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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866

HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

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In the Hills

Streetproofing

Parents are invited to attend a meeting to learn about streetproofing techniques to protect their children on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

The evening is sponsored by The Kennedy Connection parents' group, and features guest speaker Maureen Craighead, former president of Georgetown Street-Proofing.

Distress call

The North Halton Distress and Information Centre will host a 15th anniversary celebration Wednesday evening, Nov. 23, at 7:30 p.m.

All former volunteers are invited. For further information, call 877-4466, 877-7228, 873-1592 or 877-6108.

Contracts awarded

Two Georgetown companies have won federal contracts totaling more than \$500,000.

Varian Canada Inc. has sold electron tubes to the Department of Defence under contracts worth \$183,238 and \$102,077. Park Thermal Ltd. has sold heat-treating furnaces worth \$24,045 to the same department.

Stress management

A new seminar series to assist in the understanding and managing of stress in daily life will be sponsored by The Halton Board of Education.

Stress management and the practice of techniques to cope are the goal of the seminars.

Understanding and Managing Stress will be held Tuesdays from Nov. 6 to Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Burlington Central High School.

The instructor will be Debbie Homewood.

General meeting

The Physically Handicapped Citizens Affiliation will be holding its Annual General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 10, in the library of the Robert Baldwin School, 180 Wilson Drive, Milton. Guest speakers will discuss recreational opportunities. Everyone is welcome. Phone 853-4915 for more information. Sign interpreter and transportation on request.

New directions

"New Directions in the Treatment of Learning Disabilities" will be the subject of guest speaker Dr. E. Blackstock's talk Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Bramalea Secondary School, for a meeting of the North Peel Chapter of the Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities. Dr. Blackstock is best known for a book on autism, published in 1981. He is a doctor of developmental psychology and is particularly interested in teenage suicide and depression.

Dr. Blackstock will be discussing new directions in the treatment of learning disabilities, definitions and how they are made, and principles and treatment of delivery.

Getting to know you

The Oakville Multicultural Council is presenting an Inter-Cultural Evening entitled "Getting To Know You" at 8 p.m. on Nov. 13 at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts.

Several award winning groups, who have toured nationally as well as internationally, will be showing off their professional artistry.

For more information, call Mary Lou at the Oakville Multicultural Council office 842-2486.

Craft sale

A Craft Sale will be held at the Ballinfad Community Centre on Sunday, Nov. 13 from noon to 4 p.m. Crafts, a bake sale table, and hot and cold lunches and snacks will be available. The community centre is north on Trafalgar Road, opposite the General Store in Ballinfad. Admission is free and parking is available with handicapped accessibility.

Federal face-off

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce is pleased to present a Meet The Candidates Night on Nov. 8.

The new riding of Halton-Peel is a strategic riding for all three Federal Parties in the upcoming Nov. 21 federal election. In fact its importance was evident to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as he chose this riding to start the 1988 campaign. Contesting the riding are Liberal Pierre Klein, Progressive Conservative Garth Turner, NDP candidate Fern Wolf, and Libertarian George Panagopka.

There are many issues in this election and perhaps the biggest is Free Trade with the United States. Come and hear the candidates in debate and ask your questions. It is important that you are aware of their positions. One of these candidates will represent you for the next five years.

Be informed by attending the Meet The Candidates Night Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Georgetown District High School.

For further information call the Chamber office at 877-7119.

Loss of trees worries council

Residents are furious about the large scale clearing of trees on Princess Anne Drive, Ward 3 Councillor Betty Fisher says.

The land is being cleared to create 15 building lots. The town sold the land to recoup about \$1 million to help pay for the new civic centre on Maple Avenue.

Coun. Fisher said she thought the builders would attempt to keep many of the trees but instead they have "cleared it out like a moon walk."

"These builders just went in and they just mowed them down," said Coun. Fisher. "Everybody goes up there and says 'Oh my God, what has happened?' and the residents are really, really mad," she said.

She wanted to know if the town had something in the subdivision agreement to prevent such a wholesale clearing of the land.

"How did this happen after so much discussion about keeping the esthetics of the area?" asked Coun. Fisher.

Administrator/Clerk Dan Costea said the town was well aware that "many, many trees would have to be removed" in order to build on the lots.

Town staff were also aware "that there would be a reaction" from the neighboring residents about the removal of the trees, said Mr. Costea.

There are still some trees behind the lots, he said.

Mayor Russ Miller also said there have been more trees removed than he originally thought would be cleared.

Mr. Costea assured Coun. Fisher that the wetlands behind the lots won't be affected by drainage of the lots.

The natural drainage which occurs now will still happen once the houses are built, said Mr. Costea.

