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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866 TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1987

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'New' board candidates all defeated

All four candidates selected by the Dr. Jack Ford support group were defeated at the Georgetown hospital's annual general meeting, Thursday. In an election to replace four vacancies, Brian Goodlet and Joyce Mackay were returned to the board of directors. Beth Worrall and Brenda Sissett also were elected to serve. All four successful candidates were nominated by members of the current board of directors at the hospital. Brenda Sissett was recently appointed to the board after a resignation earlier this year. Running for the support group were Maureen McCallum, Donna Robin, Tom Ramantarasigh and Joan Vachon Robson. The final count was never made public, but the ballots were scrutinized by the board's auditors, Starret and Starret. Because of a 107-98 vote in favor of open board meetings held previously, many observers felt at least some of the support group candidates would have been elected. However, one of the candidates, Joan Vachon Robson, charged that it was improper for Judge Ken Langdon to warn against voting for "single issue candidates."

Maureen McCallum said she was approached six weeks ago to represent the group and attended a meeting where she was nominated. She ran because of what she felt was a need for new blood and concerns about the hospital in general. The support group did not want candidates elected who would work towards only one single-serving issue, said Paul McDougall, a spokesman. The warning by Judge Langdon was "incredibly crazy" and "completely inappropriate," he said. "The board doesn't have a corner on motherhood, justice, truth and apple pie," he said in anger. The spokesman was still unhappy with the answers to his questions about meeting deadlines previously announced to his members. "If you're not going to follow up what you're going to say, don't say it in the first place," he said. At least 400 people filled the unfurnished wing of the chrome care facility at the Bennett Health Care Centre. The meeting was completed at 12:15 a.m. after a lengthy wait to tally votes for the elections. Board member Frank Allen said the meeting was "relatively uneventful" which surprised him somewhat. Robson said there was still some measure of victory by her group because the general membership voted for open board meetings. "We'll see if the board adopts an open board policy and take one step at a time. Next year we'll hope to get people on the board, she said. The vote was democratic, but the board had a well-oiled machine, she said. Paul McDougall also agreed the vote itself was handled in a democratic manner.

Membership votes for open meetings

Led by town councillor Betty Fisher, a slight majority members of the hospital's annual meeting voted in favor of open board meetings. After a motion was presented and a discussion followed, 107 voted for public meetings, while 98 voted against. The results, however, will not force the board to act to change its policy. The board chairman Bob Clapham explained that according to the hospital bylaws, the decision can only be made by the board of directors. The discussion was emotional, as speakers offered both pros and cons about having monthly meetings open to the public. By having closed meetings, the board is subjected to a greater danger of misinterpretation. There should be no great fear of open meetings, said David Blaney. In a democracy it's a simple matter where all can take a look at what is being discussed, he said. Present board member Douglas Brock argued that if board meetings were open there would be even less democracy. It would mean that more items would be discussed within a smaller executive group. Replied Betty Fisher, it's healthy to have open debate. "I think that that's a weak argument and one that can be used totally, always, to keep all meetings in private. People can always have meetings before meetings," she said.



