

Outlook on Halton Hills

Georgetown plaza to receive a facelift

**By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff**

The Georgetown Marketplace will be putting on a new face over the next three years, says the plaza manager.

Cliff Levy said intentions are to jazz up the main entrance into the plaza parking lot from Guelph Street with a clock tower.

As well, the plaza is to get new soffits, fascia and soffit lighting, he said.

Speaking at Monday night's general committee meeting, Mr. Levy said plans to refurbish the strip plaza had been on hold for a while because of indecision over how to improve vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the site.

Making the plaza into an enclosed mall may be a good idea, but Mr. Levy said mall tenants complain of high heat and maintenance costs which hike their rents.

"There seems to be a lot of information out there that says indoor malls are not as successful as outdoor strip ones," Mr. Levy said in answer to Coun. Joe Hewitt's question.

The Marketplace has four owners now, two numbered companies and ICI Realty Ltd., and NetJac Corporation Ltd. Marport Corporation Ltd. apparently is no longer the property owner, Mr. Levy said, correcting a planning report.

The planning report looks at the application by the four owners col-

lectively called the Georgetown Market Plaza Owners, for a part lot control exemption bylaw.

Marport had asked for this last year and had been turned down by councillors until they came back with a development plan which includes traffic for the plaza property.

The part lot exemption bylaw would exempt three blocks of plaza land from subdivision control, which would mean the owners won't have to apply to the Regional Land Division Committee for a severance.

The plaza owners plan to have a three-storey medical general office building on part 1 which faces Sinclair Avenue. The future of parts 2 and 3 are undetermined still.

An access and parking plan was

prepared by the firm Barton Aschman Associates Limited for the plaza owners and came up with priorities to improve driving and walking conditions at the plaza.

This year, the Highway 7 access to the plaza opposite Alcott Drive, including the access near the Brewer's Retail Store will be improved. The parking lot between the retaining wall opposite Zellers and Brewer's Retail will be redesigned with landscaping. Hard curbs and sidewalk will improve the Sinclair Avenue access.

Next year, the plaza owners are committed to improving the Mountainview Road access and internal circulation near Brewer's Retail, the LCBO and the Canadian Tire

Store. New islands, landscaping and pedestrian sidewalk will be added.

In 1989, plans are to redesign the parking area east of Zellers, adding islands, landscaping and a sidewalk.

"I know a lot of people are really keen on the improvement," Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson said. "This is terrific."

Town Planner Ian Keith said the site plan committee will deal with the details of how landscaping can be used to break up the monolithic effect of a huge parking lot.

Couns. Lillian Bowman and Pam Sheldon said they'd like to see improvements made to the Mountainview Road access to the plaza first, calling it unsafe.

Social problems may rise if proper shelter lacking

If Halton's need for non-profit housing isn't met soon, there are going to be greater social problems in the Region, warns Halton's planning director.

Rash Mohammed says the shortage of affordable housing in Halton has led to growing social problems in the Region.

"The continuation of these shortages could result in even greater

social problems in the future, leading to the need for additional social services in the Region," Mr. Mohammed says.

So far, Halton has been neglected by the province when it comes to non-profit housing, its applications turned down each time. Other Regions have been the recipients of the housing program instead.



Snow bound

It's off to winter camp for the 4th A Pack. Seen here loading up are (front, left to right) Byron Luff, David Boere, Bruce Ryan, (middle) Steven Clark, Kevin Taylor, Bradley

Crane, Christopher Armstrong, William Harper and (back row) leaders Ken Watson and Barb Taylor. (Photo by Jean Layman)



Add one more

A Beaver Leader took on new responsibilities last Thursday with 1st Ashgrove by becoming a Troop Scouter. Dale Thibodeau was invested Jan. 29 at a ceremony during a meeting at Hillcrest United

Church. Seen here are (left to right) Troop Scouter Clive Midwinter, Scout Andrew Midwinter, Troop Scouter Dale Thibodeau and Scout Kevin Gregory, all of 1st Ashgrove. (Photo by Jean Layman)

Biggest Third World need is in land reform: speaker

Georgetown native visits Philippines

By JANET DUVAL

Should you throw up your hands in despair because so many people in the world are hungry? No! "The problem has very solvable, political solutions" says Georgetown native Eileen McAuley, who spoke to an audience of people from at least 10 area churches this week.

It's not that Third World people are stupid, or because of the weather or their planting methods, she said. The biggest need is for land reform. In many countries, the best and largest tracts of land are used for crops which are exported to us in the rich countries, rather than to feed the local population.

Miss McAuley recently visited the Philippines for the World Council of Churches, where she saw thousands of acres of fertile land being used to grow pineapples and bananas for export, land that once produced 3 rice crops per year, before President Marcos took power.

Now half of all Philippine children are malnourished, and millions live in poverty. An army of 300,000 patrols the countryside, preventing hungry people from planting on lands that lie idle, or even in the ditches around them.

Tenant farmers who work on the plantations earn perhaps \$1.25 per day. After seeing the effects of these plantations she said she would never again buy Dole or Del Monte products.

The greatest need, she said, is for redistribution of land not necessarily taking it away from the large landowners, but using the land that lies idle to grow food for local use.

President Aquino is trying to make changes, she said, but even her own brother, a plantation owner, refuses to give up land even as a symbolic gesture. The new constitution, written mainly by landowners, has few mechanisms for land reform.

Mrs. Aquino is further hampered by a huge army built up by President Marcos, an army which would

prefer to shoot opponents (often just hungry farmers) rather than listen to their pleas for land.

There was good news however. "I never saw so many people working so hard to solve their problems. They have a very astute understanding of their situation, and of the gospel message as it applies to their struggle."

What can we do? Appreciate our good fortune, she says. Think about who produced your food and your clothes — and buy Canadian. Try to live simply. Press our government for changes in foreign aid policy. Listen critically to news reports: is a "guerrilla" perhaps a hungry farmer? In some countries, does "Communist" mean anyone who disagrees with the status quo?

Perhaps President Aquino will not be able to make the reforms poor people want in the Philippines, said the speaker, but she is their best hope.

The next speaker in this series "Hunger for Food: Hunger for Change" will be Georgetown resi-

dent Craig Copland of the Christian Children's Fund, speaking about Africa Feb. 26.

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