

Grey power: real, effective and needed

Seniors for the Future

By FLORENCE WILKINSON
Herald Special

I heard a true story the other day which illustrates just one of the reasons why Canadians must learn to be more accepting of each other. Our way of living, our heritage in work and values vary so much across the country that we must all practise patience and wisdom. However, this story illustrates how much one's ignorance - unnecessary ignorance - combined with a misplaced zeal, can be a real hindrance to Canadian wholeness as a nation.

This event took place in southwestern Ontario at a farmer's meeting which drew farmers from a long distance. It obviously drew others from long distances as well, for the woman involved came from around Ottawa. This woman was holding forth with great vigour about farmers who really didn't have to work nearly as hard as they professed, were able to take long holidays in the sun, and really had no reason to be talking about what a rough time they were having at this time.

A milk producer stood up to tell her that he had to milk his cows twice a day 365 days of the year, and that the cows had to be milked at the same time each day, and that he would suggest to her

that anyone living on a dairy farm certainly worked hard.

Believe it or not, the woman rebuffed this farmer by scoffing at his statement about having to work 365 days a year. Anyone, she said, knew that dairy farmers didn't have to work in the winter, because people used powdered milk in the wintertime.

Now I ask you, how has the older generation failed in order that anyone would grow up with such an ignorance in this, our great and wonderful country of Canada? Is it any wonder that the farmers get annoyed and hopeless in a society that breeds - and harbors - such ignorance?

Older citizens have lived through mind-boggling technical changes in a lifetime, but even so, the formative years were lived in what might be called a rural society. As society has become urbanized, even in the farming communities, apparently something has been lost for the generation or generations which have grown up in a completely urbanized society. It seems to me that this is one of the things which Canadians need to face as they continue to discuss the future of our land. Since seniors have the advantage of having lived during the times that even cities were fairly rural minded, through the

change over times, and into the times that even the farming communities have become urbanized, our input may be essential to the broad and long view needed in any talks about the future of Canada.

It is easy for those who have always lived in towns to tell of how much a loaf of bread used to cost, and the escalation in price over the years. However, it is not nearly as easy to see how little of that escalation in cost gets back to the producer. Our mania for having things wrapped, tagged and identified has absorbed the most of the added cost. My personal experience has been in the sale of vegetables, and I know how true it is that the producer has not shared in much of the increase which the consumer pays. At the same time, the consumer is demanding the kind of wages which puts EVERY cost to the producer skyrocketing.

The public needs to learn that even powdered milk has to come from the cows in the beginning. There is a need in our country, and around the developed world, to make our urbanized society aware of just how much they depend upon the farmers of the world - either our own world or the third world - and help society develop a mind-set which will include a reasonable percentage of its income toward the food industry, so that the food industry can survive. Perhaps it is not just

the price to be considered, but also the amount of services we all demand around the servicing of the food for consumer purchase.

My contention is that seniors have lived through enough changes that their wisdom can be helpful at these times. Those of us that have survived up to now know that we survived in spite of bulk food distribution, food on

open shelves, people sneezing over those shelves and children's hands able to touch. In Georgetown, we do not have a centralized structure to promote seniors meetings about such subjects, but seniors can be part of any type of meeting and part of community input whenever the occasion arises. Grey power is real and effective and needed.

Seniors will find information now more accessible at library

Local seniors are finding library resources more accessible, because of a joint program put on by Halton Libraries, the Ministry of Citizenship's Office for Senior's Issues (OFSI) and the Elderly Services Advisory Committee (ESAC).

Established in November 1990, the Seniors Resource Centre, is coming up to its first year anniversary and is receiving nothing but praise.

The program allows materials of interest to seniors, their families and senior careworkers, that would otherwise be stored in Toronto, to be now stored in libraries in Halton Hills, Oakville and Milton. Burlington residents may borrow the materials through inter-library loans.

"Many government offices create a wealth of information and they did not know how to distribute the information," said Betsy Cornwell, Halton Hills Chief Librarian. "They thought it was a novel idea that they could use the existing services, such as the library. It cut their distribution charges to zilch," she said.

It was a joint brainstorm to bring more accessibility of the materials to seniors, said Joan Kaczmariski, co-ordinator of Senior and Disability Services.

"The problem was, to borrow resources, you had to put your request in writing and send it to Toronto. The program now allows you to borrow material the same way you borrow any book. There is no writing hassle and the material cannot be lost in the mail. You know where to bring it back too," said Ms. Kaczmariski.

The idea was first introduced at an ESAC committee meeting, of which Ms. Cornwell is a member. OFSI wanted a wider circulation for its material than its own channels were providing.

Ms. Cornwell said the office was looking towards different social service agencies, when ESAC heard about the search and brought the suggestion of housing the materials in the libraries.

"OFSI had a library of information and the library had the capacity to manage it," said Ms. Cornwell.

The video selection is more widely used. The printed materials are more specialized, such as

training and handbooks for senior careworkers.

