

Permission granted for trades people directory

At the urging of Acton councillor Rick Bonnette, council gave permission Monday to the Halton Hills Construction Association to establish a directory comprised of the local tradespeople.

Speaking on the association's behalf, Kent McClure said the group supports Mr. Bonnette's idea and is willing to put together the directory at no cost to the town.

The initiative is meant to note local trades available to general public and developers.

Mr. McClure assured councillors all tradespeople will be included in the directory, whether or not they are association members.

Council gave approval for copies of the directory to be placed at the town Building and Planning Departments, as well as at all Site Plan Committee meetings.

Application deferred

At the request of David McNally, of McNally Construction in Georgetown, Council, Monday, deferred dealing with an application to build a shopping plaza on Guelph Street beside Neilsons.

McNally Construction is requesting a rezoning and an amendment to the town's Official Plan to



build a 10,000 square foot shopping plaza at the Guelph Street location.

The property is currently empty. Mr. McNally requested the application be deferred a month because the owners of Georgetown Market Place want to meet with Mr. McNally to discuss the proposal.

The request was also made, he said, because several town councillors wanted more time to review the staff report on the application.

Mr. McNally said if council eventually approves the application,

construction wouldn't go ahead for at least two years.

Crossing guard requested

Georgetown resident Tom Politi requested Monday, council hire a full-time crossing guard for Rexway Drive at Harrison Public School.

While acknowledging council is facing budgetary constraints, Mr. Politi said the children's safety should be of utmost concern.

Town Engineer Bob Austin told council staff is investigating the possibility of installing a full-time crossing guard on Rexway Drive and a report is forthcoming.

Declarations

At the request of Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and Jack Carpenter of CFCA Radio Station, town council, Monday, declared Feb. 6 as 'Lighten up Canada Day' in Halton Hills. In celebration of the day, people are being requested to wear a red nose Feb. 6.

Other declarations approved Monday include the month of April as 'Cancer Month' and April 6 as 'Tartan Day' in Halton Hills.

Traffic light rejected

Halton Hills Council learned Monday the provincial Ministry of Transportation refuses to fund the installation of an amber flashing light at Highway 25 and Regional Road 15 in Speyside.

According to a staff report, the ministry doesn't believe the light is warranted.

Council made no decision on whether it would fund the \$5,000 project.

Bylaw requested

Town Coun. Ron Chatten requested, Monday, the town's Snow Clearing Committee investigate the possibility of establishing a bylaw requiring people to clear their sidewalks.

All people, but especially seniors, can't get around if sidewalks aren't cleared, said Coun. Chatten.

Promotion plan

In order to promote Georgetown's downtown core, councillors agreed, Monday, regular meetings should be held between the Business Improvement Area, the owners of buildings on Main Street and council.

"We have to work together (to improve the area)," said Mayor Russ Miller.

For her part Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson issued a challenge to the BIA to adopt a motto saying downtown merchants provide friendly service.

Resolution approved

At the urging of town Coun. Pam Johnston, council approved a resolution Monday calling for those trees destroyed by road widening projects to be replaced whenever possible.

Coun. Johnston said she introduced the resolution as a way of protecting Halton Hills' rural atmosphere.

Region taxes could increase

A fairer way of determining the combined Halton Regional and educational tax rate will require local residents to pay, in total, an additional \$75,919 in taxes, Regional Council learned Wednesday.

The system, which Halton-Peel Assessment Office Commissioner, John Yeoman outlined at Wednesday's meeting, is based on property tax assessment reflecting the market value of all houses across the Region.

For example, under the proposed assessment program, owners throughout the Region of a \$200,000 house would pay the same amount in Regional and education taxes.

Under the current tax assessment system, the amount of Regional and education tax the owner of a \$200,000 house pays depends on the house's location.

The reason being, each of Halton's four municipalities base their tax assessment on different figures. In other words the value of particular properties, depending on their location, reflect a market value in accordance with a base year.

The base year for Halton Hills is 1980, while Milton's base year is 1975.

The overall result is that those owners with homes valued at the same price in Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville have been paying less in taxes than their counterparts in Burlington.

