

Mackenzie puts properties up for sale

By Oksana Buhel

Needed By-laws which are not in place and parking requirements which have not been previously enforced, are twisting the plans of Georgetown developer

Sandy Mackenzie. Mackenzie has put his James and Draper Sts. properties up for sale after council refused to unconditionally approve rezoning. He had been planning to

convert the stone building, which is almost 100 years old, on the northeast corner into a general commercial establishment, with five one-bedroom apartment units on the upper level. Mackenzie also owned a 28' x 132' strip of land on the northwest corner, which some councillors expressed a keen interest in because of the land's suitability as a parking lot.

On Aug. 14, councillors went against the recommendations of the planning staff and voted to defer rezoning his Draper and James Sts. property until staff could comment on the parking problem - Mackenzie indicated he would provide only 22 of the 48 parking spaces.

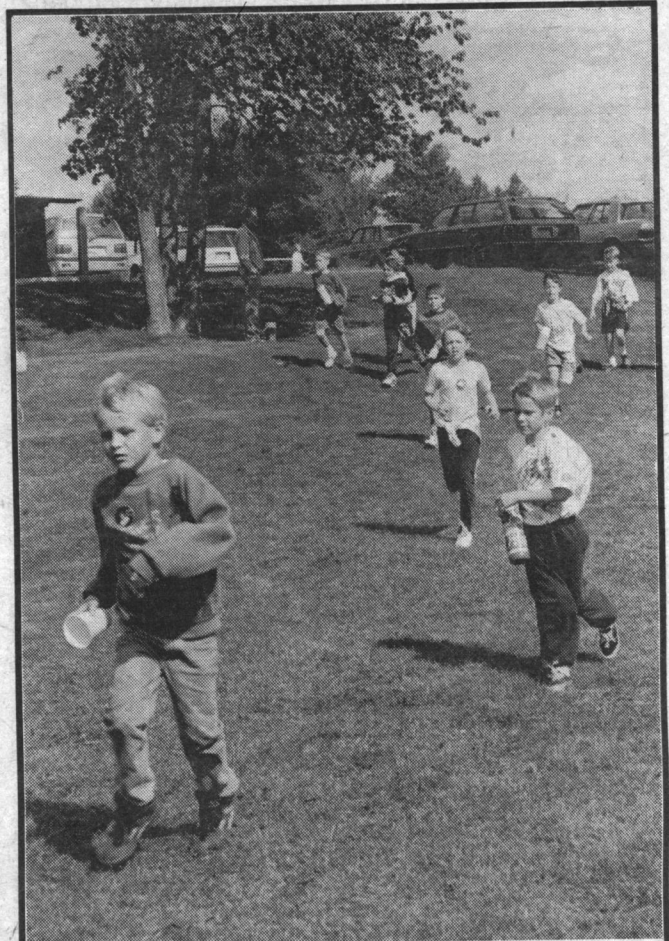
The issue returned before council Aug. 28, when councillors decided to tentatively permit rezoning, with the stipulation Mackenzie would provide 35 parking spots. At that time, several councillors argued it was not fair to demand more parking spaces from Mackenzie than have been demanded from other downtown-core stores in the

past and pointed out the difficulty of enforcing cash in lieu of parking, since no By-law exists to regulate downtown parking.

At Monday's council meeting, Margaret Vint, manager of the Georgetown Business Improvement Area gave her support to Mackenzie. She said council's resolution was "a bad decision for downtown Georgetown and is one which discourages development of the core area."

Mackenzie has put both pieces of property up for sale. The strip land on the northwest corner has been offered to the town, and will be reviewed by the Municipally Owned Property Committee (MOPC). If the northeast portion is not sold by Dec. 1, the existing structure will be demolished. A demolition permit has already been applied for.

Council Pam Johnston made a resolution Monday that if demolition occurs, MOPC should consider the potential purchase of this land as well.



Georgetown's George Kennedy Public School students ran over hill and dale during the school's first annual Terry Fox run in support of Cancer research. The school's first annual run raised over \$3,200 for cancer research. photo by Oksana Buhel/HHTW

Phony money in circulation

By Oksana Buhel

The anxiety associated with counterfeit US bills has not been relieved in Halton Hills.

Wednesday evening, a man tried to pay for a small purchase with a US \$100 bill at Home Hardware on Guelph St. in Georgetown. The clerk noticed the man had enough Canadian money and after the bill was passed to the clerk, the suspect grabbed it back and mumbled he had more money in the car. According to a police report, the suspect appeared very nervous when he fled the store. The clerk believed the bill was counterfeit.

