

Citizens' forum

Donation's welcome for Centre

Dear Sir,
In a few short months the Halton Hills Civic Centre will be opening its doors to the community. The architect, the contractors, workmen and town staff will have succeeded in turning blueprints into Council Chambers, offices and meeting rooms. In addition, the Civic Centre has many public areas to be shared by all of us, the citizens of Halton Hills.

Making the Civic Centre the heart of our community and a showplace that reflects the beauty, spirit and history of Halton Hills is a job we

think you might like to share. There are opportunities to donate items or money to provide the extras which are not considered essential and therefore are not covered by the construction budget.

The Civic Centre Donations Committee invites individuals, community groups and local businesses to participate in furnishing the public spaces inside and out through commemorative gifts that will purchase landscaping materials, art works, decorative items and equipment. All donations are deductible

for income tax purposes.

The committee has prepared a gift list with suggested donations for your consideration. We will be happy to discuss any of these items with you or any additional ideas you might have. Won't you join us in making our Civic Centre a beautiful as well as useful place? Please call Fred Nelson at 877-5206 or Gary Brand at 873-0300.

Sincerely
Lois Fraser
Publicity Co-ordinator
Civic Centre Donations Committee

Papers keep us in touch

Dear Sir,
Friends, we as a community are very fortunate to have two fine weekly newspapers. Among other things they keep us up to date on the activities of our municipal political people and they provide us the means of expressing our own views.

Imagine how little we would hear, first hand without these publications.

Interestingly, this past week both papers did us a service:

(a) The Independent under the heading "Is a Senior Centre Dead?" brought the subject, to the front again with a line of thought and reason that certainly makes sense.

(b) The Herald a sizeable news ar-

ticled "Council at odds over Civic Centre" reported to us on the "verbal barbs" at the council chambers and a vast amount of detail on dollars and items going into this new building.

Both of these topics are of sincere interest to me and I believe, to many of you!

Many of us have spent a considerable number of years of our life making our homes here (and have) contributed a good portion of our earnings and our savings to the management of the community — in the form of taxes.

We have elected a mayor and councillors.

For this we pay them. They work for us!

Are we getting satisfaction for our contributions? Are we getting things done — the way we want them?

The senior centre has been close to my heart for some time now. But what is happening?

More than \$6 million dollars and rising for a new civic building, for which I have very little enthusiasm!

The most important item in any community are the people!

We are entitled to the best in responsible management and priority consideration for us, as we age.

Thank you
Low Ward

Many stand to suffer from changes

Dear Sir,
The health, safety and well-being of citizens of this community is at risk. Unless, proposed provincial legislation is changed, the people of our community may experience great difficulty getting a prescription filled or buying non-prescription products on Sundays or holidays.

Bills 113 and 114, now in committee form, will reach their reading some time this fall. The bills, which amend the Retail Business Holidays Act and the Employment Standards Act, will force the closing of all pharmacies with more than 5,000 square feet of selling space on Sundays and public holidays.

Although everyone wishing to have a prescription filled or to buy common cold or pain remedies will be inconvenienced, seniors and the

handicapped will be among those most affected by the proposed legislation. Pharmacies with less than 5,000 square feet of selling space are few and far between in many communities and neighborhoods.

People who are fortunate enough to find a pharmacy open on Sundays or holidays may still be at risk. Many will not realize that the pharmacist with whom they regularly deal keeps a record on each patient so that potentially harmful drug interactions can be averted. A "new" pharmacy will not have those records available to check.

Even greater numbers of the public will be seriously inconvenienced by the proposed legislation. Over the counter health products,

such as cough and cold remedies, first aid supplies, and birth control materials are often bought only after discussion with a pharmacist. That counsel will be denied the public on Sundays and holidays.

The simple answer to the problem is for the Ontario government to amend its proposed legislation to permit pharmacies of up to 7,500 square feet to remain open on Sundays and holidays. I see this as a sensible compromise between wide-open shopping and the dangerous and restrictive limit of 5,000 square feet. Then, and only then, can pharmacists continue to provide the community health care services the public needs.

Yours truly,
Al Fraser,
Shoppers Drug Mart

Questions on food being put forward

Dear Sir,
We are writing in response to an article in the Globe and Mail (June 14, 1988) covering the Canadian Nuclear Association's annual conference. Increasing skepticism exists among the public regarding nuclear technology. It's mentioned that the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada (AECB) has received an unusually large number of letters expressing opposition to the use of food irradiation. An AECB spokesman is quoted as saying, "In such a climate, it is understandable that the public demands that the regulatory agency increase its vigilance."

