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Smoke-free GDHS the first in Halton

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

A student smoking ban is now in effect at Georgetown District High School, making the school the first one with a smoke-free environment in Halton.

Principal Bob Singleton said the move was made on the school's initiative, not from any prompting from the Halton Board of Education.

For more than a year, a group of staff and students has been meeting as the Smoke Free Committee. Their goal has been to have no smoking on school property.

The school courtyard had been the smoking area, and non-smoking teens tended not to use it, Mrs. Singleton said.

With the new school rules, that courtyard will become a gathering place for everyone. Plans are to put picnic tables there and make it into a spot where students can sit and chat.

As it is now, it isn't conducive to socializing, Mrs. Singleton said. The architect hired to do other renovations at the school has been asked to look at upgrading the courtyard.

"We're going to use the area for student council events." Student Council president Debbie Pentesco, 17, said. "Last year, we planted flowers up there, but they kind of died from the smoke."

How many of the school's 1,600 students will be affected by the ban? According to the principal, about 100, from all grades.

The rules have been spelled out very clearly to students should they get caught smoking. Not only was there a speech by the principal, but printed rules posted by each classroom teacher.

Getting caught smoking in the washrooms or in the school building is way worse in terms of punishment than getting caught on the school property outside. Right off the bat, students will be sent home and told to return with their parents. The second time, they'll be suspended.

Was there a lot of opposition to the new ruling?

"Most kids who smoke wouldn't say it to us," Grade 13 student council rep Jana Steele, 17, said. "I think they're just going to find other places for it. Hopefully it will encourage people to quit."

The student smokers will probably be the young people standing on the sidewalk in front of the school, or down the street at the grocery store or St. George's Anglican Church yard.

Mrs. Singleton said the ban is a preventive step, to discourage adolescents from smoking. It makes it easier for teens to start if they see their friends smoking in the courtyard everytime they walk through the foyer.

Adolescents are socialized into smoking, the principal said. They aren't addicted to it like adult smokers. Whereas adults quit for a compelling reason, teens will quit because of peer pressure, Mrs. Singleton said.

"Students are out there smoking due to peer pressure, they're not of an age to decide for themselves," Debbie Pentesco agreed, especially those under 16.

Smoking was banned last year for Grade 9 students. In September 1986, Grade 10 students were also prohibited from smoking on school property. This month, the smoking ban was extended to all grades.

Last semester, the Halton Lung Association held its first student clinic to help those wanting to cut down or quit smoking. The clinics are continuing.

Mrs. Singleton said other schools are interested in the Georgetown District High School experience and their staff are calling her up to find out how GDHS did it.

Burlington dump site rated tops

Burlington's Site "F" is being recommended as the "preferred site" for a new Regional landfill, by Walker Wright Young Associates Limited.

Walker Wright Young is the consulting firm Halton Region hired back in 1981 to manage its search for a new dumpsite.

Last week, the final document which all had been awaiting, especially Milton and Burlington, was released.

The half-inch thick green book names Burlington's Site F as the better site for a dump, better than neck-to-neck contender Milton's Site D.

The comparative analysis looked at public health and safety, the natural, social and cultural environments, and the cost to engineer and operate each of the two finalists in the site search.

The document says Site F is preferred for a landfill when looking at hydrology and hydrogeology, by a narrow margain. It's a narrow margin again in favor of the Milton site when it comes to natural environment.

Under the social and cultural environment categories, the consultants ranked Site F as the preferred site. As for the costs, there is no difference between them, they said.

In the hills

Reunion snow day

Feb. 21 is your opportunity to get some use of rarely used snow suits and pants. As part of the Georgetown District High School Reunion a Snow Day will be held at the Terra Cotta Conservation area.

Cross-country skiing, sleigh riding, tobogganing and other outdoor snow sports will be part of the day which begins at 10 a.m. For more details contact B. Shepherd at 877-2841 or Tom Beer at 877-0996.

The Snow Day will conclude late in the day with a light meal.

Wetsuit time

Dig out your wetsuits and lifejackets - the Georgetown Crazy Boat Race is coming to town April 11.

The Lions Club of Georgetown has taken over the organization of the race, which begins at the 10th Line bridge on the Credit River. The canoes start further upstream at Cheltenham.

The finish is at the Glen Williams bridge. A dance is planned in the evening where winners will be given their awards.

For information about the race contact either Bob Gordon at 853-3680 or Jim Levy at 877-6719.

