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HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO

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It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

In The Hills

United Way walk Sunday

Halton Hills will walk the United Way this Sunday, June 12 when the Kiwanis Club of Georgetown sponsors a fund raising walk.

Registration is being held from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Co-op on Guelph Street in Georgetown. The walk itself is slated to get under way at 2 p.m.

The walkers who take part will have the opportunity to win prizes, which are being awarded for bringing in the most money in pledges.

For the adults, the walker who collects the largest amount in pledges will win a weekend for two at the Travelodge in Niagara Falls, courtesy of Uniglobe Can Travel.

For the youngsters, there will be a \$200 gift certificate for sports equipment for the walker with the greatest amount in total pledges. This prize is provided by Helson, Kogon, Ashbee, and Schallo.

There are also early bird prizes which will be given to the first 25 walkers to register Sunday.

The route for the walk is from the Co-op, west along Guelph Street, to Mountainview Road. From there, the route goes south on Mountainview to Delrex Boulevard, and proceeds left back to Guelph Street, and back to the Co-op.

Contributions made to the walk are deductible for income tax purposes, and receipts will be issued for contributions over \$10.

For more information on this event, call the United Way Office at 877-8335.

Agreement made

After years of slow negotiations, an agreement has been reached between the Speyside Ratepayers Area Association and the Halton Board of Education.

As part of the settlement changes were made to the board's consolidation of schools and school closure policy.

Silence of the agreement has been sworn by both sides of the dispute to prevent further ill feeling.

A joint statement will be released by lawyers representing both sides. A vote will be taken on the policy changes at the June 9 board meeting.

Cadets honored

Brett Serjeantson was named Air Cadet of the Year as the 756 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets recently announced their 1988 award winners.

Jon Newcombe was named Best All Round Cadet and the Leadership Trophy went out to Richard Percival. Eric Abulnar was selected the Best Drill Team Member and Mark Rembish won for Most Improved Band Member.

Other winners included Chris Blencowe, Interflight Trophy; Richard Englert, top marksmen; Joy Swain, best first year cadet; Mark Rembish, best dressed cadet; Alan MacLean, best junior NCO; Chris McHale, most congenial cadet; Trevor Brown, initiative and enthusiasm.

PCs meet

The Progressive Conservative Association of Halton - Peel is pleased to announce an upcoming nomination convention to elect a federal candidate.

The meeting will be held at the Gordon Alcott Arena, Georgetown, on Wednesday, June 22.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Membership renewals will close at 7 p.m. and the meeting will be called to order promptly at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Ian Fraser, President, at 459-9728.

Contracts set

Halton Region elementary and secondary school teachers settled their contracts this past week.

The Halton Board of Education and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District Nine, signed a tentative two-year collective agreement Thursday night after two months of intensive bargaining.

The Halton Elementary Teacher's Association and the Halton Board of Education reached a tentative two-year collective agreement at 2:30 a.m. Saturday after two months of intensive negotiations.

Details of the contracts will be released June 23 following ratification by both parties.

