

Seniors prefer Dominion Gardens for temporary centre

By STEVE LeBLANC

Staff writer

Members of the Georgetown and District Seniors Association are hoping that a meeting with town council tomorrow evening (Monday) will move them one step closer to obtaining a temporary facility for a seniors' centre.

A total of 159 local seniors met Wednesday afternoon at the seniors association's general meeting to vote on one of five possible sites available for a temporary centre.

"There's no reason why Georgetown should be discriminated against when it comes to a seniors' centre," said Georgetown and District Seniors Association president Les

Mellish, "There are seniors' centres all across the region and province but not here. In the four years we have been working towards a seniors' centre the town has made no real offers to us."

Mellish and association vice president Ross Bethel presented local seniors with five possible sites where facilities are available for a temporary centre, which has been the association's alternate route since learning from council that a permanent centre is not planned until the year 2000. The probable site for a permanent seniors' centre would be beside



LES MELLISH

Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

"The costs of renting a temporary facility are minimal compared to the \$1 million cost of building a permanent seniors' centre," explained Mellish. "There are presently 4,800 seniors living in Halton Hills and Georgetown seniors make up 77 per cent of that. We need a centre."

The five sites studied by the association included the upstairs room at Alcott Arena, facilities at Dominion Gardens, the upstairs floor at the Georgetown branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, Sacre Coeur Church Hall

and St. George Church Hall.

In a unanimous decision, local seniors agreed that the facilities at Dominion Gardens, located on Maple Ave. and Guelph St., would be best suited for a temporary centre. A total of 132 seniors were included in the vote with 112 choosing Dominion Gardens. Seven seniors voted for the Legion, five picked St. George Church Hall and one selected Alcott Arena while seven were spoiled.

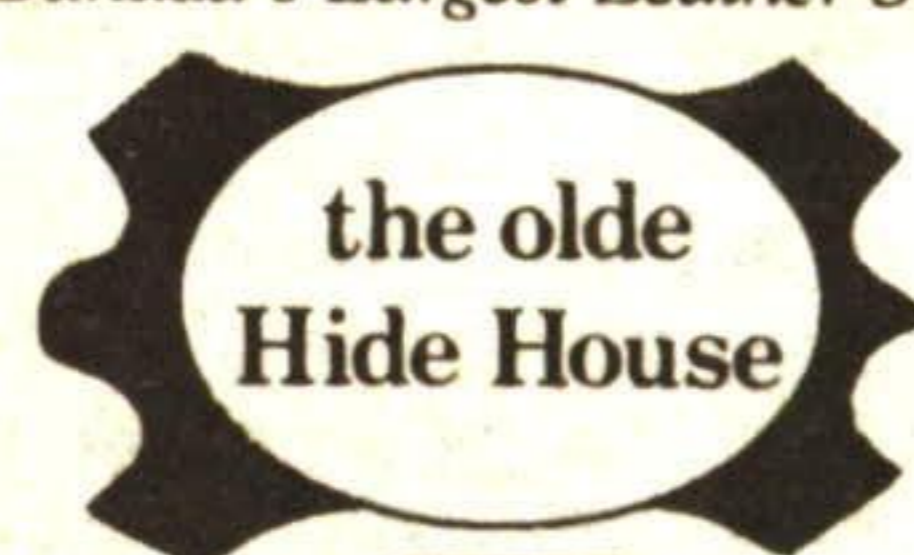
Bethel made a detailed presentation to local seniors on the various advantages and disadvantages of each possible site, which was conducted through a study process held over the last few months.

See CENTRE, page 13

HALTON HILLS

WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Parking restrictions

Despite the fact that the town doesn't have the jurisdiction to pass bylaws restricting the parking of heavy commercial type vehicles in residential driveways, councillors urged town staff to come up with one, or other options, to curb the problem. Planning director Ian Keith told councillors at the committee Monday night that the town can't pass a bylaw to regulate either people or personal property, but can pass them to prohibit land use. Councillors told Keith that they have heard of bylaws passed in other municipalities restricting parking in driveways. Keith said those bylaws were invalid, and added they wouldn't stand up in court.

IWA workshops

The Interim Waste Authority Ltd. (IWA) is holding a workshop next week to discuss ways to manage the impacts of land-fill, including compensation. The IWA workshop will be presented at the following locations on the specified dates:

Caledon: Tuesday February 23, 1993, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Brampton: Thursday February 25, 1993, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

INSIDE

Beier gets 13 years.....page 2
Adopts studies.....page 3
Residents raise concern.....page 6
Entertainment.....page 10
Community Calendar.....page 12
Bantams advance.....page 14



Scout and Guide Week

Beaver Steven Treviranus of 1st Ashgrove/Hornby got an early jump on Scout and Guide Week recently, as he joined his troop at the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre last

weekend. Steven got a birds-eye view of Kelly the Kestrel from staffer Ken at the interpretive centre. Scout and Guide Week kicks off today (Sunday). More on page 8.

Police officer charged in phone incident

A Halton Regional police officer has been charged with attempting to obstruct justice in connection with a disturbing telephone call made to Halton Hills councillor Pam Johnston last June.

On May 25, 1992, Halton Regional Councillors Pam Johnston and Barry Quinn received an anonymous letter alleging a cover-up by the administration of the Halton Regional Police Service regarding a domestic assault that occurred in 1983.

An internal investigation was

conducted by the Ontario Provincial Police into the allegations. Their investigation concluded that there was no wrongdoing by the Halton Regional Police Service Administration.

On June 11, Councillor Pam Johnston received a message on her telephone answering machine at her home in Halton Hills. This recorded message was turned over to the Halton Regional Police for investigation and as a result of an investigation by the Professional Standards Bureau of the Halton

Regional Police Service, a Police Services Act charge of discreditable conduct was laid against a member of the Halton Regional Police.

The results of the internal investigation into the matter were turned over to the Regional Director of Crown Attorneys, Mr. L.J. McGuigan, Q.C. The content of the recorded telephone conversation led to a charge being laid under the Criminal Code of Canada.

The charge of attempting to obstruct justice was laid Thursday morning, February 18.

1.6 percent hike Region approves budget

By ROB KELLY

Special to the Independent/Free Press

Regional council was able to approve its lowest percentage property tax hike in memory this year - about 1.6 per cent, on Wednesday.

The tax increase matches the Ontario inflation rate, and is less than half the originally proposed 3.6 per cent. A 3.6 per cent hike would have meant \$11.42 in new taxes for the average homeowner. The 1.6 levy equals about \$5.

In order to hit the 1.6 per cent target, Halton's budget committee slashed \$800,000 from expenditures in the original budget, and asked police to cut \$400,000 out of their \$40 million financial plan.

In the past there has been tension between regional council and the police force over law enforcement budget increases. Last year the police budget increase was approximately 9 per cent while Halton's was 7.6 per cent. But this year, under the leadership of regional councillor Barry Quinn who chairs the Halton Regional Police Service Board, the required \$400,000 has been cut from the budget.

Quinn's police reduction package included cutting back \$95,000 in overtime provisions, taking \$80,000 out of the vehicle and headquarters maintenance fund, shrinking staff overhead by attrition (\$75,000), reducing the equipment and training budget by \$75,000 and transferring \$75,000 from a reserve fund to help finance the \$175,000 purchase of new patrol cars.

See AGENCIES, page 13

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