

Halton Hills Seniors for the future

What "future"? Who's "future"? Our future of course, your future and the future of Halton Hills. The title of our column represents an attitude of mind, that the future will be better than the past and the present, and that it is up to us to make it so. We have to live in the present and much of our energy is bent to that challenge but we must spare part of our resources to shape the future so that it becomes an improvement on what has gone before.

Our present condition is a result of that which we, our parents and grandparents did in the past. Some of it is good, some is not so good. We can't expect perfection but we can and should expect excellence, collectively, not selfishly.

Seniors meeting

The Georgetown & District Seniors Association is dedicated to the establishment of a seniors centre in Georgetown. We have just passed our third Annual General

Meeting and it marked what we believe is the establishment of real dialogue amounting to a partnership with the Town devoted to the realisation of a mutual objective, a seniors centre.

During the past six months or so the Association has been giving serious consideration to the use of a Main St. property which will become vacant in the near future. This was originally proposed by the Town. Subsequently, on May 26th the Board of Directors prepared and presented to the

Town a document outlining the concepts, conditions and requirements of a permanent seniors centre. At the Annual General Meeting on May 29th the Town's proposal was accepted subject, in effect, to these conditions being met.

At two meetings of the Seniors Recreation Centre Committee, (a joint committee of Councillors and Seniors set up by Mayor Miller) on June 3rd & 17th the issue was fully discussed along with possible alternatives and the economic

viability of this proposal versus a new building. It was mutually concluded that due to the uncertainties and misgivings pursuing the Main St. location at this time, is no longer feasible.

It was also decided that the Parks & Recreation Department and the Association will work directly towards a temporary facility and then go on to examine alternatives for a permanent centre to be a reality within the reasonable future.

The Association believes that:

- A centre for seniors social, recreational and cultural needs must offer an attractive and comprehensive programme to bring seniors into a happy, healthful social environment.

- The community would be willing to sponsor such a centre since it would be there for the younger generations as they become older and their need for it develops.

- It would be appropriate and economically sound to combine a seniors centre with other needs such as a community centre and/or a multi-service centre.

Protester greets Grier

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potential sites have been named in Durham Region.

Among the most visible placard-bearers in the group were two Holstein cows owned by Dinnis O'Hara, a dairy farmer in Schomberg, just north of Toronto. O'Hara's farm is on the dump-site list.

The placards carried explicit messages like, "Bob, Dump Ruth," a message directed at Premier Rae, and the simple two-word phrase, "No Dump."

Protesters didn't bar guests from attending the award ceremonies but they were insistent that the Environment Minister speak to them before she left the building. Fearing that the Minister might evade them through a back door, protesters placed two placards crosswise through the handle of a back door on the building.

When Halton North MPP Noel Duignan emerged from the ceremonies and tried to back his car out of the parking lot, protesters blocked his way. Many appeared concerned that he was about to drive his car around the building and pick up the Environment Minister.

Several times, the demonstrators shouted at Duignan: "Turn your car off. You're polluting the air." He eventually agreed to their demands.

While Duignan confronted protesters in the parking lot, Grier met inside with a group of about 10 people representing the demonstrators. Cassell, who was among them, said the Minister agreed to "meet in different circumstances" with representatives of the groups to get back to her to arrange a meeting. Grier then left the building, speaking briefly to the crowd.

"She was booed a lot," Cassell said, but the crowd was told about plans for an upcoming meeting between the Minister and a smaller group.

During the awards ceremonies, Wastewise project manager Diane van de Valk presented Grier with one of the items from the shelf of the resource centre—a Hulk Hogan lunch box.

Accepting the gift, Grier said she wasn't a wrestling fan, but was pleased to receive the lunch bucket. Obviously thinking about the crowd waiting outside, she remarked light-heartedly that she might find a use for the muscle power that Hulk Hogan is noted for.

BACK TO BASICS



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