

From The Mayor....



Dear Residents of Halton Hills:

On Saturday, Aug. 26, 1989, the official opening of the new Halton Hills Civic Centre, 1 Halton Hills Drive will take place. All the residents of Halton Hills are cordially invited to participate in this gala event which will go down in history as this is the first time since the incorporation of the Town of Halton Hills that we have had a municipal office building.

We are planning to have members of the public arrive at 1:00 p.m., with the official ceremonies to take place at 2:00 p.m. There will be refreshments and entertainment and tours of this fine facility, and we hope the public will be as proud of this new facility as the members of staff and the Council.

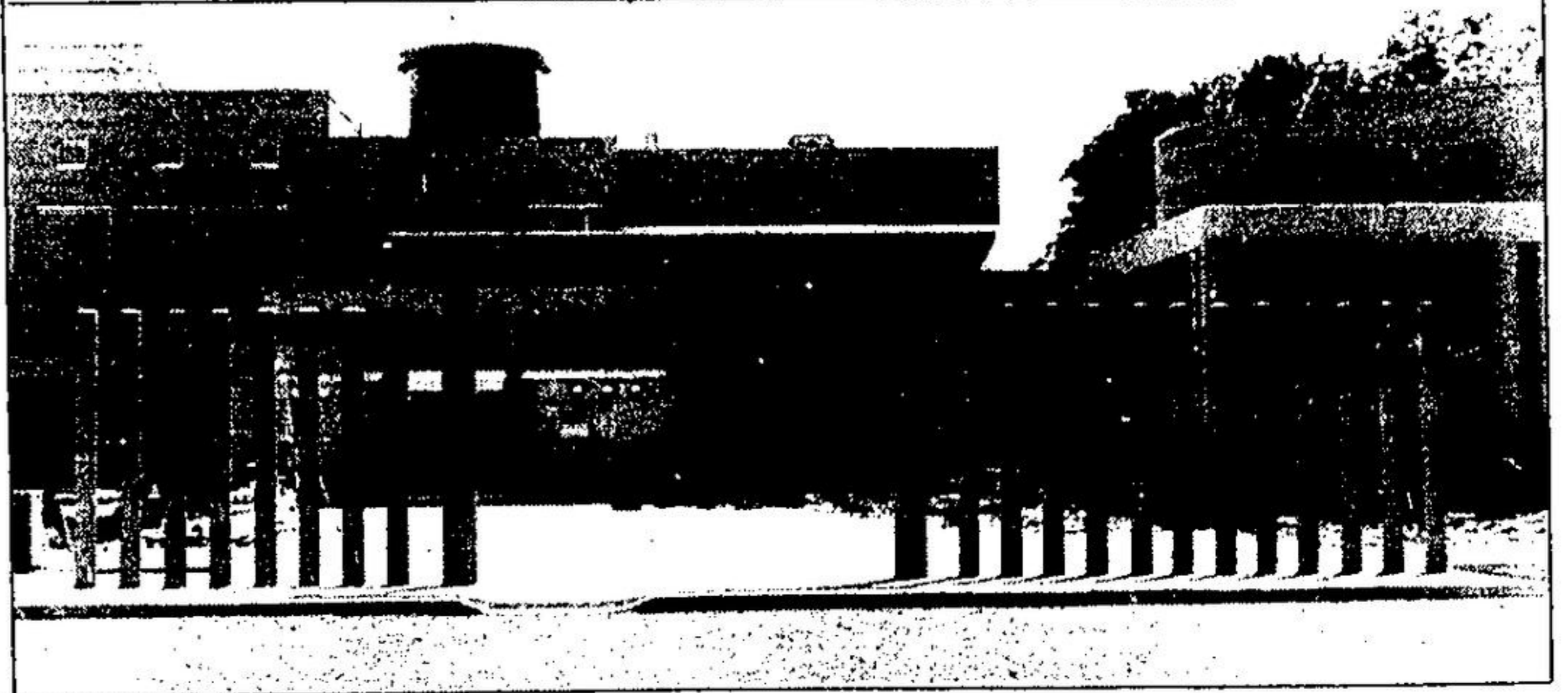
In 1974, in the formation of regional government, the Towns of Georgetown and Acton, and the Township of Esquesing were all incorporated as one town. The only home that we had at that time was the municipal building for Esquesing Township which we renovated for the clerk's department, council chamber and planning department. Our engineering department was located in the works garage to the back of the administration building, with our treasury department on the Main Street in Georgetown, and our recreation department in the Gordon Alcott Arena. In the early 1980's, the present site was purchased, and after much consideration and much debate, a decision was made to relocate in a new building all the town administrative staff and council. Although we have only been located in the new building for a short period of two months, it is very easy to see the efficiency in the operation of the town business.

