

Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks employee Sacha Reid played the part of Mr. PFD (Personal Flotation Device) last Friday at the 4th Annual Aquatic Show at the Dick Licata Outdoor Pool in Georgetown. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

## Board energy program in jeopardy

By Oksana Buhel

At Thursday's Halton Board of Education meeting, Tescor engineering consultants was selected to implement a tentative energy management program. However, the number of school boards applying for the program may sacrifice the Halton Board's application.

Ontario Hydro is offering \$1 million incentives for school boards and commercial industries interested in joining the GEPP (Guaranteed Energy Performance Program). Dave Whiting, vice chair of the Halton School Board, praised the program. "It not only saves money, but it

enhances the school environment." He explained lighting and air would be improved as a result of the program.



Dave Whiting

The only problem, Whiting admitted, was the lack of funds in the board's budget, which forces the board to rely on the Ontario Hydro incentives. The incentives, which used to amount to \$4 million in a best-case scenario, have decreased to \$1 million. Another reflection of the economic times is the number of school boards applying for the GEPP program, especially since Ontario Hydro's deadline for applications has moved up. An application, complete

with a signed contract, must be submitted by Friday (July 30). "I wouldn't be surprised if all the proposals came in at once, Hydro inspects them in one batch, and decides it doesn't have enough money for the submissions," Whiting admitted. "We certainly don't have the money and would have to scrub the project."

The feasibility study, started Oct. 20, 1992 by Tescor, was recently completed and other consultants were to bid for the project. As a result of the moved up deadlines, this

process was scrubbed, and the project was given to Tescor. Whiting insisted this would not affect the cost of the program. "The consultant will be paid based on the savings of GEPP," he explained. "We also had to move quickly to take advantage of the \$1 million incentive."

Jerry Jenkins, superintendent of business services for the board, agreed the rushed deadline did not affect the selection process. "Nothing has been compromised by our choice," he said.

## Sex assault charges laid

A 47-year-old Mississauga man was charged with two counts of indecent assault, one count of sexual assault and one of sexual interference in a series of incidents involving two Halton Hills females which began in 1976.

The incidents, which occurred between 1976 and 1980, with the man and his then 11-year-old stepdaughter, were not reported to police until the daughter of the victim reported similar incidents occurring between January and July of this year. The latter victim was the step-granddaughter of the accused.

The man was arrested Thursday and will be appearing in Milton Provincial Court Aug. 16.

*Halton Hills*

# THIS WEEK

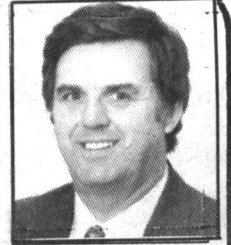
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## Taxi drivers assaulted

A Georgetown man, who believed he was insulted by a Halton Hills Taxi driver late Saturday afternoon, went on a rampage and assaulted three taxi drivers.

The 33-year-old man assaulted two drivers at the taxi stand on Mill St. in Georgetown, before finding and assaulting the third driver at the Georgetown Marketplace parking lot. According to police, the third victim had pulled a U-turn in front of the suspects home earlier in the afternoon, and the suspect, diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, thought the taxi driver had gestured obscenely. The man will appear in court Aug. 30.

### Property stolen

A Georgetown family which had gone away July 20-23, returned to find their BBQ, CD/radio player and their son's hockey bag, full of equipment, stolen. The property, valued at \$1,500 was stolen off the deck and the metal shed by suspects who entered the rear yard.

## Police Beat

Police are investigating the incident.

### Mutual assault

An argument between a Georgetown common-law couple, drinking Saturday evening at a birthday party, turned into a physical confrontation, which ended with assault charges for each. The 23-year-old woman was pushed in the chest and bitten in the right breast, and she retaliated by slapping and hitting the 31-year-old man in the head, and ripping out clumps of his hair. The man called police, and the couple was subsequently charged. The woman appeared in court Monday, and the man will appear Aug. 30.

### CDs stolen

Over \$900 worth of CDs were stolen from a car parked in a Georgetown underground parking facility Sunday morning. The suspect smashed in a window and took 38 CDs from the back seat. Police are looking for witnesses or suspects.

## Downtown Georgetown development contested

By Oksana Buhel

Individuals addressing Town of Halton Hills councillors and staff at Monday's council meeting, concerning official plan amendments dealing with Georgetown, all agreed on the necessity of development but varied on its extent.

Carol Ann Fisher, member of the Georgetown Downtown Business Improvement Association (BIA), urged councillors to "get on with development." She said there is a need for resident support for Georgetown business and the only way support would come is through development. "We can have a great little town with a great little downtown," she insisted.

Neil Young, of Young's Pharmacy and Homecare, agreed with Fisher, adding development would "provide hundreds of jobs." He acknowledged concerns of other speakers, concerning the preservation of the character of the downtown core, but insisted suitability of a building had higher priority than its appearance. "Sure, it's important to have old buildings," Young said, "but it's also important how they

function."

Regarding zoning proposals, specifically heights of buildings, which other delegations expressed concerns about, Young said this should not be a problem. "When the Knox Presbyterian Church was built, people complained it was too high. Now they think it's beautiful." He summed up his argument by saying "altruism is great - if you can afford it."

Councillor Gail Rutherford challenged Young's argument, saying he would profit from any kind of development, even though it may jeopardize other businesses. She explained book stores, dress shops and children's clothing shops would be harmed by the widening of Main St., since shoppers would be more inclined to dart in and out of stores, without browsing leisurely.

Young countered, "Everyone wants a sleepy little town, but it won't work for business."

Other delegations shared Rutherford's point of view. Lloyd Sankey, architect, planner and Heritage Halton Hills member, adamantly insisted no modifications

should be made in driving and parking spaces, sidewalks and the centre island of Main St., between Church St. and James St. regarding building heights. Sankey added, the two - three story maximum which is currently enforced in the downtown core, should be preserved. "A variation of vertical surfaces will take away from the Main St. character," he said. Sankey, who has revitalized downtown areas in Oakville, Ottawa and Brantford, suggested the area be designated a heritage outdoor space.

Peter Berry, also a member of Heritage Halton Hills agreed with Sankey, saying he has seen "too much destruction of the soul of Ontario towns." He added many towns are degraded by "crass commercialism," adding Guelph St. was beginning to look like "Sunset Strip." Berry explained the downtown core could be developed and enhanced at the same time, but was worried commercial enterprises, such as the Dominion Seed House would impinge on the downtown core.

Stanley Stein, solicitor for

Dominion Seed House, insisted preservation of the core could accompany development, which his client was encouraging. Owners of the property requested a special mixed use node, which would allow for commercial enterprises. "An Eaton's or a Bay would bring people to the area," he said.

Rutherford disputed Stein's assertion. "Your proposal does not involve an Eaton's or a Bay," she said. "At most, we'd get a junior department store, which will not have the same spin off. In fact, what your proposal outlines is a strip plaza, with four stories above it. A strip mall is what the people of this town don't want."

Lawson Oates spoke of the invasion of privacy caused by the construction of high rises, the increase of traffic and a loss of local heritage which development of Mill St. (in the downtown core) might produce. He expressed a desire to take a more active role in development decisions. "We (the Mill/Dayfoot/Chapel Neighbourhood Ratepayers Association) would like to be integrated into the planning process."

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