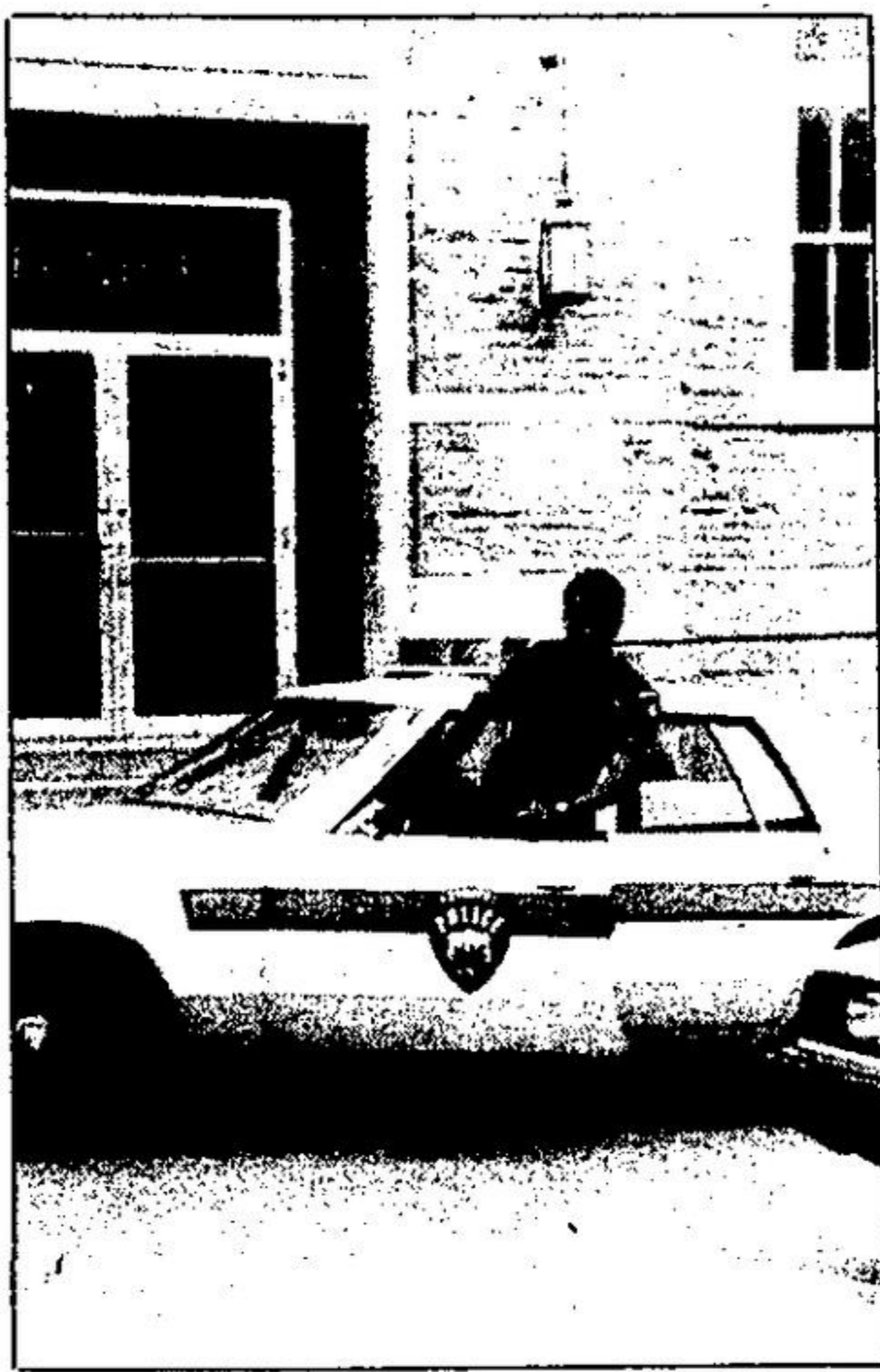


On the set



Michael Beck, star of the filmed-in-Georgetown movie entitled "The Reckoning," is queried by reporters (left) during a scene from the movie Wednesday. The steps of the old post office and



downtown Georgetown were used in the Canadian-made movie. (Right) a Baypoint police man dashes out of his car. (Herald photos)

Residents oppose housing proposal

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

In what has been described as a "low-key" battle to retain nearly seven acres of property near Hall Road for recreational use, a Georgetown couple is replying to developer Al Pilutti's claims that the land is used by only a few people and is covered in excrement.