And a lot of the water is outfall from the well in the area, he said.



Scary Stuff

Halloween can be a frightening time. These three little girls seem afraid to know the outcome of the nursery song "Pumpkin, pumpkin, who's got the pumpkin?"

Left to right are four-year-olds Nadia Denamore, Lesley Devollia and Keri Lindsay from Halton Hills Kladder School in Georgetown. (Herald photo)

Scotsdale issue takes new twist

The Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board is looking for a long term lease on the 50-acre Scotsdale Farm near Ballinfad.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott stunned councillors Monday when he said a deal between the Board and the Ontario Heritage Foundation appears to be "imminent."

"Such a long term lease would take (Scotsdale) out of the hands of the community for a long time," said Coun. Elliott.

"It is my understanding that it's very, very close."

The farm was bequeathed to the Ontario Heritage Foundation in 1982 by Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Bennett for use by the public.

Since then, no single agency has been able to come up with a feasible financial use for the sprawling farm.

The Halton Board of Education recently ruled out using the farm for an outdoor education program.

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority has taken over the management of the farm until someone comes up with a viable proposal.

Ken Owen, the land resources

manager at the Authority, told councillors last Monday that there were talks going on with other agencies but nothing was close.

In an interview yesterday (Tuesday) Mr. Owen said the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the CVCA met with the Dufferin-Peel Board on Wednesday to discuss a long term lease - at least 25 years - for an outdoor education centre on the property.

Although the discussions were only at a staff level, it is likely that staff of all three organizations will recommend the proposal soon, said Mr. Owen.

It will then be up to the political bodies of the Authority and the Peel Board to settle on the proposal and the price of the lease.

The Dufferin-Peel Board wants to use the farm for an extensive outdoor education program that would include overnight facilities for students and a religious retreat with accompanying accommodations, said Mr. Owen.

They are looking at a substantial capital investment, he said.

The school board wants a lease even longer than 25 years, he added.

Should the proposal be accepted, it's likely that the farm's use would not "freeze out" other bodies, he said.

The possibility of renting the facilities for periods of time was not ruled out in the staff discussions, he

said. Staff of the Dufferin-Peel Board met yesterday to discuss the proposal and the Ontario Heritage Foundation expects to make a recommendation on Nov. 9, said Mr. Owen.

But political input from the town of Halton Hills, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Authority would likely be asked for, before a final deal is signed, he said.

Brian Rogers, the acting supervisor of property management at the Heritage Foundation, confirmed the proposal. The idea is a good one in the eyes of the foundation, he said.

When councillors learned of the proposal Monday they immediately passed a motion asking for a meeting with the Heritage Foundation.

The town wants to discuss a possible partnership with the two boards of education in managing the farm.

Referring to the public outcry over the town's recent decision not to purchase the abandoned CN rail line for a nature trail, Coun. Elliott said, "If there is that kind of public support for 30 acres of property what kind of support might there be for 540 acres?"

Ward 2 Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson, who sits on the CVCA, said she would not support the Dufferin-Peel proposal.

"If it comes to me I'll turn it down," she said Monday.

GDHS student killed in traffic accident

A 17-year-old Georgetown District High School student was killed when his motorcycle collided with a pickup truck in Georgetown late Saturday night.

Shawn McNeil of Ballinfad died when his 1983 Yamaha motorcycle was struck by a 1984 Chevrolet pickup truck at the intersection of Guelph Street and Maple Avenue shortly before midnight, police say.

He was pronounced dead on arrival at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

A 26-year-old Mississauga man has been arrested and charged with three counts of impaired driving, including impaired driving causing death and one count of failing to remain at the scene of an accident.

The man was arrested after he contacted police shortly after the accident. He will appear in court Dec. 5.

The death has triggered an increased campaign against drinking and driving by students at Georgetown high school.

"There's a lot of anger," Principal Barb Singleton said.

"We have a strong Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD) program and it's going to get even stronger now," she said Monday.

"It's a young life lost and it's a tragic waste."

Mrs. Singleton said students at both Georgetown and Acton high schools were friends of Shawn. His admirers included history teacher Tom Ramautarsingh, who recently retired from GDHS.

Mr. Ramautarsingh said Shawn was the "Mayor of Ballinfad."

Shawn's death is the second car fatality in the last month. Philip Miller, 19, of Georgetown died in a single car accident near Stewartstown Oct. 1.

Mrs. Singleton describes the two deaths as tragic but she said the inter-school student-teacher support group is helpful for friends and family of the victims.

Budget headaches arising

Halton Hills residents could be facing a budget increase as high as 12.2 per cent to provide the same level of service in 1989.