Betty Fisher

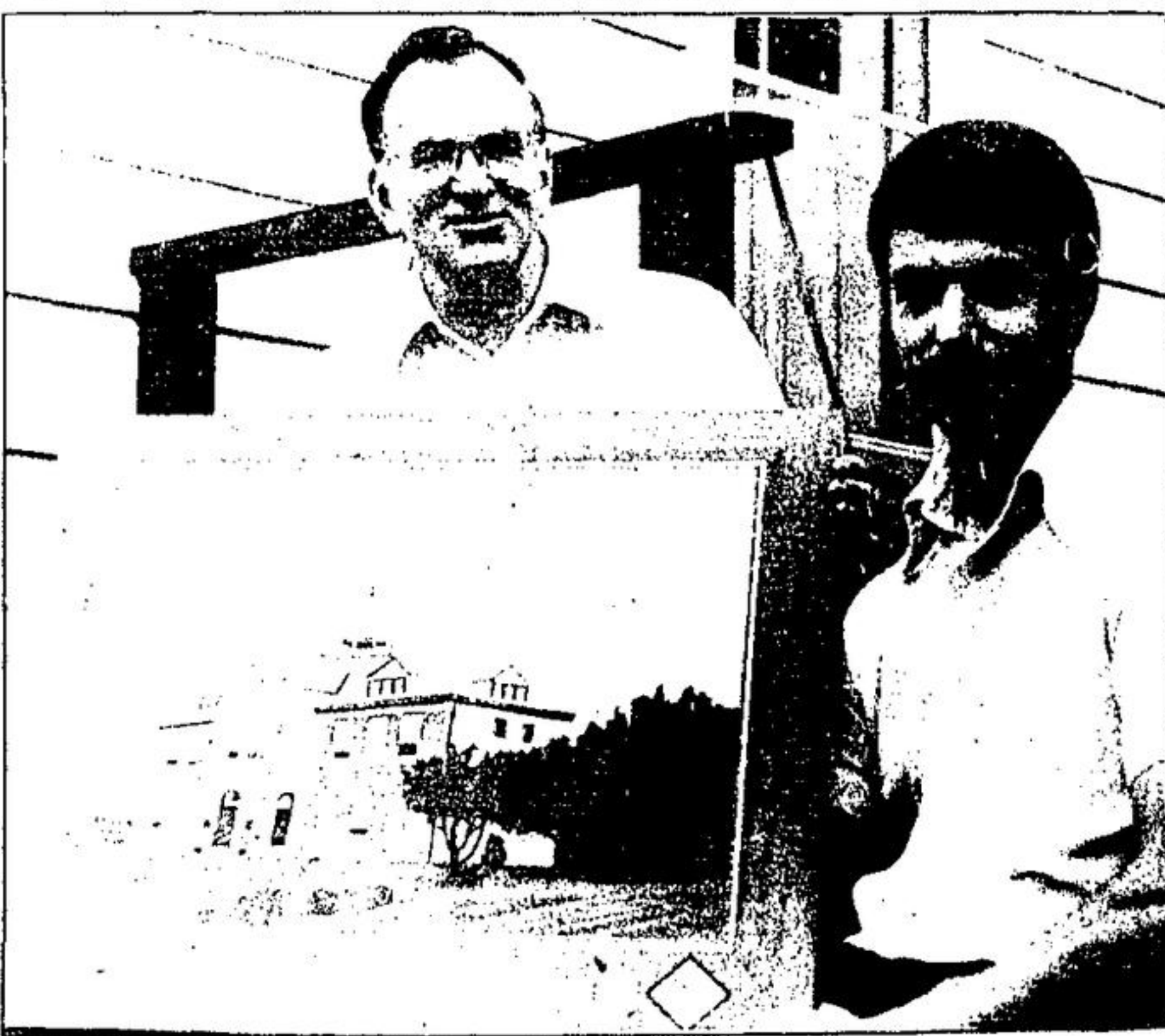


Ken Langdon

Guest speaker

NORVAL — Norval United Church celebrated its 134th anniversary June 14. Rev. Norman Greene of North Brantale United Church was guest speaker whose sermon was "All the world comes to us."

He spoke of the many ethnic groups coming to Canada from all over the world and one of their first priorities are building a church. Special music was given by both choirs with a special number by the junior choir. "Come to the church by Georgetown" to the tune of Church in the Wildwood. Rev. Walter Ridley pronounced the benediction.



Ross (left) and James Colter are seen here with their woodwork project which will be presented as a gift to the students at the Georgetown high school reunion. For more coverage of the high school reunion, see our special supplement inside today's paper. (Herald Staff photo)

Artists celebrate 100 years with Georgetown high model

By BRIAN MacLEOD Herald Special People attending the Georgetown District High School reunion will be able to gaze back at the last three decades thanks to two artists. James and James Colter - a father and son team - are currently putting the finishing touches on a marquetry representation of the old high school which was torn down in 1929 to make room for the current building completed in 1960. James is a graduate of Georgetown High School's class of '73. Marquetry is a painstakingly detailed process which employs only wood to complete the representation. The Colters have used 21 different types of wood to make the picture. The only artificial color used in the picture is dye to make the wood for

