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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1987

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Chamber votes for high profile

The Georgetown Chamber voted for progress and a new high profile approach in 1987. The Chamber of Commerce decided to hire a full-time staff person and search for an office in town.

In a landmark decision, members voted 20-1 in favor of hiring a full-time general manager. It was less than unanimous when it came to supporting the financing of a high-profile chamber office. Five disagreed, while a number of members abstained from the vote. A committee of five was selected to oversee hiring of the staff person and the opening of a Chamber office for the spring. Dave Whiting, Rick West, Marg Tanas, David Page and Walt Dixon were selected to a personnel and building committee. Their final decisions will have to be ratified at a general Chamber meeting.

In a lengthy debate Thursday, members argued about the hours, salary and benefits for the new staff person as well as the Chamber's ability to support the costs on its own.

Former Chamber member Rick West suggested combining a town of Halton Hills tourism director with a Chamber of Commerce staff person to save money.

"I'm not sure the Chamber wants to saddle itself with a \$40,000 debt load," he said.

Mayor Russ Miller is interested in co-operating in a joint venture and would pursue the possibility with town council, Mr. West said.

But president Marg Tanas said the Chamber had asked the town for the past two years about sharing a tourism staff person. "I personally don't want to wait another year or two," she said.

Duties spelled out for staff person

What would a Georgetown Chamber of Commerce general manager do?

Thursday the Chamber decided to hire a full-time staff person to man a Chamber office.

The general manager would manage the affairs of the Chamber office and would handle fundraising duties. The staff person would represent and promote the Chamber and assist the president. The GM would also supervise the establishment of a Chamber of Commerce office and work on a budget capable of supporting an office and permanent staff.

Other duties would be decided upon by the Chamber board of directors.

The Chamber decided to hire a full-time staff person to carry out its objectives of "promoting and improving trade, commerce and the economic, civil and social welfare of Georgetown and district."

The result of a 1985 survey indicated that the business community wanted a more active Chamber involved in the issues affecting the town and offering a range of service.



Dave Whiting

Also, if government contributes money, are they going to want to exercise control over the responsibilities of the staff person, she asked. The question then becomes "do we want them to share the costs?" she said.

"I've always believed a man can't work for two masters," said Barry Page.

The objective of the Chamber is to promote commerce and now its time hire a full-time person, said John Duncan forcefully. The Economic development south of Georgetown has been approved and the town is growing, said former town councillor Dave Whiting. "Either you're going ahead or you're falling behind - that's your decision, Mr. Whiting said."

Having only a part-time staff person deflates the aims and objectives of the Chamber said high school teacher Tom Hamautarsingh.

The hiring of a staff person was expedited by the resignation of secretary-treasurer Walter Biehn who has moved to St. Catharines. Although Mr. Biehn worked on a part-time basis, his job was closer to three quarters time, said President Tanas.

Mr. Biehn also used his home on 26 Queen Street as the unofficial Chamber office.

Rud Whiting said he was in favor of the Chamber getting a new facility, but members should consider causing a person part-time into the staff role. The long-term goal would then be to hire the person full-time as job responsibilities grew, he said.

During the discussion about a Chamber facility, Rick West presented a proposal for an office in front of the Gordon Alcott Arena. The location has visibility, parking and easy access and a modular mobile home could be purchased for the site, he said.

Chris Bydevante said a committee had looked at purchasing a trailer or a caboose, but that an office inside the Alcott arena was seen as an answer for a temporary quarters.

for eight weeks. Training space has been donated by Royal LePage of Milton.

Donations to the service are most welcome.

According to government studies, only one in 10 sexual assaults are reported. The need exists in Halton, as Halton's sexual assault victims must now call Hamilton or Toronto crisis lines for help.

No other cases

Although there was one case of Taiwan A-1 flu in Georgetown back in October of last year, there haven't been any other cases, according to Georgetown Memorial Hospital Acting Administrator Brian Pollack.

"Nothing recently, no," Mr. Pollack told The Herald Monday afternoon. A Georgetown toddler had the Taiwan flu late last fall. The virus causes high fever, extreme weakness, muscle pains and headache, with symptoms lasting longer than the regular cold.

There is a vaccine available against the Taiwan flu and it's being recommended for those under 35 with heart or lung problems, diabetes, cancer or weakened immune systems.

