

Exchange Hotel staves off demolition for the time being

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
Staff Writer

The Exchange Hotel in Georgetown is getting a reprieve from the wrecker's ball until the April 22 council meeting—and then possibly a 60-day one.

The Exchange Hotel—a longtime watering hole that has been vacant for a number of years—is located at the

King and Queen Sts. intersection, by the Georgetown GO Train station. Originally built in the 1850s, the building has a number of additions added to it, including a porch that encroaches onto the GO parking lot.

The land was owned by the founder of Georgetown—George Kennedy—whose daughter Harriet married the first innkeeper John Higgins.

The Wright/Hillock family had owned and operated the Hotel for about 100 years.

The heirs of Dorothy Hillock now want to demolish the deteriorating building and remarket the property.

But when the demolition permit went to Heritage Halton Hills (HHH) for feedback, the volunteer committee instead voted unanimously to advise Halton Hills council that the central portion (the original part) of the building should be designated under Part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value. The property is not yet listed on the Town's Heritage Register for potential designation because that part of town had not yet been evaluated.

HHH argues it is a rare example of a frame stagecoach style railway hotel that is still in proximity to a federally-designated train station, still in operation.

HHH chair, Councillor Moya Johnson said this is one-of-kind building, which she says one HHH member, a train aficionado, claims is the only one left in North America that is situated beside an operational train station.

HHH member Doug Brock, who is renowned in the community for restoring Glen Williams buildings to create the Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre, told council members the building is in better condition than when he first began to restore the Yellow building at the



The Exchange Hotel is facing an uncertain future as the heirs to the property seek its demolition.
Photo by Amy Sykes

Mill. He suggested the Town give the time to see whether the building could be moved to a portion of the property severed from the rest, restored into a railway museum or a commercially viable building.

But solicitor Bert Arnold representing the Hillock heirs said if the building were salvageable it would have been done.

"It's essentially flogging a dead horse," he told council members.

He said the Town should not expect the family to shoulder the cost of a restoring the property if designated—and it would take an exorbitant amount of taxpayers' money to do it. He scoffed at HHH's assertion the project could pay for itself saying the heritage portion is only about 700 sq. ft., not big enough to become financially feasible.

Arnold said the Town's own Official Plan envisions redevelopment of this site and that's most appropriate. He did agree the family would allow the heritage portion to be moved off the site.

Johnson suggested with a 60-day window, Town staff could investigate moving the pre-Confederation portion a few doors down to an unopened road allowance at the end of Union St. There the Town could mothball the building until someone in the community steps forward to take on its restoration.

Infrastructure Services Director Chris Mills estimated that would cost at least \$50,000 to do, prompting Councillor Bryan Lewis to demand, "Who is paying the bill?"

Johnson replied, "I'm not asking for one cent of Town
See DERELICT, pg. 8

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Municipal Act, 2001

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on May 23, 2013, at the Town of Halton Hills Civic Centre, Corporate Services Department, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario L7G 5G2.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Town of Halton Hills Civic Centre, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills (Georgetown).

Description of Lands:

Roll No. 24 15 070 003 03310 0000; 559 Guelph St., Norval; PIN 25060-0107(LT); Part Lot 11, Concession 11 Esquesing, designated Part 2 Plan 20R15774; Halton Hills/Esquesing; File No. 12-07

Minimum Tender Amount: \$78,427.50

Roll No. 24 15 030 001 38900 0000; 47 Faludon Dr., Georgetown; PIN 25049-0126(LT); Lot 478, Plan 660; S/T 248137, 48362 Halton Hills; File No. 12-09

Minimum Tender Amount: \$23,532.38

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a money order or of a bank draft or cheque certified by a bank or trust corporation payable to the municipality and representing at least 20 per cent of the tender amount.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers.

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes, and the relevant land transfer tax and HST if applicable.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit: www.OntarioTaxSales.ca or if no internet access available, contact:

1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2
Tel: 905-873-2600 • Fax: 905-873-2347 • www.haltonhills.ca

Simone Gourlay
Manager of Purchasing
The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 5G2
905-873-2601 ext 2210
simonereg@haltonhills.ca

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GIANT HOGWEED

**Notice to Property Owners:
Destroy Nuisance Weeds
- Giant Hogweed**

Giant Hogweed has been found in the Town of Halton Hills. This is a giant plant that looks like "Queen Anne's Lace" but is **Very Dangerous** to handle. If you find it, please do not touch it with your bare hands and keep children away from it. Remove early in the growth season (April/May) to eliminate spread.

Community Standards By-law 2008-0138 No. Part 3, Section 8 Nuisance Weeds states "Property Owners are required to destroy and remove all nuisance weeds and weed seeds on their land."

Any person who fails to destroy and remove all nuisance weeds and weed seeds is guilty of an offence.

As a result, the Town of Halton Hills may enter upon your property to do the work required.

The Town may recover the costs of doing any work or matter by action or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting it in a like manner as property tax.

For further information on Giant Hogweed please visit the Town of Halton Hills website at www.haltonhills.ca or www.invadingspecies.com/invadere/plants-terrestrial/giant-hogweed/



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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAY 4TH?



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HAPPY 11TH BIRTHDAY BRODY!



**ATTENTION
ALL CONTRACTORS
You're Invited**

**Friday April 19th
12 - 5 pm
Food • Prizes
Vendors • Demos**



348 Guelph St.,
Georgetown