

Town staff emigrated from trailers and garages

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

They came from trailers and garages, and buildings scattered throughout Halton Hills, but now the town staff is under one roof on Princess Anne Drive.

The town's forces were scattered when a handful of workers, including Mayor Russ Miller, were located in the administrator building on Trafalgar Road, the treasury building on Main Street, the planning department in the Niagara Escarpment building, the recreation and parks building on James Street and the public works trailers which also housed the engineering department.

The fire department has always had separate quarters on Maple Avenue in Georgetown and Bower Street in Acton.

"We didn't always have the feeling of being part of the town," said recreation and parks director Tom Shepard, whose office on James Street gave him good shopping opportunities but poor access to other town departments.

"Now, we're part of a corporation," he said.

The engineers planning Halton's future on paper were crowded into public works garages and small trailers. The town's engineering services manager Tim Stuart worked in a trailer while the roof rattled and the walls shook during storms.

The new building brings together the planning and engineering departments who often work hand-in-hand.

"We don't have to get in the car and drive for 15 minutes to get over to the planning office," Mr. Stuart said. Being under one roof is "more efficient."

"It makes a big difference. As far as convenience of the opera-



HALTON HILLS CIVIC CENTRE

tions and the staff functions goes. Organizationally, it helps as well in anything that relates from one department to another."

Efficiency is a word heard buzzing around the new civic centre off Maple Avenue. There is enthusiasm, pride and a new "professionalism" says Bryan Shynal, town superintendent of parks.

"I deal a lot with the engineering department, the planning department and public works....It just makes us a lot more efficient to be able to touch base with someone."

Town staff are finally meeting each other after years of telephone conversations. And for some employees, people they've met on the street everyday are surprisingly town employees.

"The cafeteria and the atmosphere give you a chance to know people in the organization," Mr. Stuart said.

"You feel more like a family, or a corporation as opposed to an independent entity."

The recreation and parks department will maintain the grounds at the civic centre. Now inside the building, the staff are probably

working harder to keep things tidy, said Mr. Shepard.

The skylights, the wood and the neutral shades of peach and green make the new building "pleasant" said town administrator Dan Costea. Mr. Costea became the administrator over a year ago, leaving a post with the City of Toronto.

"I love it," he said of the new building, "I think it's great."

"Great" describes the "comfortable" atmosphere, and the climate control, he said.

"What I find really significant is the controlled air system. (There is no air-conditioning at the Trafalgar Road building). It really helps to retain your energy."

He said the new air system was "really noticeable" at the first few council meetings. At one meeting Councillor Pam Johnston remarked that she still felt "fresh" after 11 p.m.

But with all the staff under one roof, there is a feeling of togetherness, Mr. Stuart said.

"You feel more like a family, or a corporation as opposed to an independent entity."



Tim Stuart, the town's manager of engineering services is one of the many people who came from garages and trailers throughout the town to work with his colleagues under one roof at the new Civic Centre. (Herald photo)

Official opening ceremonies will be a gala event

The opening of Halton Hills new \$6.1 million Civic Centre will promise to be a gala event with pipers drofing, a local band playing the national anthem and a handful of local politicians launching the town's latest project.

Town administrator Dan Costea will be the Master of Ceremonies. These ceremonies will include Cole Spicer as the piper and the Acton Citizens Band performing 'Oh Canada'.

Rev. Bert Slofstra from the Georgetown Ministerial Association will open the day's events at 2

p.m. and Rev. Dirk Miedema from Acton will close the day's ceremonies at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come to the Civic Centre at 1 p.m.

Local dignitaries, Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner and Halton North MPP Walt Elliot will join Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller and Halton Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy in opening the building.

The new Civic Centre is located on Princess Anne Drive, off Maple Avenue just across from the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

CONGRATULATIONS

ON A JOB

Well Done!

Varian Canada Inc. is proud to recognize the achievements of the Town of Halton Hills in providing its citizens with a beautiful new Civic Centre of which they can be proud.

Varian is a community-minded business with strong roots in Halton Hills and is pleased to support the Town in bringing its various departments together in our new Civic Centre.

VARIAN

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Congratulations

To the Town of Halton Hills on the occasion of the Official Opening of the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

Peter D. Pomeroy
Regional Chairman

Regional Municipality
of Halton

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