Naturally the public wants more vigilance on the part of the atomic regulator, accompanied by less nuclear industry. Durham Nuclear Awareness joins with citizens all across Ontario who are opposed to the introduction of food irradiation. This process involves the use of a very dangerous radioactive substance, cobalt 60, produced by Ontario Hydro. Most Canadians are unwilling to set a place for the nuclear industry at their table. There is clearly no consumer demand for irradiated food.

Informed people know that expos-

ing food to ionizing radiation does not induce radioactivity in the food. That is not the issue: We can think of all kinds of things that aren't radioactive that we wouldn't want to eat! The public has far broader concerns to do with this technology: Irradiation plants containing large amounts of radioactive elements are likely to be located in populated areas, near agricultural areas, and watersheds. More nuclear cargo will pass through our cities and countryside. The choice whether or not to eat irradiated food does not take these factors into account.

It is not the sensationalism of the media that has turned a lot of people against nuclear technology, but the record of the nuclear industry itself. The public's bound to suspect that "something's up" when the nuclear industry is so reluctant to use the word "irradiated" on food labels. The public is bound to suspect that "something's up" when private insurance companies - the risk assessment experts - won't even touch nuclear reactors. The public's bound to suspect something fishy in the kitchen when Atomic Energy of Canada Limited refuses to name the bakery who they've contracted to use irradiated flour for "promo-

tional" chocolate chip cookies that they can hardly give away (Toronto Star, May 26, 1988, p. L12). One of the first things our mothers tell us is not to accept food from strangers!

All people who share our concern should write letters opposing food irradiation. Send them to: Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, your own MP, and Hon. Jake Epp, National Minister of Health and Welfare, all c/o the House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6. No postage is required. And for good measure, why not spread this newspaper's good name around, by clipping this article and showing it to a friend or your local grocer?

Food is large a matter of taste. Canadians ought to trust their instincts - not the nuclear industry.

Yours truly,
Jeff Brackett,
Anne Hansen

Well water high in bacteria

Hooking into Peel water supply

The Croation Social and Cultural Centre will soon be hooked up to Peel Region's water supply because the well water on the site is polluted.

Citing the Health Protection and Promotion Act Halton's medical officer of health Dr. Graham Pollett is preparing to order the Croation Centre to "immediately take the necessary steps to acquire an alternate supply of potable water."

Croation Centre officials received permission from Peel Region to June 16 to hook up to the municipal water supply on the condition Halton approves the plan.

Halton's Planning and public works committee approved the hook up Aug. 10 and Regional council will vote on the request today (Wednesday).

The 160 acre site, which is located on Winston Churchill Boulevard north of Sideroad 5, serves as home to seven people year round but it also draws between 2,000 and 5,000 people a week for Sunday services and other events, said Father Lubo Krasic who lives on the property.

Tests on the well indicated a high bacteria count which means the well is contaminated with either "human or animal feces", said Dr. Pollett.

Officials have not traced the source of the contamination but there

are no known cases of severe sickness due to consumption of the water because the people who run the centre are aware of the problem, said Dr. Pollett.

Because so many people use the centre, if the water were to be used for consumption "it would cause a serious problem" said Dr. Pollett.

Anyone consuming the water could suffer gastro-intestinal problems such as vomiting, nausea and diarrhea, he said.

Although its not known how the well became contaminated, feces has been known to penetrate wells when the water table is low, said Dr. Pollett.

Surface runoff could be another source of the contaminant, he added.

Father Krasic said he and other people living at the centre have been boiling their water since he moved there one year ago.

The hook-up to Peel Region would also solve a water short-ge problem on the property, he said.

He would not say if anyone has become sick from consuming the water but he did say, "if I drink the water I don't feel good."

Last year the Croation Centre employed a professional water service company to drill a well, 150 feet

deep in order to tap into another water source but that didn't solve the problem, Father Krasic said.

Attempts to chlorinate the water also failed to solve the problem, he said.

When crowds of people visit the centre, water is brought in from neighboring private wells in Brampton using pumps, said Father Krasic.

Halton's lawyer Mark Meneray urged councillors to approve the hook-up to Brampton water on a temporary basis until an official plan amendment can be approved.

"In the circumstances this request does not appear unreasonable," he said.

An official plan amendment will be needed for a permanent connection because connection to Peel's water supply is not permitted for the site under the official plan, said Mr. Meneray.

Once the centre is hooked up to Peel water the Ministry of the Environment will monitor the water quality, said Mr. Meneray.

"The MOE approval process would appear to ensure that Halton's concerns, vis-a-vis any potential water problems, will be protected," he said.

