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Appeal board denies Ford's privileges

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

Dr. Jack Ford has been denied all privileges at the Georgetown hospital by the Ontario Hospital Appeals Board.

In a 24-page decision released yesterday the Board's decision supported the action taken by the Georgetown Hospital Board on April 7, 1987 to revoke the privileges of the gynecologist and obstetrician.

"It is our finding based upon the evidence that Dr. Ford's knowledge in both the areas of obstetrics and gynecology is outdated," the Board wrote.

"His presence at the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital poses a significant threat to the community served by that hospital and cannot continue until he can demonstrate a significant upgrading in both his knowledge and practice."

Dr. Ford's lawyer Gavin MacKenzie argued during the hearings that Dr. Ford was never made aware of concerns about his practice.

But the Board said: "Had we found that Dr. Ford was truly not aware of the problems of his practice, we might have seriously considered some form of training while his privileges continued. However, we have found that he was well aware of serious doubts expressed by his peers and by the Chief of Staff of his hospital and that he took no steps to alter his practice or to upgrade himself in light of these warnings."

The Board concluded that there is a "serious gap in Dr. Ford's knowledge of modern medical and surgical management in the areas of obstetrics and gynecology."

The Appeals Board found problems in five areas of Dr. Ford's practice. Dr. Ford's extensive use of dilatage and curettage (D and C) operations for dysfunctional uterine bleeding was common during his training but "has been found not to produce satisfactory results and is almost totally discredited in modern Canadian gynecological circles."

His use of tubal repairs and infertility operations without the use of a microscope "again demonstrate a technique which has been discredited."

Dr. Ford's tendency to perform hysterectomies and stress incontinence procedures without investigating to see if medical management of the problem was possible "again reflects a school of gynecological thinking which is now outdated," the Board wrote.

The doctor's failure to prepare for a Caesarean section also came under criticism from the Board.

"His readiness to perform such potentially dangerous procedures as mid-forceps deliveries and VBACs (vaginal birth after Caesarean) without adequate preparation for emergency Caesarean sections reveals an inadequate appreciation



An appeals board hearing began Oct. 19 for Dr. Jack Ford (above), whose privileges were revoked from the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital April 7, 1987.

of the possible consequences of his actions.

The final area, Dr. Ford's use of mid-forceps in deliveries, also represents "an older school of obstetrics which has now largely been replaced by a more conservative philosophy," the Board said.

Throughout the decision the Board called Dr. Ford's medical procedures an "aggressive surgical approach."

"Dr. Ford's approach was extremely aggressive surgically and the documentation for surgical intervention in many cases was somewhat questionable."

The five-member hospital board "struggled for some time to reconcile the contrasting portraits of a surgically aggressive doctor who appeared far too ready to intervene both obstetrically and gynecologically where there was little justification for doing so, and the caring, genial physician who clearly commands tremendous loyalty and respect from his patients, colleagues and the nurses with whom he works."

The reaction from the hospital is very cautious because Dr. Ford can still appeal the decision to the courts, said Executive Director Mark Rochon.

He read a prepared release saying, "we are pleased with the findings of the Hospital Appeals Board which upheld the decision of the Board of Directors to restrict and subsequently revoke Dr. Ford's hospital privileges in obstetrics and gynecology."

"while the Board appreciates the difficulty that this situation has created for patients, medical staff and employees it has been the position of the Board that the central issue pertaining to the matter was and continues to be the provision of quality patient care."

Mr. Rochon said the hospital has been interviewing applicants for another gynecologist and obstetrician at the hospital for some time and it will continue to interview until a suitable applicant is found.

The hospital has been operating with just one full time gynecologist and obstetrician, Dr. Valarie Kumar, since Dr. Ford's privileges were revoked.

But Dr. Ford support group spokesman Paul McDougall had harsh words for the decision.

"I'm very, very disappointed," he said. "I'm sure there is going to be both great joy and great sorrow in Georgetown."

Mr. McDougall said he expected the Board to invoke the compromise suggested by Mr. MacKenzie during the hearings, which called for reinstating partial privileges.