Ten days talk

Ethiopian Gideon Musa will discuss Why Are People Hungry, at Bishop Leger School in Brampton at 8 p.m. Feb. 11 tonight (Wednesday). The talk is presented by the churches of Ten Days for World Development.

Chimney fire

Acton firefighters were called to a chimney fire on Mill Street Sunday. The fire which started at 2:24 p.m. was caused by an unclean chimney, Fire Prevention Officer Bob Meads said. The fire remained in the chimney and caused no damage. A warning was issued to the residents to have their chimney cleaned before using it again.

75th donation

John Dawson donated blood for the 75th time Monday night at the Canadian Red Cross Society blood clinic at Holy Cross Church Auditorium.

Sponsored by the Optimist service club and co-ordinated through the Georgetown and District Red Cross branch, the clinic had three 50 time donors: Barry Dunlop, Pierce Turner and Joan Thoms.

Donating 35 times was Betty Baker. Earning 10 donation pins were: John McDonald, Tara Dewdney, Lorna Watson, Peggy Schlosser, Karen Van Diepen and Thomas Warnaar.

The next regular clinic for Georgetown is May 11.

Moonlight magic

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre invites you to an evening of "Valentine Moonlight Magic" Friday from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre.

Staff will guide you along groomed cross-country ski trails by the light of the moon, starting at 7 p.m. There will also be skating on the pond with a crackling fire to warm-up by.

(Herald photo by Sandy Campbell)

Carnival hoopla

The Carnival season is upon us. Feb. 1 students at George Kennedy Public School celebrated the winter with Carnival Day 87'. Students competed in a number of winter games. Here a student is seen making a careful pitch of a bean bag into a hoop on the ground just metres away.

Jaycees service club folds after 26 years

BY SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff

A lack of youthful input and leadership has forced a Georgetown service club to shut down.

The Georgetown Jaycees are no longer meeting officially and won't meet again unless new members help with the helm. "Members were no longer coming forward to put their name in for positions on the executive," said Doug Penrice, the last president of the club.

The club had about 20 members when it held its last meeting in October. Most of those members had been with the club for a long time and had put in their time as leaders. "Most of the older guys had done it all," Mr Penrice said. They were not interested in doing it all again.

"We've always had a lot of work horses, but not enough stallions to lead," Mr Penrice said. The young members on the club didn't have the confidence or desire to take over the executive positions, he said.

The Georgetown Jaycees club was 26 years old when it folded. In Halton Hills they are well known for the annual Crazy Boat Race. This year the race will be organized by the Georgetown Lions Club. Three former Jaycees will be helping organize the race and all Jaycees have volunteered to help the day of the race, April 11.

Two Jaycees have joined the Lions Club, including Bob Sullivan. Many Jaycees are taking a rest before joining another club, he said.

As was the case when the Jaycees controlled the race, money raised will help fight multiple sclerosis. In the last four years the Georgetown Jaycees donated $30,000 in that cause, Mr. Penrice said.

The club's last year was a good one. Doug Penrice was elected President of the Year in Georgetown's district. But small numbers continued to be a problem, despite an effort to recruit.

The true name of the organization is the Canadian Junior Chamber of Commerce Jaycees. The club has an age restriction. Anyone over 40 years old is not allowed to be a member. The Georgetown Jaycees passed a regulation to allow those older than 40 to stay on, but they could no longer vote on national or regional issues, Mr. Penrice said.

By the time the club folded, the average age of a Georgetown Jaycee was 35 or 36 years old. "The best members are recruited by friends," Mr. Penrice said. The problem for the Georgetown Jaycees was their friends are mainly in the mid-30 range. Jaycees don't know enough very young men as friends, Mr. Penrice said. Members 18 to 40 were accepted in the Jaycees.

About ten years ago the Georgetown club had 60 members. Nationally the service club is also seeing a decline in numbers. The membership which was 16,000 about nine years ago is now 3,000.

Costs of running the national operation have not changed much, Mr. Penrice said. The 20 members of the local club paid $100 each to be part of the national organization. About half of that came from their pockets. "It was a lot of money going out of the community," Mr. Penrice said. That was a small contributing reason to the decision to close the club for now.

The Jaycees club was a helpful group in the community, and especially helpful to its members, Mr. Sullivan said. Experience in speaking, organizing meetings, writing treasury reports and just "knowing how things are done" helped Mr. Sullivan (a former Jaycee president) in his career.

