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Fear and anger in Georgetown Hooded KKK members visit Halton Hills



Ku Klux Klan members handed out literature about the organization at Georgetown's four corners Saturday afternoon under the scrutiny of Halton Regional Police. The Klan members visited Georgetown after a short stop in Acton. Photo by Craig Teeter

By Laura Salverda

The appearance of half a dozen Ku Klux Klan members in Halton Hills Saturday caused anger and fear in downtown Georgetown.

Screaming, "Do something!" to the police and "Get the hell out of our town!", Sherilyn Kirkpatrick banged on the closed window of the late-model red Camero with Quebec plates.

The car contained two female and two male Ku Klux Klan members; four of the seven fully robed and hooded Klan members who descended on all four corners of Main and Mill St. for about 15 minutes in Georgetown at 11:30 a.m. Saturday. The other three clan members were driving a rented Corsica LT with Ontario plates.

The seven first showed up at the IGA in Acton where they handed out pamphlets containing their message, printed in both English and French, of "reverse discrimination in jobs..." and "high taxes for a minority welfare." The pamphlet also contained a mailing address in Brampton, as well as the address for their main office in North Carolina.

"I am totally incensed at these white supremacists handing out hate literature," spat Kirkpatrick, the 24-year-old operator of Feedback Canada charity, her arms waving and her blonde hair tossing wildly. "They said they were from Quebec; Montreal specifically," Kirkpatrick threw over her shoulder, as she banged on the passenger-side window as the Camero slowly pulled

away from the curb in front of the Canada Trust building on Main St.

According to Halton Regional Police, two of the Klan's members were from Mississauga, three from Quebec and one was unknown to police.

Visibly agitated, Kirkpatrick started to walk jauntily, back toward Mill St., like a prize fighter just stepping out of the ring.

"You know, not a single one of these people, these good citizens of Georgetown, was protesting. Unbelievable," she continued.

"I'm standing on a fine line. I can get charged with verbal abuse, or assault or mischief or whatever. But no one else stood up to them. Just us," Kirkpatrick said, pointing to her friend Jane MacDonald, who was standing behind her.

"We were making a wall. There was two of us. What a big wall," Kirkpatrick added sarcastically.

But the display — coming on the eve of the anniversary of the founding of the KKK and just days before the United States' Martin Luther King day — caused fear among many residents.

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Urban Area Study divided to acknowledge concerns

By Dianne Cornish

The Acton portion of the \$100,000 Urban Area Study for Halton Hills will be separated from the Georgetown section and debated on its own merits, council decided Thursday during a special meeting held to debate the report at the Civic Centre.

During the four-hour-long meeting, Acton's three councillors urged council to continue debate and adopt the Acton portion of the study, as well as the Acton Urban Area Residential Implementation Study, before the meeting adjourned.

While acknowledging the concerns of Acton councillors Norm Elliott, Rick Bonnette and Gerald Rennie that speedy approval of the reports is needed, town council voted in favor of further study and debate before taking a final look at the reports.

At the suggestion of Mayor Russ Miller, council agreed to adopt a schedule of "working meetings," with the first to be held late Tuesday afternoon (Jan. 19) to discuss the Acton studies. It's anticipated that another two or three meetings on the Georgetown part

of the study will be held over the next few weeks, after which council will give direction.

Another meeting, allowing the public to come back with comments about council's proposed action, will be held before council approves the studies. The time frame for the whole process, including the final public meeting, will be "by March 1."

Councillor Elliott argued that the two Acton studies should be discussed and approved at Thursday's meeting. The Urban Area Study will set the framework for residential and commercial development in Acton over the next 20 years, while the Implementation Study will serve as a guideline for consideration of draft plans of subdivision within servicing capacities identified by Halton Region.

"There's less need to pass the Georgetown study tonight," Elliott remarked. "They don't have an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing staring them in the face."

Elliott was referring to a preliminary OMB hearing

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Council waives parkland fee for charity group

Despite reservations by Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson that the action might set a precedent, a committee meeting of council voted Monday to waive a cash-in-lieu of parkland payment for the Salvation Army in Acton.

The decision came after council heard a presentation by Capt. Wade Budgell who explained that the Salvation Army is a non-profit organization which supports the community by providing various services, at no cost.

Capt. Budgell asked council to waive the \$1,400 cash-in-lieu of parkland fee. The money is sometimes accepted in place of donating two per cent of a development's property for parkland.

The Salvation Army is moving its existing Thrift Shop operation from 120 Mill Street East to 110 Mill Street East, Acton. To do so, it requires a re-zoning for the new location, from residential to commercial. Normally, a re-zoning requires a parkland contribution.

"Our request for exemption is not on the basis that we are a religious institution," Capt. Budgell said, noting that the Salvation Army is both a non-profit and charitable organization which spends money to accommodate the needs of the community.

While Serjeantson joined other councillors in voting to reject a recommendation from administrative

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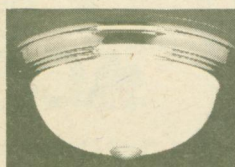
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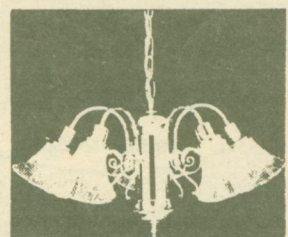


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