

Halton  
Hills

## THIS WEEK

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Georgetown author Mark Rowe (centre) signs a copy of his new book about Georgetown's history for two members of Milton's Historical Society, Teresa Lamb (left) and her husband, Ken. The book-signing took place last Thursday night at Oxbow Books in downtown Georgetown. Photo by Dianne Cornish

## New book gives overview of local history

By Dianne Cornish

A Georgetown elementary school teacher has written what he describes as "the first complete history of Georgetown."

Last week, author Mark Rowe signed copies of his new book at Oxbow Books in downtown Georgetown. The Glen Williams resident, who has taught for the past 14 years at St. Francis of Assisi School, said he was prompted to write "The Story of Georgetown Ontario" because Halton Hills Library and the Esquesing Historical Society were continually getting requests for a

book outlining the complete history of the town.

While a book about Georgetown was written in the early 1960s, Rowe said it wasn't a complete history. "My book gives a good overview of the town," he said, noting that historic photos are plentiful in the 38-page, soft-bound publication.

Rowe, who is archives officer of the Esquesing Historical Society, said he has written several books on local history, but his newest work is his "biggest venture." All of the photos in the book belong to the local historical group, which has

been gathering historic prints since 1984, Rowe said.

Although "written for adults," Rowe's new book is also suitable for students who are researching local history or writing class essays. Tourists passing through town and newcomers to Georgetown are also among those who will likely want to learn more about local history, the author surmised.

The book, which was two years in the writing, was completed in June. Printed by C & S Printing Ltd. of Georgetown, it can be bought at Oxbow Books, 102 Main Street, Georgetown.

## Compensation awarded to Willow Park residents

By Dianne Cornish

Residents of the Willow Park Trailer Camp on Highway 7 just west of Norval will be awarded individual compensation packages for having to relocate their home as a result of expropriation by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA), the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) ruled last week. The ruling, contained in a 21-page document, affects 24 claimants, five owning trailers in the park and the remaining 19 owning mobile homes.

The OMB decision, obtained by the Town of Halton Hills on Tuesday, was briefly discussed at town council Tuesday night, although details of the settlement were sketchy. "We don't have very much information because we just received the hearing decision this morning," town administrator Dan Costea told councillors. Costea said the compensation package will be based on "comparable rental accommodation" for tenants of the park who will soon be required to relocate. The CVCA is currently working on the calculations for compensation, he said, adding that he expects to provide council with a fuller report at Monday night's committee meeting.

The town administrator said the Board's decision was "in keeping with arguments raised by the CVCA and the Town." He described it as "a favorable decision."

CVCA general manager Vicki Barron confirmed during a telephone interview Thursday that a compensation formula worked out by CVCA and Town lawyers formed the basis of the package accepted by the OMB. "The evidence put forward by the Authority was accepted by the OMB in a very clear decision," she said.

Barron said CVCA lawyers are working on calculations for compensation but she doesn't know, at this time, what the gross amount of the award will be. The award package is based on a number of factors including market value of the units and costs associated with equivalent accommodation. Some tenants also qualified for receiving an allowance to compensate for inconvenience and the cost of finding

another residence.

Prior to the hearing, which took place in Halton Hills in March, the CVCA and residents of the trailer park reached an agreement on when the remaining tenants will leave the park, Barron said. It was agreed they would leave within three or three-and-a-half months of the OMB decision becoming final. Tenants have the right to file for an appeal of the ruling to the Ontario Cabinet within 28 days of the OMB decision.

There are currently 15 tenants in the park, one in a trailer and the remaining 14 in mobile homes. Claimants identified in the OMB's decision document could not be reached for comment on the ruling before press time.

The CVCA expropriated a five-acre parcel of land containing Willow Park Trailer Camp in January, 1989. Norman and Audrey Guthrie, owners of the land, reached a settlement with the Authority but 28 tenants in the park claimed compensation for expropriation of their interests. Four tenants agreed to settlements with the Authority before the OMB hearing.

The trailer park, bordered by both the Credit River and Silver Creek, is "flood vulnerable," Barron said while explaining why the Authority decided to expropriate the land. The need to expropriate was first discussed with tenants, the Authority and the Town at a meeting in 1988.

A deadline of Nov. 1, 1989 was set for relocation of tenants from the park, but was extended after a deal to relocate the trailers fell through. An extension to May 15, 1991 and then to Aug. 15, 1991 was later issued. It was later decided that residents could stay until the matter of compensation was dealt with by the OMB.

"We're glad it's over," Barron said in reaction to the settlement dispute. "It has been really stressful for everyone. We're glad this has come to a conclusion and that the tenants will be adequately and fairly compensated and able to get on with their lives," she said.

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