

News at a Glance

Citizen of the Year



LENA JOHNSTON

The 1991 Georgetown Lions Club Citizen of the Year is long-time resident Lena Johnston, the club announced Wednesday.

"I was absolutely shocked when they called me today (Wednesday)," said Mrs. Johnston during a telephone interview.

Acknowledging she likes to keep herself busy, Ms. Johnston, added "I certainly don't publicize it."

For those who have never come in contact with the mother of two, grandmother of five and a great grandmother of three, the term 'volunteer dynamo' best describes this woman.

Ms. Johnston, who is a widow, arrived in Georgetown in 1946 and since that time, has never slowed down.

One of the highlights of her extensive volunteer work has come about because of her association with the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital and the Bennett Health Care Centre, said Mrs. Johnston.

She is a recipient of a special award in recognition of 30 years of continuous service with the hospital auxiliary.

Mrs. Johnston currently does volunteer work at the hospital and Bennett Health Care Centre.

Playing down her work at the hospital, Ms. Johnston also acknowledged she knits clothes for babies, and blankets for residents at the health care centre.

Until receiving Wednesday's telephone call from Lion's club member Mark Rush, Mrs. Johnston said she had no previous knowledge of even being nominated for the prestigious award.

"I had no idea," she said.

Contacted Wednesday, Mr. Rush said it was the scope of Mrs. Johnston's volunteer work that led to her being chosen as Citizen of the Year.

To choose the Citizen of the Year recipient, the club looks at those who have contributed outstanding service to the community on a volunteer basis, said Mr. Rush.

"It's hard to imagine she had time to do it all and still have time to raise two children," Mr. Rush said incredulously.

When informed of this comment, Ms. Johnston replied; "Oh come on. You have to keep busy."

And busy she has been.

Aside from her work with the hospital, Ms. Johnston has also been active with the local chapter of the Red Cross, the local seniors club, Bells and Bows, the United Seniors of Ontario, and the Rebecca Lodge from which she received the highest honor - Degree of Chivalry.

To have carried this workload over so many years would be hard enough for most, but not Ms. Johnston. She also ran a grocery store on King Street for several years.

Asked if she would recommend volunteering to others?, "most certainly," replied Ms. Johnston.

"There is no sense sitting at home doing nothing," she said.

The award will be presented March 3 during a special banquet dinner at the Lions Club Hall on Mill Street in Georgetown.

Tickets are \$12.50 per person and can be purchased at the Lions Club Hall, Barrager Cleaners, the Carpet Barn, or the law firm, Helson, Kogon, Ashbee, Schaljo.

For more ticket information call Mark Rush at 877-5206.

Robson questions Hewitt's association with developer

The town committee recently organized to encourage local industrial and commercial activity got off to a rocky start at its first meeting Tuesday.

Committee members met with representatives of Toronto-based Law Development Group to discuss the architectural design of the company's proposed housing development off Trafalgar Road in Georgetown West.

However, committee chairperson, Bill Robson said Wednesday, the project may be jeopardized due to a negative public perception of the project arising out of the fact that a former regional councillor has been retained by the company.

The employee in question is former Halton Hills Regional Councillor Joe Hewitt.

Coun. Robson, who defeated Mr. Hewitt in the November municipal election, said it's morally and ethically wrong for a former councillor to work for a developer who has interests in the former councillor's community.

A person in this position may attempt to ask favors of his former



BILL ROBSON

colleagues in order to help a development proposal be approved, said Mr. Robson.

"I'm not saying this will happen, but it may," he continued.

Mr. Robson thinks former councillors shouldn't be permitted to work for a developer who has interests in that person's community for at least a year after the person's defeat in an election.

Other councillors, who also at-

tended Tuesday's meeting, however, don't share their colleague's concern.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson said Wednesday, "What councillors do after they are defeated is up to them."

Coun. Norm Elliott agreed saying, "I had no problem with Mr. Hewitt when he was on council and I don't have any problem with what he is doing now."

It doesn't surprise Coun. Elliott that Mr. Hewitt was hired by the development company since he knows the political process.

Coun. Elliott also pointed out former Halton Hills municipal staff have been hired by developers in the past, for the very same reason.

Although he arrived late to the meeting, Coun. Elliott said Mr. Hewitt said little during the meeting.

Mr. Hewitt was one of six people representing Law Development, including its owner Larry Law.

Mr. Law did most of the talking, said Coun. Elliott.

Neither Mr. Law nor Mr. Hewitt could be reached for comment at press time.

