

Downtown concerns

Dear editor:
Re: Downtown Georgetown In Jeopardy

I am writing to you because I am very concerned about the survival of downtown Georgetown. Our town council appears to be making decisions which will surely have a devastating impact upon the survival of our downtown businesses, and the health of downtown in general.

Last week I obtained a copy of a report entitled, "Retail Market Appraisal." This report, prepared by W. Scott Morgan, consultant, is dated October 1991, and "forms one part of the broader based Town of Halton Hills Urban Area Study being prepared under the direction of Walker, Wright, Young Associates Limited," planning consultants for the town.

The report discusses a number of options, including the expansion of the Georgetown Marketplace (which was recently completed), the McNally/Landawn retail development proposal on Guelph St. (which was approved by council earlier this year), and the prospects for a new sub-regional shopping centre (the Dominion Seed House lands being the preferred location).

The report focuses upon a forecast of future retail sales, assuming that the town's population grows at expected rates. For instance, in terms of department store-type merchandise (i.e. general merchandise, automotive, apparel and accessories, hardware, home furnishings), Georgetown's existing retailers are expected to see their 1994 retail sales drop by 12.6 per cent from 1991 levels, due to the competition from the Marketplace expansion and McNally development (Table 8). In fact, their sales won't return to 1991 levels until 1998! How many will be left in downtown by then?

Similar consequences are fore-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

cast for existing food operations when additional grocery store space is approved for Guelph St. So much for the vain hope of ever persuading a grocery store firm to invest in a store downtown!

The report suggests that downtown Georgetown may realize some spin-off benefits from development of the Dominion Seed House property. However, the report gives no indication as to why this could be expected. Downtown used to be a very busy place, the main focus of shopping in town, and the place to encounter your friends and neighbors. It seems to me that the decline of downtown can be measured almost from the day that the concentration of retail operations on Guelph St. began. Approving more retail on Guelph St. will only accelerate this process.

The owners of the Dominion Seed House have made known their desire to develop their site, including some housing and a substantial amount of additional retail space. At this point, we can only speculate at how great an impact this development will have on downtown retailers. The Dominion Seed House proposal has been recommended to the Urban Area Review Committee (which includes many local interest groups) by the town's consultant. I managed to speak to a number of the committee's members and, interestingly, they had not been made aware of the contents of the Morgan report, even

though it was published in October 1991. The report has also never been discussed before an open public meeting of council.

The Morgan report has been prepared at public expense. The Urban Area Review study has a budget of about \$100,000. The study was supposed to provide a basis for deciding how much retail the town can support and where to put it. However, even though the study is not yet complete, council gave approval to the McNally proposal earlier this year.

What happened to the public's right to full disclosure of all the relevant facts before major public policy decisions are made? Or to have these issues debated in an open public forum?

What consideration has been given to the years of loyalty and commitment of retailers to the downtown?

What becomes of the Park neighborhood? What will happen to the quality of life, property values and safety of the neighborhood, after the retailers have gone under, and its deterioration accelerates?

Anyone who does business downtown should obtain a copy of this report from the Halton Hills Planning Department. It's quite an eye opener!

Council is expected to consider approving the Urban Area Review at a public meeting scheduled for mid-November.

Name withheld

Is it setting a precedent?

Dear editor:

Now that Halton Women's Place has set a precedent by openly encouraging "lesbians" and three other minority groups to apply for the position of "Relief Child and Youth Worker," does this give me the right to ask for the sexual orientation of a job applicant or make it a condition of employment for a gas station attendant or file clerk?

K. Woode

Halton Hills councillors split

Continued from page 1

"We all knew what we were getting paid when we put our names in the hat to run for council," Bonnette argued. "If the economy gets better down the road, then that's the time we can decide on a raise."

Normally, regional councillors only consider raises retroactively, after the averages of the Canada and Ontario consumer price indexes are compiled, as well as the average increase of 12 regional job clas-

sifications such as police constables and nurses are figured out. If they had followed the formula, then they should have received 5.26 per cent over the last year, and another 2.5 per cent in the coming year.

However, they threw the formula out the window and adopted the one per cent hikes. But, following the suggestion of Burlington mayor Walt Mulkeewich, regional staff are going to review the raise formula and report back to council.

Elizabeth's Fashions & Bridal Boutique

"The Place to Shop in Downtown Georgetown".

25% OFF STOREWIDE

(Excluding Bridal & Hosiery)

