



GEORGETOWN'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mani Matera, chairman of the Georgetown Citizen of the Year selection committee, presented Slena VanHoekelen with a commemorative plaque at a reception Tuesday. The Georgetown Lions sponsor the award.

SCOTT KLINE Halton Hills Weekend

Town approves controversial Main St. reconstruction plan

By STUART JOHNSTON
Despite a wall of public opposition, Town councillors tentatively approved Tuesday a long range plan to reconstruct Main St. south into four lanes.
Staff and consultants outlined the preferred design concept at the Civic Centre Tuesday night, noting the proposed expansion of Main St. will depend entirely on the rate of residential and industrial/commercial growth in Georgetown South.
Plans include widening the Eighth Line to four lanes from 10 Sdrd. north to 15 Sdrd., and reconstructing the existing two lanes from 15 Sdrd. to Maple Ave. However, according to Town Engineer Bob Austin, most of the proposed work will probably not begin until the turn of the century, if at all.
Council gave the green light to the preferred alternative, which also allows the Engineering Department to determine possible environmental impacts of the road widenings on Silver Creek, Black Creek and 16 Mile Creek.
When the study is completed, it will be available in the clerk's office for public review for 30 days, during which time a full environmental assessment may be requested. If no request is made, then

a detailed design will be drafted. The proposal is controversial because it possibly involves re-routing Silver Creek, or removing the weir altogether.
Many residents expressed their fears to council that the environment — and rural setting — of the Eighth Line will not be adequately protected, and urged council to conduct an environmental assessment before approving the design concept.
Resident Marilyn King insisted that approving the design prior to an environmental study violates the Environmental Protection Act.
"The Ontario Municipal Board says that by putting planning approvals ahead puts undue pressure on the class Environmental Assessment process," she said.
Councillor Pat McCarthy agreed, and questioned why council was reviewing the proposal now, when the work will not even begin for several years.
McCarthy suggested that a full environmental assessment be conducted first to decide if the proposal is, indeed, the "preferred alternative." Council, however, defeated the motion.
But, the study is to assess the impact of the preferred design on the environment, and not the other way around, according to Peter

Linn, manager of engineering services.
Consultant Jim Powell noted that, in designing the concept, environmental concerns have already been fully addressed, from a "technical point of view."
"I feel with the information here, and the process we followed so far, it would stand up to the scrutiny of a full environmental assessment," he said.
Austin added that the proposal will be "out of council's hands" once the environmental study is completed, so the design concept is "the last kick of the cat."
"As best I know, and from information from the Ministry of Environment, we are following the intent and spirit of the Environmental Assessment Act," he said. "It was staff's opinion to come here tonight to get council and the public up to speed on the project."

Major job creation

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hospital construction. All of the capital projects are expected to stimulate the economy and double the present employment in Halton Region, according to Pomeroy.
"It will be a major job creation for the region in this slow, economic period," he said.
An increase of 5.7 per cent in grants, totalling \$1.2 million, is also a part of this year's budget. The Royal Botanical Gardens, Halton Safety Council, agricultural groups and over 50 social service agencies are among those organizations that will receive grants.

Car damaged

A 1989 Oldsmobile Cutlass sustained about \$200 damage when someone ripped off the antenna and windshield wipers. The vehicle was parked in the area of Park St. and Knox Ave., Acton Tuesday evening.

'Pink Slip Parade' is coming to town

The Georgetown constituency office of Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner will be the site for a Free Trade protest next Friday.
Called the Pink Slip Parade, a group of CAW/TCA workers and citizens are marching from Windsor and stopping off in different locales to protest the number of jobs lost due to lay-offs and plant closures under the Free Trade Agreement.
The protest comes in the form of street theatre by the Little Peoples Theatre. Plus bystanders will be able to join in and show their support by signing a life-size card designed by the group.
The protest presentation at Turner office is expected to begin at 9:30 a.m. From there they will move on to Brampton and Mississauga. On Saturday, March 15, a mass rally will be held at Queen's Park.

Georgetown

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