The Croation Centre will pay all the costs for the hook-up to Peel water.

Meanwhile, Dr. Pollett is urging owners of private wells in the area to have them tested on a regular basis.

'Squealers' are in trouble at Prospect Park lot

People with lead feet will no longer have Acton's Prospect Park to practise tire squealing.

The town wants to stop tire squealing and speeding in Prospect Park so measures have been taken to curb drivers' bad habits.

The speed limit at Prospect Park is only 10 kph so signs will now be posted letting drivers know they're breaking the law when they accelerate too quickly.

Playground signs will also be posted at the entrance to the park

"in the hope that people will respect the fact that children use the park and due caution should be shown," said Recre. Director Tom Shepard.

The town will also install concrete curbs to define the parking spaces and parking areas. The curbs will be painted fluorescent orange to make them visible at all times and they will be placed in such a way that they will cause motorists to weave their way through the parking lot and therefore not provide an opportunity to speed or squeal tires, said Mr. Shepard.

"Anyone who does, will run the risk of damaging their vehicle."

The concrete curbs will be removed in the fall so snow removal equipment can clean the parking lot."

Legion Auxiliary

By YVONNE GRAHAM
Herald Special

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Thelma Green who passed away recently.

The Branch is hosting a friendship Dinner and Dance on Aug. 19 to welcome Post 40 from Plymouth, Mass. Refreshments are at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the bar.

Our 60th Birthday Supper and Honors and Awards evening is Sept. 10. Refreshments are at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from our executive committee.

Sept. 11, we will be welcoming our veterans for their annual visit. Arrangements for entertainment have been made by Ruby Bailly and her committee.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Glad Reid who is presently in Georgetown Hospital.

Recently, Betty McLean, Hazel Marshall and Ethel Anthony were in hospital. Hope you are all feeling better now.

A cheery hello to all our sick and shut-ins.



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Sunday, July 10 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 24 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 7 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 21 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 4 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Ad 932

Centre plans discussed

Over \$46,000 in additions to the civic centre has been approved by the town since the original contract was awarded in October of 1987.

A report by the town's treasurer Ray King shows five change orders have been issued by the town's building committee since the contract was awarded.

However all the money needed to pay for the changes is available, according to the report.

The changes include additional road costs for the extension of Princess Anne Drive costing more than \$49,000, restoration for temporary water service to a neighboring resident costing the town \$6,000, approved millwork totalling almost \$67,000, a "unisex" washroom at a cost of \$11,500 and a trellis for the building at \$12,000.

The report details how everything will be paid for.

The additional road costs and the temporary water service work will be paid for by lot levies. A hardware allowance of \$10,000 and a contingency allowance of \$10,000 together with unallocated capital of \$66,900 will pay for the extra millwork. The unisex washrooms will be covered by interest generated from town funds and the trellis will be funded by donations raised by the ad hoc citizens committee working to make improvements to the new centre.

The report was requested by Ward 2 Coun. Pam Sheldon last week after a run of the civic centre in which councillors were told a \$12,000 reflecting pool which was originally planned for the centre, then cancelled will be built.

However, the reflecting pool will likely be built thanks to the efforts of the ad hoc citizens committee which wants to raise money for the pool.

The citizens committee wants to raise \$22,000 for changes to the exterior of the centre and there are plans to raise money for improvements to the interior, said Dan Iostea, the town's administrator.

So far the citizens committee has

raised \$16,500 for improvements to the centre.

But everything approved by the citizens committee must also be approved by the town's building committee, said Ward 1 Coun. Norm Elliott.

"The building committee, in the end, has final control over everything and it reports to council," he said.

Coun. Sheldon said last week she was worried the building committee was approving extra expenses without getting formal approval from council.

"I don't question the validity of any of the items in the report," said Coun. Sheldon Monday.

Coun. Betty Fisher suggested the building committee send its minutes through the council agenda from now on.

Coun. Elliott, who sits on the building committee, explained each change order to his colleagues Monday.

"I'm very happy with the progress and the state of the budget," he said.

"There's certainly nothing for the public to be concerned about."

Building expands

Plans are in the works to expand the Watch Tower building on Highway 7 just north of Georgetown.

The town has received an application for site plan approval to permit changes that would include:

—expansion of the area appropriately zoned by 20 acres

—expansion of an existing residence of 136 units to include a new reception area and dining room area

—construction of a second residential building for 168 additional units with a total floor area of 158,900 square feet

—construction of a new administration building with a floor area of almost 40,000 square feet

The town will be preparing a report on the expansion for a future general committee meeting.

NELL'S
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