

Council wants meeting experts

Town councillors want the consultants who prepared the architectural brief on the proposed municipal complex at the forthcoming public meeting to rezone the Stevens estate lands.

Town Planning Director Ian Keith estimated it would cost the town about \$600 to have architect Roland Jonkers of F.J. Reinders and Associates Ltd. at the public meeting which is tentatively set for Oct. 20.

Mr. Jonkers is to prepare for the meeting and do a presentation to members of the public who turn up at the council chambers.

Mr. Keith said the firm's standard per diem rate is \$600 per hour, which is half the rate charged by the Regional landfill consultant Peter Walker of Walker, Wright, Young Consultants.

"There are funds within the planning department's budget for consultant services," he said.

Coun. Betty Fisher wanted to know why the firm has to do the presentation on a rezoning application for council. Usually it's done by the town's planning department staff.

"Because the town staff aren't the object of the application but are a participant in it," Mr. Keith said. "It would be inappropriate I think for town staff to be making that presentation."

Withholding loan

Once back taxes owed by the Village Manor Rest Home in Acton have been paid, then the town will be willing to loan out the provincial monies for the upgrading of the boarding home, town treasurer Ray King said Monday night.

The Ministry of Health has made available \$70,450 to the town to loan out to the Village Manor Rest Home for rehabilitation of the Main Street operation.

Inspections by the town's building and fire departments will be made and not until they've been satisfied by the repair works will the Manor receive the funds.

"We will then pay the contractors for the work," Mr. Ray said.

Gas tank saves money

The regional chairman is expected to sign an agreement with the federal government for improvements at the Georgetown Water Pollution Control Plant.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources Canada has agreed to fund \$29,350 worth of the construction cost of a gas holding tank, and provide another \$2,000 for monitoring the success of the energy saving equipment.

The gas holding tank is to store the gas that the sludge digester generates, so that the gas can be used for heating the boiler.

In turn, Halton gives the federal government "a non-exclusive royalty-free licence" to the process or technology conceived or developed for Georgetown.

Enjoy people?

Do you enjoy meeting new people and talking with them? The North Halton Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Social Planning Council, is seeking someone who would be interested in interviewing other potential volunteers and referring them on to possible placements in the community. To learn more about this or other volunteer opportunities, call 877-3219.

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Group claims 98 per cent dislike Sunday openings

A post card survey shows 98.2 per cent of communities within approximately 10 miles of Acton are opposed to additional stores being open on Sunday, claims the executive director of The People for Sunday Association of Canada.

In a submission to Halton Region, Les Kingdon says post cards were distributed through retail stores, Association membership, churches, chain and department stores and unions. The post cards asked if the individual was in favor or opposed to Sunday shopping.

Mr. Kingdon says Acton, Belfountain, Campbellville, Cheltenham, Eden Mills, Erin Freelon, Georgetown, Glen Williams, Guelph, Hornby, Inglewood, Milton, Moffat, Morriston and Norval all voted 98.2 per cent against additional stores being open Sunday.

However, Mr. Kingdon doesn't provide the REgion with the number of post cards distributed and the number received from each community.

His submission follows on the heels of an application by the Oldie Hide House in Acton for a further two-year tourist exemption under the Retail Business Holidays Act.

It was in 1980 that the Hide House first got tourist exemption to open on Sundays. Their current exemption expires Friday (Sept. 19).

Halton Regional Council is expected to grant another two-year extension of the tourist exemption today (Wednesday).

The Hide House is on Eastern Avenue in a historic building of the turn of the century. Employing up to 150 people at peak times and attracting over 300,000 people annually to buy leather goods, the Hide House draws a large number of tourists to Acton.

A survey by the owners show over 50 per cent of visitors come from outside Halton, and about 40 per cent of gross annual sales are on Sundays and holidays.

The Region's tourism study completed in 1985 identified the Hide House as a major tourist attraction in Halton.

The People for Sunday Association wants a tourist exemption be denied to the Hide House, saying it doesn't meet the requirements of the act and is against public opinion.

In Milton, Halton Region is charged by the number of full containers tipped by the site operator. They've also gone over budget.

The method of charging Hanou Hills and Milton is different because in Milton, the site is completely owned by Halton. In Georgetown, the Armstrong Avenue property is leased.

