 per cent to 8 per cent. Had it stayed at 9.6 per cent ratepayers would be paying \$72 a year for a home with an assessed value of \$7,000.

The finance committee expected the mill rate to be between 10 to 13 per cent before provincial grants were announced. An unexpected increase in ordinary grants of \$803,306 decreased the mill rate to 9.6 per cent. The finance committee decided to lower it a further 1.6 per cent.

Trustees asked the administration to make the \$1.45 million in cuts. Where those cuts will be made will be announced in two or three weeks. Jerry Jenkins, the board superintendent of business services, said:

All ten trustees of the finance committee were not happy with the recommended cut of \$1.45 million. "Parents are telling me they want computers, core French, special education and a lower pupil teacher ratio. The demands on the education system are getting more expensive," Trustee Linda Glover of Burlington said. She opposed the cut.

Chairman Arlene Bruce pointed out the Halton board has the highest pupil teacher ratio in the province. "Last year we cut programs, instruction costs, supplies in schools, administration staff and supply teachers in order to handle a \$3 million deficit," Chairman Bruce said.

The purpose of this year's budget is to bring back programs and staff that were victims of a tight budget last year, she said. Chairman Bruce could not say where the cuts will be made and was not in favor of them.

Trustees Jim Clelland and Bill Priestner supported the cut.

There has been a decrease in enrolment of 10 to 15 per cent recently, but there has not been a decrease of 10 to 15 per cent in staff to match it, Trustee Jim Clelland of Oakville said.

The heat is on



Saving lives is their most important job as firefighters. With that in mind, firefighters Dale Levere (left) and George Artem practise carrying

out a dummy fire victim under real-life conditions. The Halton Hills Volunteer Firefighters were able to use a building at the Terra Cotta

Conservation Area for training purposes Saturday. The building, set for demolition, was lit and re-lit many times during the day.

Car crash kills women teen, senior

Two women are dead, a teenager and a senior, from a car crash at a rural crossroads March 11.

Christine Wilcox, 17, and Mary Robertson, 74, were rushed to hospital in Georgetown shortly after the accident at about 4:30 p.m., but they could not be revived. Stephen Wingfield, 17, is in stable condition at Peel Memorial Hospital recovering from the crash. Bryan Robertson, 32, also survived the accident and was taken to St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto for tests.

The son of Mrs. Robertson, he suffered a fractured skull, broken rib and many bruises. He returned to Georgetown District Memorial Hospital March 12 and was released the next day.

The two cars collided at the Fifth Line and Sideroad 15 in Halton Hills. The roads were clear and dry and visibility was good, police say.

"A car just ran through a stop sign," says Sgt. Gary Bogue. Police are still investigating the accident.

The driver of a 1982 Honda, southbound on the Fifth Line, ran through a stop sign and collided with an Oldsmobile eastbound on Sideroad 15, police say. Both cars were damaged beyond repair, says Sgt. Bogue. Bryan Robertson of Third Line, Esquesing, was travelling with his mother, who lives in an apartment at 8 Durham Street in Georgetown.



Christine Wilcox

Christine Wilcox of 142 Guelph Street in Georgetown was in the other car with Stephen Wingfield of R.R.7, Georgetown.

PCs chat with Joe, Mila

Town Coun. Pam Johnston got to shake Mila Mulroney's hand. Marilyn Mitton of Georgetown got to chat with External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, Employment Minister Flora MacDonald and the Minister of State for Forestry Gerald Merrithew over the weekend.

The two women, along with Brampton-Georgetown Progressive Conservative Party President Graham Goehelle and party member Fran Baines, attended the first PC national convention ever held in Quebec.

The convention was held in Montreal and drew about 2,000 voting delegates such as Mrs. Mitton and Mr. Goehelle. Mrs. Johnston was an alternate.

"I went to sessions on free trade, energy, the constitution and small business," Mrs. Johnston told The Herald Monday. "I felt they were

very informative and found the free trade talk extremely interesting."

The contentious session included a prepared speech by Joe Clark and a panel of Minister for International Trade James Kelleher and President of the Treasury Board Robert de Cotret.

Conservatives from all parts of Canada gathered for the three day policy sessions. "There wasn't a lot of dissent there," Mrs. Johnston noted. "People were working together for the good of the party, and there was no undercurrent of people against Mulroney (the prime minister)."

After the prime minister's address Friday before the dinner hour, Mr. Mulroney and his wife Mila came down the aisles to shake hands.

