



At the annual meeting of Georgetown District and Memorial Hospital board, the new executive for the incoming year assembled for a photo. Members include, front, from left, Dr. Don Trant, Chief of Staff, Connell Smith, the new chairman, Graeme Goebelle, outgoing chairman, and Executive Director John Oliver. In back, Beth Avis-

Belgium, chairman of Community Relations, Barry Kedwell, chairman of Finance, John McNally, chairman of Strategic Planning and Marilyn Mitton, vice chairman of Board and chairman of Quality Assurance.

TED BROWN Halton Hills Weekend

OMB hearing on Beechbrooke begins

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

The Ontario Municipal Board hearing into a 62 acre estate development on the Eighth Line near Ballinacree began Wednesday, carried on all day Thursday and Friday, and is expected to continue August 3 to 14.

While the Town of Halton Hills supports the proposed development known as Beechbrooke, it's opposed by the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Hickory Falls Ratepayers Association, which does not want to see the rural character changed by an estate development.

The property is 103 acres on Eighth Line, south of Town Line Rd., about half way between Georgetown and Acton, close to Ballinacree. Sixty-two acres at the front of the property is designated as rural, and owner Lois McClure who spoke at the hearing Wednesday morning, noted they're asking for a designation change to allow for estate development. The 20 proposed lots would vary from 1.5 acres to 5.4 acres, with the average size at about three acres. The residences would be on individual wells and septic tanks, McClure said.

The eastern portion of the property is designated as

Escarpment Natural Area and cannot be developed. It contains a wooded area, as well as Silver Creek and its tributaries. The McClures propose that each of the 20 property owners in the estate would hold a share of this land, which would be jointly owned.

Daphne Shropshall, a member of the 20 family Hickory Falls Ratepayers Association, said her citizens' group is footing the bill for a lawyer and a planner throughout the hearing, as well as any expert witnesses they have to bring forward.

"We have no funding, and there is no financial gain at the end of it for us. But we believe we have a right to protect the area," she said. "The system is very unfair, it's very slanted toward the developer who gets financial gain."

Most of the hearing involves the intricacies of various official plans - the Halton Hills Official Plan, the Esqueping Official Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan. These were discussed in great detail during the week by planner Tom Smart, a witness called by Bert Arnold, the lawyer representing the McClures.

Arnold said he plans to also call upon a hydrogeologist, an engineer and a planner from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

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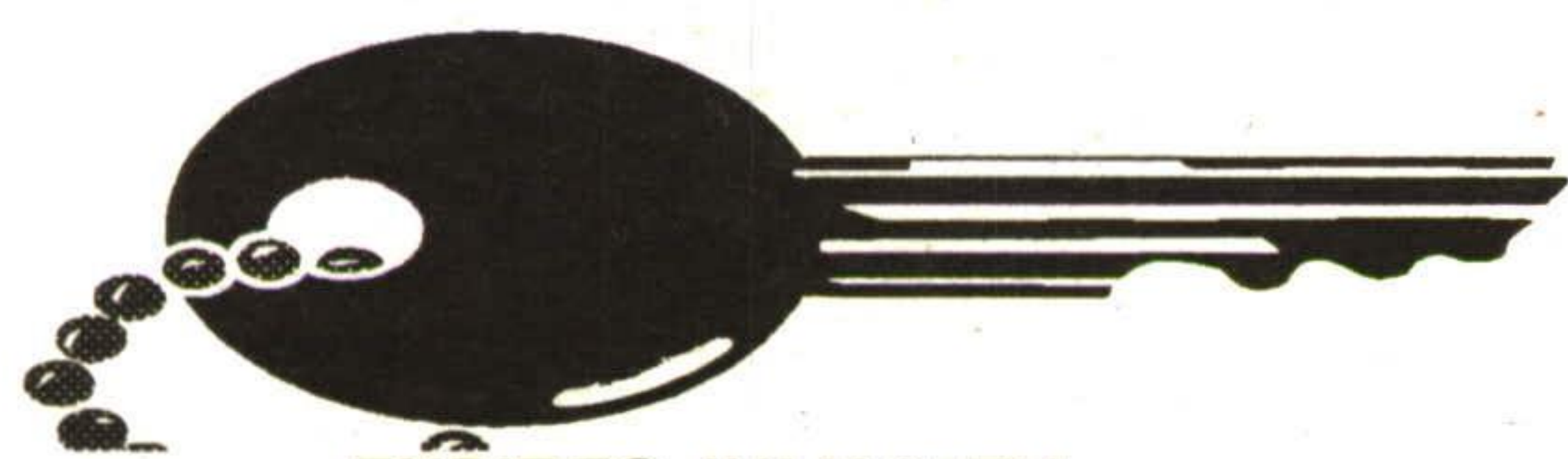
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