Town treasurer Ray King unveiled the numbers at Monday's council meeting.

The preliminary budget is based on the assumption of increased assessment, expected grants and revenue from other sources, said Mr. King.

Based on those assumptions the town's \$12 million budget could go up by more than 12 per cent, said Mr. King.

In all the town will have to pay \$323,000 in new expenditures next year.

But Mr. King tempered the potential increase with the hope of possible grants.

Provincial unconditional grants and Ministry of Transportation and Communication grants have not been finalized yet "and therefore will alter the tax impact to some degree," said Mr. King.

However he added, "Based on the information available it can be stated with certainty that the finalization of the 1989 budget will be a challenging exercise."

Earlier this year councillors criticized the Halton Board of Education for its 12 per cent increase in the budget.

In 1988 the town budget increased by 9.3 per cent and 7.9 per cent for urban and rural residents, respectively.

Although the preliminary budget doesn't include provisions for new programs "there will undoubtedly be a number of requests" for new projects, said Mr. King.

And the \$3.1 million the town borrowed to help pay for the new \$6.1 million civic centre has reduced the town's debt capacity, said Mr. King.

The town currently is at seven per cent debt capacity but it is permitted to go as high as 20 per cent, he said.

However, such an increase could mean a massive increase in taxes, he added.

Halton Hills' debt capacity is now slightly higher than other municipalities, largely due to the civic centre, he said.

The potential budget increase caught some councillors by surprise.

Ward 3 Coun. Betty Fisher, who is leaving politics in November, said a 12.2 per cent increase would not be tolerated by the public.

"I just hope that the new council has very sharp pencils," said Coun. Fisher. "A double digit increase would be totally unacceptable."

Not such a great deal?

It will likely cost \$81,000 more in 1989 to operate the town's new civic centre than it did to stay in the seven buildings scattered around Halton Hills the town now uses.

And Acton Councillor Norm Elliott was not happy with that news.

With construction of the new centre "it was implied that there would be savings," said Coun. Elliott.

One of the arguments in favor of building the new centre is that it costs the town money to operate out of the seven buildings around the town.

But town treasurer Ray King said the \$81,000 figure includes costs that will be associated with moving into the new building.

There will be cost incurred in 1989 that won't be incurred again, said Mr. King.

There will be savings in mileage, courier fees and staff time but Mr. King could not put a dollar figure on those savings.

Council checks into in-law suites

The thorny issue of in-law suites and granny flats has councillors wondering if they should review town policies.

The issue came up Monday when Merle Carleton applied to general committee for permission to add an in-law suite to an existing residence on the Fifth Line just south of Sideroad 17.

The area lies within the Niagara Escarpment Commission development control zone but it would need rezoning from the town.

The proposal would allow an addition to the existing residence including a separate kitchen as well as a new second driveway.

"In essence, this proposal represents the establishment of a second residential unit on the subject property (even though it would be attached to the existing building)," said senior planner Andrew Colley. Planning director Ian Keith said

the proposal is not allowed by the NEC and it is against the Halton Hills Official Plan.

Second residences are allowed in some instances, such as on a farm where the owner needs full time help, but this lot of less than one acre is not a farm, said Mr. Keith.

The town has asked the NEC to defer a decision on the proposal while the owners revise their plans.

Mr. Keith said the owners would have to change the plans to make the building act as one house.

With a separate kitchen on the other side of the house, a separate driveway and a clear division between the two units in the house it acts as a second dwelling, said Mr. Keith.

But there is a very grey area in defining when a building is one or two dwellings, he said. The ultimate decision is up to the

building inspector, said Mr. Keith.

Ward 2 Coun. Pam Sheldon said the issue is sociologically similar to the issue of granny flats.

"I think what we're seeing here is the tip of the iceberg," said Coun. Sheldon.

The owners might not want two separate buildings, she said.

"It's nice to be close to your relatives" but sometimes you need that distance," she said.

The town might want to review its policies in the face of an aging population, said Coun. Sheldon.

But accepting this proposal would likely mean the town would have more duplexes, said Mayor Miller.

Mr. Keith said the town will likely have to broaden the definition of a single family residence in the future.

"It may have significant repercussions in the town. I think it's appropriate that we do that," he said.



Honored for Bravery

Lieutenant Doug Andrews of the Halton Hills Fire Department was presented with the Medal of Merit of the Firefighters Association of Ontario convention, held in Acton Sunday. Mr. Andrews was able to save several people from a burning

house, in June of 1987, which earned him the high honor. Mr. Andrews (left) is seen here being presented with the medal, which is sponsored by the FFAO and Ontario Mutual Insurance Association, by Doug Smith, past president of the FFAO. (Herald photo)