

Outlook on Halton Hills Wall causes controversy



Santa's favorites

The Georgetown Lions Club presented trophies to the winning float entries during the Nov. 28 Santa Claus parade at the Lions Club Hall Jan. 3. Front row, left to right, Linda Hunter (Georgetown West Girl Guides), Marie Jordan (Acton Citizens Band), Lorie Sinaeue

(Head Librarian - Georgetown toy library). Back row, Peter Welling (Optimists), Danny Schoonop (Acton Citizens Band), and Charla Rutherford (Georgetown West Girl Guides). (Herald photo)

A Georgetown resident wants the town to pay the cost of lopping the top off an "obscene" wall obstructing the view in front of his house.

Lou Broadfield said a similar request last year met with a "non-reply" from the town.

Mr. Broadfield, a resident of 210 Main St. S., said he bought the house in 1968 and in the mid-1970s the town altered Main Street prompting the need for the concrete wall to hold back an earth embankment in front of his house. The wall was put up without prior consultation, he said.

He never fought the town on the issue because he needed to devote all his energies towards his work. Now retired, Mr. Broadfield wants the town to pay the \$3,000 to \$4,000 cost of chopping the top off the wall, plus the roughly \$1,000 in engineering fees.

The top of the wall sticks up beyond the lawn and is supporting "nothing but air" on both sides, said Mr. Broadfield.

He has already paid thousands of dollars to punch a hole through the wall to provide services to an adjacent lot which he recently severed and sold.

When those services were put in - gas, water and telephone lines - the driveway was damaged extensively, said Mr. Broadfield. There are now several depressions and cracks in the driveway which have been there since the wall was put in 13 years ago, he said.

"My driveway is an absolute mess."

But he only wants the town to pay for removing the top of the concrete wall. "I (want) to have that obscene concrete removed," he said.

The wall became more visible recently when Mr. Broadfield regraded his front lawn to meet with the driveway.

"I do feel I'm being treated very unfairly," he said, adding that his property is devalued because of the wall.

A previous request from Mr. Broadfield met with a response which said he was welcome to chop the top off the wall at his own expense, said town engineer Bob Austin.

Councillors defeated a motion to ask Mr. Broadfield to come back with a formal cost estimate for knocking the top off the wall.

Hydro plans voltage test

Ontario Hydro will conduct a voltage reduction test on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Electrical voltage on Hydro's transmission system will be reduced at two intervals during the day. From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., voltage will be reduced by three per cent. Then between the hours of 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. voltage will be reduced by five per cent.

During a voltage test, Hydro measures the load reductions that result at the three and five per cent levels, and can locate any operating or customer problems.

Voltage reduction can be used in an emergency to help prevent electricity shortages. If a shortage occurs, a five per cent reduction in voltage, distributed over the entire Hydro system, can eliminate up to 500,000 kilowatts of electrical load. That's equivalent to the electricity needs of more than 180,000 homes.

For most customers the effect of these reductions will be imperceptible.

Ontario Hydro conducts a voltage reduction test once a year. If the test on Jan. 17 is postponed, it will be conducted on Thursday, Jan. 19.

Planning dept. swamped: Keith

An abundance of development applications, requests for reports and committee meetings have made it impossible for the town's planning department to keep up with the workload, planning director Ian Keith said Monday.

In 1988 the planning department processed a total of 433 staff reports, including a 29-per-cent increase in council reports, a 78-per-cent increase in development applications, an 18-per-cent increase in site plan applications, a 114-per-

cent increase in public meetings, a 40-per-cent increase in land division committee reports, a three-per-cent increase in committee of adjustment decisions and a 10-per-cent increase in Niagara Escarpment Commission reports, a report by Mr. Keith said.

And the department has 14 reports currently requested by the town, seven by Halton Region and 12 other major reports still to deal with, said Mr. Keith.

"There are substantially more

items... than can be accomplished within the 1989 calendar year," said Mr. Keith.

As well, the town and the Region will likely be requesting many more reports throughout the year, he added.

Many of the reports have been on the agenda for years, but the department "doesn't have the bodies" to keep up with them, he said.

And the department is still dealing with more than 80 active development applications, Mr. Keith's report shows.

