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FRIDAY, JANUARY 18th, 1991



Wild about whales

Branwyn Williams is wild about whales. After visiting Sea World in Florida, she began studying whales and launched a campaign to save whales and dolphins. Her efforts have been nationally recognized through OWL magazine where her picture and a

biography of her efforts was included on their HOOT page shown here. Branwyn, a Grade 5 student at Harrison Public School, will be awarded by the magazine on January 30 in the school. See story on Page 9. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

Acton quarry inappropriate site for landfill

By BEN DUMMETT
 The Herald

Halton Regional Council will vote Wednesday on a resolution indicating the Acton quarry on Sideroad 22 between the Fourth Line and Highway 25 in an "inappropriate site for a landfill."

Halton's Planning and Public Works Committee last Wednesday directed its legal staff to put on paper a resolution that would express Halton's opposition to the dump proposal - at the same time indicating the Region is not denying the landfill's proponent - Milton's Reclamation Systems Incorporated - its legal right to proceed with the application.

Committee members initiated the resolution after hearing from local environmental group Protect Our Water Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R.) President Barbara Halsall argue all landfills leak leachate.

Leachate is the poisonous liquid formed when rain water percolates through waste at a landfill site.

Since landfills are not leak proof, said Ms. Halsall, and the landfill would sit on top of Acton and Georgetown's water supply, it is inevitable drinking water will be contaminated at some time.

Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy agreed, saying "this

landfill is on the major ground water supply of Georgetown - the Amabel aquifer - and if contaminated there is no assurance there will be another source of water supply for Georgetown."

Ms. Halsall urged committee members to take a strong stance against the RSI proposal, otherwise it would appear to be encouraging the company at a huge expense to the taxpayer. The longer RSI continues its attempt to establish a landfill, the more town, Regional and provincial tax dollars will be used up as part of the process, she explained.

Regional staff, in its report, had suggested Halton Council inform the provincial Ministry of Environment to ensure its review of the RSI application not be completed until the company provides further information regarding several outstanding issues.

Committee members felt, however, a stronger stance was required because, in the words of Burlington Councillor Pat McLaughlin, "I don't support the concept of a landfill in this area."

According to the staff report, the RSI application is both "incomplete and incorrect."

The Region's consultant, Stan Feenstra of Toronto's Applied Groundwater Research Limited, Continued on Page 2

Capital project tax should drop

By BEN DUMMETT
 The Herald

Halton Hills taxpayers should expect a reduction in the amount of taxes they pay towards Town capital projects in 1991.

The Town Budget Committee, Tuesday, approved in principle an approximately 25 per cent reduction over last year in the amount of tax levy used to finance 1991 capital projects. The committee is comprised of the Town councillors.

Taxpayers will contribute a total of approximately \$861,000 towards the \$8.69 million budgeted for capital projects this year. In 1990 the Town levy covered \$1.12 million towards the 1990 capital budget.

The \$8.69 million figure includes \$21,000 for urban services charges which include the cost of garbage collection, street lighting and crossing guards for the Georgetown and Acton urban areas, according to the 1991 capital budget report.

Cor Buikema, the Town's Senior Accountant, predicted Wednesday the 1991 capital budget tax levy will represent about 11 or 12 per cent of the Town's total tax revenue. This figure is down 15 per cent from last year, he said.

Budget committee only cut items from the capital budget

totaling \$105,000. However, only \$4,500 of that total is subtracted from the amount of tax levy paid towards 1991 capital budget.

The items were the \$90,000 detailed engineering design of upgrading Main Street South in the Georgetown South area. The \$90,000 was to have been comprised of \$4,500 in tax levy; \$45,000 in development company funding and \$40,500 from lot levies.

The other deleted item was a \$15,000 sound system for the Civic Centre council chambers. The entire cost of this project was to have come from a reserve fund. That means the deletion has no effect on people's tax rate.

In cutting only two items from the budget, Town councillor Marilyn Serjeanston noted it wasn't very much. Councillor and committee chairperson Pam Johnston interjected by saying "that's because staff has done an excellent job eliminating projects before bringing them to committee."

Two items not eliminated included proposals for a new Acton arena and Acton fire hall. Together, these projects total just over \$5 million, by far the Town's most expensive capital projects. The committee however did defer deciding on whether the two projects will definitely be included or deleted from this year's capital budget.

Mayor Russ Miller said after Tuesday's meeting the matter had to be deferred because talks are ongoing at the staff level to determine if the projected costs can be reduced.

However, he did say the Town "will be lucky" if it gets one of the projects this year. The Mayor said he predicts the Acton arena has the best chance of approval.

According to the budget report, the town would have to borrow more than \$3.35 million to pay for both projects that would increase the people's 1992 or 1993 tax rate by almost 10 per cent. The increase would cover the cost of paying back the principal and interest on the loans, said Mr. Buikema.

Mayor Miller called the predicted tax increase "ridiculous."

He believes the arena is a higher priority than the fire hall because financing that building makes more economic sense. The building's age - it's over 60 years old - means repairing the building adds up to nothing more than a waste of money, he explained.

Committee plans to discuss the merits of each project later this month. No date was given for the meeting.

Despite being approved in principle, the capital budget won't be subject to final approval until March.

Contacted at press time Thursday morning, Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham issued the following comment in response to comments made by the mayor: "It's the responsibility for all of council to determine the level of service that taxpayers can afford and it is my responsibility to identify for council the needs of the fire department. Since 1984 the Councils of the day have approved monies in the capital budget forecast for the station. The need to replace the station is not only my opinion but also that of the fire underwriters (insurers). It is also the opinion of the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office. In a recently completed Fire Marshall survey, the existing facility was described as being a historical building at best."

Persian Gulf war

At approximately 6:30 Thursday evening, Canada, as a member of the United Nations force operating in the Persian Gulf, officially became involved in the war now being fought against Iraq, under the leadership of Saddam Hussein.

Former Georgetown resident, Captain David Deere, 30, is on active service in the Persian Gulf, flying one of the 24 CF-18 jet fighters which make up part of the Canadian Armed Forces contingent.

Capt. Deere, who attended Georgetown District High School, was an active participant in high school soccer and gymnastics.

He attended Royal Military College in Kingston before joining the Canadian Armed Forces.

Capt. Deere, who is single, was stationed in Cold Lake, Alberta.

He is the son of Wyndham and Audrey Deere, who still reside in Georgetown.

Mr. and Mrs. Deere expressed gratitude for the concern shown by their Georgetown friends and neighbours in this trying time, but declined to comment, for publication, on the conflict in the Persian Gulf.

Ordinary Seaman Stewart Hoy, a former Acton resident, is serving on HMCS Gatineau, presently berthed in Halifax.

He is the son of Nick and Jean Hoy, who still reside in Acton.

Mr. Hoy said he has been in contact with his son, but would not comment on the possibility of the Gatineau joining the action in the Persian Gulf.

In a twist of fate, another former Acton resident, Tim Evans, is also serving on the Gatineau.

For local comments and reaction to the Persian Gulf war, please turn to Page 3.



Capt. Deere



O/S Hoy

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