

Only 16 per cent of chamber business respond to survey

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald

"Disappointing" is how the town's Chamber of Commerce executive director Mary Anne Chapman described the low number of responses to the chamber's recent survey on Sunday shopping.



Mary Anne Chapman

"I'm surprised not many (of the membership) wanted to express their views on such an important issue," said Ms. Chapman. "It's something that affects everyone, not just retail merchants."

The chamber sent out the survey to its 346 members during the latter half of November and just over 50, or 16 per cent of the members responded.

"I'd hate to think that apathy was the reason for the low number of responses," said Ms. Chapman.

Ms. Chapman guessed a lot of the membership didn't respond because the survey was sent out during a "hectic time" for business owners.

The majority of those who responded opposed Sunday shopping. Sixty-eight per cent of the

respondents said they opposed Sunday shopping outright. The religious connotations of Sunday openings having negative social connotations were two reasons respondents gave who opposed Sunday openings, Ms. Chapman said.

The survey also showed that 14 per cent of the respondents currently open on Sundays, and that 56 per cent of the respondents would open Sunday if their competition open.

All of the respondents, whether they supported or opposed Sunday shopping, agreed that the current provincial legislation is "unfair and discriminatory," said Ms. Chapman.

She said the majority of respondents disapproved of some stores that sell food are allowed to open Sunday while others are not.

The survey showed that none of the respondents feel pressure to open Sundays from their customers. Those who supported Sunday openings did so on the principle that business hours are up to the owner and not the government, she said.

Ms. Chapman speculated that people in Halton Hills weren't pressuring store owners to remain open because they are relatively laid back.

"This isn't Toronto; people seem to have more time to get their shopping done (during a six-day week)."

Chamber members who want a survey should contact the chamber office at 877-7119 during regular business hours.



On the slopes

A brisk sunny New Year's Day, and lots of snow, what better thing to do than get out the cross country skis and hit the natural trails at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. Don Mashinter (left) and his son

Peter seem to agree and it looks as if their dog Sparky also thinks rather highly of the idea. (Herald photo)

Environment committee meets

The Halton-Peel environment committee will meet at the North Halton Golf and Country Club on Maple Avenue in Georgetown at 7:30 p.m. Monday night.

Paul Sergent, Halton Hills' recycling co-ordinator and Caledon recycling co-ordinator

Dawn Moffat will speak at the meeting.

The environment committee was set up by Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner.

The meeting is open to the public.

Parent-Child centre is in full swing

Getting in Shape for 1990, Family Law and Drug Awareness are three of the topics offered by the Georgetown Parent-Child Centre in January.

Registration is now being accepted for the four topics. The Take-A-Break program is held each Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at St. Andrew's United Church on Mountainview Road South.

The cost of the Jan. 10 - 31 session is \$10 and pre-registration is required. To register call Gail at 877-9231 or 873-2960.

The first topic on Jan. 10 is Getting in Shape for 1990 with Suzanne Eutenier. Suzanne will lead a morning of fitness so wear comfortable clothes and running shoes.

Jan. 17 Mark Rush will discuss Family Law while the Jan. 24 program will be a coffee and discussion period. Detective Frost of the Halton Regional Police will talk about Drug Awareness on Jan. 31.

The second Take-A-Break session begins Feb. 7 and registration is required before Jan. 31. The topics include Holistic Medicine, Planning

Georgetown's Community, Your Child's Teeth and a coffee and discussion time.

The purpose of the program is to provide a break for parents away from their children so they can have an opportunity to meet other parents. During the program, there are activities available for children.

The centre is a non-profit organization operating in Georgetown since 1988.



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