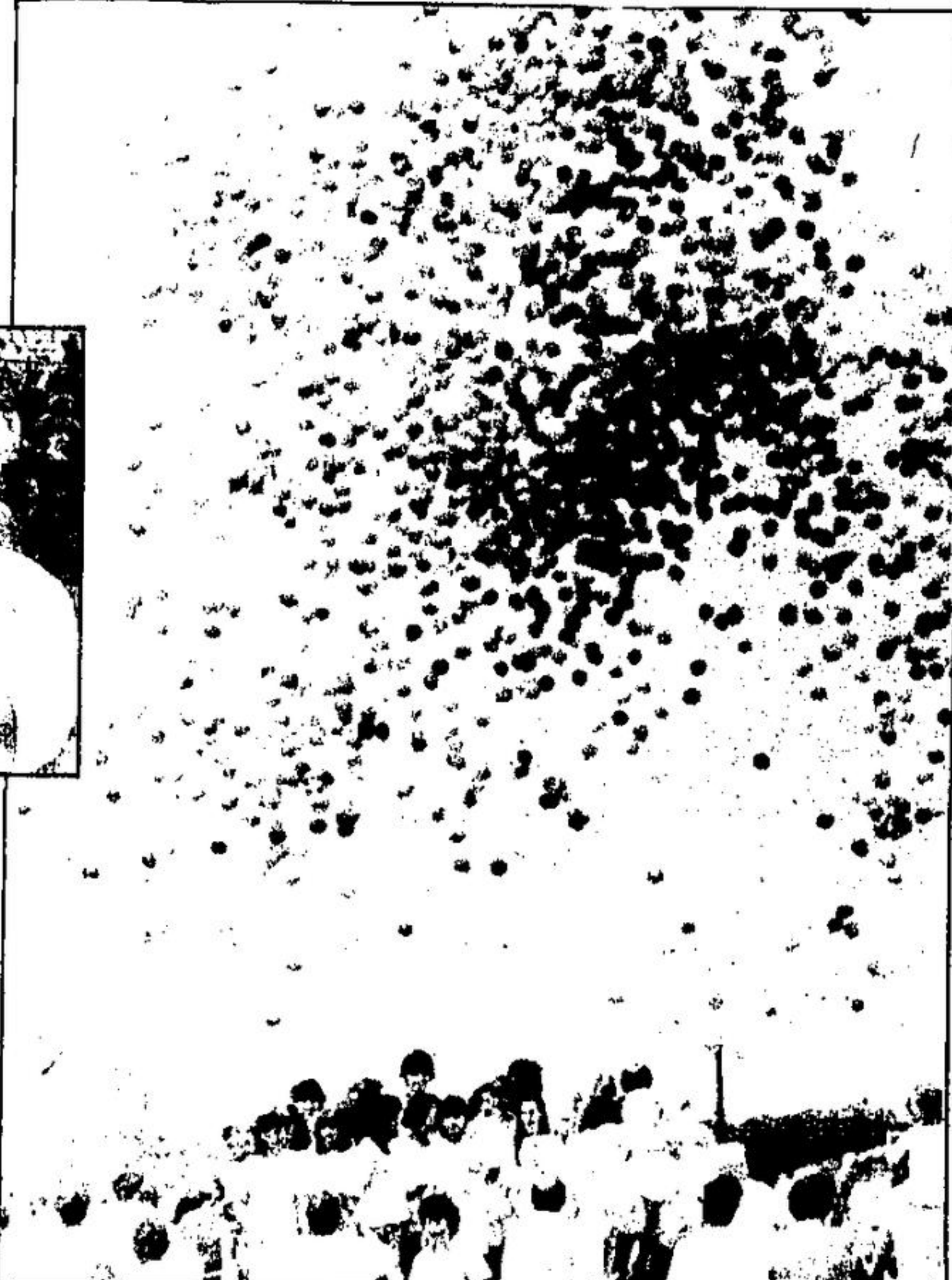
Hello halo

The sun must have been on good behavior Thursday afternoon as heaven gazers could see a rainbow-colored ring encircling the yellow ball.

The halo, as the phenomenon is called in astronomical terms, is a refraction of light rays off ice crystal clouds, the Toronto weather bureau said.

These are the thin, wispy types of clouds. Halos can occur anytime of the year whenever the light is right and the ice crystal clouds are high in the sky.

The BIG send-off



The scene at the Alcott Arena Saturday was indeed something to behold, as 10,000 helium filled balloons were released. RIG committee member Coun. Pam Sheldon, hugs release coordinator Trudy Thomas after the successful launch, while a youngster watched the balloons drift higher. For more photos of the BIG celebration, see page A10. (Herald photos)

Abandoned tracks could make recreational trail

Council defers decision on purchase of rail line

By BRIAN MACLEOD
Herald Staff

A proposal by the town to buy 4 1/2 miles of abandoned railway line has become a contentious issue with residents who live along the track.

Halton Hills has a chance to purchase the abandoned railway line from Canadian National Railway for just \$5,000.

