

Council heeds residents' concerns

Residents of Main Street South and surrounding area in Georgetown have spoken, and Halton Hills Council has listened.

Councillors decided Monday to reconsider their endorsement of a proposed reconstruction plan to enlarge Main Street South from Maple Avenue to Sideroad 10 after being confronted by a 100-strong delegation, several of whom spoke to council in opposition to the plan.

Councillors' support of the plan wasn't strong enough to withstand two meetings in a row involving numbers of angry people, although it did stand up to one meeting. Faced with similar opposition last Tuesday, General Committee, which is comprised of Town councillors, supported the plan.

This time around however, councillors were more willing to heed residents' concerns that the proposed plan could harm the environment (Silver Creek), waste taxpayer's money, be approved without being subjected to enough public scrutiny, and was improperly processed under provincial guidelines.

The proposal called for Main Street to be upgraded to a two-lane road, 30 metres wide from Maple Avenue to Sideroad 15, and eventually rebuilt to a four-lane highway to Sideroad 10. Town staff was recommending this design be endorsed because according to staff it is the environmentally safest way to accommodate future growth in Georgetown South.

The four-lane strip would only get the go-ahead when Georgetown South reached its residential development capacity and more than 50 per cent of its industrial capacity, according to a staff report. Town Engineer Bob Austin predicts this growth won't happen until after the year 2000, if at all.

Council's new non-committal stance on the plan means that the public has until April 8 to make written submissions to town staff outlining its concerns. Staff is then required to analyze the submissions and incorporate them into a report that would go before Town General Committee prior to June 1.

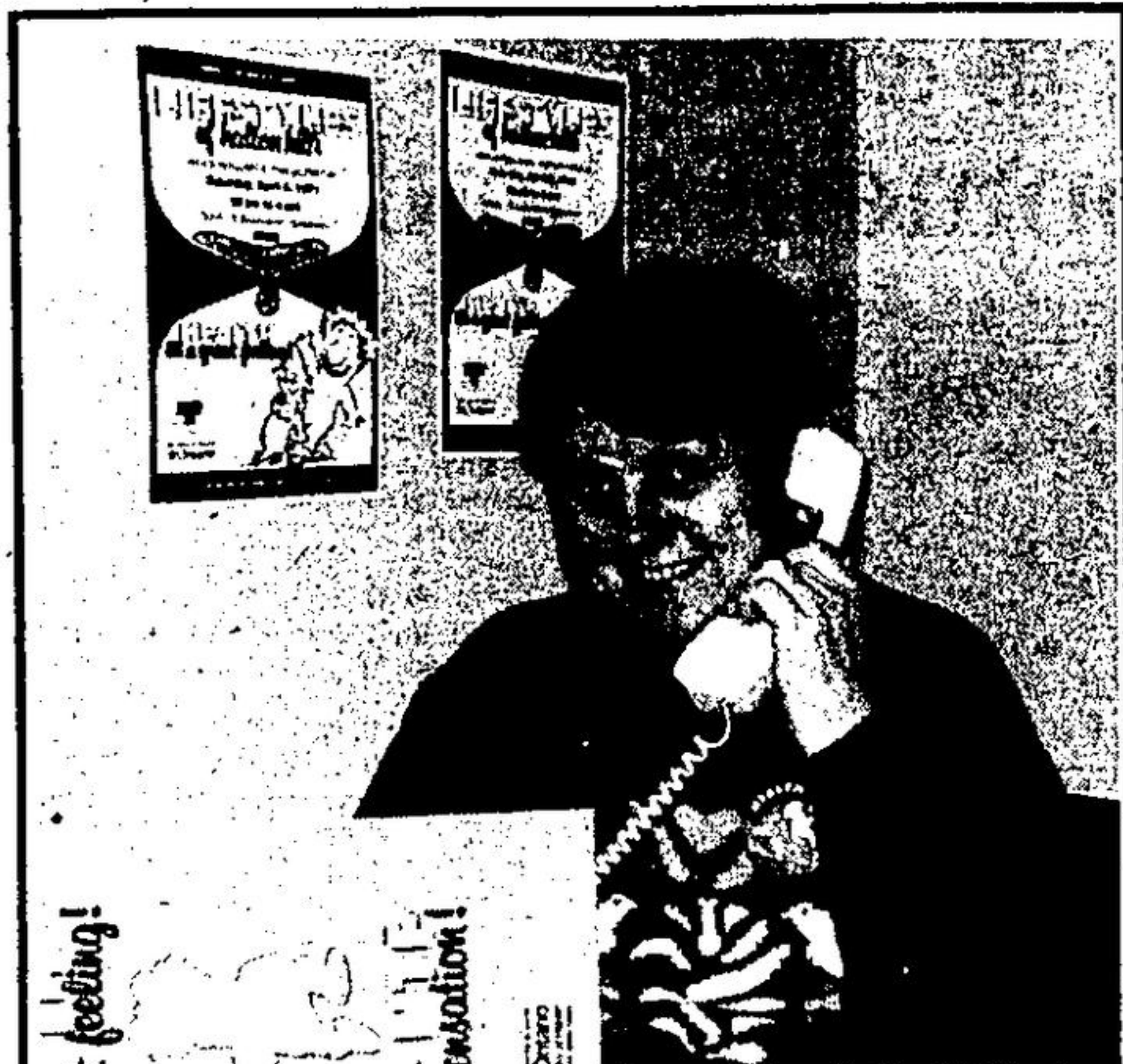
Mr. Austin wouldn't rule out the possibility of a new plan being recommended.

No one from the Engineering Department would comment on whether they supported or opposed council's decision.

Prior to council meeting, Mayor Russ Miller said a caucus meeting had been held to discuss, among other subjects, the Main Street construction plan and it was at that time councillors arrived at the approved compromise.

Not surprisingly, council held very little discussion before the vote.

Mayor Miller and Councillor Pat McCarthy said the decision proves Council is willing to listen to the public and that assurances have been taken so that whatever decision is made, it won't cost the Town more than what will be necessary.



Lifestyles Coordinator

Linda Parker, co-ordinator of the Halton Hills Lifestyle show to be held April 6 at Georgetown and District High School is busy working on putting a great show together for the public. But she says more displays and organizations are wanted to take part in the event to let people know what all Halton Hills has to offer. If your group, organization, club or service would like to be involved, please call Linda at the Civic Centre, Parks and Recreation Department at 873-2600. (Herald photo)

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