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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1987

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"It's Worth The Drive To Acton"

Grossman comes a-calling

Larry Grossman will be making three stops in Halton Hills and one in Milton Feb. 4 in a whirlwind tour of the new Halton North riding.

The leader of the provincial Progressive Conservative Party will be meeting with representatives from business, local government and farmers. He is also scheduled to

spend time answering questions for the local media.

Mr. Grossman makes his first stop in Georgetown at Mold Masters Ltd. on Armstrong Avenue at 10 a.m. to talk with the owner Jobst Gellert and to tour the facility.

He will be having lunch in Milton at the Bayrischer Hof Restaurant and politicians from Halton Hills, Milton, Halton Region and the Halton Board of Education have been invited.

After making a short speech and answering some questions, Mr. Grossman will be whisked off to the farm of Frank Anthony to meet with agricultural representatives.

Mr. Anthony's farm is located south of Highway 7 on the Fifth Line. The on-site meeting at 2 p.m. is followed by a public agricultural forum for farmers at the Royal Canadian Legion building in Acton at 2:45 p.m. The Tory agricultural critic will also be at the forum.

After the discussion with farmers, Mr. Grossman will talk with the

IN THE HILLS

Mayor recuperates

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller is home from a holiday in Florida. The holiday was intended to help him recuperate from bowel surgery shortly after Christmas.

"He was in the office today for about a half hour. He seems to be getting better, stronger, and he hopes to be with us in a couple of weeks," Chief Administrative Officer Joe Simon said.

"And he wishes he were here," Coun. Lillian Bowman added.

Coun. Gerald Rennie asked for the update on the 53-year-old Mayor at the start of Monday night's council meeting.

Surprise, surprise

Surprise, surprise. Little did they know it, but students visiting Queen's Park ended up posing for a Toronto Sun photographer with Premier David Peterson.

On a school trip, students presented the Liberal leader with a red cap and tie from Bishop Reding Secondary School in Spinks. C.J. deRyk and Matthew Harris, both 14, were clearly visible in the picture taken Jan. 13 in the Premier's office.

Speaking image

The Sheridan College Oakville Campus Centre for Women series "Your Speaking Image: When Women Talk Business" will be held at the Oakville Campus Feb. 2, Feb. 9 and Feb. 16, from 7-10 p.m. The fee is \$50.

For more information, call the Centre for Women at 849-2808.

Hunger for change

"The Philippines: Hunger for Food, Hunger for Change" will be the subject of a talk and brief slide show by Georgetown native Eileen McAuley, who was in the Philippines on a study tour last summer. All are welcome Sunday, Feb. 1 at St. Andrew's United Church on Mountainview Rd., 7:30 p.m. Also enjoy a Third World trade fair at which beautiful "Son Catcher Renewal Crafts" and Bridgehead tea and coffee will be available; profiles go directly to the Third World producers. This special evening is presented by the local "Ten Days for World Development" Committee.

Career planning

The University Women's Club of Georgetown is hosting an evening of "career planning - re-entering the workforce or re-direction within the workforce." Sandra Henley will be speaking at Centennial Public School Feb. 3 at 7:45 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



Ted Hilton Larry Grossman

media for a half-hour until 4 p.m.

PC Halton North riding association spokesman Ted Hilton said Mr. Grossman is coming to the area to identify what the important issues are to the people in the riding.

It's part of the Tory re-building strategy to visit ridings across the province, Mr. Hilton said. Mr. Hilton, the Acton area president of the PC riding association, Mr. Grossman's executive secretary and a Party organizer will be the only people in the entourage.

By visiting a broad spectrum of interests, Mr. Grossman hopes to further identify issues, Mr. Hilton said. It's very deliberate that the PC leader will visit each of the major communities in the Halton North riding, he said.

There are so many issues to cover in such a short trip it's almost an impossibility, Mr. Hilton said. However, it's most important for the Conservative Party leader to listen to help formulate ideas and policies.

"It's an opening of the door," so people know he's accessible," Mr. Hilton said.