On-going evaluations of the program were made at the Oakville library since they house a majority of the video selections. Duplicates will be made so libraries in Halton

Hills and Milton will be able to distribute them without inter-library loans.


A recently completed annotated bibliography is available, which gives a detailed description of every source.



CANADIAN TIRE
GEORGETOWN LOCATION
236 Guelph St., Georgetown

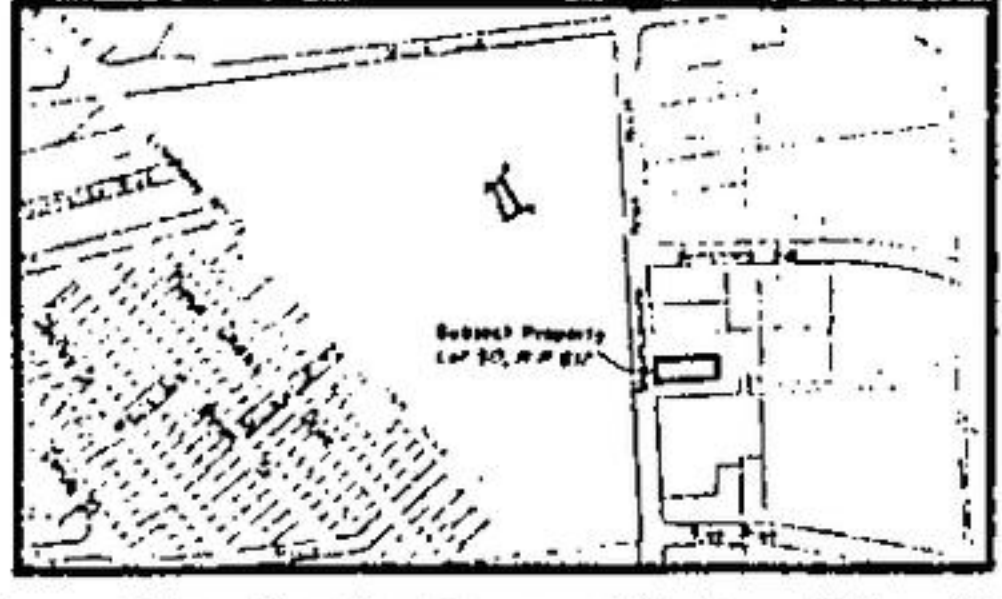


OPEN SUNDAY
10 AM - 5 PM



THE CORPORATION OF THE
Town of Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive - P.O. Box 128
HALTON HILLS (Georgetown), Ontario L7G 5G2
873-2600

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
WARD 3 / MOUNTAINVIEW ROAD / TODD ROAD




General Committee for the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss a proposed amendment to the Halton Hills Official Plan and Georgetown Zoning By-law 57-91 to permit a one storey commercial building for retail purposes.

The property is located on Mountainview Road, north of Todd Road in Georgetown. The property has a municipal address of 47 Mountainview Road North, Georgetown. The purpose of the rezoning application is to zone the property to a Commercial Zone in order to permit a range of retail uses.

Further information is available in the Planning Department.
ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME.

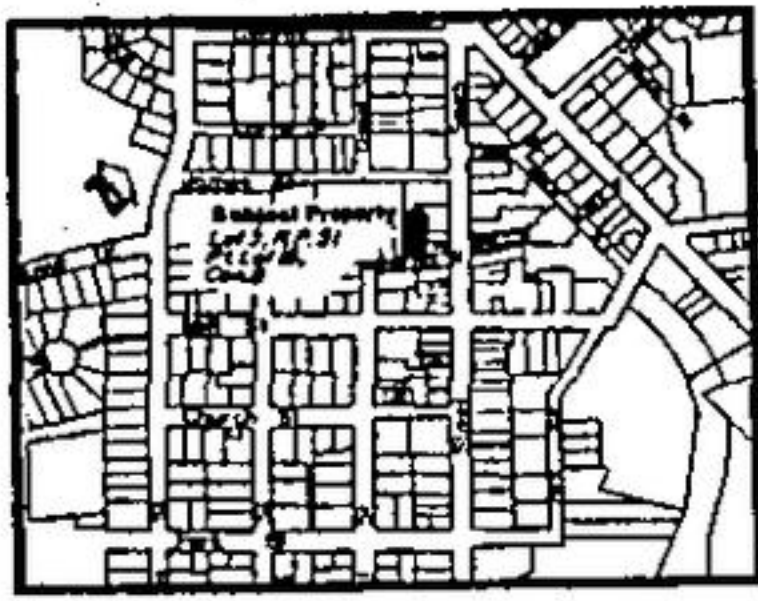
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Date: Monday, January 20, 1992
Location: Council Chamber
Halton Hills Civic Centre
1 Halton Hills Drive
Halton Hills (Georgetown)

File No: D09/SILVER CREEK CONSTRUCTION AD No. 1441



THE CORPORATION OF THE
Town of Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive P.O. Box 128
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
WARD 3 / WESLEYAN STREET / MAIN STREET




General Committee for the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss a proposed amendment to Zoning By-law 57-91.