Waste disposal manager John McKay says it's been the arrangement to pay per vehicle historically. That may be changed next year, he added.

Rural residents bringing garbage in themselves

More and more rural residents are bringing their garbage directly to the Halton Hills transfer station on Armstrong Avenue in Georgetown.

"We project that by year end, the number of vehicles using this station will be up 33 per cent over 1985," Halton's public works director Bob Moore says, in a report to REgional councillors. Residents can drop off up to 150 pounds of household wastes free, there.

Leferink Disposals Ltd. operates the transfer station for the town, collecting the garbage, compacting it and trucking it across the border for incineration by Occidental Chemical Corporation of Niagara Falls, New York.

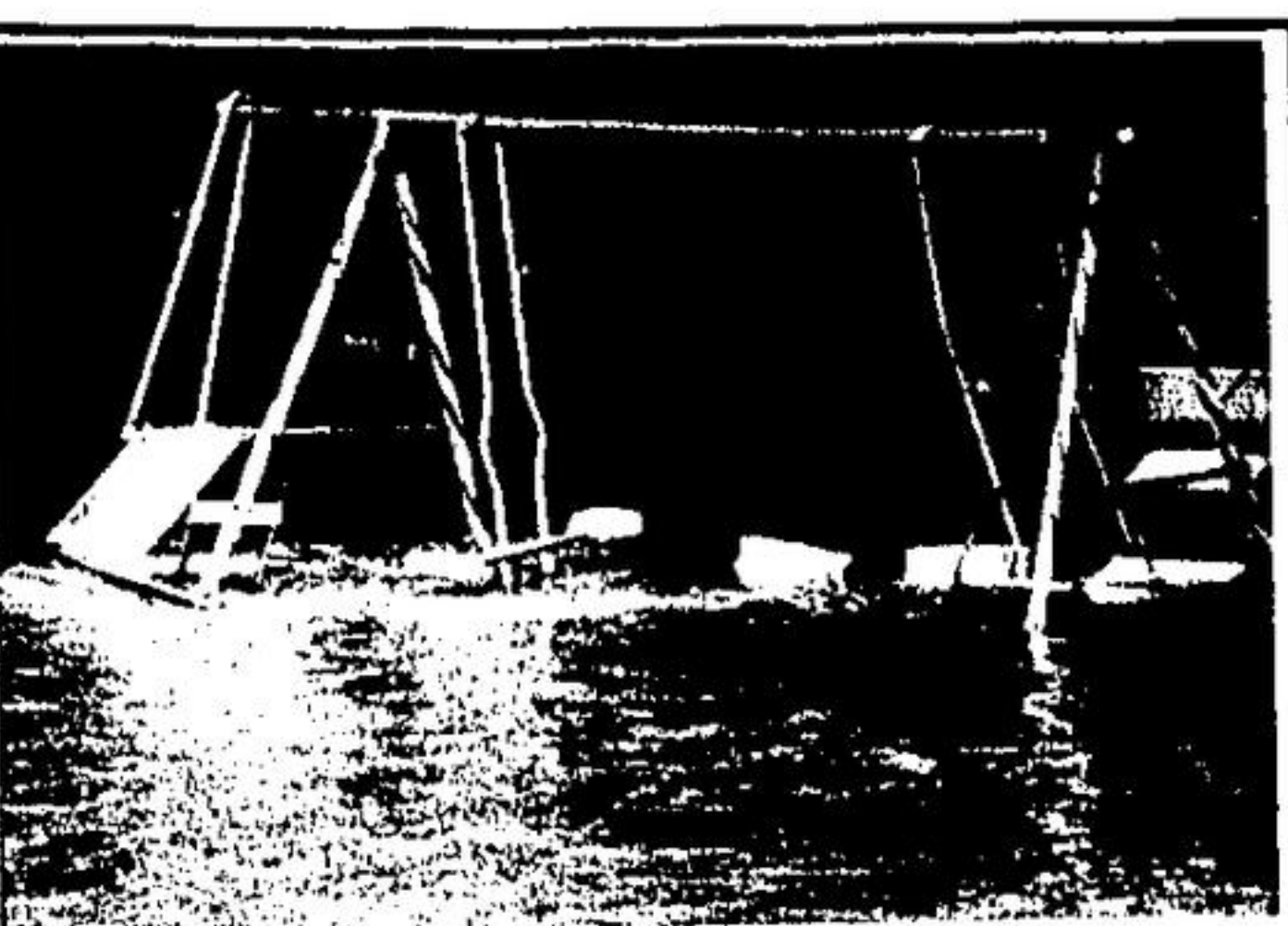
Mr. Moore's report shows more rural residents are cancelling their garbage pick-up by private contractors and are coming to the container station instead.

