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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1987

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the olde Hide House
It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

In the hills

Don't miss 'em

Don't miss two special editions inside The Herald this week. We've got a Money Management tabloid, giving you all the latest information on how to better save and invest your hard-earned dollars. Also, in recognition of the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year dinner tonight, an edition on the winner, Varian Canada Inc., has been prepared.

Dinner with Walter

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce is hosting a dinner to honor long-time secretary/manager Walter Biehn April 19. Mr. Biehn retired from the position in January and has moved to St. Catharines to enjoy his retirement. His plans include relaxation and travel. Mr. Biehn earned the nickname "Mr. Georgetown Chamber of Commerce" for his commitment to the Chamber. If you would like to join Mr. Biehn on this very special night call 877-5163 during business hours to reserve a ticket. Seating is limited so call early.

Budget paring

Nearly \$1 million was pared from the tax levy last week at the town's first budget committee meeting for the year.

Chaired by Coun. John McDonald, the committee which is made up of all council members cut \$887,100 from the 1987 capital and operating budgets. These were preliminary adjustments with more to follow.

"There's still lots of reviewing to do," Town Treasurer Ray King said.

The committee sat from 9 a.m. to 8:40 p.m. Feb. 10.

One item that received much attention again by councillors was what to do with Wildwood Road.

Mr. King said so far, councillors have decided to put aside up to \$200,000 for improvements to the road.

Last year, in the town's capital forecast for 1987, \$666,100 was set aside for work on Wildwood.

The budget committee's next meeting will consider requests for grants and capital for Conservation Authority projects.

Know a hero?

The Halton Region Safety Council every year at this time pays tribute to citizens who by their courage assist in the saving of lives. Others receive recognition through their efforts in working towards a safer environment whether be it Block Parent, child, traffic, water safety or fire prevention programs.

"Should you know of an act of courage that took place in your community in 1986, please submit the person's name, address, and description of the incident to the Council.

"Should you also know of a person or group which contributed to safety over and above their daily work requirement, their names, addresses, and the reason you believe they deserve an award of merit should also be sent to the Council before March 10. For more information call 878-5248.

Woodstove fire

A poorly installed chimney was the cause of a fire resulting in \$15,000 damage to a Georgetown home Sunday, Fire Prevention Officer Bob Meads said. The fire began when the wall around the wood stove pipe ignited.

Firefighters were called at 11:22 p.m. to 4 Haylawn Cres. by someone home when the fire began. Had nobody been around the house would have been lost to fire, it was burning so fast, Mr. Meads said.

The wall behind the stove, the ceiling, the floor joist and floor boards above were damaged in the blaze. Dried out decaying material around the stove pipe caught fire first, Mr. Meads said. The stove was poorly installed.

"Ninety-nine per cent of calls for fires where woodburning stoves are involved are caused because stoves are installed poorly or are poorly maintained, Mr. Meads said. The best way to prevent a fire is to have the installation inspected, he said.

Did you attend?

Did you ever attend Georgetown District High School? Have you received your registration form for the reunion? Do you know someone who has not received his/her form yet? Give us a call and we'll see that you get one. Contact one of the names below for the decade attended (Grade 9 year if possible).

Hazel Arnold 877-3038 (pre 1940); Doug Sargent 877-2993 (1940s); June Lenz 877-8307 (1950s); Tina Bell 877-3279 (1960s); Joan Beaumont 877-1810 (1970s); Kim Daquano, Georgetown High School (1980s).

An oversight

In The Herald's money management tabloid published this week, we inadvertently omitted to credit the author of two articles, Jack Soudet's byline should have appeared on "man at work, or money at work" and "easy steps to understanding mutual funds".

Halton Hills down in the dumps

Acton quarry proposal for potential landfill

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Acton may end up the recipient of the Region's garbage or even the garbage of other regions or countries. A Toronto merchant banking company is interested in developing about 65 acres of United Aggregates quarry lands at RR4 Acton into a dump.

Shieldings vice-president Terry Godsall told The Herald his firm is interested in the collection of methane, which is a gas produced naturally as garbage decomposes. Shieldings wants to convert the methane into electrical energy, to be sold to Ontario Hydro, Mr. Godsall said.

Already some studies have been done on the quarry site, evaluating its essential characteristics over the past 10 months, he said.

"We'd characterize ourselves as three-quarters of the way through the technical evaluation," Mr. Godsall said. "Our early findings have been extremely encouraging in terms of the characteristics and responsiveness of the site to some of the designs which we are considering."

free from the possibility of having the new landfill in its borders under this process, he said.