Mr. McDougall, who attended the hearings, said Dr. Ford was treated fairly at the hearings but some of the hospital lawyer's tactics were "reprehensible."

Mr. McDougall said the decision is "just another case of the hospital burning out a specialist."

"I don't think it's done the hospital any good," he said of the Dr. Ford dispute.

Mr. McDougall said his wife has had four babies delivered by Dr. Ford, all by Caesarean section, and he wouldn't hesitate to return to him.

"The decision is going to have a 'polarizing effect' on the community," he said.

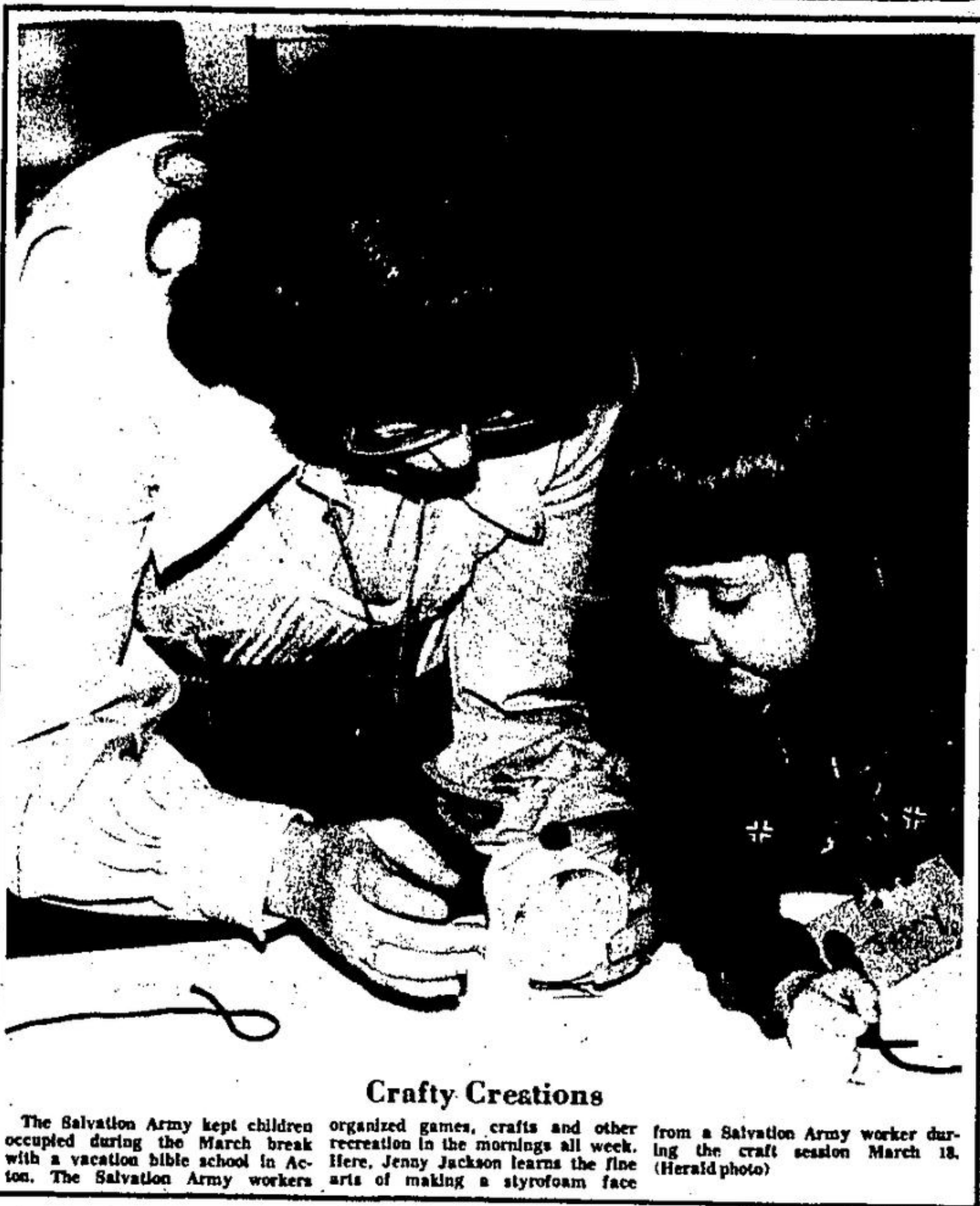
He could not say if the support group plans to ask the hospital board to change any of its major policies because anyone trying to do that right now is "shooting with an empty gun."

