

# Community

## Seniors get support for local centres

By **BEN DUMMETT**  
The Herald

The Georgetown and District Seniors Association was calling their Wednesday meeting at Holy Cross Church an Information and Support meeting and support is exactly what they received from local politicians.

Halton Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy offered to sit on the Association's fund-raising committee this year if the seniors wanted him. He predicted that together "they could raise some significant dollars" that could go towards helping the seniors attain their goal of a senior centre in Georgetown.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller made a commitment to the 60 people attending the meeting that he would "do everything possible" to get senior centres built for both Georgetown and Acton.

The information and support meeting was meant to provide in-

formation to the Georgetown community about what goes on in a seniors centre and why one is needed for Georgetown.

Aside from Mayor Miller and Chairman Pomeroy, those who spoke at the meeting included North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Senior Affairs Reverend Dennis Drainville, Judy Lilly, member of the Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario, and Kenneth Bradshaw, chairman of the Legion Seniors program, District B, Ontario.

Mr. Duignan and Mr. Drainville each declared their support to the seniors and their attempt to establish a centre in Georgetown, but otherwise said they attended the meeting to learn more about what the seniors have done and what they need.

Ms. Lilly who is also the Recreation Supervisor for

Seniors in Oakville told the audience how the two senior centres in Oakville provide seniors ranging in age from 50 to over 100 with a community environment that doesn't isolate them from the community at large.

Physical exercise program, a meals a wheels program and other programs provide seniors with a chance to gain confidence to go out and live life to the fullest in the community, she said.

Mr. Bradshaw focused his talks on "grey power." As society becomes older, seniors are becoming a political lobby group with which to be reckoned, he said.

Citing statistics provided by Statistics Canada, Mr. Bradshaw said within 10 years, one in five Canadians will be seniors. This coupled with more people either choosing or being forced to take early retirement means there will be an ever-increasing need to provide seniors with a place where they can remain active, cultivate new interests or hobbies and meet people their own age, he said.

In his opening remarks, Association President Les Mellish stressed the association isn't a lobby group. The centre will not only be for today's seniors but also future generations, said Mr. Mellish.

Mayor Miller told the audience the cheapest way to establish a centre in Georgetown is to include the project in the twinning of the Gordon Alcott Arena. The recently approved Town Capital Budget Forecast states the twinning project isn't scheduled to happen until the year 2000.

Mayor Miller is hopeful the project can be pushed ahead four or five years to allowing for a centre perhaps by 1996.

The Mayor's plan calls for the Town to sell the Georgetown Memorial Arena and put the money towards construction of the centre, said Mayor Miller. He's hopeful Memorial Arena could be sold within the next three or four years. He warned, however, it will be up to the council of the day to make the final decision.

Most questions from the audience were aimed at Mayor Miller. They focused on why it will be at least four or five years for a centre to become a reality when seniors have been requesting a centre be built since 1987.

The Mayor responded by explaining that in the past other projects have taken priority. "The Town has to provide certain services while at the same time remaining responsible to the general taxpayer," he said.

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