

Annual receipts could total \$2.5 million

Region considers imposing lot levies

Giving to give hope

Dear Sir,
On behalf of The Arthritis Society and those afflicted by the more than 100 different forms of arthritis, please accept our appreciation for your support with the 1988 campaign.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so very hard in raising the needed funds and to those who so generously supported our cause.

A special thanks to the Knights of Columbus, Rotary Clubs and other service clubs for their involvement with the campaign.

Ninety cents of every dollar raised is used to support patient care, medical education, and arthritis research.

If your home or business was not canvassed and you would like to support this worthwhile cause, please send your contribution to The Arthritis Society, Region Office, 130 Dundas St. E., Ste. 502, Mississauga, Ontario L5A 3V8, telephone 897-2995. A tax receipt will be sent to your attention and the local branch in your community will receive credit for your support.

If you have arthritis and need help or would like to volunteer, please call The Arthritis Society at 897-2995.

In closing, thanks for helping us create the very needed public awareness and for those who give... to give HOPE.

Sincerely,
Leah M. Schramek,
Area Co-ordinator

Seniors update

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an open letter submitted to the Herald for publication.

Friends,
The afternoon of Oct. 3, a meeting was held at my home to explore the creation of a strong support group to pursue the quest for an "older adults recreation centre."

In attendance were individuals who are members of several local groups and a number of others with a keen personal interest, and they were addressed by a representative of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario, Mr. Jack Dyce. A lively discussion followed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 25 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church, Mountainview Road South, Georgetown.

A founding member of the newly-opened centre in Orangeville, is scheduled to speak.

If you are an interested adult, we would enjoy having you join us and hopefully we shall have representation from additional groups and outlying areas of Halton Hills.

Thank you,
Lew Ward

Meeting for gifted children in Burlington, October 26th

The Association for Bright Children will sponsor a public meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 26 at Lester B. Pearson High School, 1432 Headon Rd., Burlington, at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker Susan Bourne, a teacher of gifted children with the Halton Board of Education, will address the topic: Gifted: 24 Hours A Day - a primer for parents. Parenting

Halton Region is considering imposing commercial and industrial lot levies which could bring in another \$2.5 million a year for its coffers.

A report conducted for Halton by C.N. Watson and Associates Ltd. recommends a \$9,244 charge per acre for new commercial and industrial developments.

The report recommends that all industrial land in Halton Region be subject to the lot levy charge.

Currently, Halton Region does have a lot levy policy in place for residential development but no such charge exists for commercial or industrial development.

Residential developers must pay a surcharge of about \$2,000 to Halton Region and a similar charge to the

town of Halton Hills, said Mayor Russ Miller.

The controversial issue of lot levies for commercial and industrial developments has been discussed for years, but never fully implemented.

Halton flirted with commercial and industrial lot levies when it adopted a charge of \$2,500 per acre in 1983 but pressure from developers forced the Region to abandon the policy.

The lot levies would help pay for capital costs of Regional services such as water and sewer or installation.

Halton has almost 5,700 acres of industrial land lying dormant. The report says that land is being swallowed up at a rate of 268 acres a

year. Many other municipalities have adopted commercial and industrial lot levies including the City of Mississauga which has the highest lot levy rate in Ontario at more than \$29,000 per acre, the report says.

Over the past six years 23 per cent of the development in Halton was commercial and industrial, the report says.

About 71 per cent of development was residential and six per cent was institutional.

Burlington experienced the highest industrial growth accounting for 33 per cent of Halton's growth. Milton was next at 31 per cent followed by Oakville at 27 per cent.

The town of Halton Hills experienced only nine per cent industrial growth in the past six years ending in 1987, the report says.

The report notes that Halton is expected to grow by between 67,000 and 203,000 people in the next 13 years. In that time between 19,000 and 36,000 more jobs will be created.

Other municipalities with such lot levy charges say it has not impeded development but enacting the charge "has usually been met with some degree of resistance from the development industry," the report says.

Industrial land prices in Halton are comparable to prices in Durham Region, but lower than Peel and South York, the report says.

Developers in Halton say the lack of lot levies has acted as an incentive for firms to develop in Halton instead of Peel, the report says.

Developers want different rates charged for different areas of the Region, a phasing-in of any such charge and they say higher density development is better able to afford higher charges, the report says.

Although developers recognize Halton can't afford to pay for extensive services by itself developers aren't convinced of the need for the lot levy, the report says.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller, who sits on Halton's Administration and Finance Committee where the

report was introduced Oct. 12, said the time may have come for the charges.

