

Residents protest proposed development

A petition signed by 57 downtown Georgetown residents was presented to Halton Hills Council urging it to reject a proposal by the developer Mackenzie-Ferraro to build an 83 unit apartment building at James and Wesleyan Streets in Georgetown.

Georgetown's downtown core as it exists, argued Cheryl Potosky, a spokesperson for the petitioners, is the "physical, commercial and social heart of Georgetown. The development, if approved, would ultimately destroy this atmosphere," she said.

The highrise would lead to the downtown becoming similar to

that of shopping plaza type malls, she noted.

Ms. Potosky acknowledged the downtown core must grow but the scale of any new project should be smaller than the one currently being proposed.

Town Councillor Pam Johnston suggested the proposed development, which is still before the town's planning staff, would bring more people into the downtown core, thereby making it more viable.

But Ms. Potosky countered, saying more parking instead of large developments will bring people to the downtown area.

She told council the petitioners support a proposal for the town to extend Market Street through to James Street. In this way, additional parking would be made, said Ms. Potosky.

But Sandy Mackenzie, of the development firm behind the proposal, appeared before council earlier this summer opposing this idea because it would kill his development plans.

The Town's Administrator-Clerk, Dan Costea, said if Market Street was expanded then the development would have to be smaller or the developer would be

required to buy town-owned land to maintain the proposed size.

Coun. Ann Currie asked Ms. Potosky if she was aware Market Street residents who would be directly affected by the road extension oppose the idea. Ms. Potosky acknowledged this opposition, but said those residents would also be confronted with increased traffic flow if the development is allowed to go ahead.

Coun. Johnson asked Ms. Potosky what she thought of the Silver Creek Towers on Park Street, in downtown Georgetown. "I knew someone was going to ask that," she replied. Ms. Potosky

went on to explain that they don't harm the downtown skyline because their elevation is lower than most of the downtown area buildings.

Coun. Al Cook asked Ms. Potosky if she knew how the downtown merchants feel about both the development and the Market Street expansion. She didn't know.

Georgetown Business Improvement Area manager, Margaret Vint, said after the council meeting, the few merchants she's talked with have said they oppose any action that will discourage development in the downtown core.

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Orangeville waste issue to stagnate until Sept. 18

By BEN DUMMETT

The Herald

Halton Hills won't be subjected to a daily increase in truck traffic carrying garbage from Orangeville to the Leferink Transfer Station on Armstrong Avenue in Georgetown until at least September 18.

The province's Ministry of Environment, (MOE), was to have decided Thursday if Leferink could accept approximately 60 tonnes of Orangeville's garbage on a daily basis so that garbage could in turn be transported to a landfill site in the United States.

Orangeville had wanted to use the local transfer station en route to shipping the garbage to the U.S. because its regular landfill site in Simcoe, the Innisfil Landfill, was scheduled to close Thursday. But the MOE has extended the landfill site's certificate of approval until September 17, confirmed John Gassbarro, an engineer with the MOE's approvals branch.

The MOE learned Tuesday night that the Innisfil landfill site had gone into receivership, said Mr. Gassbarro. A reprieve was granted to give the site's owners time to try to re-establish the landfill, he explained.

Meanwhile Leferink's station manager, Bert Leferink, said Wednesday, Orangeville will take the time from now until Sept. 17 to negotiate a deal with a group to

find an alternative solution to the disposal of its garbage.

The Waste Management Director for Orangeville was unavailable at press time to confirm which groups are being considered. But Mr. Leferink said he didn't know of any other transfer station being considered. "We're the only one around," he said.

The MOE's decision comes at the same time that Halton Region's Planning and Public Works Committee recommended that Leferink be allowed to take Orangeville's garbage, on condition that the contract between the transfer station and Orangeville expires Dec. 31, 1991 and that Orangeville enter into talks with the staffs of Leferink, the Region and Halton Hills on such issues as the route the trucks would take to and from Orangeville. The recommendation will go before Halton Regional Council Wednesday for final approval.

Before the MOE granted Innisfil a reprieve, it was to decide if Leferink could take Orangeville's garbage. To have made that decision it required input from both the Region and Halton Hills.

Halton Hills Council, in a special meeting Aug. 9, voted not to support Leferink's request to accept Orangeville's garbage. Councillors were concerned that supporting the request would send a political signal to area residents that the

town was willing to accept garbage from other municipalities. As well, the increased truck traffic would annoy Halton Hills drivers and damage the town's roads, council worried.

Halton Hills Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette voiced these concerns at Wednesday's Regional Planning and Public Works Committee meeting and on the basis of these concerns the committee recommended Halton support the proposal that Leferink accept Orangeville's garbage for 16 months as opposed to five years, as Leferink and Orangeville had originally wanted.

The committee also stipulated that the Region, Halton Hills, the company and Orangeville reconsider the proposed truck route and the idea that Halton Hills be compensated if any of its roads were damaged.

The Regional staff supported Leferink's proposal because the transfer station can legally accept 200 tonnes of garbage daily, while it is currently only handling 120 tonnes every day. Orangeville would ship about 60 tonnes daily to Leferink.

Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy acknowledged Halton Hills council's objections saying, "It's not an easy local issue." But he supported the proposal because, "I see it as supporting a neighbour (Orangeville). The Region has had garbage related problems and other municipalities have lent a helping hand," explained the chairman.

He did agree with Coun. Bonnette that a different truck route should be chosen. Leferink's proposed route would originate in Orangeville on Highway 10 to Sideroad 17 to River Drive to Mountainview Road to the Armstrong Avenue transfer station. Agreeing with Coun. Bonnette, he said River Road, because of the hills, is unsuited for truck traffic. Chairman Pomeroy suggested Highway 7 could be used instead of River Road.



A cache of arms

This weaponry is just a fraction of the property stolen from break and enters in Halton rural areas. During an Aug. 7 search at a Terra Cotta home, police seized \$50,000 in stolen property, however about \$270,000 of property reported stolen still remains to be recovered. Here, Guelph OPP Const. Doug Skinner and Const. Charlie Hunter display the confiscated goods for the media. (Photo courtesy of Guelph Mercury)

All-candidates debates

The people of Halton Hills and the rest of the North-Halton riding will get a chance to hear first hand the four local candidates debate the issues starting next week.

The first all-candidates meeting will be held Tuesday at Sacre Coeur Hall in Georgetown. The debate, which is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. and is sponsored by the local environmental group Protect Our Water Environmental Resources, (POWER), will centre on the issue of the environment.

The next two all-candidates meetings are sponsored by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce. There will be one Thursday at the Georgetown District High School starting at 7:30 p.m. This will be followed by another meeting Aug. 29 at the Acton High School.

The final all-candidates meeting is scheduled for Aug. 30 in Milton at E.C. Drury High School. The meeting is sponsored by the Milton Jaycees and the doors open at 7:00 p.m.

