

# Outlook on Halton Hills



President of Georgetown and District Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society, Cathy Dooley (left), and one of the branch's founding members, Margaret Mackenzie, mark the society's 50th anniversary, held at St. George's Anglican Church on Guelph Street in Georgetown Monday night. (Herald photo)



The Georgetown and District Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society presented volunteer Joyce Clarke (left) with its Distinguished Service award, and Edith Hackett (right) with a special citation recognizing her many years of service to the society. (Herald photo)

## Town wants student centre kept open

Hinging on the upcoming hire-a-student week (June 18 to 24) the Town of Halton Hills will send a letter to Employment and Immigration Canada asking the government to keep the Georgetown student employment centre open.

The letter is the result of a request from Acton Coun. Gerald Rennie Monday night. Mr. Rennie said Georgetown "was very seriously being considered a place to be discontinued."

The Georgetown office is located on Guelph Street, in the Niagara Escarpment building. Services are offered to Acton, through the employment office, at the Acton High School by the centre's two employees.

Four offices were closed in the Metropolitan Toronto area last year due to funding cuts. Offices were consolidated, said Employment Canada student centre coordinator Freda Kurin. She said one of two offices in Mississauga was closed.

But Georgetown has only one office for all of Halton Hills. "At this point, we're not looking at cutting services for next year," she said.

"We can't predict six or eight months ahead," she said.

Sources in the Brampton student employment office, which supervises the Georgetown area and makes suggestions if money is short and a centre must close, says "Georgetown was kept open this year because of the area it covers."

But Coun. Rennie fears that there is no guarantee the service will remain in Halton Hills. "Statistics don't merit the sense of operating this service," said Coun. Rennie. He said 50 to 60 per cent of students already have part-time jobs for the summer without using the employment services. And not all companies use the government service.

If the Georgetown office closes, students will have to travel to Guelph, Brampton, Milton or Orangeville, said Coun. Rennie. Services would not be offered in the same location as the adult Employment and Immigration Services in the escarpment building.

# Ellis-Don rejected

Continued from Page 1

ing (the proposal) because we took the time to find out," said Mr. Montgomery.

"We, too, spent a lot of money on our proposal. We, too, were under a lot of pressure. We, too, prepared the model," he said in response to Mr. Gillie's argument that deadlines were very tight for the proposal. A model used for the proposal wouldn't fit in a car and had to be transferred to a larger vehicle before being taken to the Region, he said.

"You'd be establishing a very dangerous precedent if you were to set this (deadline) rule aside in this case," said Mr. Montgomery.

The Region recently decided to tighten tender deadlines to prevent future problems.

The other company competing for the Regional expansion bid said the 2 p.m. deadline Tuesday was "taken as a serious entity."

"We set ourselves a cut-off time that was noon-time yesterday," said Jackson Lewis president Curtis Washer.

When asked if they would expect to be considered for a proposal if their tenders were late, Cooper Construction's president said he would probably work on the Region's "sympathy" while Jackson Lewis denied they would expect to have their tender accepted.

But Coun. Janet Mitchell said she would like to see more than two tenders. And Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said he would not decide on the issue until it was determined if Ellis-Don's proposal was in the Regional building by 2 p.m.

Following an hour of discussion which included a recommendation from Ontario General Contractor's Association Executive Director Hubey Clohocy to reject Ellis-Don's proposal, a small group of Regional councillors and administrative staff asked the press,

the public and the company officials to leave the chambers while the tender was discussed. After the in-camera meeting, councillors voted unanimously to reject Ellis-Don's proposal.

The rejection will be reviewed by Regional council June 21 at the meeting held in Halton Hills new Civic Centre.

"This is a difficult process and it is no fun for us to disqualify anyone who might have had a valid bid," said Chairman Pomeroy.

"I feel badly about this, but it's unfortunately a fact of life today."

Coun. Mitchell said she would support the Chairman's proposal although she "thought three (tenders) was the bottom line."

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale said she was "heavily influenced" by the comments of OGCA director Clohocy.

Although Oakville Coun. John Graham said he tends to be "less hard-nosed" than other councillors, and that the Regional rules on tender deadlines were "unduly stiff," he also voted to discount Ellis-Don's proposal.

Outside the council chambers following the decision, Mr. Gillie's voice was broken as he said Halton Region is his home and he hopes to give the public an advantage in expanding the Regional facilities.

"I'm very disappointed that they rejected our proposal," he said. "We will make a delegation at the next council meeting."

Mr. Gillie said Ellis-Don will consult its lawyers and will be speaking to Regional councillors June 21.

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