Meningitis, another disease that has been receiving media attention



Jolly white giant

When the kids get together on Pennington Crescent in Georgetown they really think big. Seen here admiring this work of art are (back row left to right) Colin Broadbent, Matthew Dibbits, 3, Gillian Dibbits, 7, (front row) Annie Schaefer, 5, Tara Schaefer, 7, some neighbors, built his giant frosts the snowman, Kristen Harrison, 6, and Nichole Gledhill, 8.

Board denies charges of misusing tax dollars

Claims the Halton Board of Education was misusing Board funds by sending staff on trips to the sunny south were denied last week.

The claims were made in a letter addressed to the newspapers of Halton. The author of the unsigned letter, "A.B. Smith", referred to a trip made by 13 staff members to Atlanta, Georgia between Dec 13 and 17. And in particular, he referred to the participation of Peter Noble, who went on the trip and stopped working for the Board two days after returning.

"Surely the Halton Board of Education is not so fiscally responsible that it, on the one hand, denies its students adequate funding for a complete education, but, on the

other hand, spends thousands of dollars to allow 13 staff members (plus one non-staff member) to cavort in Atlanta, Georgia?" the letter asks.

The author wrote that some taxpayers are "concerned about the lack of leadership and the lack of adequate spending in certain areas - for example, field trips and computers."

In response to the letter, Bob Williams, superintendent of employee services, said that only 13, not 14, Board members went to Atlanta, including Mr. Noble. True, Mr. Noble did leave the Board two days after returning from the conference, but his trip was not paid for by the Board, Mr. Williams said.

York University paid for Mr. Noble's trip, Mr. Williams said. Mr. Noble has worked at the Board for 3 1/2 years. He works for the Ministry of Education and was on an exchange with the Halton Board until recently. Now he is back with the ministry.

During his time with the Board, Mr. Noble worked on staff development. Staff development is about teaching, personal and leadership skills, Mr. Williams said. The conference in Atlanta was an international conference with 130 workshops on staff development, Mr. Williams said.

The cost to the Board for each Halton staff member was \$1,000. Sometimes it is cheaper to fly to the United States than to attend conferences in Canada, said Arlene Bruce, chairman of the Board.

Atlanta is not an exotic place, said Mr. Williams in response to claims the Halton members were cavorting in Georgia. "It's not all that great. You don't walk around at night," he said.

Valentine fashions

A Valentine fashion show is being put on by Georgetown's Elizabeth's Fashions Friday, Feb. 13. The show is being staged at the Terra Cotta Inn at 12:30 p.m. Call 453-8261 for reservations. Betty Burgoyne is co-ordinating it.

Victim drowns

A Bramalea man drowned early Sunday morning when his 1976 Ford pickup truck overturned into the Eramosa River just four miles north of Acton.

Guelph OPP said Joseph James-Crossey, 33, was headed south on Highway 26 when his vehicle left the road on the east side, rolled onto the roof, and into the unfrozen Eramosa River.

Two public works employees from the Erin Ministry of Transportation and Communications yard who were plowing the road noticed the crash at 2:30 a.m.

Mr. Crossey was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guelph General Hospital, with drowning named as the cause of death.

It was snowing at the time, Guelph OPP said. There was \$2,000 damage to the vehicle.

because of several cases in the Toronto area, has also not been experienced in Halton Hills.

Active firefighters

Halton Hills Firefighters were called to the scene of several motor vehicle accidents last week.

Jan. 6, firefighters rushed out to Winston Churchill Boulevard at 9:08 a.m. They found the people were out of the cars already.

Jan. 10, firefighters were called to two accidents. The first call came in at 4:30 p.m. to 113 Mill St. E. in Acton. The second call was at 5:27 p.m. to Highway 7 and Young Street, again in Acton.

Jan. 11, firefighters put out a car fire on Eighth Line, just south of Maple Avenue. There was damage to both the car and garage when a ball of straw caught fire from the exhaust system of the parked car.

Equal pay talk

March 5 the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce will host a forum on equal pay for work of equal value.

Guest speakers will represent the provincial government and the Ontario Board of Trade.

The forum is open to the public and the only cost will be for lunch. Reserved seating is required.

Varian named the top business

A long-time Georgetown company which is known for its tubes has been chosen business of the year by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber announced its selection of Varian Canada Monday morning.

The River Drive company is to receive the eighth annual award at a special dinner Feb. 18 at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

The Chamber makes its choice on the basis of an individual or corporation displaying good business ethics and making a significant impact on the social and economic well-being of the area.