The United Aggregates quarry had been considered early on in the selection process, along with six other pits and quarries. Walker Wright Young rejected it on the basis of its hydrogeology and hydrology.

It was Burlington's Side F, also a quarry site, which survived the selection process and recently was named the "preferred" site for a Regional dump, above its neck-to-neck contender in Milton.

The Region's consultants looked at 55 sites in total, narrowing that to seven, then two, and earlier this month named Burlington the "preferred" site.

"We'll be studying the process to see why the Region rejected it (Acton quarry) and if it was right to reject it and whether it should be given more consideration," Mr. McQuaid told The Herald. "The Region seems to have overlooked it."

He said Burlington hasn't done any studies of the Acton quarry site at all and doesn't know if the site is as good as others seem to think it is.

"It's a new player and what the implications of that are (at the hearing) is really to be studied. We just don't know enough about it, it may be a large contender it is," Mr. McQuaid said.

Burlington only learned of it last week, he said, and has asked the applicant for its documentation. Extensive drilling and hydrogeological studies have been done by the applicant on the site, Mr. McQuaid said.

"We've heard it's a large site, five to six times the area of the site the Region is looking for, and they'll be making an application. They say the economics of the site are very good," Burlington's solicitor said.

At the preliminary hearing, City of Burlington solicitor Michael McQuaid said he'd learned the United Aggregates property in Acton was being considered for development into a dump.

The news took Halton Hills from its sideline position on this highly controversial and sensitive subject. Until then, the fight over who was to get the Regional dump was mainly between Burlington and Milton, the two finalists in the lengthy and expensive evaluation process by consultants Walker Wright Young Ltd.

Last week the region's long search for a new landfill took a new twist, embroiling Halton's northernmost municipality. The question in everyone's mind was, would the Acton site be brought into the environmental assessment hearings as a serious third site for a regional landfill?

As the Regions planning director said Friday, it means Halton Hills isn't out of it yet. No municipality is

directly in the provision of non-profit housing, recommended the Region's housing co-ordinator Stan Barkowitz.

"I probably wouldn't recommend it for a town of the size of Halton Hills," Mr. Barkowitz said Monday night to town councillors.

Although there were applications last year from groups in Halton Region who wanted to establish non-profit housing, the province didn't give them any funding.

Mr. Barkowitz said he hasn't seen any applications from Halton Hills for the coming year.

Coun. Pam Sheldon wanted to know what the town can do to assist the Region to provide affordable housing.

The town can help by providing enough housing sites for the construction of non-profit housing and the proper approvals, Mr. Barkowitz said.

Town Planning Director Ian Keith said last year his department identified four sites for co-op groups, however none of the sites were taken up because of the lack of provincial funding.

News of the private company's interest in the quarry broke at last Wednesday's preliminary hearing into Halton Region's application for a new Regional landfill. The Region must get provincial approval through an Environmental Assessment hearing before it can establish a new dump for its four municipalities to share.

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Thrills and chills

Some people will do almost anything to forget about the chilling winds of winter. Here, mini-golf and snowshoe races held the interest for some of the people who attended the Terra Cotta Conservation Area Sweetheart Carnival Sunday. Also featured at the carnival were ski races, tobogganing and broomball. (Photos by Simon Wilson)



School board wants town to pay more toward pools

The Halton Board of Education came with their hands open Monday night. Maintaining the town's two pools has become too expensive and the Board wants out of the agreement it made with the town a dozen years ago.

The agreement was that the Board would provide the site and maintain the pool, but the town would pay for its construction.

"It didn't take too long for an imbalance to show up in this type of agreement," Board trustee Bob Clarke of Milton said. "We're here tonight to try and correct this imbalance in the cost sharing."

Over the past four years, the Board has spent close to \$1 million to keep the Georgetown District High School (GDHS) and McKenzie-Smith Public School pools operating, Mr. Clarke said. Now they want help financially from the town.

Especially since restoration and equipment replacement at the two pools are forecast to be \$125,000 next year. This year they're \$18,000.

Just operating the pools cost \$56,500 at McKenzie-Smith and \$13,125 at GDHS in 1986, Board statistics show.

This is the story in Burlington, Milton and Oakville too, Mr. Clarke said. These municipalities are also being broached to help share pool maintenance costs. In fact, new pools, such as the one in Burlington's Aldershot are being maintained on a cost-sharing program between the town and the Board.

"Georgetown won't be little Georgetown for long. We're going to need more facilities for schools and your recreation department," Mr. Clarke said. "It behooves us in the future to share more of these facilities. We've got to co-ordinate and co-operate with each other."