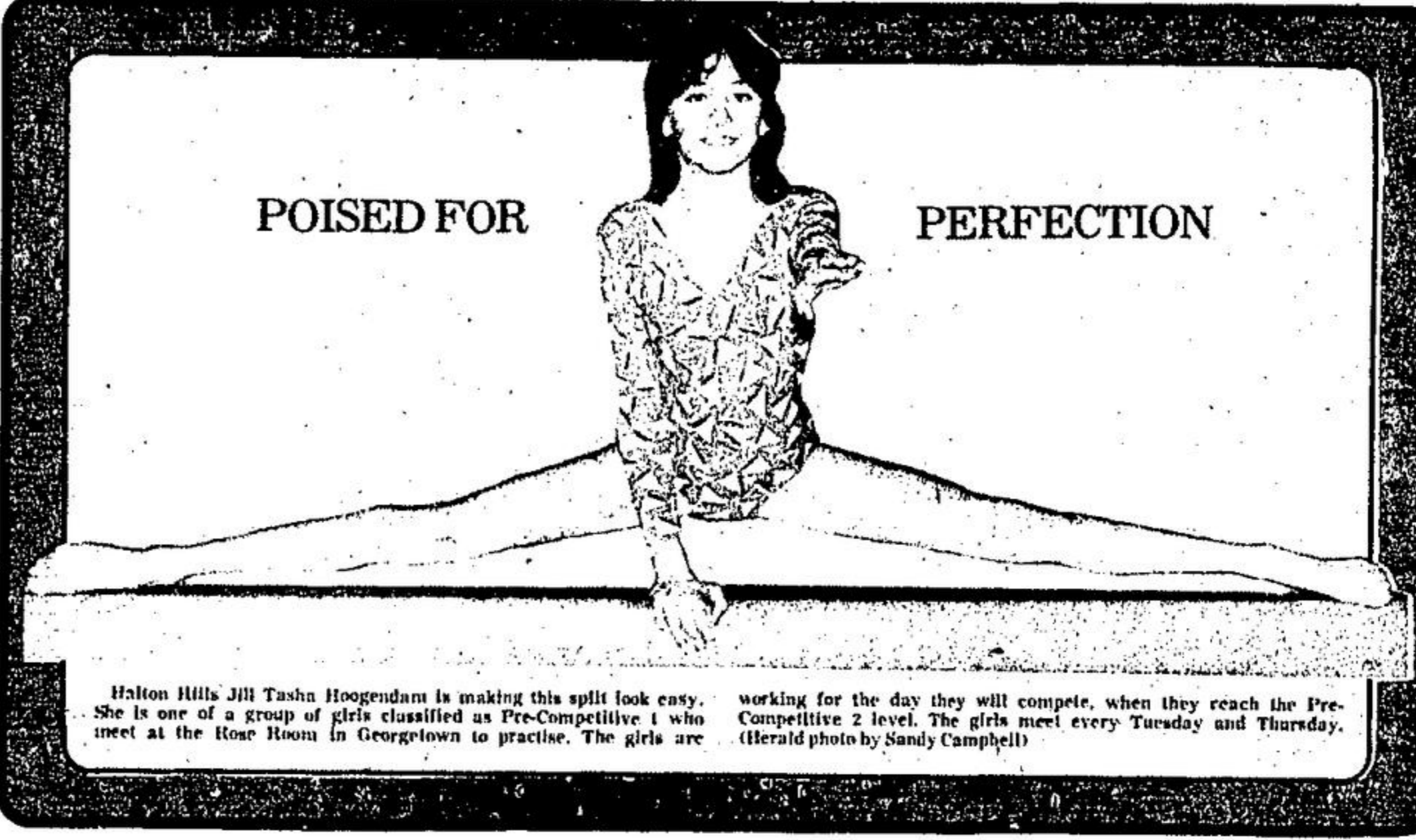
Mold Masters Ltd. represents concerns of small business. And by meeting with local politicians, Mr. Grossman can see their problems in a different light, he said.

The agricultural industry in Halton is viable, but there are concerns that farmers have, he said.

Mr. Grossman will be doing his best to visit all of the ridings in the province, Mr. Hilton said.

He does not feel the PC leader is singling out Halton North as part of a pre-election strategy. Liberal MPP Don Knight currently is the representative for the Halton-Burlington riding which is made up of constituents from Milton, Georgetown, Acton and Burlington.

In the evening, Mr. Grossman has a speaking engagement in Burlington.



POISED FOR

PERFECTION

Halton Hills Jill Tash Hoogendank is making this split look easy. She is one of a group of girls classified as Pre-Competitive 1 who meet at the Rose Room in Georgetown to practise. The girls are

working for the day they will compete, when they reach the Pre-Competitive 2 level. The girls meet every Tuesday and Thursday. (Herald photo by Sandy Campbell)

Fair board votes to stay alive

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

The Georgetown Fall Fair will live another year, organizers decided Saturday afternoon, and the search is now on for more volunteers.

The future of the 140-year-old fair was up in the air because of a shortage of able bodies to help put it on.

Although there weren't many new faces among the 40 people who turned up for Saturday's meeting of the Georgetown Agricultural Society, members voted overwhelmingly in favor of holding a fair Sept. 11, 12 and 13. There were only two votes in opposition.