Don and Linda Jackson of Wilson Court, a Georgetown street that backs onto the ravine of land now zoned for residential use, wrote to the town recently saying that the Halton Hills official plan points to a shortage in green space.

Developer Al Pilutti wants to build houses on the land.

The Jacksons say that a report published in 1979 says Halton Hills parkland "represents a ratio of only 1.6 hectares (3.96 acres) per 1,000 residents. Most urban Ontario centres contain in the order of eight to 10 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents."

"As a loosely-defined group of residents, we try to have a rational look at things," said Mr. Jackson, who organized a meeting for area residents at his home last spring. "Some development in the town is good (but) as a piece of property, (this) has value to the town."

Area residents showed strong support for keeping the property recreational when they recently submitted an over 500-name petition to the town.

But the idea is not to bully the developer, said Mr. Jackson. "We're not painting Mr. Pilutti as a monster. He's a businessman. I'm sure he's doing what is right

for Mr. Pilutti. "There's a lot of people at risk. That's what we're saying."

The developer appeared before town council this spring, saying that the property is used as a place for walking dogs, and is covered in dog excrement. He owned the land over 10 years ago, and proposed to build houses at that time. Mr. Pilutti sold the property to the town several years ago. Now, he wants to buy back the land.

Then, as now, area residents were opposed to the development. Residents in the Wilson Court, Rosefield Drive and Fagan Drive areas who signed the current petition, however, are not shouting too loudly until they appear as a town delegation in the near future, Mr. Jackson said.

"We're basically trying to fight (the sale of the land) but we're trying to keep it low-key."

There is presently a condominium project on Hall Road that is nearly completed. Mr. Jackson says a tract of land formerly owned by the YMCA was sold and houses will be built there. The recreational space near Hall Road would serve new and present area residents, he said.

With Halton Hills town councillors meeting less frequently in the summer, the delegation date for the Jacksons and their neighbors asking that the land be rezoned as recreational property from its present residential zoning, could be pushed back into September.

Mr. Jackson said he and his wife are waiting to be contacted by the town.

Halton to spend more on AIDS

Halton Region's health department is hoping to spend \$114,000 on its AIDS program over the next year if funding is received from the Ontario Ministry of Health.

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has spread quickly in the Region over the past year. Of 21 cases reported since 1982, 10 cases were discovered over the past year.

The ministry gave Halton full funding for an AIDS program in 1987.

The one case in Halton was a female who moved out of the Region, the health department reported in March. The Regional health department also said eight people in Halton Hills have the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the virus which leads to AIDS.

An increased budget will allow Halton to increase AIDS program salaries, add rental and utility bills of \$2,350 annually, and purchase a computer for \$10,500 to "assist with the management of the AIDS education resources, references and program-related data," says a Regional report released last week.

The computer is considered a "one-time cost."

Funding from the Ministry of Health first arrived when the Region began an AIDS program in 1987. From then until March 31, the Region has employed a health educator and a public health nurse. The objective of the AIDS program is to prevent the spread of the disease, to provide information on AIDS and the HIV, and to support those affected by AIDS.

The Region's health department says there has been a "continued need" for counselling for both test patients and those who have AIDS or the HIV virus.

The Regional health department hopes to add the equivalent of a full-time staff member to its AIDS program for 1989-90 at a cost of \$33,230. Costs would be \$12,000 for a clerical worker and \$17,150 for a counsellor. Benefits between the two salaried workers would cost

\$4,080. Travel costs would be \$1,000.

In its first year of operation in 1987, Halton's AIDS program provided educational programs for high risk groups, health care professionals, employee groups, and the general public, says a Regional health report. There has also been education targeted at the adolescent age group.

Halton has a reported two per cent of all the AIDS cases in Ontario since records were kept in 1982. Of those 911 cases, 71 per cent of patients were in the Greater Toronto Area.

The Region's health department will first need approval from Regional council before approaching the ministry for funds for this year's AIDS program.

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