Between January and June last year, there were 16,004 vehicles using the station. During the same five-month period, there were 16,000

cars anticipated, however, there were actually 21,305 vehicles dropping off garbage there.

During the rest of the year, to December end, the public works report shows 26,100 vehicles are anticipated to turn up at the transfer station with garbage.

As Leferink is paid by the number of vehicles using the station, it's going to mean spending beyond the Regional budget to cover these extra garbage drop offs.



It was a great time for water games, but not for driving or walking Thursday. Halton Hills received another dose of wet weather that closed off town roads and flooded the Cedarvale playing field. The backyard snuggles of a Hewson Crescent family were rendered unusable by the rainfall. (Herald photo)

The floodgates open

When the rain started last Wednesday, nobody expected it would turn into floods in parts of town by Thursday.

Roads were washed out around town and Cedarvale Park looked more like a lake than a river with a playing field next to it.

According to Al Beene of the North Halton Golf and Country Club, rainfall Wednesday and Thursday was 3.07 inches, which is an unusually high amount.

Town Engineer Bob Austin said the ground was saturated and there was just no place for the additional water to go.

Co-op manager Russ Cohen said he was afraid the water would undermine the vertical tanks on the low site behind 45 Guelph St. It was four feet deep, up to the hydro metre.

"There was no real problem per se," he said, adding there would have been if the additional two inches predicted for Thursday night had come down.

With a loader and back hoe, the Co-op did some sandbagging and got some aggregate from the quarry to protect their tanks.

"It's never happened," Mr. Cohen said. "Even the spring runoff

doesn't come up that high. It seems to me the Ministry who looks after the water levels should have been a little more aware of the water situation."

Fortunately the motors on the tank pumps dried out and are working, he said noting they're worth over \$500 apiece.

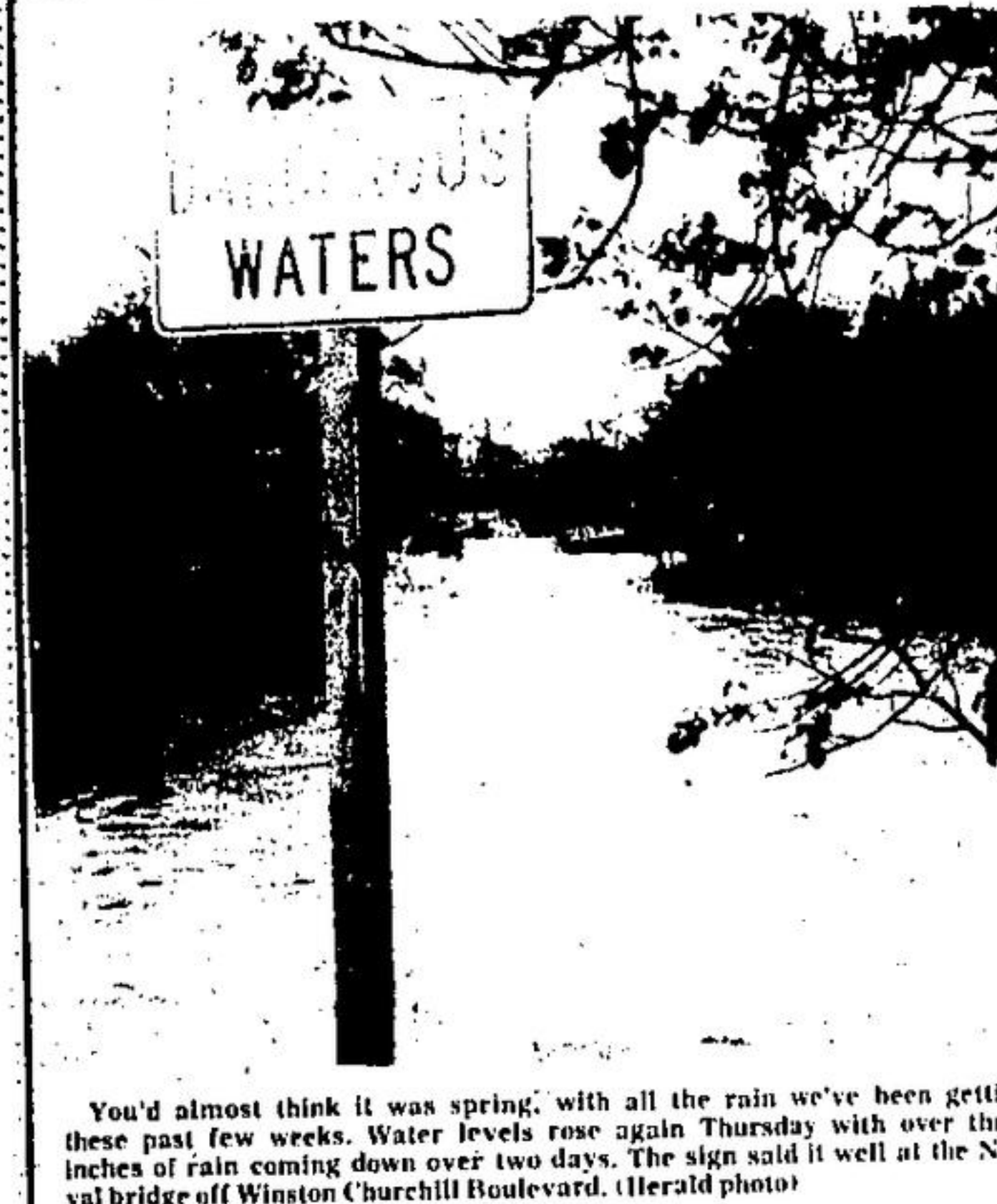
"I've had people say to me that in 50 years they haven't seen as much water as there was Thursday," Mr. Austin said.

Several roads were made impassable because of the flooding. Mr. Austin said motorists had to find alternate routes to: Glen Lawson Road, Fifth Line between Highway 7 and Sideroad 30, Sixth Line south of Highway 7, Eighth Line between Sideroads 22 and 27 and Sixth Line and Sideroad 32.

In Acton, The Acton Public Library bridge was closed due to high water.

"It sure wasn't a trickle on Thursday night," Mr. Austin chuckled.

Georgetown Co-op had the dikes around its petroleum products tanks, behind the Halton Hills Herald building, washed out by high water levels of the adjacent Silver Creek.



You'd almost think it was spring, with all the rain we've been getting these past few weeks. Water levels rose again Thursday with over three inches of rain coming down over two days. The sign said it well at the Norval bridge off Winston Churchill Boulevard. (Herald photo)

Valley lands protected

Buildings are now prohibited from the valley lands owned by Enterac Property Corporation.

Monday night, Halton Hills council passed three bylaws amending the zoning on the Enterac lands south of Hungry Hollow in Georgetown.

In response to considerable public concern about the future use of the valley lands, council has negotiated with the developer and come up with a "conservation special" zone which prohibits buildings or structures or parking areas on the valley lands. Only those buildings or structures necessary for flood or erosion control purposes, and a fence, will henceforth be allowed on those lands.

Under the previous "conservation" zone, this was not the case. Councillors tightened up permitted uses of these environmentally sensitive lands.

Coun. Lillian Bowman wanted to know when the public will be told

what the town and developer have in mind for the valley land.

Town solicitor Roger Beaman will be reporting to council when he has completed negotiations with Enterac, town planning Director Ian Keith said.

"I don't know what the outcome of it is. I'm sure it will be very soon -- within the next week or two -- as to what is in mind for the valley lands," he said.

Care funding

The Ministry of Health will provide annual funding of \$75,200 plus a capital grant of \$9,000 for a placement co-ordination service for people needing long-term care in Halton Region.

Placement co-ordination services ensure that residents are referred to the health care facility or program which best serves their individual needs.

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