"I think we're going to have a good fair this year," newly elected Society president Bob Malcolmson said. "It's time to take another run at it. Maybe next September we'll have a meeting and decide to can the whole idea."

He pointed out the fair is a break-even event, not something out to make a profit.

The community thinks we're making money. As you heard from our financial statement, we're not.

In fact, we're giving back to the town, with improvements to the Georgetown Fairgrounds," Mr. Malcolmson said.

The Society is in its third year of a commitment to supply the Fairgrounds with bleachers. Last year it cost them \$1,333.

Joe Izzi of the Georgetown Lions Club said ticket selling booths should be set up so that people at the gates only handle tickets and not money.

Sieve Lister suggested the Acton and Georgetown Agricultural Societies join forces and look at holding a joint fair at Scotsdale Farm in Ballinacree. He said holding the fair at Scotsdale may rejuvenate interest in the annual event, and recommended a feasibility study be undertaken of his proposals.

Outgoing president Mona Milne said the Georgetown Society has been keeping informed on what's happening with Scotsdale, but that there has been no discussion with the Acton Agricultural Society about holding a joint fair.

"It would be a sad day if we had to cancel the fair," Garfield McGilvray said. "I've been connected with it for years. I can remember when the gate receipts were \$600 and \$700. We had debt but we got out of it."

Gate receipts were down this year at \$10,415. Last year they were \$12,872.

Irwin Noble said instead of having a three-day fair, the town should go to a one-day fair.

"To have two whole days, we're stretching it too far. I'd like to see us go to one day. I think it would be more successful financially," Mr. Irwin said.

Society president Malcolmson said it can be looked at, but added it would mean losing out on a number of grants that currently help support the fair.

There was concern over the number of people hopping the snow fences to avoid paying to get in, and the lack of volunteers to help put on the fair.

"Farmers, we've got to get the town more involved in the fair. We're outnumbered, maybe 50 to 1 by the urban (dwellers)," Bill Allison said. "If this town wants the fair to carry on, they've got to get more interested."

Glenda Benton said although the fair is an agricultural event, organizers mustn't forget the majority of people who attend aren't from an agricultural background.

"As I see it, more bodies are needed," Ismy Bird said.

"I agree, we do need a lot of new members. We older ones can't carry on forever," Pearl Bird said.

The Lions, Kinsmen and Kinettes have indicated support for the fair, Mr. Malcolmson said.

The problem is, people don't know what the Society does, Elizabeth Inglis said. She suggested the Society advertise its needs more.

Linda Bonneau suggested sending a letter home with school children asking for help or cash donations to the Society.

Steamer Emmerson suggested the Society go to community groups and industry and ask them to be respon-

sible for putting on one aspect of the fair.

Jim Connolly of the Kinsmen said the Society should ask for representatives from each of the town's service clubs to sit on its board of directors. This way the clubs keep informed about the Society's doings and needs.

"I don't see 30 young guys with strong backs here today to do the work, unfortunately," Mr. Connolly said. "Through the clubs in town, those people are available."



Meet the new executive of the Georgetown Agricultural Society. The ladies in the front row are (left to right) homecrafts president Janet Armstrong, treasurer and past-president Mona Milne, recording

secretary Joyce Goeling, and the gentlemen behind them are (left to right) second vice-president Denny Charles, president Bob Malcolmson and first vice-president Bruce McClure. (Herald photo)

Bob Malcolmson elected

Bob Malcolmson was named the new president of the Georgetown Agricultural Society Saturday. Bruce McClure will continue as first vice-president (cattle), Janet Armstrong was elected homecrafts president and Denny Charles second vice-president (dairy).

Directors for the society are: Edward Bird, Brian Butler, Ralph Cunningham, Manley Densmore, Steamer Emmerson, Delmar French, Jim Lindsay, Ian Mc-

Callum, Mona Milne (past-president), Irwin Noble, John Nurse, Keith McKenzie, Bill Allison and Joyce Goeling.

The positions of treasurer and secretary are appointed by the executive. Joyce Goeling is to remain as recording secretary and Mona Milne will be treasurer. Barry Timleck will continue as the Society's auditor.

There were no new assistant directors named.

Region budget 'sound' and 'lean'

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

The Halton Region portion of your 1987 tax bill may go up by nearly \$12, Regional Treasurer Joe Rinaldo says.

Presenting the preliminary Regional budget figure of \$69.1 million to Halton council last week, Mr. Rinaldo said he's anticipating a 5.9 per cent increase in the Regional budget over last year.

For homes assessed at \$6,500, that means \$11.88 more than you paid in 1986. That \$6,500 figure is used as the average residential assessment.