We hope the weather will be excellent that day, and we encourage as many people as possible to attend. We look forward to giving the public an opportunity to have a first hand look at the new Halton Civic Centre. Many donations have been received from the public, and we hope to have these all in place for the opening.

We look forward to having you join with us in the celebration of the Official Opening of this new Town of Halton Hills Civic Centre.

Yours sincerely,
R. T. Miller,
Mayor.

Front and Centre



This is the side of the new Civic Centre that many people haven't yet seen - the front. The view from Maple Avenue is actually the back of the building. The circular council chambers is on the right as you walk in, with the information straight in front of the entrance. A fountain should be operating to the left of the entrance by opening day. (Herald Photo)

The new Civic Centre has been 15 years in waiting

By BRIAN MACLEOD
Herald Staff

The road to 1 Halton Hills Dr. has been 15 years in the making. It's been that long since the Georgetown, Acton and the Township of Esquesing joined hands to form the Town of Halton Hills. And for 15 years the Township of Esquesing's contribution to the Town has been its rustic setting and the administration headquarters on Trafalgar Road.

Built on more than seven acres of land, the new 40,000 sq. ft. civic centre is now home to 75 town workers from the various departments.

In 1973, voters in the three municipalities chose the name Halton Hills over North Halton and Esquesing. What those voters probably didn't know, was that Esquesing would play host to the administration department and councillors until the official opening of the new civic centre this Saturday.

In 1974, the Esquesing township building was renovated to house the clerk's department, and the council chambers, leaving the engineering department in a garage behind the green buildings on Trafalgar Road.

For a time, the recreation

department worked out of Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena until they moved into the little house on James Street in Georgetown.

The planning department worked out of the bowels of the Niagara Escarpment Building at 232 Guelph St. and the town's financial wizards occupied a building on Main Street in Georgetown.

Early in the 1980's the town purchased the seven-acre parcel of land off Maple Avenue, but the land lay dormant until Oct. 26, 1987. That's when Halton Hills council members gave unanimous approval to the \$6.1 million venture that would lead to the creation of 1 Halton Hills Dr.

The decision to go ahead with the new civic centre that Monday in October wasn't taken lightly by Halton Hills councillors. Wondering whether or not to delay construction councillors were told by architect Carlos Ventin, of Robertson-Yates Inc. that a one-year delay could add as much as 15 per cent to the cost of construction. And Markham, some councillors said, spent more money on landscaping for its new civic centre than Halton Hills was set to spend on the whole project.

But the final approval, which

eventually received a light round of applause from councillors, wasn't given until Coun. Norm Elliott, known for his lengthy yet eloquent speeches, urging his colleagues to push on with the project. "We need the municipal complex," Coun. Elliott said. "We need it desperately."

The Acton councillor recognized that some people considered the building extravagant, but he said, "If I lose an election in '88, so be it."

Coun. Elliott went unchallenged in the November elections.

The building itself cost \$5.7 million, with an extra \$495,000 for road expansion.

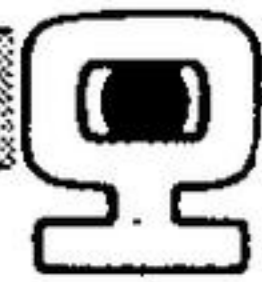
To pay for the project the town drew funds from lot levies for the road expansion, and sold off 15 lots for homes on Princess Anne Drive for in excess of \$1 million.

The town also debentured \$3.1 million. It was the first time the town had to borrow money in 10 years.

As the Aug. 26 official opening date nears, town deputy treasurer Grant Usher said the building will come in slightly over budget. But any extra costs will be absorbed with interest earned on money in the bank, he said.

Congratulations!

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the Family
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