

Halton schools administrator

Board listens to business says director

The Halton Board of Education is listening to what business has to say, said Wally Beevor.

The Director of Education was the guest speaker at the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting Thursday.

"What you say to us is taken seriously," Mr. Beevor told Chamber members.

Bazaar winners

Winners of the lucky draws at 8 Durham Street seniors' bazaar Saturday Nov. 8 are: log cabin quilt Brian Richards, Georgetown, a crib quilt Mr. A. Savole, Georgetown, cushion to Mrs. Pat Kennedy, Oakville, Christmas cake to Mrs. Dorothy Norton, Georgetown, small turkey to Mrs. Vera Fardal, Georgetown.

Parking report

Parking on both sides of Duncan Drive in Georgetown is making area residents unhappy.

Coun. Al Cook asked for a report from the town engineer about putting "no parking" signs on one side of Duncan Drive from Weber Drive to Sinclair Avenue inclusive.

The councillor said Duncan Drive residents are complaining about people parking on both sides of the road and creating visibility difficulties for motorists.

Councillors approved the request.

Keep petitions

Don't overlook the petitions brought to council in 1985, urged Coun. Joe Hewitt Monday night.

He wanted reassurance that petitions submitted in earlier years will be looked at again in the 1987 budget and not end up "in the round file" otherwise known as the wastebasket.

"It seemed to me any budget deliberations I've been involved in, petitions do come back up and the job of the budget committee is to prioritize those petitions," Coun. Pam Sheldon said. It's a question of road deficiency and the dollars available, she said of the prioritization procedure.

It's on a priority basis and not on a seniority basis that petitions are looked at, Coun. John McDonald said.

Industry fire

Old dry wood around a drying tank started a fire at P. Graham Bell at 60 Armstrong Ave. in Georgetown Monday at 11:15 p.m. Damage was estimated at \$1,000.

The hot drying tank ignited the floor boards around it, an official from the fire department said. The floor around the tank needs replacing. A sewer drain pipe was also damaged.

Bowl for millions

Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville Big Brothers will be holding their major fundraising event "Bowl for Millions" next year, and have asked the town to proclaim Feb. 7 to 14 Bowl for Millions week.

Norval zoning is approved

Despite objections from a Norval neighbor, council approved the rezoning of 500 Guelph St. from residential to commercial Monday night.

The rezoning will allow J and J Dunlop Insurance to operate from the former single family home.

Art and Elizabeth Jakobsons said there are parking problems on Arthur Street already and expressed concern the customers of the insurance firm will aggravate the situation.

"As much as we hate to do this to Mr. Dunlop, we'll be pleased to appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board to protect our parking and our property," Mr. Jakobsons said at the council meeting.

If a fire ever occurred in the area, there'd be no hope of help getting through, Mrs. Jakobsons said.

Her husband pointed out that Mr. Dunlop is parking on a septic bed and will end up with problems with the septic system.

"I told him I could take a shovel and show you; but he said you can't do that," Mr. Jakobsons said.

Town Planner Ian Keith said the zoning bylaw requires Mr. Dunlop to provide four parking spaces. The site will accommodate six, he said.

Town complex zoning finished

The re-zoning of the property to be used by the town for a municipal complex was approved by council Monday night.

The 39,000 square foot municipal administration complex is to be built on the Stevens property across from the North Halton Golf and Country Club on Maple Avenue, Georgetown.

Objections by adjacent property owner Donald Humberstone were aired at a public meeting last month into the rezoning and were also received in written form.

Mr. Humberstone wants the municipal complex limited to the town administrative offices. He doesn't want the property to be used otherwise. He also asks for a minimum of 30 meters of buffering between his home and the municipal development, and the rear yard be maintained in its natural state as far as possible.

A report by the town planning staff states a 30 metre buffer is excessive. They suggest half that. The site plan process will finalize the actual yard needs of the town.

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He talked about input from businesses to the Board's long range plan. "I think we're moving forward in an extremely positive way," he said.

He acknowledged the enthusiasm for the co-op program where students earn credits by working in a firm to gain experience. There are up to 1700 co-op students in Halton now, he said. "Our (co-op) failures are very few and as far as we're concerned the students are winning businesses are winning and the schools are winning." Many pupils turned their co-op experience into a full-time job or were hired on during the summer, Mr. Beevor said.

Further expansion of the co-op program could help to reduce the unemployment rate between the ages of 18-25, he said. In Europe, youth unemployment is lower and it's in part because of the greater linkage between firms and schools, the director said. Students have the flexibility of moving back into the school system under the European system, he said.

Last year the Georgetown Chamber was asked what they liked about the Halton Board of Education. Mr. Beevor said the Chamber liked the communication between the Board, the co-op programs and the responsible tax increase.

Topics to investigate suggested by the Chamber included skills of the students, the field trip policy, school closures and salaries of board staff, he said.

If Chamber members look through the current long range planning report by the Board, they can find their suggestions from last year's survey, he said.

During question period, Doug Penrice mentioned the Board's field trip policy and an excursion to an amusement park his daughter went on.

Mr. Beevor said new procedures for field trips will cut out unnecessary field trips to places such as Canada's Wonderland.

Mr. Penrice also asked that students be shown how to properly fill out a job application form.

Mr. Beevor told the members that education has gone from an open choice of subjects to a more restrictive choice, in the eighties. "I hope you see an improvement. We're not going to fix the wheel overnight," he said.

One member asked about what will happen to Wrigglesworth Public School which was closed by the

Persistence pays says councillor

After months of saying "when is something going to happen", Acton residents should be pleased by the news that 120 new homes are going to be allowed for development, Coun. Norman Elliott said Monday night.

Following up on Monday evening's press conference called by Regional Coun. Rick Bonnette, Coun. Elliott said it's the first time in 13 years new housing has been allowed to go up in Acton.

Over the past year, he said he's been aware of a lot of negative talk about councillors' efforts to bring new growth to Acton. Water and sewer capacity have been blamed by Halton Region for the lack of growth in the northernmost community.

Monday's good news was due largely to the efforts of Coun. Rick Bonnette, Mayor Russ Miller and Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy, Coun. Elliott said. Their persistence brought Acton results.

"I'm sure the people of Acton are pleased about this. They've been saying, when is something going to happen," Coun. Elliott said.

He noted a lot of the negotiations at the Region have been sensitive and the surrounding secrecy hasn't allayed Acton residents' suspicions that nothing is being done to bring growth to Acton.

Finally there is a light at the end of the tunnel, Coun. Elliott said. The extra darkness was due in part to the death of one of Acton's most senior citizens... Beardmore Tannery.

Board because of declining enrolment in the area.

The closure of Speyside and Wrigglesworth Public Schools is still in the courts, Mr. Beevor said. There is a long list of agencies who have to be given an opportunity to purchase the school. Hopefully the school can be

utilized by the community, Mr. Beevor said.

French immersion is growing annually in Halton. Students in the immersion program will be fully bilingual when they graduate, he said. Some courses will soon be offered at the high school level also, the director said.

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