

News at a Glance

Region Chairman downplays multi-unit police probe

By BEN DUMMETT

The Herald

Halton Region Chairman Peter Pomeroy questions the possibility of a link between the Arbor Valley Estate property in Georgetown and the ongoing police investigation into possible wrongdoings by Halton elected and non-elected officials.

"I think they (the two issues) are coincidental," said Chairman Pomeroy.

At a Regional Council meeting two weeks ago, the Arbor Valley Estate property formed the basis of a claim that developers have been pressuring Regional staff to find water to service Georgetown's growth. During that meeting, Oakville Regional Councillor John Graham said he was told the Arbor Valley Estate property was bought

only after promises were made that servicing would be in place for development to start in 1993.

Greg Spearn, Vice-President of Toronto-based company Bramalea Limited, owner of the Arbor Estate Valley property, denies his company received any promises concerning servicing.

The ongoing police investigation involves a special unit comprised of officers from Ontario Provincial Police, York Region Police and Metropolitan Toronto Police. Part of the unit's work deals with development issues.

Chairman Pomeroy said he heard about the investigation from a Halton ratepayer more than two weeks ago. He didn't reveal the person's name.

He also said he hasn't been con-



Pete Pomeroy

tacted by police nor has he heard of any Halton politician or staff being

contacted.

Meanwhile, representatives from Bramalea Limited are scheduled to meet with Arbor Valley Estates Ltd. representatives next week to discuss the outstanding mortgage on the Arbor Valley Estate property.

The need for the meeting results from the poor housing market situation, said Mr. Spearn.

According to land registry documents, Ontario numbered company 846611 Limited, a Bramalea-owned company, bought the property for \$11 million from Arbor Valley Estates Ltd., June 30, 1989.

Alexander Chelak is indicated in the documents as Arbor Valley Estates Ltd., President and Richard Morrow is identified as the company's Secretary-Treasurer.

The agreement called for the numbered company to pay Arbor Valley Estates Limited \$3.5 million. The numbered company took out a \$7.5 million mortgage with Arbor Valley Estates Ltd. to cover the remaining portion of the purchase price.

Asked if next week's meeting will centre on Bramalea walking away from the \$7.5 million mortgage, Mr. Spearn replied, "I don't want to comment on a legal question."

He did say a development application that had been filed with the Town of Halton Hills for the property has been withdrawn and the company has told Halton Hills Planning staff to close the Arbor Valley Estate file.

"We're re-thinking the project," said Mr. Spearn.

Hyde adamant despite miscue

Halton Hills Regional Councillor candidate Bill Hyde has no intention of withdrawing from the municipal election race despite a request he do so during Monday's Town Council meeting.

In response to campaign literature distributed by Mr. Hyde in which he claims the Town's 1990 tax increase was 16.1 per cent instead of 5.2 per cent as purported by Town council and staff, Acton Councillor Gerald Rennie said Mr. Hyde should withdraw his candidacy from the election.

Referring to Mr. Hyde's thinking as "muddled and dishonest," Coun. Rennie said, "Mr. Hyde would be serving the public interest if he withdrew from the race."

Mr. Hyde referred to Mr. Rennie's request as "rubbish" during an interview following the meeting.

After Coun. Rennie made his comments Mr. Hyde apologized to Council, acknowledging his calculation of the 1990 municipal tax increase was incorrect.

A shouting match between Acton Coun. Norm Elliott and Mr. Hyde then ensued concerning further claims made by Mr. Hyde concerning the town's tax rate. Mr. Hyde claimed the municipal average tax rate increased 9.73 per cent between 1985 and 1990.

However, Town documents obtained by the Herald indicate the average increase was nine per cent.

Town Mayor Russ Miller described the encounter between Mr. Hyde and Coun. Elliott as something he had never seen before during his 27-year political career.

In the end, Council passed a resolution calling for an affirmation of councillors' confidence in Town Treasurer Ray King, as well as, for the Town's 1990 budget report to be re-audited.

Proposal deferred

Town Council decided to defer ruling on an application to construct a garden centre at Tenth Line and Regional 23 in Halton Hills until late November.

Council made its decision after Paul Robinson, a representative of the property owner, said the proposal for a farm implement dealership has been dropped from the application.

A minority of councillors including Joe Hewitt, Marilyn Serjeantson, Al Cook and Rick Bonnette, opposed the application outright regardless of the proposed revisions.

Coun. Hewitt represented the minority viewpoint, saying he opposes further commercialization at the corner of Tenth Line and Regional Road 23.

Proclamations issued

Monday, Halton Hills Council proclaimed the week of Oct. 20 to Oct. 25 as the "Week of the Child" in Town.

Councillors also proclaimed Nov. 25 to 29 as "Youth Appreciation Week" in the Town of Halton Hills during the same meeting.