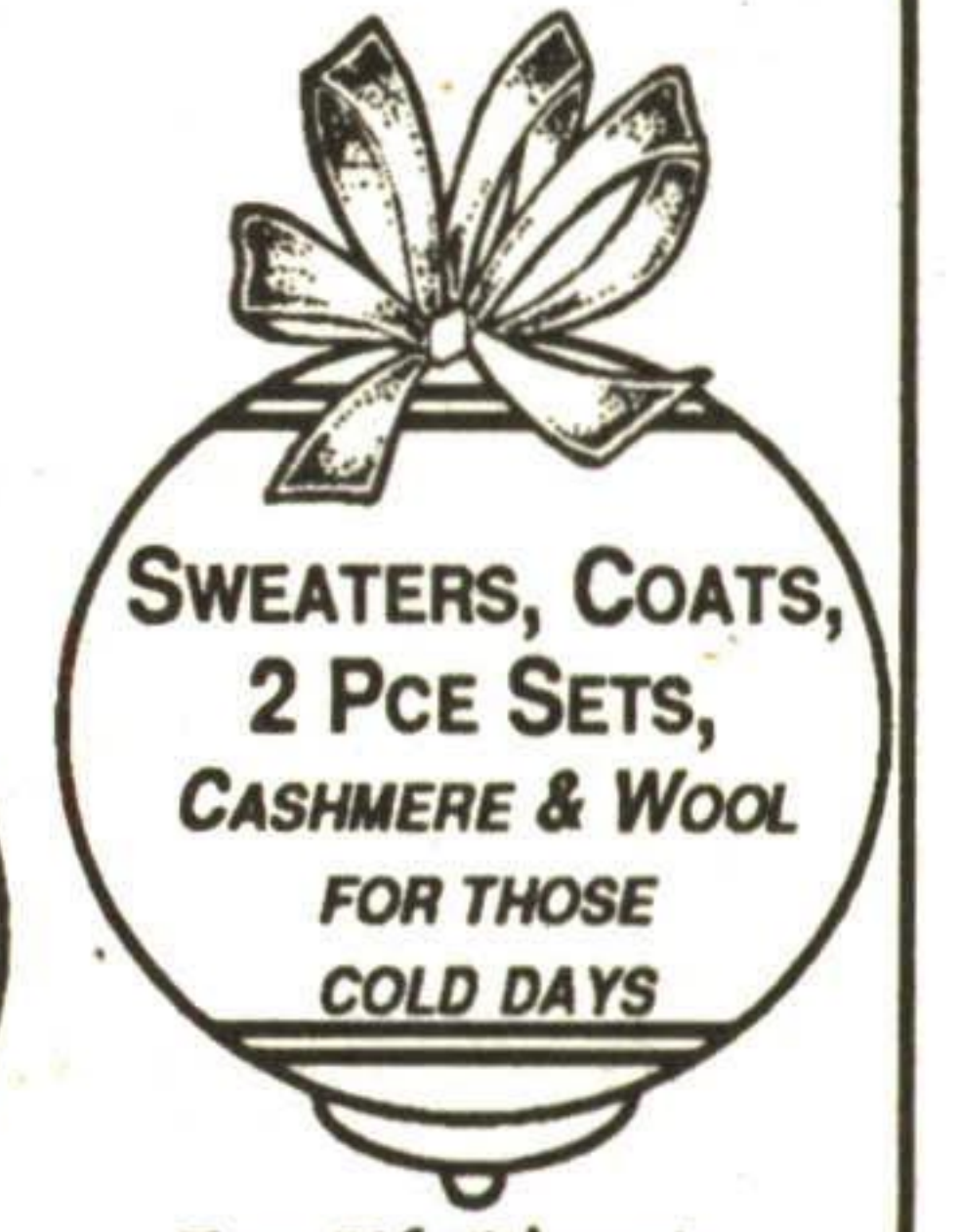


DRESSES FOR DAY & EVENING HOLIDAY PARTIES

Gift Certificates



JEWELLERY, BELTS, COLLARS, HANDBAGS - ALL YOU NEED TO ACCESSORIZE



SWEATERS, COATS, 2 PCE SETS, CASHMERE & WOOL FOR THOSE COLD DAYS

Free Gift Wrapping For Our Gentlemen Shoppers

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR BRIDAL SHOW '93.

BRIDES REGISTER NOW FOR 2 FREE TICKETS.

SHOW DATE: JAN. 17, 1993, 12 - 5 PM

WE ARE OPEN SUNDAY 12 - 5. ENJOY HOT CIDER & GOODIES

77 MAIN ST. S.



Downtown Georgetown

873-1470

THE

LITTLE SHOP OF FLOORS

WE GO THAT EXTRA MILE

FOR YOUR SATISFACTION AND CONVENIENCE

Supplying you with Quality Broadloom, Oriental Rugs, Sheet Vinyl, Vinyl Tiles, Ceramics, Marble, Granite & Hardwood, ROBERTS Flooring Adhesives, Cleaners & Accessories

AMTICO, ARMSTRONG, BARRYMORE, CONGOLEUM, CERAMICA, HOLTEN IMPEX, MARCO POLO ORIENTAL RUGS, IMPERIAL HARDWOOD, MIHALIC, OLYMPIA, PHILADELPHIA, RICHMOND and more...

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATIONS

FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE

WEEKLY SPECIALS

FREE SHOP AT HOME FREE ESTIMATES FREE DELIVERY

OPEN

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 9:00-6:00

THURSDAY FRIDAY 9:00-8:00

SATURDAY 9:00-5:00

LET US FLOOR YOU!

873-1443

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

98 MILL ST. GEORGETOWN, ONT.

SERVING ALL OF HALTON & AREA WITH QUALITY PRODUCTS & INSTALLATIONS

LITTLE SHOP

NEWS FLASH!!!!

For the environmentally conscious and because we care about our surrounding atmosphere we are proud to provide a full NEW line of ROBERTS "EARTH BOND™" flooring adhesives to our clients that are solvent free and environmentally safe

"These revolutionary, solvent free adhesives contain no alcohol, methanol, glycol, ammonia, formaldehyde or carcinogens and hence no associated hazardous vapours and dramatically reduced potential for pollution of the environment."

While providing environmentally safe products, quality does not suffer with these new adhesives. They represent premium quality, high performance adhesives recommended and designed to adhere to all mineral/felt back sheetgoods such as ARMSTRONG, CONGOLEUM, and MANNINGTON vinyl floors as well as glue down carpet installations.

We are using these earth friendly products for our installations at no additional cost to our customers

Together with ROBERTS we are committed to working towards keeping our environment as healthy as possible.

*Product info available upon request.