Parents warned on broken toys

The federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has advised parents and caregivers to take particular care to keep small items - especially broken toy parts - out of the reach of small children.

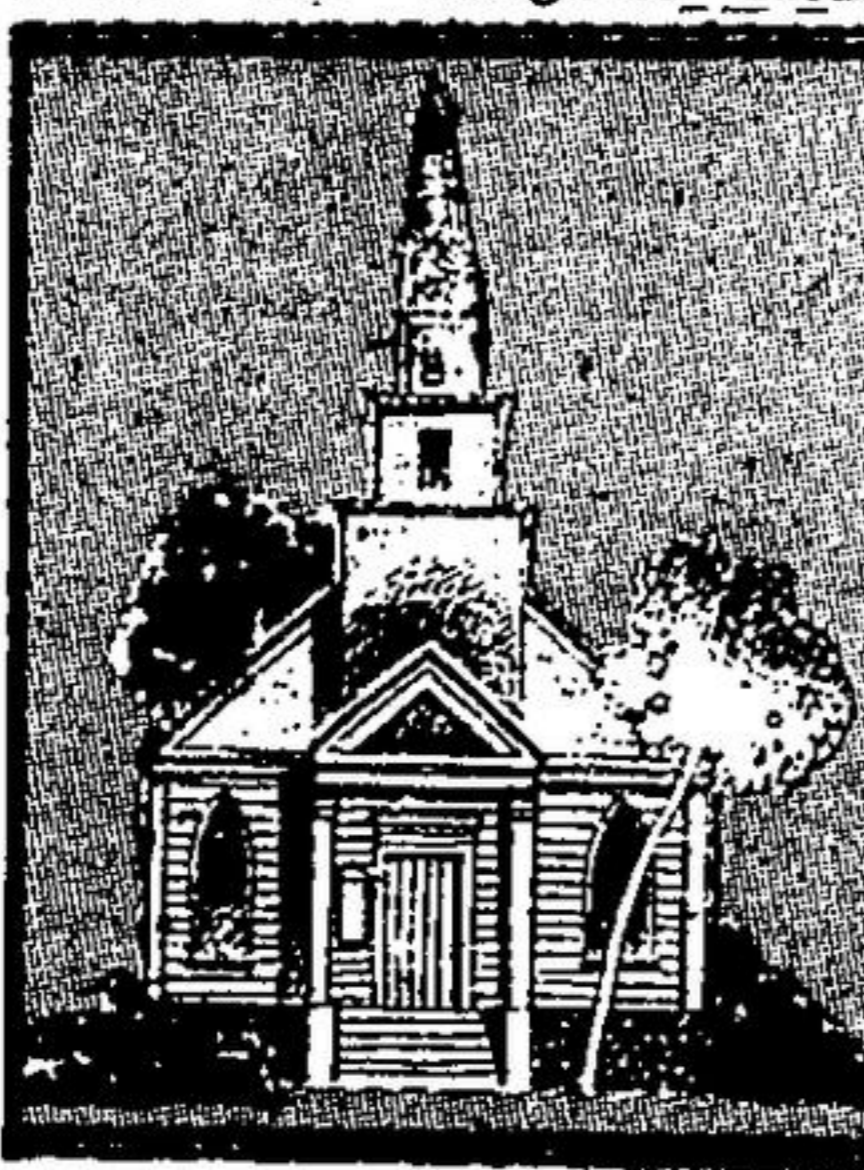
The Department's Product Safety Branch warned that children under the age of three have a tendency to put all types of objects into their mouths. Small objects, such as pins, batteries, buttons and parts of broken toys are particularly dangerous as a child may swallow them or choke on them and suffocate.

Recently, a 22-month-old boy died after a cone-shaped piece of broken finger crayon lodged in his throat. Most crayons are intended for use by children aged three and older. However, certain types - specifically finger crayons - are used by children under the age of three. These children should be supervised when they are playing with crayons. Any broken pieces of crayon should be disposed of immediately.

When it comes to child safety, it's good to keep a few points in mind. Any area where young children play should be kept clean and safe. Toys used by older children should not be left within the reach of young children. Parents and caregivers should

always read the manufacturer's instructions and follow age recommendations generally indicated on a package.

For more information, contact the nearest office of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada.



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