

# Merchants in an uproar

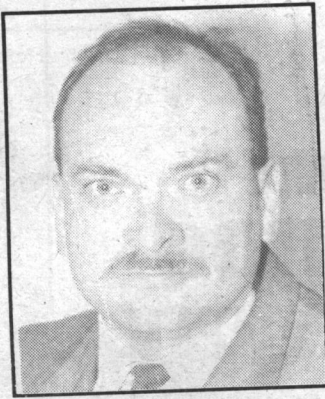
By Oksana Buhel

Construction on Guelph St. in Georgetown should essentially be completed in two weeks, but local business owners are not pacified.

Over 30 merchants packed the Guelph St. Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce (HHCC) building Thursday morning to hear the justifications for disruptions caused by the six-month long reconstruction of Guelph St. from municipal manager of engineering services, Peter Linn.

Linn insisted that when the contract was tendered in June, "the primary focus was maintaining access to Guelph St. businesses at all times." Business owners argued this focus has not been sustained.

Mike McHale of HaltAlarm Systems Inc.



Peter Linn

informed Linn the boards which were placed in drive-ways to prevent cars from scraping their mufflers were, in fact, "twigs." Other business owners agreed, adding if one car drove over the planks, the next car would not be able to do so because the planks would move. McHale suggested the con-

tractor, Memme Construction Co. Ltd. of Brampton, be forced to immediately purchase a sufficient number of planks from local lumber stores to remedy the situation.

Merchants complained access to their businesses was also being blocked by crew vehicles parking on private property. Linn said Memme workers were instructed to ask for permission before parking on private property, but admitted this was not always done. He added vehicles do not always belong to contract workers but frequently to workers of subcontracted companies.

Merchants were less concerned about who owned the vehicles than about the 30 per cent loss in sales they

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Health and safety issues are no longer a concern at Willow Park in Norval, assured Ken Owen, manager of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA), which owns the property. The work was completed Thursday by Cardinal Waste Management of Etobicoke, at a cost of \$9,000. The project was tendered Oct. 1, but Owen explained faulty equipment prevented the clean-up from starting on schedule. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

*Halton Hills This*

# WEEKEND

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## Acton artist exhibition

Opening at the Cultural Centre Gallery in Georgetown last Tuesday was an exhibition and sale of original watercolors by Acton artist Maria Sallay. The watercolors are a collection of seven years work of scenery from around the Halton Hills area. The show runs till Dec. 19. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

## Recreation Master Plan revealed

By Oksana Buhel

The Halton Hills Recreation Master Plan, brought about by the expected increase of population in Halton Hills in the next 10 years, changing trends of recreation and deteriorating existing facilities, was revealed Wednesday evening at a public meeting at Acton District High School.

"Overall, we had a positive evaluation of Park and Rec's services," maintained Jill Whitelaw of the Institute of Environmental Research (I.E.R.) Planning Research and Management Services of Concord, Ont., the consultants who prepared the plan. "There was no indication of overwhelming needs," she said, referring to the results of community surveys conducted during the work program.

Despite the absence of "overwhelming needs," I.E.R. submitted more than 100 recommendations, which were divided into categories of recreation facilities, parks and open space, and programs and services.

The locations of facilities, Whitelaw said, was reflective of residents' ages (the

population of Georgetown is expected to almost double in 10 years, mainly with young families moving into the area, while Acton was considered to have a gradually aging population and less foreseeable growth), were categorized as short-term, medium-term and long-term recommendations.

In the short-term category, which is to be implemented in the next three years, replacement of the Acton arena and feasibility studies for a 25-metre indoor leisure pool, possibly to replace the existing pool at Georgetown and District High School, were top priorities.

"We'll still support the Acton pool, as long as there's a need for it," insisted Jim Morgenstern, another I.E.R. consultant.

Medium-term recommendations included construction of the pool, a community multipurpose programming space, an Arts Resource Centre and replacement of the Georgetown Memorial Arena.

Long-term recommendations, to be implemented in 7-10 years, included devel-

opment of an outdoor performance space at Cedarvale Park and possible development of a new arena in Georgetown South.

Lighted and unlighted softball diamonds and soccer fields are recommended in all terms.

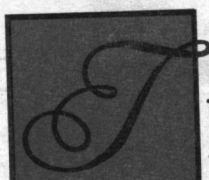
"It seems to me Georgetown is becoming the centre of recreational services," pointed out an unidentified member of the public. "I don't feel Acton is getting a fair share of new facility development." Others agreed but Morgenstern listed a number of facilities which would be located in Acton, and pointed out "the lion's share of population growth will be in Georgetown." Whitelaw pointed out many of the proposed facilities were recommended without specifying a location.

In the parks and open space category, most recommendations regarded upgrading existing parks and acquiring new ones. The major proposal was for the development of a Trails Master Plan, since "we are seeing an increase of interest in natural pursuits," Whitelaw said.

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