Dr. Jack Ford said he has not yet seen a copy of the decision and he wouldn't comment other than to say he's disappointed in the decision.

He said he will be meeting with his lawyer today to decide his next course of action.

The decision only affects the Georgetown hospital, said Dr. Ford.

He can continue to operate a family physician practice but he will not have privileges to use the facilities at the Georgetown hospital.



Crafty Creations

The Salvation Army kept children organized games, crafts and other recreation in the mornings all week with a vacation bible school in Acton. The Salvation Army workers from a Salvation Army worker during the craft session March 18. Here, Jenny Jackson learns the fine arts of making a styrofoam face. (Heraldphoto)

Acton's Beardmore lands

New industry and housing planned for 300 acre site

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

Canada Packers has announced plans to rehabilitate the 300 acres of land belonging to the Beardmore Tannery.

Plans call for a 60-acre industrial park on the southwest corner of the property and some 52 acres of possible residential development on the northern part of the lands. A huge recreational park, perhaps a golf course, on 180 acres of land (which cannot safely be used for any other purpose) is also proposed.

The tannery shut down in September, 1986 putting 324 people out of work.

Town councillors were told of the plans for the first time Monday when representatives of Canada Packers explained their intentions.

Canada Packers is going to need the cooperation of the town if their plans are to be followed.

Several businesses operate on 17 acres of land on the northwest part of the property employing 108 people right now, said Murray Pound, a planner hired by Canada Packers.

The company wants that land hooked up to the Acton sewer system. The land already has water service but the tenants need the sewer hook-up to provide stability and possible expansion on a temporary basis, said Mr. Pound.

Another business employing 80 people wants to move into one of the empty buildings on the northern part of the land, he said.

But the industrial use of the northern 17 acres of land would only be temporary, he said.

Once the 60 acre industrial park is complete, those tenants would likely be moved there, he added.

But it will take some time for the 60-acre industrial park to be prepared. Right now, effluent from

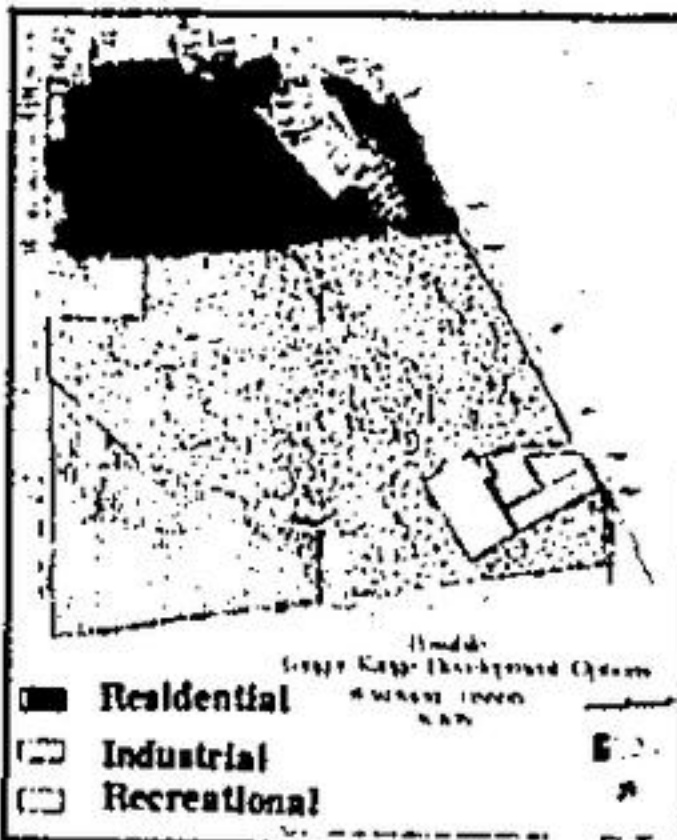
the sewage plant is "spray irrigated" on the land. The Ministry of Environment wants that stopped.