In a thorough and well-prepared presentation, Mr. Rinaldo explained this is only one portion of your tax bill. The Regional portion makes up 12 per cent, with the rest coming from the Halton Board of Education (47.5 per cent) and the town (25.5 per cent).

The town and Board budgets have yet to be presented. Last year, the average residential levy for all three portions of the tax bill totalled \$1,655. The 1987 final budget won't be ready until March end.

Mr. Rinaldo said assessment growth in Halton has helped keep this year's Regional budget down.

"The good news is we have a fairly

strong assessment growth, more than expected," he said, pointing to a slide that showed a 9.7 per cent increase in residential assessment for Oakville.

Oakville was also high in commercial, industrial and business assessment for the year, at 6.5 per cent growth.

Halton Hills was the bottom of the chart, scoring the lowest in assessment growth of the four Regional municipalities.

In Halton Hills, residential and farm assessment are anticipated to be 0.5 per cent, and commercial, industrial and business assessment growth 3.3 per cent.

Assessment growth helped reduce the Regional tax burden by \$884,000. Another \$600,000 from assessment growth went toward Regional "program enhancement".

"Program enhancement" covers such things as increasing standards of food preparation and nursing services at Halton Centennial Manor, private home day care, and a pay equity study. These are programs mandated by the province, which the Region must undertake in 1987.

"Program enhancement" spending will also cover expansion of day-care services by 66 spaces.

Halton's caucus and Federation of Canadian Municipalities membership, a review of the urban boundaries in Halton, a corporate organization review of the Region, and additional services to meet demands due to rapid growth in Halton.

The budget includes an increase in "permanent" Regional staff by 11 persons. That brings the staff complement to 761. The additional staff will meet the demands for Regional programs and services that Halton's growth has made necessary, says the Chief Administrative Officer.

"Giving those demands would undoubtedly result in deteriorating 'service' levels and a decline in Halton's appeal to prospective residents, both industrial and residential," John Fleming said.

He notes many of the staff increases aren't "new" positions, but simply doing away for long-time "temporary" arrangements. Five of the new positions are because the province requires more nursing staff at Halton Centennial Manor and increased public health inspections.

Good news for Halton Hills is that the Regional tipping fee is slated to go down from \$38 to \$36.50, reducing

the impact of the solid waste disposal program on the town.

The 1987 capital budget includes \$5.2 million in spending on the Regional roads program, or eight per cent more. Although more money is to be spent this year than last on roads, additional subsidies from the Ministry of Transportation and "communications" and capital contributions collected from developers (\$555,000) have kept the effect on the taxpayer modest.

The capital budget also includes \$8.1 million in renovations to the Halton Centennial Manor; \$10,000 for the Sedgewick and Maple Avenue Day Care Centres; computer expansion; administrative space needs study; \$30,000 for studying how to upgrade the Halton Regional Museum; \$272,000 for a waterfront park; \$437,000 for the Mobile Digital Terminals for Halton Regional Police and \$85,000 to renovate and expand their existing office space; and \$1.8 million for the hospitals.

The Chief Administrative Officer calls it a "sound budget," a "good, lean budget," reflecting a balance between the demands resulting from growth in Halton and fiscal restraint.

Bungalow prices going through roof

Real estate continues to boom in Halton Hills and other communities across Ontario.

In the Royal LePage winter survey of Canadian house prices, detached bungalows in Georgetown have risen in price by 42 per cent since a year ago.

That's the highest among a list of 30 other communities outside of the metropolitan Toronto area, including Milton (39 per cent), Guelph (28 per cent) and St. Catharines (19 per cent).

A shortage of new homes being constructed in Halton Hills is a major reason why real estate has appreciated so rapidly. There just aren't enough homes to go around for buyers and the demand is allowing sellers to jack up the price of their homes.

A detached bungalow last year in Georgetown cost on average \$88,000, but in just 12 months, the price has rocketed to \$125,000.

An executive two-storey home in Georgetown has risen 35 per cent in the past 12 months, according to the Royal LePage survey. The average purchase price is \$170,000 for our town while in Milton the figure is \$185,000.

In Milton the price of two-storey homes has risen a whopping 40 per cent, of 38 communities listed outside of the metropolitan Toronto area.

Except for the Guelph market, Georgetown leads the price increase for homes being sold in the standard two-storey category. In Georgetown the price increase was 34 per cent for a \$115,000 home which sold for \$86,000 a year ago. The percentage price rise in Guelph for a comparable home was 41 per cent.

Townhouses in Georgetown continue to reap profitable gains for owners wishing to sell. The price, on average, rose from \$64,000 to \$86,000 in 12 months which amounts to a 34 per cent increase.

In Milton, townhouses rose by a 43 per cent rate. No figures are available for the Acton area.