the windows black. Lacewood, drick, k. Walnut trees, Carpathy in Elm Burl shrubs, Rosewood do. wood steps, and a roof made of wood types of hardwood show the variety the Colters have used in the picture. The work features exquisite detail - right down to the Walnut windows and downpipe from the eavesdropping. After the wood was assembled to form the picture of the school, the pair carefully applied six coats of sanding sealer, six coats of lacquer and six coats of varathane. The picture was sanded down between each coat to smooth off the finish. The staff of the high school commissioned Ross and James to do the work which will be presented as a gift to the students at the reunion. Ross cut most of the wood while

vacationing in Florida in May and father and son then went to work meticulously assembled the pieces together in James' Georgetown home. The pair worked from a photocopy of a picture of the school given to them by John McDonald. Both Colters have incorporated their identifying logos into the frame at the bottom of their painting to signify their co-operation on the work. The art of Marquetry itself is an ancient practice dating back to the times of the Egyptians, James said. Marquetry died out in the nineteenth century because it required too much work to be profitable, he said. But recently Ross helped form the Canadian Marquetry Society (of which he is the secretary) which boasts 80 members across North America.

Despite 'conflict' charges company gets Region job

By BRIAN MacLEOD Herald Special A four member consortium has been hired to study growth in Milton despite claims by two Burlington councillors that a conflict of interest is involved. The consortium consisting of the IBI Group, R.V. Anderson Associates Ltd., Simcoe Engineering Ltd. and Creative Research Group was retained Wednesday by the Region's Planning and Public Works Committee. The decision must be ratified by council today Wednesday. The consortium will poll Halton residents in a survey, through public meetings and citizen panels to find out if they want growth in the Town of Milton. Councilors had worried the IBI Group had a conflict of interest because it had worked on the Regional landfill issue. Burlington councillors Joan Little and Walter Mulkwich opposed but not the consortium. Neil Irwin, Managing Director of

IBI denied having any conflict of interest with the company's professional standards. "We were not involved in any of the original consulting," Mr. Irwin said of the landfill issue. "We were brought in at the end by the Town of Milton to review work and provide objective assessments." "We don't have a conflict. Our business is doing objective studies for clients. We were not about to deliberately or any other way, destroy our reputation," Mr. Irwin said. Coun. Little claimed public perception of a conflict is enough to disqualify IBI. Milton is a funding partner. The public will say what the heck did you expect after receiving results of the study? They were in working for Milton anyway, she said. "The fact that Milton is a funding partner makes a conflict somewhere along the line," said chairman Pat McDougall of Burlington. "I think that the conflict is very

obvious. Perception is important we do have a right and a responsibility to deal with it," Coun. Mulkwich said. He asked councillors to consider instructing the steering committee to examine the three runners up. Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy saw no evidence of a conflict. "If there's going to be a reason for disqualifying this consulting firm I'd like to be more specific. Within the region, particularly in the Milton area, if you sorted through that list you would likely find one of these consultants representing a property owner," he said. "There hasn't been any proof put before us that this company has a conflict," he said. Milton Mayor Gordon Krantz agreed with Chairman Pomeroy. Halton Hills councillor Pam Sheldon also saw no conflict with the IBI group. "I cannot find a definition of conflict that would be of concern to the committee. Consultants aren't advocated, they're information gatherers," she said.

Fair meeting

Come out to the monthly fall fair board meeting July 6 and volunteer to help out. The board is meeting at the agricultural building at the Georgetown Fairgrounds and anyone interested in helping with the fair is asked to attend. The board is in the midst of finalizing its plans for the September event including the day before set-up of equipment and booths.

Reunion lunch

Open Door will host a reunion luncheon to celebrate the GDHS centennial year. The luncheon will be held on Sunday, July 5, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. George's Church Hall. Adults \$5, children \$2.50. Tickets available at the high school on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4 or by telephoning 877-7419.

In the hills

Trip winner

The Optimist Club of Georgetown is pleased to announce the following winners for the Trip of the Month raffle for the month of June 1987. Grand Prize: A travel voucher for \$2500.00 valid for any travel facilities available through TWG Travel Inc. Georgetown plus \$500.00 spending money. Ticket #28 Mr. J.R. Goodwin, Brampton Ticket sold by Linda Topping, Georgetown. Consolation: Prize of \$120.00 cash. Ticket #28 Mr. Jim Mehlenbacher, Hillsburgh Ticket sold by Ron Pearson, Georgetown. The club thanks all ticket purchasers for their support. All proceeds are returned to the community through our many projects.