But Canada Packers can't stop putting the sewage on the land without cutting off sewage services to the businesses on the northern lands now. And environmental consultants can't complete testing on the 60-acre park to see if it is viable for industry until the spray irrigation is stopped.

So Canada Packers wants the town to hook up the northern industrial land to sewers.

Once that northern land is serviced it will recoup a total of 50 per cent of the jobs lost when the tannery shut down, he said.

The 60 acre park has the potential to house industry employing 660 people, said Mr. Pound.



The land in the middle of Beardmore holdings, about 180 acres, is not environmentally suitable to hold industry, said Alan Van Norman, an environmental consultant hired by Canada Packers. It contains

lagoons, sewage ponds and two small landfill sites.

The 180 acre portion "would require a more intensive level of effort" to prepare even for recreational use, said Mr. Van Norman.

The northern industrial lands would operate from now to about seven years from now, said Mr. Pound.

The southern industrial park would take from three to seven years to prepare and the 180 acre park would take even longer, said Mr. Pound.

The environmental studies have been going on for the last 18 months and Canada Packers is confident the plans are feasible, said Mr. Pound.

He said the firm is prepared to look at expanding the sewage treatment plant on its own if it is necessary.

Asked by Mayor Russ Miller if Canada Packers is prepared to withdraw its objection to the MOE to the installation of a water well at Prospect Park, Mr. Pound said the firm has not objected to the well, it only wants to limit the amount of water withdrawn from Fairy Lake.

He said Canada Packers is prepared to negotiate the water rights to Fairy Lake to allow the rest of Acton to grow.

The reason the industrial park is easier to rehabilitate is because there is only one type of contaminant present in large amounts, said Mr. Van Norman.

Chlorides are a byproduct of the tannery process and there are very few other contaminants common to other industrial sewage parks, he said.

Even the landfill sites are small enough so that no methane collection system will be necessary, he said.

Without seatbelts, 51 injured

By CHERYL MOODER
Herald Staff

Buckle up. That is what the Halton police force is advising Georgetown residents.

The police force has implemented a Crime Prevention Selective Enforcement Project to enforce the wearing of seatbelts.

The program was begun in December 1987 to get people to wear their seatbelts.

When the law came into effect in 1982 people were aware of it, said Const. Troy Izakar. Now they have forgotten, he said, "and we are just bringing it back to light."

Police charge people not buckled up under section 90 of the Highway Traffic Act.

Both passengers and the driver can receive a \$53.75 fine for not being strapped in.

The driver is responsible for anyone in the car under 16, the constable said.

Children up to 40 to 50 pounds are

required to be placed in a car seat that meets the standards set by the Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Halton Hills police officers decided to begin this project when they found a lot of people they pulled over not wearing seatbelts.

When they pulled people over and asked why they were not buckled up the general response, Const. Izakar said, was they were just going down the street.

Even if you are going down Guelph Street at 30 kilometres per hour, the police officer said, wearing a seatbelt can be the difference between little injury and no injury.

"It is not just a matter of saving lives when the speeds are up," he said. It will help in the injury aspect.

Reports from other police departments indicate they are experiencing a high number of fatal accidents because people are not wearing their belts.

"We do not want that to happen here," said Const. Izakar. "Seatbelts are a good place to start."

Of the 311 people injured in Halton

Hills accidents in 1987, 51 were injured because they were not wearing seatbelts.

"That is 31 per cent of all the accidents that we know for sure," the constable said. The number is probably a lot higher.