A short while later, two suspects who tried the same trick in Acton were more successful. The men entered Royal Jug City on Queen St. and used a counterfeit \$100 US bill to buy four packs of cigarettes. The clerk did not notice the fraud at the time, but was able to provide police with a detailed description once the discovery was made. Police are looking for two men - one black, between the ages of 25-30, 5'10," heavy set, with very short black hair. He was wearing a black jacket, a heavy gold bracelet and a ring on his right hand.

The second man was white, between 30-35 years of age, 6'1," very slim, short brown hair, a "flat face," and an Australian-sounding accent. He was wearing a brown coat and green shirt.

Halton Hills This

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Burlington raises stakes on MVA approval

By Oksana Buhel

Burlington regional councillors sat on their hands at Thursday evening's special regional council meeting dealing with the implementation of market value assessment and waited for other regional councillors to call their bluff.

Without the support of Burlington councillors, Halton Region Council would not be able to implement market value assessment (MVA) based on 1992 market sales with the required two thirds majority.

The proposed MVA, studied and recommended by Halton Citizen's Committee on Property Tax Reform, would not be implemented until 1996; too long a wait, say Burlington councillors.

In an effort to appease Burlington councillors, Halton Hills and regional councillor Rick Bonnette made a notice of motion that the implementation of a region-wide MVA, based on

1988 property values, be deferred until 1992 market values can be assessed on individual properties. In the meantime, the method of allocating regional and educational costs would be based on the average of the estimated 1988 and 1992 values. In addition, once the 1992 figures become available, they would be implemented.

Burlington councillors were not satisfied with this and introduced their own proposals.

They urged a deferral of the Dec. 2 resolution, which based the MVA on 1988 figures, until Nov. 15, allowing time for six requirements to be filled. If the requirements are not filled by this time, Burlington councillors recommended a Motion to Reconsider be discussed at the next regional council meeting.

The requirements maintained the Minister of Finance provide written confirmation of his commitment to imple-

ment a Halton Region-wide MVA by property class using 1992 as a base year, beginning with the 1995 taxation year, or, at latest, the 1996 year. Also, that the Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs provide written confirmation that all necessary legislative and administrative actions will be taken and the regional chairman, the chairs of the two Halton school boards and the four municipal mayors meet with the ministers before Nov. 15 to discuss implementation of these requirements.

It was demanded that by the same date, Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Education must provide written confirmation for the 1994 taxation year and afterward, until the Halton Region-wide MVA is implemented. Also that public and separate school boards apportionments are calculated by using an average of 1989 and 1993 equalization factors, without the application of any further

upper tier discount factors.

The final requirement was that copies of the report be forwarded to all three ministers for information and as evidence of region council's support for the resolutions.

This requirement was amended, at the insistence of Oakville councillor Liz Behrens, pointing out council's support was based on 1992 values as a base year.

More than an hour of debate followed, during which time Bonnette said he felt he had a "gun to his head." Oakville councillor Kevin Flynn, a strong supporter of the Citizens' Commissions' report, said he would accept the recommendation, "because it seems like the thing to do tonight." Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller said some people will benefit from 1992-based MVA, and some will be hurt, "but we have to do what is best for the region."

The recommendations were unanimously accepted.

New town treasurer

By Oksana Buhel

The Town of Halton Hills will have a new treasurer as of Nov. 1.

J. Andrew Koopmans, will be taking over Ray King's position as town treasurer, which was left open when King became town administrator July 1.

Grant Usher, deputy treasurer, filled the treasurer's position temporarily and

Two more political possibilities

By Oksana Buhel

As the Oct. 25 federal election date draws near, more candidates are scampering into the political ring.

Marc Bianco has declared as candidate for the Christian Heritage Party of Canada in the Halton-Peel riding and Brian Patriquin will be representing the National Party.

Both men live outside Halton Region - Bianco in Hamilton and Patriquin in Caledon East.

Bianco owned his own Hamilton business for three

will be returning to his original post once Koopmans takes over.

Currently, Koopmans is director of finance for the Town Of Fort Erie, and before that, he was employed by the Town of Fort Williams. More information will be available when Town of Halton Hills personnel officer Marc Cohen returns this Monday.

years, but has recently decided to dedicate a larger portion of his life to religion. He is currently a preacher in Burlington-area churches.

Patriquin is the director of marketing for the Canadian Institute of Stress.

Both men have a different view on the root of current Canadian problems. Bianco believes Canadians have strayed from the teachings of the Bible, causing morals to divorce from politics. Patriquin thinks Canadians are simply "giving the country away."

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