The new system would result in Burlington residents receiving a reduction in the amount of tax they pay.

Halton Regional Council requested in 1990 that the Halton-Peel Tax Assessment Office Commissioner outline the new system to council as a possible way of addressing the inequities in the current system.

While the new program calls for Halton Hills residents as a whole to pay additional money in taxes, local owners of commercial space will actually see a drop in the amount of tax they pay.

Commercial space owners will pay a total of seven per cent less in Regional and educational tax under the new system.

Regional council will wait to hear from local councils about the new system before considering if it should be adopted. If adopted, the system wouldn't take effect until 1993.

The new system is expected to be presented to Halton Hills Council sometime next month.

\$1,400 conference

Halton Hills Regional Councillor Pam Johnston will be able to attend the first multi-disciplinary conference on victimization and

recovery in Victoria British Columbia after all.

Regional council approved Wednesday the \$1,400 expense to send Coun. Johnston to the conference.

However, not all were in favor of the expense.

Burlington Regional Councillor Tony Whitworth said the matter should be deferred to budget committee for consideration.

It didn't make sense to approve a 1992 expenditure before the budget had been passed, said Coun. Whitworth.

The conference's purpose is to provide ways municipalities can adopt to deal with family violence, according to a Regional staff report.

While acknowledging the conference's importance, Burlington Regional Coun. Doug Greenaway opposed the expenditure, saying in these tough budgetary times, fiscal restraint should take priority.

However, the majority of councillors agreed family violence is such an important issue that a councillor should be allowed to attend the conference.

Coun. Johnston's intention to write a comprehensive report on the outcome of the conference also attributed to council approving the expenditure.

Hearing requested

As a result of a Regional Planning and Public Works in-camera meeting, Regional council directed staff Wednesday to request the province hold an Environmental Assessment hearing on the Acton

dump proposal.

An in-camera meeting is closed to the public and press.

Questioned why the meeting was held in-camera, Regional staff said it would have been unwise to prematurely expose the Region's legal strategy to fight the dump proposal.

Budget sent back

Regional council Wednesday ordered the proposed Halton Region Police 1992 budget increase of 12 per cent be sent back to the Halton Police Services Board.

Regional council wants the board to make cuts to the proposed budget, thereby decreasing the 12 per cent increase.

The police budget comprises over 50 per cent of the Region's total operating budget.

On the matter of a related issue, Regional council rejected calls for staff to draw up an operating budget scenario in which there would be no increase for 1992.

A majority of councillors agreed the request would be a waste of staff time.

It's up to the political will of Regional council to come up with this type of budget, councillors decided.

Finally, council rejected a proposal for councillors' salaries to increase by no more than two per cent this year.

Council rejected the request because Regional budget committee is already considering what, if any, salary increase, councillors should receive this year.

— HYDRO BALLOT —

The Herald, as outlined in last week's editorial, supports Halton Hills Hydro Commission's objective to have residential hydro rates exempted from the GST. We have no problem with the GST being applied to non-residential rates as it is a flow through tax in this case.

Indicate below if you agree or disagree with the local utility's objective.

Then let the Halton Hills Hydro Commission know your position by including the ballot with your next hydro payment.

"YES OR NO ON THE GST"

- YES, I agree with Halton Hills Hydro Commission's objective.
- NO, I disagree with Halton Hills Hydro Commission's objective.

Mail to: HALTON HILLS HYDRO COMMISSION
43 Alice Street,
Acton, Ontario
L7J 2A9

target food stores
OPEN 24 HRS.
7 DAYS A WEEK
51 GUELPH ST., GEORGETOWN

POSTAGE BLOWOUT

THIS YEAR'S POSTAGE AT LAST YEAR'S PRICES

New Prices: Effective Jan. 1, 1992
Can. 42¢ U.S.A. 48¢ International 84¢
Buy 10-40¢ stamps (Can.) now and receive remaining postage FREE (value \$4.20)

DELREX SMOKE SHOP
GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE
877-9284 (FAX SERVICE AVAILABLE)

We offer businesses 5% discounts on stamps