In the months between December 1987 and January 1988 the Halton Hills platoon involved in enforcing the program have issued approximately 70 tickets to people not wearing their seatbelts.

"That is fairly high in that area based on one charge," Const. Izakar said. The police department hopes to have approximately 600 charges for seatbelt tickets by the end of 1988.

Spring is the worse time for people not buckling up.

The weather is great, people are in a hurry to get where they are going, they hop in the car and forget, the police officer said.

That is what makes the timing of this project so good, the constable said. The police department just wants people to take a few seconds and buckle up.

IN THE HILLS

Tourism seminar

The Halton Hills Tourism Committee will hold another Tourism Awareness Seminar to present the committee's marketing plans for 1988. All interested businesses who want greater exposure of their pro-



duct or service should attend.

Peter Blundell - Manager of Royal LePage will be the guest speaker. Mr. Blundell, before entering the real estate business, operated antique and tourist related businesses in York Region. He also served as chairman of the Tourism Committee in York Region, which started small, but now has an operating budget in excess of \$500,000. He will talk about the many ways to promote your business using free, low cost or co-op methods.

Steve Dawkins of The Olde Hide House will present the committee's ideas on co-op advertising for the area.

The Halton Hills Tourism Committee helps promote local businesses. Call 877-7119 for further details.

"Remember head for the hills - Halton Hills."

Safe boating

Canadian Power and Sail Squadron presents its Safe Boating Seminar.

Learn about boating safety; compass charts, lines, anchoring, aids to navigation, fire and other topics.

The seminar will be held Monday evenings April 11 - May 2 at Georgetown District High School. The cost is \$25. Call 877-7454 or 454-8253.

Church dedication

Sunday afternoon, April 3 at 3 p.m., guests will arrive from points around Ontario to join the Georgetown Alliance Church in a service of dedication for their new church building.

Participating clergy include Dr. Melvin Sylvester, President of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, Rev. Robert Gould, District Superintendent for the Alliance in Eastern and Central Canada, and Rev. Angus Sutherland, President of the

Georgetown Ministerial Association.

Also bringing greetings are Mr. Walter Elliot, MPP, and Mr. Russell T. Miller, Mayor of Halton Hills.

Track donation

At a recent meeting, the Optimist Club of Georgetown presented a cheque for \$2,000 to Bevin Clark, coach track and field, for Georgetown District High School.

This contribution is to assist the high school install a "Special Events" package for the recently installed all weather track.

Mr. Clark, on thanking the Optimist Club for their contribution, explained that the "Special Events" package includes: long jump and triple jump pits; pole vault runway; shot and discus circles and a high jump fan. These facilities have a cost of \$13,500 and were not included in the original undertaking for the all weather track.

Halton PCs meet

The founding meeting for the Progressive Conservative Riding Association for the newly created riding of Halton-Peel has been rescheduled for March 25.

The meeting will be held at the North Halton Golf and Country Club in Georgetown starting at 8 p.m. Guests will be four local MPs, Otto Jelinek (Halton), Bill Kemppling (Burlington), John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown) and Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel). Everyone is welcome.

Co-ops, contras

Co-ops, contras... and community. Three local women who visited Nicaragua last year, Rev. Nancy Knox, Kathryn Latimer, and Cheryl Lightowers, will present slides and a talk on their experience, March 24, 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church. Presented by the 10 local churches of "Ten Days for World Development". All welcome.

Jobs, jobs, jobs

A small businessman reads the headline, "Unemployment now down to 3.9 per cent in Ontario", he does a quick mental calculation and it still means over 240,000 people are without jobs in southern Ontario. Why can't he get help? Why must he post a notice in his business advertising for slow service due to lack of help?

These questions beg for an answer. The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce hopes that at its April 28 meeting these concerns will be answered. The Chamber has invited Debby McIntyre, manager of the local Canada manpower office to address the noon-hour meeting. Ms. McIntyre will tell how jobs are posted, how the unemployed are counselled and what employers can do to get and keep help.

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce is made up of over 250 businesses. Informational meetings are held to help business in Georgetown.