In 1983 the recession effectively prevented the lot levy charge because Halton desperately wanted more industrial development, said Mayor Miller.

"Today we must look at it in a different view. We're getting to be a very desirable area to be in," he said.

"We're the Region to come to, because we have available land," he said.

While no decision will be made on lot levies in 1988, Mayor Miller said his initial reaction to the report is favorable.

"On the surface I'm leaning toward the fact that the taxpayers are getting stressed to the very end," he said.

It may be time for commercial and industrial developers to ease the burden of growth in that area, he said.

The report and its recommendations will be circulated to area municipalities for public comment.

Quintet to perform for Acton concert

The Venturi Wind Quintet will be holding a benefit performance at the Acton High School on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. to assist the school in raising funds for a music scholarship.

The players (Greg Stroh, flute, David Sale, oboe, Mark Carbone, clarinet, Lutzen Riedstra, bassoon and Judith Douglas, French horn) have performed for many years in the area and are well respected for their sensitive and exacting performances. Their program will include pieces from the Baroque to the modern periods, both classical and popular.

They will be joined in the performance by the pianist Valerie Nichol for the Gordon Jacob Sextet. Ms. Nichol has won acclaim for

her performances throughout Ontario.

The Andreas Thiel Music Scholarship was established at the Acton High School in 1987 to support graduating students who were continuing their musical studies.

The opening concert of the series, given by Andreas Thiel in November, 1987 was a musical triumph. Proceeds from this concert helped to establish the scholarship fund. It is hoped that this year's concert will raise the remaining funds needed to sustain the scholarship.

People wishing to order tickets or donate to the music scholarship fund may call the Acton High School (853-2920). Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Residents make request for Jr. Kindergarten

A candidate for Halton Board of Education trustee in Georgetown said last week he would like a Junior Kindergarten program in Halton Hills.

Rod Taylor, who will run against trustee Dick Howitt for Wards 3 and 4 in the Nov. 14 municipal election, sent a letter to the Board of Education last week in "support" of letters written by two Georgetown parents requesting Junior Kindergarten in Georgetown.

Georgetown resident Joy Thompson wrote to trustee Dick Howitt asking the Board to consider adding Junior Kindergarten, and George

Kennedy School parent Lorie Sinnen addressed a letter to Board Director Bob Williams saying it isn't "fair" that Georgetown lacks a pre-school program.

"Parents are asking, 'how soon can we get our kids into the system?'" said Mr. Taylor. "There are many families in the George Kennedy area with pre-school children."

Although Mr. Taylor recognizes a shortage of space in south Halton, he

says the north doesn't have a space problem and would therefore be a good place to implement Junior Kindergarten.

However, trustee Dick Howitt says the program would have to be reviewed in detail before it comes before the Board in the form of a recommendation.

"My two immediate concerns are where are we going to put the children (and) where do we get the teachers?"

He added that costs would have to be evaluated before a Junior Kindergarten program could be planned.

But Junior Kindergarten is also an issue for the separate school board in Halton. The Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board trustee Irene McCauley said, "neither the public nor the separate boards have Junior Kindergarten." She said that the Catholic School Board hopes to implement a program by September, 1989.

Garbage shipping costs skyrocket

The price Halton pays to send its municipal waste to an energy from waste plant in New York has gone up by almost 480 per cent.

Halton Region will pay Occidental Chemical Corporation \$18.9 million over the next three-and-a-half years to take a minimum of 332,000 tonnes of waste.

That works out to about \$52 a tonne over the time of the agreement. Under the existing agreement which expired Aug. 31, Halton paid the Niagara Falls energy from waste plant just \$9 a tonne to burn its waste.

On top of that, Halton may soon have to pay an "environmental surcharge" and a "revenue surcharge" to cover improvements to the plant and to accommodate expected changes in New York State law.

Halton didn't have much say in the new terms of the agreement, said

John MacKay, director of waste management services.

"It's a sellers' market in waste disposal. We weren't in a bargaining position," he said. "They pretty well dictated the terms."

An unhappy Burlington Councillor Joan Little protested about the skyrocketing price of the settlement. "It isn't every day we just blow

that much money in one contract," she said.

Halton Region ships its waste to Walker Brothers quarries in Thorold and Occidental Chemical Corporation.

The Region expects to pay export costs of more than \$1 million a month to dispose of its waste until a new landfill site is built in either Burlington or Milton in 1992.

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