Many Jaycees were helped by their involvement in the club, Mr. Penrice said. Some former Georgetown Jaycee presidents are Mike Armstrong, a former regional councillor; Dave Kentner, president of the Georgetown Gemini; Connel Smith, general manager for Varian and Sandy MacKenzie, the owner of MacKenzie Buildall.

The club is not beyond resurrection. All that is needed is some enthusiastic members. Those interested in the Georgetown Jaycees should contact Doug Penrice at 877-8760.

Chain for Chairman

Halton Region Chairman Peter Pomeroy does not have a formal Chain of Office so Burlington's Regional Coun. Barry Quinn has taken on the job of getting him one. But the cost of a new Chain is prohibitive. Fortunately, the Halton County Wardens' Chain of Office has recently resurfaced during an inventory at the Halton Region Museum. Mr. Quinn wants to modify the Wardens' Chain to make it suitable for the Regional Chairman.

"I've shown the Chain to some firms which specialize in this type of thing and they have assured me that they can make some alterations which would both retain the original appearance of the Chain and allow it to reflect the change from a county to regional government," said Mr. Quinn. "My next problem is to find the funds to make the changes. I will be approaching some of the service groups in Halton to try and get their support to give our Chairman a Chain of Office."

The Chain of Office was made by an Edinburgh (Scotland) jeweller in sterling silver some years ago.

Wildwood still part of budget discussions

An attempt to keep Wildwood Road out of the 1987 budget deliberations failed Monday night.

Couns. Joe Hewitt and Pam Sheldon broughtforward a motion that would pull the preferred plan and preliminary design report on Wildwood out of the 1987 budget talks. The motion also said no more staff reports on these unless council asked for them.

Coun. Sheldon said that although council keeps saying it doesn't want this plan, it always seems to be on the floor. The councillors support maintenance work on the road, but not the extensive reconstruction the consultant's report outlines.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson said when the request for the consultant's study came forward all the rural councillors supported it except the mayor. Now, council is saying they want the study shelved when it's complete, and somebody else to look at the maintenance needs of the road, she said.

This is a waste of money, Coun. Serjeantson said. The town engineer has already told councillors that the report spells out what maintenance work needs to be done on Wildwood Road.

Coun. John McDonald, budget committee chairman, said he was glad to see such a big item (Wildwood) being removed from the 1987 budget. However, he wanted safety hazards on the road recognized, as Wildwood is a public road and the town is responsible for it.

Councillors should be able to look at what needs to be done to Wildwood at budget time, Coun. Betty Fisher said.

"We're a bright, intelligent group. We don't need the door closed off in front of our face to say, Mr. Engineer, hey, we don't want all this and this," she said.

Coun. Norman Elliott said the intentions of council are pretty much understood by everybody.

Mayor Russ Miller said he was looking forward to a discussion on Wildwood in budget committee, as he had missed earlier debates on this subject.

He said he'd like to see the kind of work that was done on Prince Street in Glen Williams 15 years ago.

Opposition leader Larry Grossman was on tour Feb.4 in Georgetown's Mold-Masters Limited at 233 Armstrong Avenue. He is seen here learning something about a milling machine from Derek Astbury. The owner of Mold-Masters, Jobst Gellert, conducted the tour.

No free trade farming says Larry Grossman

Agriculture isn't likely to be a free trade subject, provincial Progressive Conservatives leader Larry Grossman reassured last week.

Speaking to area farmers, he said he would be "extremely surprised" if there were any serious free trade discussions on agriculture.

"I suspect it's not going to be a starter at the table," Mr. Grossman said. "I don't think there's any agriculture minister in his or her right mind who would support getting rid of the very successful supply management program that has worked here."

The PC leader was responding to concerns of Jeff Nurse, a dairy farmer.

Mr. Nurse noted the U.S. Dairy programs are short sighted, dont work, and a " complete mess". He wants the current supply management program to continue.

"I'm not party to the free trade discussions," Mr. Grossman admitted. "But I do know the federal minister is of sound mind and understands the ministry well."

He said taking the supply management program off would be a foolish move, and said it was the heart and soul of the success story in Canada.

Provincial agriculture critic Ross Stevenson agreed. "I question any political party, for a great many reasons, dismantling supply management. I think supply management has other threats to it worse than free trade. I think you've got more worries to keep yhou awake at night than that one," Mr. Stevenson concluded.