Growth forecasted

The year 2001 will see the population of Halton Hills increased by almost 30 per cent, according to a Halton Region study. The study expects the current population, now hovering around the 35,570 mark, to increase to a high of under 60,000 by 2011. The Town of Milton, roughly the same size as Halton Hills at 32,037 now, is expected to hit a high of 51,000 by the year 2011. Oakville's population is expected to jump from 67,000 to a whopping 170,000 people by 2011 and Burlington is expected to increase its current population by almost 60,000 to 175,000. Total population of Halton Region is forecast to increase from a current high of 271,389 to a high of 429,000 by 2011.

Horse Park plans nixed by members

By DAVE ROWNEY Herald Staff Plans have been abandoned to locate a heritage horse park on the site of Scotsdale Farm, near Ballinafad. After extensive study, the Ontario Heritage Horse Park Corporation has found the Scotsdale is inappropriate for a facility it wants. Chairman Brian Hay spoke to the press and public Friday evening to explain the decision of his organization. "Scotsdale Farm is a beautiful, attractive rural property. We do not think the property should be over developed, nor the community environment disturbed," he said. The horse park corporation is looking for a site which can handle over 30,000 people at peak events and crowds of up to 8,000 for regular events. The Scotsdale site won't support the development of a high-intensity use facility, said Mr. Hay. The land is protected from certain kinds of development by the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) and rural neighbors would be inconvenienced with increased traffic, he said. Members of the horse park group want to model their facility after the granddaddy of horse parks, the Lexington, Kentucky site. It has been visited twice and on the second occasion the study team realized "what it takes for (economic) viability," Mr. Hay said. To be economically self-sufficient, without handouts from the government or others, the park envisioned by the corporation must be capable of handling 500,000 people or more per year, he said. The Scotsdale site road system couldn't handle the extra traffic plus the beautiful 540 acre site has NEP restrictions also, the character of the neighborhood would be changed significantly, Mr. Hay said. The idea of a horse park still appears to be viable, he said. The corporation has two sites in mind outside of Toronto. What is required are a wide range of large scale equestrian and other related events suitable for television, he said. It was about a year ago the heritage horse park corporation signed a letter of agreement in principle to be managers of an equestrian use and multi-use facility. The agreement was subject to two conditions. One was a market feasibility study and the other was a financial plan to ensure economic viability. The corporation will still carry on its feasibility study, but have officially withdrawn their agreement with the Ontario Heritage Foundation (OHF) which holds the land in trust. The farm was bequeathed to the people of Ontario by Stewart and Lucy Bennett. OHF representative Richard Symmes said the Foundation agrees with a consultant's finds that a horse park would not be a suitable option for Scotsdale. "It is the Foundation's intention to continue to examine alternate uses, compatible with the environment and community, to determine the most appropriate permanent use," he said. Scotsdale will continue to be operated as a conference centre, making the site available to organizations and groups in Halton Hills and area. In the meantime, meetings will be scheduled between the Foundation and representatives of a number of interested user groups. Those interested in the facility include: Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the Regions of Halton and Peel, the Halton Board of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board, the Georgetown Optimists and Boy Scouts. Mr. Symmes said hopefully the OHF will be announcing a long-term plan for Scotsdale later in the year. What are the costs which concern the horse park corporation members? Mr. Hay said the Scotsdale facility has large maintenance and operating costs. Proper water and lavatory facilities would have to be built, he said. There would be barns required, a riding centre, a reception structure, education facilities, parking and much more. The corporation realized it would take hundreds of thousands of dollars in operating revenue to offset the capital costs, he said. He also said the horse park corporation wants a major focal point for equestrians, not just a place for people to ride horses. "We need something that has public appeal and a program base to do that."

Monuments OK A request to install two monuments in a four grave plot in Acton's Fairview cemetery was approved by town council Monday. Council waived a 1974 bylaw prohibiting more than one monument on each plot. The two monuments will sit on a single foundation so the owner maintained that they be considered as one for the purpose of the bylaw. Council was also advised that the bylaw needs to be re-drafted to make future proposals easier to assess.

See inside for our GDHS centennial reunion supplement