Strategy required

Town Council directed staff Mon-

day to contact Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. to find out when the development company's industrial lands in Georgetown South will be developed.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson stressed an industrial strategy must be developed for the lands in question.

She also raised concerns about the protection of a woodlot in the development area in light of ongoing residential construction in the area, and the garbage that continues to litter Mountainview Road South bordering the development.

Staff assured the councillor the matters raised would be further investigated.

Letter questioned

Commenting on a letter sent to the Town by Ontario Premier Bob Rae, Acton Coun. Gerald Rennie said Monday it appears the Premier is contradicting himself regarding the Acton dump proposal.

Coun. Rennie pointed out in one part of the letter Premier Rae writes the province is not considering Halton as a possible host Region for a Greater Toronto Area landfill. However in another part of the letter the Premier states the Acton Dump proposal is expected to go before a provincial board hearing to determine if the landfill should be permitted.

"The letter doesn't make sense," said Coun. Rennie.

Third Line update

Town Planner Arvin Prasad told Council Monday a court action against the Town filed with the Supreme Court of Ontario in 1975 concerning the closure of the Third Line near Highway 25 was settled out of court in 1981.

The court action centred around whether the Town had the right to permit the closure of the Third Line in order to permit the Acton quarry to be established.

Mr. Prasad told Council the lawsuit was eventually dropped. No costs were awarded in wake of the lawsuit being abandoned.

Mr. Prasad provided this information to Council because area residents had previously requested the information regarding the lawsuit be made public.

Candidates meeting

The Hickory Falls Ratepayers Association is hosting a municipal election rural area all-candidates meeting Oct. 23 at the Ballinacree Community Hall starting at 8 pm.

The debate will centre on rural issues, said association member Daphne Shropshall.

Rural candidates invited include Alf Spence, Rob Heaton, Kathy Gastle, Bill Robson, Joe Hewitt, Marilyn Serjeantson, Linda Walton and Al Pilutti. Both mayoralty candidates, incumbent Russ Miller and Rob Barlow have also been invited.

Ms. Shropshall said as of last Tuesday Mayor Miller and Ms. Serjeantson had declined the invitation due to prior engagements.



Occupied with occupational therapy

Hazel Vaz, an occupational therapist at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital, concentrates on hooking up a bio-feedback machine to patient Harmony Bull's arm. Miss Bull of Georgetown was involved in a tragic motor vehicle accident last year which left her left side paralyzed. But thanks in part to occupational therapy, she is regaining the use of her left arm and

adapting to its reduced function. Her success is highlighting this year's Occupational Therapy week from Oct. 21-25. The occupational therapy office at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital will be hosting an open house Oct. 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., to highlight Occupational Therapy Week. (Herald Photo)

New school for Georgetown

Georgetown may be getting a new kindergarten to Grade 8 school according to the Halton Board of Education's capital expenditure forecast for 1993-97.

According to the forecast, which lists capital projects to be funded by reserves or debentures in ad-

dition to requests for Ministry funding, one of the proposed projects is a school in Georgetown slated to be built in 1996.

The Georgetown school is one of 14 new schools listed as proposed projects with the majority of new schools (nine) to be built in Oak-

ville.

Estimated cost for the Georgetown school is \$13,600,000 and the board has estimated the local cost share at \$8,700,000.

For the complete story on the projected school, read next Wednesday's edition of the Halton Hills Herald.

Golf cart mystery is solved

Two Georgetown youths, aged 15 and 16, have been charged with two

counts of theft over \$1,000 and one count of possession over \$1,000 in connection with the theft of five golf carts from North Halton Golf and Country Club between Oct. 14 and 15.

Police say the thefts began in the middle of the night Oct. 14 when two youths used a jackknife to start up a golf cart and drove it around the golf course. This cart was returned but at the same time, two more carts were started up and driven off the course. One was later found abandoned in a farmers' field near Trafalgar Rd. and 15 Side road. The other eventually broke down and was abandoned in Cedarvale Park.

Later the same night, police

believe the same youths returned and stole two more carts and hid them. The culprits later returned and began joy-riding them down Maple Avenue near 15 Side road where they were seen by a passing motorist who called police.

Police responded and apprehended two youths who were still wheeling the carts down the road.

Two golf carts, valued at \$9,000 were recovered and the youths taken to Halton Regional Police station in Georgetown and charged. One of the youths was also charged with breach of probation.

Foot clinic

The Victorian Order of Nurses, Halton Branch, will hold a Foot Care Clinic at the following location. The cost is \$15.00.

For further information and appointment please call 1-800-387-7127 and 7128.

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital - Emergency Department, Georgetown, Ontario, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., November 5 and November 19, 1991.