"I really like Mila and I admire her stand on certain things as a woman anyway," Mrs. Johnston



Pam Johnston

Chris Wilcox ideal student, well liked

News of the accident shocked those people who knew Christine. The Grade 12 Georgetown District High School student spent three years at Cardinal Leger High School in Brampton before attending the Georgetown school this fall.

"Christine was a super student and a great person," said Leger faculty member Brendan Barnett, who taught Christine geography. "She was very popular and well liked by both the students and staff."

"She was a pleasure to have in the classroom," Mr. Barnett continued. "Many of the kids here are crying and are quite upset. If you were looking for the ideal student, Chris came close to what you were looking for."

Mr. Barnett said a mass will be held for the former Brampton school student Tuesday at Cardinal Leger.

As a student at Leger, Christine played volleyball and was quite involved in drama. Christine continued playing volleyball at Georgetown and was a member of this year's Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) senior girls championship team.

"Christine was a nice kid, a keen kid and a hard worker," said senior girls volleyball coach Grant Clatworthy. "She didn't give up and hung in there. Christine was quite quiet but she fit in well and the kids on the team seemed to like her."

Team members paid their respects to their teammate by attending the funeral home last week, which many said was difficult. While at the funeral home the team presented the Wilcox family with Christine's provincial championship medal. Christine was unable to stay for the OFSAA title win as she had to come back to Georgetown because of work commitments.

"Christine wasn't a starter but she was always cheering on the bench," said volleyball team member Jody Barwell. "I think we all wish we could have gotten to know her better in the time she was here."

The funeral was held Saturday.

A crazy race with a stress on safety



What do you do about a fun bunch of guys who like building things, enjoy the water and paddling? Have them sign up for the Jaycees 19th annual Crazy Boat Race, scheduled to go April 19 on the banks of the Credit River. Here Jaycees Hans Van

Klink, Bob Sullivan and Steve Pearce seem to be ready for the start. Oh, and don't worry about that big cruiser behind them. They were at the Credit River Boat Company Saturday for a promotional picture. Only home-made crafts except canoes are allowed. (Herald photo)

If scraps of wood, rubber tire inner tubes, rope, paint and styrofoam seem to be in short supply in town, don't fret.

It's a sign of spring — and acknowledgement that crazy boat builders are hard at work preparing for April 19.

In a month's time a "wild and crazy flotilla of zany canoes, bathtubs, rafts and anything else that floats will paddle, push and splash" their way down the Credit River to the Glen Williams finish line.

The Jaycees service club is hosting the 19th annual crazy boat race which starts at the 10th Line bridge just outside of Glen Williams.

Proceeds from the event will go towards fighting Multiple Sclerosis in Canada, a disease that affects over 35,000 young Canadians.

Safety is being stressed by the Jaycees this year. More police will be hired and more volunteers will watch the river banks, help with crowd control, and vehicle traffic, says race chairman Hans Van Klink. Drinking regulations (no alcohol is

allowed) will be strictly enforced, says Mr. Van Klink.

The date of the race has been moved back by two weeks. Last year the water level was too high, he says. "This year we have provisions for cancellation," in the event the conditions are unfavorable, Mr. Van Klink says.

The morning of race day, officials will be checking the water level, the temperature of the water and the overall weather. Radio stations have been asked to help in reporting these conditions to the crazy boaters in the event the day has to be cancelled.

After last year's race, local newspapers received letters about boaters who persisted in drinking and the dangers involved, especially with the fast-moving current and water temperatures.

To register for the race, phone 853-2527 or 877-8768 for sponsor sheets and application forms.

As usual, there will be a variety of prizes offered for the best floats in different categories. A victory dance will be held Saturday night at the Acton Legion.

Stop for GO

Residents in the King and Queen Streets area want a stop sign at the exit from the GO station for safety reasons, Coun. Pam Johnston said last week. She said she'd had a number of residents call to complain about children having difficulty getting across the intersection at the Station Hotel.

Council approved a report looking into the safety problems of the intersection. "I thought the stop sign was requested by the hotel owner so everybody would stop for a drink," Mayor Russ Miller joked.

Money well

Have no fear, your 1986 taxes won't be going up to pay for the new central administration building the town aims to put up by December 1987.

According to Town Treasurer Ray King, the town has \$750,000 in a reserve fund just for the municipal complex.

It's this fund that's going to pay for the consultant's study on the town's space needs, Mr. King said. Until the 1986 budget is finalized next week, it won't be known just how much council is willing to pay for such a study.

So far, councillors have indicated they're willing to spend \$250,000 for an architect, in their capital budget.

Crime down 31% / A3 Joy's a fighter / B1 Rebel runs south / A8

Watch for our special supplement Focus '86 next week