The line, formerly known as the Cheltenham line, extends from Wildwood Road to the Eleventh Line (the border between Halton Hills and Brampton).

Halton Hills Superintendent of Parks, Bryan Shynal, said the land could be turned into a horse riding and pedestrian trail.

But Alf Spence, who lives in front of the track, said the area is a convergence point for "drug addicts,

drunks, mini-bikers, skidoos and various other noisy and disturbing activities."

Mayor Russ Miller said activities in the area include fence cutting, vandalism, stealing, chasing cattle, vehicles riding up and down the area, fires and broken bottles.

Mayor Miller acknowledged that many residents would like to see the town buy the land but he is worried about the type of money it will take to police it and clean it up.

"It could be valuable to us but it's not going to be valuable to us unless we spend a lot of money on it," said Mayor Miller.

The town doesn't have the money to spend, he added.

Mr. Shynal said the offer by CN is only valid until June 15 but it is

possible to get an extension on that date.

Caledon recently purchased 26 kilometres of the same abandoned rail line for public use, he said.

The town will have the facilities to clean up the land and police it better than CN, said Mr. Shynal.

Culvert improvements and ditching will cost \$15,000 initially and another \$5,000 each year, said Mr. Shynal.

And fencing certain areas could cost \$12 a metre, he added.

Ward 2 Councillor Joe Hewitt wondered about the need for the trail. "Is this something that's really required for recreational use in the community?" he asked.

There is evidence that many

pedestrians and horseback riders are using the area now, Mr. Shynal replied.

And the Bruce Trill Association, the Credit River Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources and several Georgetown residents are in favor of making the area publicly-owned land for passive recreation, he said.

Mr. Spence thinks the land will be too expensive to maintain.

He wants the land split up and offered for sale to the residents who back onto the tracks.

Mr. Spence wants to keep "motor-bikes and transients out" of the land.

If residents purchase the land it won't be a liability to the town, he said.

If the town buys it, there will be 500 voters who will be "on your back" making sure it is policed and

cleaned up, said Mr. Spence.

Mark Poulos, who admitted he has snowmobiled on the land in the past, said the town should buy the land.

He agreed that the town could police it better than CN.

And if residents complain about the noise now how did they cope with it when it was used as a railroad, Mr. Poulos asked.

Les Salley, a Glen Williams resident and a horseback rider, said the land would make an excellent trail.

Horseback riders would help police the lands, he said.

And there have been no reported problems with the land purchased by Caledon, he added.

The town deferred a decision on the purchase until they can find out more information about the land.

Town approves 106-home subdivision

The 106 home Relisco subdivision in Georgetown West was approved by the town's general committee June 6.

The 26 acre property will be developed within the expanded urban boundaries in Georgetown. The subdivision lies west of Moore Park, south of Highway 7 and north of the CNR Guelph Line.

Residents opposed the subdivision in droves at a public meeting in March by expressing 17 different complaints about the proposal.

In a detailed report town staff attempted to answer the residents' questions June 6.

By far the biggest concern about the new subdivision is the preservation of a 40 foot wide strip of trees on the northeastern part of the lot. Residents want that stand of trees to be maintained as a buffer zone between Moore Park and the new subdivision.

However, aside from public ownership as a parkland there is no way to ensure those trees remain, Town Deputy Planner Bruce MacLean said in his report to council.

The developer plans to sell off the lots with a premium on the lots with the woods behind them which would form part of their backyards. But there is nothing to stop each individual owner from clearing away the wooded portion of their property once they purchase the lots, he said.

Town councillors debated the merits of demanding the 40 foot wide strip of trees, which stretches about 500 to 600 feet long, as public parkland. The town has a policy for new subdivisions which makes developers either use five per cent of the land for parkland or pay the equivalent amount in cash.

If the strip of trees were turned over to the town in a parkland agreement, it would have to be made accessible to the public, said town Planning Director Ian Kelth.

Councillors worried about the potential for damage and vandalism which could be inflicted on the wooded area by the public.