The proposed rezoning involves lands described as Part of Lot 3, Registered Plan 51, and Part Lot 19, Concession 8, Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown). The property's municipal address is 12 Wesleyan Street, Georgetown. The purpose of the rezoning application is to zone the property to a General Commercial Special - "C2-1" Zone in order to permit two additional residential units in the existing building.

Further information is available in the Planning Department.
ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME.

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Date: Monday, January 6, 1992
Location: Council Chamber
Halton Hills Civic Centre
1 Halton Hills Drive
Halton Hills (Georgetown)

File No: D14/EUTENIER AD No. 1449



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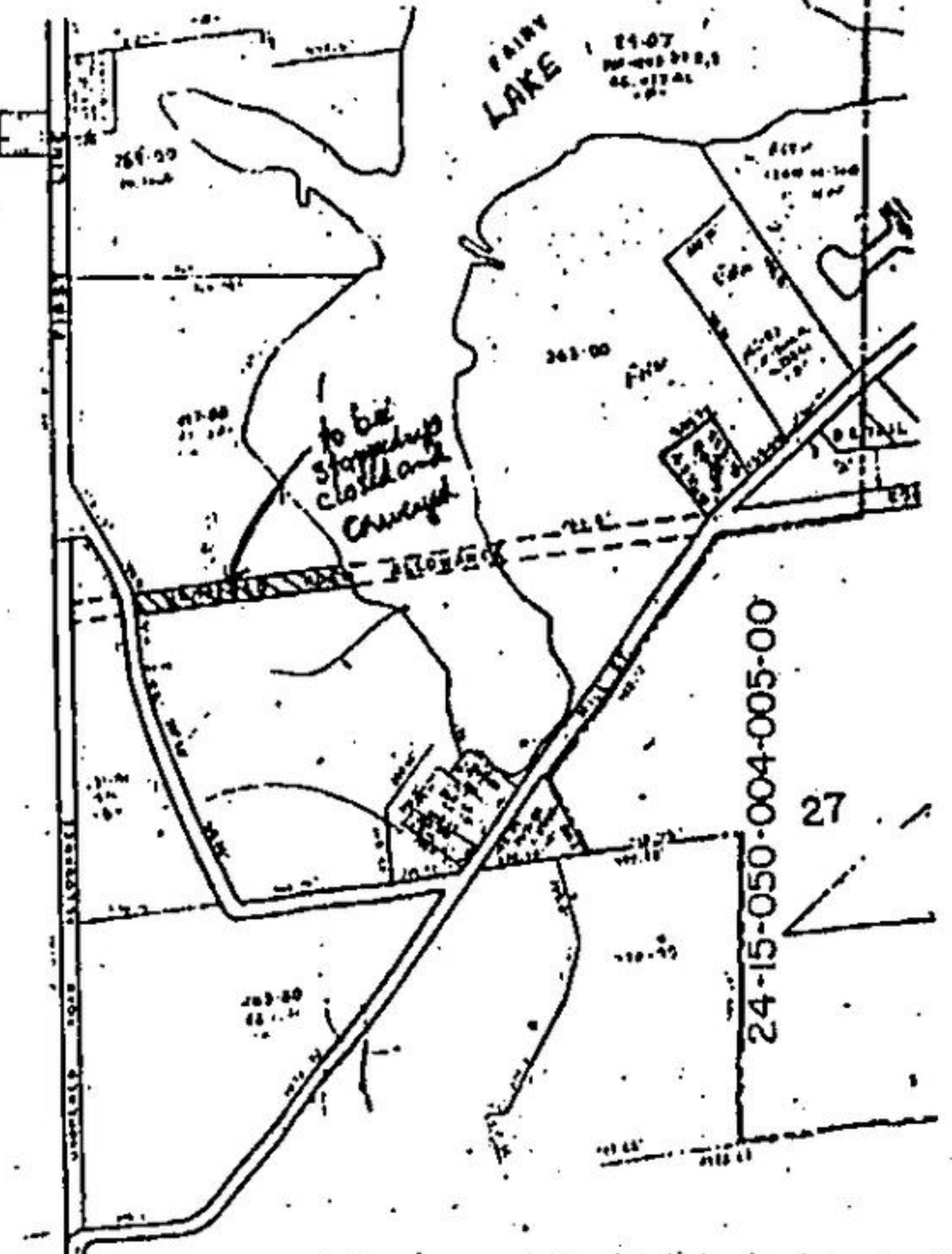
NOTICE

Notice of intention to stop up, close and convey a portion of the unopened road allowance between Lots 27 and 28, Concession 2, Town of Halton Hills.

The Council or a Committee of Council will hear any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected by the By-law and who applies to be heard at its regular meeting, to be held in the Council Chambers at the Civic Centre located at 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown, the 13th day of January, 1992, at the hour of 7:00 p.m.

This notice was first published on the 11th day of December 1991.

Janet Lunn Stewart
Clerk for the Corporation of
the Town of Halton Hills



AD NO. 1448