Region budget under fire

Halton's Budget Review Committee faces some tough decisions in order to keep the 1992 tax hike in line with inflation, said regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy following Wednesday's council meeting.

Chairman Pomeroy made this statement in response to several expenditures dealt with during the regional council meeting.

At Wednesday's meeting, council approved several expenditures, subject to review by the budget review committee.

This committee was formed to consider all Regional expenditures in an attempt to itemize them in order of importance.

Although Halton council, as a whole, has final approval over the 1992 tax hike, its decision will be based on the budget review committee's recommendation.

The expenditures approved Wednesday for the committee's review include, more than \$26,000 in agricultural grants, an \$11,300 grant to the Niagara and Mid-Western Travel Association, a \$37,553 grant to the Halton Region Safety Council and \$493,400 to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington.

These grant requests coupled with the Region's obligation under provincial legislation to fund the Halton Region Police Services Board and 20 per cent of the Region's Children's Aid Society budget don't leave much room to cut expenditures, said Chairman Pomeroy.



PETE POMEROY

He points out the police and social service budgets, such as that of the Halton Children's Aid Society, over which regional council has no control, account for well over 50 per cent of Halton's yearly operating expenses.

The fact that council approved for review several grants on top of the Region's other expenses means council is sending mixed signals to the budget review committee, he said.

On the one hand council won't accept a large 1992 tax hike, yet it is requesting the review committee consider an array of possible expenditures, explained Chairman Pomeroy.

"It's making it very tough for the (budget review) committee," he added.

Silver Creek Association backed by MNR biologist

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources supported the position of local environmental group Silver Creek Association Wednesday, that an ecosystem approach should be employed in making development decisions.

The ecosystem approach is based on the premise that before development can take place the ecology of an area must be thoroughly understood, explained MNR Biologist Jack Imhof.

The idea being, any development project will forever change an area's natural state to some extent, he said.

By understanding the ecology of an area, said Mr. Imhof, planners and developers will know beforehand to what extent the natural features of an area will be negatively affected.

The biologist provided this explanation of the ecosystem approach during the association's Wednesday meeting at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre.

The town should adopt the ecosystem approach to ensure the community's natural features are protected, said association interim

President Ashley Hanson following the meeting.

Neophyte councillors, Gail Rutherford and Kathy Gastle, who were two of the approximate 50 people attending the meeting, said they also support the town's adoption of an ecosystem approach to planning.

Asked if she thinks the town has been employing an ecosystem approach to date, Coun. Rutherford said no.

"I think they (town planning staff) take the environment into consideration (when considering development proposals), but not to the level advocated by the MNR," said Coun. Rutherford.

Coun. Gastle concurred saying it appears the town planning staff isn't following an ecosystem approach.

Coun. Rutherford explained instead of looking at the natural environment in its totality, planning staff only considers specific areas depending on the development project, she explained.

As well, said Coun. Rutherford, consideration for the environment appears to happen only after the town has started to process a

development application.

To improve the situation, the town should first take an inventory of the community's natural features before allowing further development, said Coun. Rutherford.

Unlike Coun. Rutherford, Town Planning Director Ian Keith says the town is following an ecosystem approach and has been since at least 1982.

In considering development applications, the town has always recognized the community's valley systems must be maintained and not damaged by construction activity.

With respect to the town's ongoing urban area structure review, Mr. Keith said, a full blown environmental assessment is unnecessary in identifying where further development should proceed in the Georgetown and Acton urban areas.

An environmental assessment of these two areas is unnecessary because they have been chosen for urban development since the town adopted its official plan in 1982, he explained.

Special campaign

A new committee, called 'Wheels for Matthew Committee' has been formed to raise \$20,000 in order to buy a special van for Matthew Fleet of Acton.

Matthew, 19, is partially paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair since he was involved in a swimming accident in 1988.

Matthew hopes to attend univer-

sity this fall but cannot unless he has transportation. He also hopes to once again, become involved in the community.

The committee hopes to be able to purchase the special van by this fall and is planning several fundraising events. For more information on Matthew and the committee, read the Halton Hills Herald this Wednesday.

Body discovered

A 30-year-old Hamilton woman was found dead at the base of Rattlesnake Point in the Kelso Conservation Area Tuesday say Halton Regional Police.

Police were called to the Conservation Area by area authorities when a parked car had not been picked up after 24 hours.

Police tried unsuccessfully to

contact the owner and then searched the area. Shortly after, the woman's body was found at the base of a cliff.

Foul play is not suspected but police are continuing their investigation.

There was no indication the woman was with anybody or that she was rock-climbing say police.