Ward 3 Councillor Betty Fisher said she supported the development of the subdivision, but she wanted a way to guarantee the safety of the trees.

Coun. Fisher wants something "more creative to happen" with the wooded area.

"I consider that type of property parkland. It rejuvenates people to walk through wooded areas," she said.

"Not all parkland should be grass

with a few trees studded on it."

Ward 1 Coun. Norm Elliott said the 40 foot strip is not "practical" parkland and it is better left in private hands.

There have been complaints about public drunkenness and vandalism in other town walkways, and some councillors suspected the wooded area would be subject to the same problems if it were to make a public park.

Passive areas such as the wooded parkland "sometimes becomes an active area by people you wouldn't want near your backyard," said Coun. Fisher.

Council approved the subdivision as presented, with the wooded area as a part of each private lot.

Council will formally approve the decision June 13.

Strikes halt Civic Centre work

Strikes in the construction industry have brought work on the town's new Civic Centre to a halt.

A strike by carpenters and cement drivers means there is virtually nothing happening at the Civic Centre on Maple Avenue now, said town Engineer Bob Austin.

Town staff were scheduled to move into the new building Dec. 2 but that date may have to be put

back.

Mr. Austin could not say how much the strike might cost the town.

There are indirect costs, such as longer rental of the building on Guelph Street by the Planning Department, he said.

Even if construction is delayed significantly work can resume in the winter without much problem, said Mr. Austin.

Costea named administrator-clerk

The town has finally hired a new administrator-clerk.

Joe Hewitt, chairman of the committee seeking a new administrator-clerk, told councillors June 6 that Daniel Costea has been hired to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Costea replaces Joe Simon, who was fired from his \$58,000 a year job in November after just 15 months.

Mr. Costea will start his new job June 13.

Take a fling at Highland Games

Colorful kilts and the familiar droning of Scottish pipes will greet the thousands of visitors to the Georgetown Highland Games June 10 and 11.

The 13th annual games at the Fairgrounds are entering their third year in the "Champion Supreme" category.

That means all dancers, bands and athletes seeking the Ontario championship title will be in Georgetown for the Games.

Highland Games Association President Keith Spicer is expecting more than 10,000 people to watch the cabers flying end over end and to listen as the bands strike up the music and even try the Highland Fling.

Last year some 32 bands featuring 370 dancers and 10 heavyweight competitors came to Georgetown and Mr. Spicer is expecting those numbers to increase for this year's event.

The entertainment starts Friday night with the Nichol Brown band in the tent at the Fairgrounds from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

But highlanders will have to be up early Saturday because the dancing competition, which includes world champion Ann Milne, gets underway at 8:30 a.m.

Also starting at 8:30 a.m. is the solo piping and drumming. At 10:30 the heavyweights take to the field for the caber toes, and hammer throw and stone throw events for height and distance.

The official opening is scheduled for 12:40 p.m., just in time for everyone to take in the massed Highland Fling which starts 10 minutes later.

At 1 p.m. the Massed bands event begins with the pipe band competition, the drum major championship and the bass and tenor drum competition.

The bands will get together again at 5:15 p.m. for a mass salute.

The highlight of this year's games will be the performance of the World Champion Pipeband 78th Fraser Highlanders as they begin the long path to defend their title.

The Chief of the day, Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid, will take the salute from the bands as they march by. CFRB radio's Henry Shannon will be the Master of Ceremonies for the day and Dr. Allstair MacIntosh will be the Parade Marshal.

Alistair Lorne Campbell, the Chief Executive for the Duke of Argyll, will be visiting Georgetown from Scotland for the games.

As well, eight clans will be setting up tents, including Clan MacNeil, Clan Murray, Clan MacLeod, Clan Dougal, Clan MacLean, Clan Ross, Clan Stewart and Clan Campbell.

Halton Hills residents will also line the streets of town for the parade, which starts at Memorial Park at 11:30 a.m. The parade will wind its way to the Fairgrounds via Main Street and Park Street arriving at the Games in time for the official opening.