Councillors agreed with Coun. Betty Fisher's motion to establish a committee composed of the Community School Administration Committee, the Mayor, the



Bob Clarke

administrator-clerk, and the recreation director. This committee is to discuss capital and maintenance costs for the pools with the Board.

"If nothing else, there should be more dialogue between the Board and the town," Coun. Joe Hewitt said.

Coun. Norman Elliott wanted more information on operating costs, which Board Chairman Arlene Bruce said would be made available at the new committee meeting.

"As a taxpayer it's distressing to see facilities that were built 12 years ago falling apart. Obviously, something doesn't get built right when we have this kind of deterioration," he said, wanting to know if they were "built on the cheap."

Coun. Fisher said the town budget is too small to be able to handle such costs.

Coun. Sheldon asked if the town were to contribute towards pools upkeep would that mean the Board would show a corresponding

decrease in its budget? "Recognizing the dollars come out of the public pocket whether from your or our portion of the tax budget," she noted.

The question was not answered. The Board's assistant superintendent of business, Harley Lishman, said pools are run at high temperatures 24 hours a day non stop, and the chlorine promotes rotting and corrosion in the facility. It's a 10 year cycle where corrosion comes to a point where replacement is virtually the only answer, and the town's pools are at that point now, he said.

"I don't see how we can sit through a full day of budget (talks) like we did last week and say there's any way we can take on extra costs," the Mayor admonished.

Coun. Pam Sheldon said she couldn't see the town taking on one-tenth of the costs, ever, in its budget.

"I'd rather be up front and say we can't afford it," she concluded.

Couns. Lillian Bowman and Gerald Rennie said the town should have as much information as it can on it so it can make a fair decision.

"When I hear people talk about getting more information, it really scares me," Coun. Pam Johnston warned. "Look at what happened with Wildwood Road. I'd prefer to see dialogue just with staff rather than have us get involved."

Principals on the move

Many Halton Hills students will be finding a different person at the end of that long walk to the principal's office in September, 1987.

The Halton Board of Education has transferred many vice-principals and principals. Greg Anderson will be the new principal at Pineview Public School. He is replacing Dave Woodward who is going to Lakeshore in Burlington.

McKenzie-Smith principal Carl Hymers is also leaving Halton Hills. He will be the new principal of Falkenwood in Oakville. Lillian Moore will take her first job as principal at McKenzie-Smith.

Bob McCaw, the principal at Stewarttown, and Ray Morrison, the principal at Harrison, will be exchanging places in September.



EXPLOSION-Nobody was injured in this fire which started with an explosion in the garage. Propane gas was ignited by a kerosene heater in the garage where a man was working on a propane fueled truck. The fire at 5 Flamingo Ct. in Georgetown, started at 12:20 p.m. Monday. (Photo by Jim MacArthur)

TRUCK EXPLOSION

Causes \$55,000 house fire

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff

A man repairing a propane fueled truck in a garage on Flamingo Court escaped injury when an explosion blew open the garage door Monday.

Firefighters were called to 5 Flamingo Ct. at 12:20 p.m. to extinguish the resulting fire which caused an estimated \$55,000. They contained the fire and prevented it from spreading to the house which was attached to the garage.

The son of the man who owned the Georgetown house was doing minor repairs on the truck fueled by propane. He caused a leak in the fuel system when replacing a filter, Fire Prevention Officer Bob Meads said.

When he went to turn off the propane there was an explosion. The propane was ignited by a kerosene heater in the garage.

one side and forced it open on that side. A door between the garage and kitchen was also blown open, Mr. Meads said.

If the garage was well ventilated and if the garage door was open, there would not have been an explosion, Mr. Meads said.

The truck was parked front-end first in the garage. The man was at the back of the truck turning the fuel supply off. He was squatted down behind the truck and was saved from injury. "There were no scorching or singe marks on him when I talked to him," Mr. Meads said.

The propane continued to leak after the fire started, which posed a problem to firefighters. At one point the tank began to whistle. This means the tank is nearing empty or about to explode, Mr.

Meads said. It was a tense moment. The men stayed with the fire. The tank was nearing empty. "The guys did a good job," Mr. Meads said.

Part of the "good job" was preventing the fire from entering the home. Crews contained it at the doorway to the garage and on the second floor where there was a deck on top of the garage.

The heat was so intense in the kitchen that 2/3 of the phone melted. Mr. Meads said. The kitchen did not receive any fire damage.

Damage to the home was mainly from smoke. The truck, garage and its contents were destroyed. "The man is lucky he didn't burn down the house," Mr. Meads said. Firefighters remained at the home for about three hours.