Located in Georgetown since it began in 1965 as the supplier of microwave tubes to the Canadian government, Varian has steadily increased in size.



From a 6,000 square foot office near the GO train station, Varian has gone to a modern building on River Drive, that is 115,000 square feet. Georgetown was chosen for its cheap land and proximity to the Lester B. Pearson airport.

At the plant, power klystrons and travelling wave tubes are manufactured for telephone companies. Varian's products allow a telephone message to be amplified, sent to a satellite and bounced back to earth where the signal is received.

Northern Telecom, Bell Canada, AT and T in the United States as well as General Telephone and Electronics are among Varian's customers.

The subsidiary of Varian Associates of Palo Alto, California, also produces many unique and customized products for worldwide markets. Annual sales are \$30 million, of which 80 per cent is to companies outside Canada.

Varian Canada employs 370 people and has an annual payroll of \$11 1/2 million, most of which remains in the Halton Hills area, General Manager Joe Caldarelli says.

One product the company is working on is a millimeter wave subsystem. It will allow radar systems, by using much higher frequencies, to detect actual shapes and not just show blips on a screen.

The plant values its staff and encourages them to take courses to improve their knowledge. The company holds blood donor clinics and supports local charities.

GLT hosts 'summer' play

Rehearsals are underway for Georgetown Little Theatre's production of Last Real Summer which opens Feb. 20 at the John Elliott Theatre. Many members of Georgetown Little Theatre auditioned for roles recently after a brief rest over Christmas. The successful candidates were: Audrey Houston in the leading role of Elizabeth Wharton; Chris Farrugone as Lizzie Tingley (Elizabeth's younger self), Don Macrae as Doug Cameron, her first beau, and their parents played by David Clifton (Herbert Tingley), Shirley Scott (Molly Tingley), Joyce Holland (Peggy Cameron) and Barry Wright (Duncan Cameron).

The play is written by a Canadian, Warren Graves, and is set in Western Canada in 1939. Last Real Summer is GLT's entry into the Association of Community Theatres festival and will be adjudicated.

For tickets call 877-3700 or call in at the Theatre from 4:30 - 7:30 on Feb. 4, 11 or 18.

2 councillors accept post office mail plan

Resolutions from the Cities of Stoney Creek and Hamilton sparked a debate in council Monday night over door-to-door postal service.

Both cities oppose the establishment of community mailboxes and want the federal government to provide the same door-to-door service to all urban residents.

"I'm totally opposed to going after Canada Post on this issue," Coun. Joe Hewitt said. "This door-to-door delivery can't go on forever unless we pay 50 cents a letter. It's a common sense delivery issue."

Administrator-Clerk Joe Simon reminded councillors they had asked the town engineer for a report on this issue.

"He really doesn't have much to say. There's not much we can do about it," Mr. Simon said. "It's a postal decision, not a decision that can be made by this body."

Coun. Sheldon agreed town staff couldn't add much more to what is already known about the issue. However, she said municipalities can still air their dissatisfaction to the federal government on this matter.

"We have major growth going to happen in this town and it will impact on us," Coun. Sheldon said. "People will say, how come we can't get door-to-door? The government should clean up their act. A lot of people are standing up and saying this is not right."

Two councillors who have recently moved into the Park Lane Estates development near the Georgetown Fairgrounds aren't getting door-to-door service and they accept it.

"I can speak first hand," Coun. Betty Fisher said. "I really don't give a dog-gone if mail isn't delivered to my door. I don't feel I'm being disenfranchised or discriminated against."

Federal contracts

Two Georgetown companies have won federal contracts totalling over \$900,000, the Department of Supply and Services has announced.

Varian Canada Ltd. will supply three high-power amplifiers to the Communications Department. The equipment is worth \$440,898.

Corrigan Instrumentation Services Ltd. will supply a Scanray Linescan x-ray inspection system to the Transport Department. The system is worth \$376,254.

Crisis line

Victims of sexual assault will have a number to call for help and support as of Friday morning.

Sexual Assault Services of Halton, under the auspices of Halton Women's Place, is establishing a 24-hour crisis line for past and recent sexual assault victims. The telephone number, 878-8585, goes into operation Friday at 7 a.m.

A new organization, it is looking for additional volunteers to help man the lines. There are now 14 trained volunteers to take the calls. The next volunteer training session begins March 23 and runs