

# the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

A Division of Canadian Newspaper Company Limited  
45 Guelph Street Georgetown Ontario L7G 3Z6

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Single Copy (in Stores) 25¢  
Halton... \$54.00 year  
\$29.00 six months  
\$16.00 three months  
Canada... \$60.00 year  
\$30.00 six months  
\$17.00 three months  
Foreign... \$170.00 year  
\$90.00 six months  
\$50.00 three months  
GST and Provincial Sales Tax  
where applicable are extra  
Second Class Mail  
Registered No. 0934

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## A thorny issue

To borrow quite liberally from the 'Bard'; to develop or not to develop, that is the hydra-headed question which will be facing Halton Hills voters when the November 12 municipal elections roll around.

As witnessed by the responses from those citizens polled in this week's Herald Community Forum (featured below), development is a thorny issue with hidden barbs which can prick the skin of the unsuspecting or naive and leave scars on a community which might never heal.

Is development a boon or a bane?

To a community, it can expand the tax base and ease the burden on the resident taxpayer. Commercial development can also provide jobs in a community - always desired - and can also attract new residents.

These new residents and commercial developments, in turn, can similarly benefit a community on a strictly monetary basis.

More tax revenue flows into the community government coffers and at the same time, local businesses benefit with more people willing to buy local wares.

There is a downside, however, and it is on this issue that the majority of the anti-development crusaders adamantly stand their ground. To a certain degree, they have an arguable point.

Unplanned or poorly planned development, can radically change the character of a community - for the worst, it should be noted.

One only has to look at the mess that is referred to as Bramalea, for a prime example of development gone awry.

However, properly conceived, regulated and supervised development can enhance a community to a degree where it not only retains its' historical roots and sense of character, but adds immeasurably to the conception of what a true community - catering to all within its environs - should really be about.

With the municipal election on the horizon, the future of Halton Hills should be discussed and those running for elected office should be required to answer questions relating to this concern.

If they can't provide answers, don't waste your vote.

If you don't want to ask the questions and demand answers: move to Bramalea.

### Community Forum

## Is development needed in Halton Hills?



**Eve Martin, Speyside:** "I think we need more nice affordable housing, not row houses, but something that looks better. A lot of people really need it these days."



**Debbie Titus, Georgetown:** "I think Halton Hills needs it, but I would prefer to keep Georgetown as a place with a small town atmosphere. A smaller place is nicer for the kids to grow up in."



**Tom Politti, Georgetown:** "Careful, well-planned development is needed. Affordable housing mixed in with other developments is something that could work well if done properly."



**Terry Hardman, Georgetown:** "No. I grew up in a small town and I'd like Georgetown and the area to stay the way it is."

## A FIRM, OLD-FASHIONED 'NYET'...



TOTTEN

## Peoples' Forum

# Disappointed with town visit

Dear Editor:

My children's annual visit to their grandparents in Georgetown is always a great week for both kids and grandparents alike. I won't bore you with the details of their exciting week but I would like to pass on some thoughts regarding one outing that was not so happy.

On August 9, my children were taken to the community high school swimming pool for an afternoon of public swimming.

During their swim, my son (age 13) had his three-week old expensive running shoes stolen, plus a gold chain and a purple LA Lakers basketball team hat. I guess it's a sign of the times but I don't think it makes it any easier to understand nor do I in any way condone it. What really confuses me is how these kids can still pass the stolen goods past their parents. Do parents not ask, where did you get those new shoes, hat or gold chain?

I guess the biggest message I take from what happened to my

son is that respect for others and their belongings is long gone amongst many of today's kids, teenagers, and adults. So remember, when you go out in public, don't leave anything around you value because it will disappear almost before your eyes.

Signed

Disappointed,

Jeff McKechnie, Markham

P.S. This is not meant to condemn all kids, only to point out that times really are changing.

## Shafted by town

Dear Editor:

A while ago, someone wrote in about the lack of ball fields in the area and the recreation director wrote back saying they are adequate.

I suppose it all depends on how you look at it. I play for the Radical Car Club in a slo-pitch league in Limehouse on Saturdays. We are supposed to have the park every Saturday for the season. If the Town does book it for a tournament, our league is supposed to be re-scheduled elsewhere at another diamond that's suitable.

The Town has taken Limehouse July 27, Aug. 10, and Aug. 17. Our league doesn't play on long weekends, and the only date they gave us another field was on the 17th of August in Norval, and the field there is not large enough for adults. That means our league last played on July 29th and won't play again until August 17 in a park that isn't fit.

Our league pays for the Limehouse park but we get shafted every season by the Town in a similar manner as this. I would like to see our league reimbursed by the Town for Saturdays we didn't play because they couldn't schedule the diamonds properly. Imagine, the whole league shut down for a month because of it. Sounds pretty adequate to me.

Bill Maveal,  
c/o Radical Car Club Baseball  
Team and Georgetown  
Inter-Plant Slo-Pitch.

## Cross-border shopping not helping Canadians

Dear Editor:

I don't quite understand why Canadians are shopping in the States as opposed to here at home.

Has the Canadian consumer ever taken the time to think that retailers are the very people who hire their children, hire lawyers, computer programmers, mechanics, brokers, and freight companies to name a few? They also plug their money into advertising agencies, buy media in newsprint, magazines, radio and TV, pay corporation, business and realty taxes for their business establishments. It does not stop here. They pay business insurance for all locations, vehicle insurance, inventory insurance, and in most cases a high rent to the landlord. This is just a small piece of the pie.

I have a great idea. Why doesn't the Canadian public wake up as to how their wage would drop if employed in the States and how without OHIP, medical costs would skyrocket. It is so obvious that it is much cheaper to operate a business there what

with the tax structure and other expenses being less financially draining than ours. I really feel sorry for any small business retailer to have to put up with all of this undeserved negative stress.

With business closing daily due to low consumer spending, surely we should be supporting our local businesses rather than helping shut down their doors for good. It is a myth that owning a retail business will make you wealthy. Most owners I have spoken to are barely able to pay their staff, let alone themselves. They are drained, physically, mentally and financially.

As more retailers are forced to close because they cannot pay their bills it will have a negative affect on many other businesses, families, and government services.

Have you ever heard the expression "What goes around, comes around."

Think about it.

A Concerned Citizen,  
L. Crozier,  
Georgetown.

## Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations.