



Givin' you the dirt

by Sean James

Your local garden club

Many moons ago, when I was a wee lad of 17, I began doing odd garden jobs for my biology teacher and great friend, Lynn Featonby.

Shortly thereafter, another friend took me to a meeting of the Milton and District Horticulture Society. Word of mouth spread among the members that I did small garden jobs. Before I knew it, I had an expanding (see how I avoided the 'growing' pun) gardening business.

After a series of lucky meetings with people in the gardening trade, I was steered down to the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. Admittance to the school is based on experience and enthusiasm. Some of my classmates were graduates from university horticulture programs. The interesting thing was that, in terms of hands on gardening, I was their match. It was so easy to absorb knowledge from the other members of the Milton Hort Society! Everyone was so willing to share wisdom and experience.

Since all the members love gardening, many people become hobby experts in their own areas of interest. This makes for a great resource for the other members. Whether a new member is interested in roses or organic gardening methods, someone will have the

information and be eager to share it.

Every month, from September to June, meetings are held with speakers on various topics. There is often a flower show. Naturally, it's also a very social group. Have you ever met an unfriendly gardener?

Most communities have garden clubs or horticultural societies. We are blessed with several in the area. Look around and you will see their work in the form of community gardens. In Milton, we have the gardens at the town hall, the library and the information centre. We have helped with the planters on Main Street and have worked to plant trees in the community. The society has been very active helping schools set up peace gardens. The point is, garden clubs put a lot into the community and you can help if you wish.

You can be as active as you like. Many people just come to the meetings to see the speaker. Others take an active role in running the society. Don't worry that you won't know enough! If you're thinking about joining a garden club, you probably know more than you think. If not, you'll learn. Members don't even have to come out to all the meetings. A newsletter goes out to everyone detailing the upcoming speakers and events.

You can pick and choose.

The only sticky point is the membership prices. At seven dollars per year, in Milton, the membership fee is a real bank breaker! (Realistically, rates need to rise if societies are to remain productive.) What have you got to lose? You can find your local group online, in the paper or just by asking around. In Milton, meetings are held every third Monday at the Canadian Legion Hall on Charles Street. Many societies even allow folks to come and preview a meeting without joining.

Give it a try. If you're reading this, you're probably an excellent prospect.

Tip of the Month

In the on-going fight against squirrels at the birdfeeder, a new solution has been found. A friend recently moved her bird feeder to the middle of the lawn, away from the trees and in full view of the window. Squirrels were still able to climb the thin metal pole so she sprayed it with silicone oil that is available at most hardware and automotive stores. After the first couple of days, the bushy tailed rats just stopped trying! VICTORY.

Have your say on the
Bronte Creek
Watershed Study
Draft Final Report.

Bronte Creek Watershed Study Open House
Monday, February 11, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Presentation 7 p.m.)
Conservation Halton Administration Office, 2596 Britannia Road W., Milton

For information
contact
Brenda Axon,
905-336-1158 ext. 222.

Campbellville's Beautification Committee ready to dig in

by Sophie Chaney, Special to The Compass

Although many issues surrounding town beautification are best dealt with during the warmer months, Ruth Hull, the current chairperson, along with the other members of the Campbellville Beautification Committee, are actively addressing several issues over the winter so they can be ready to spring into action come planting time.

The Beautification Committee is part of the Campbellville Ratepayers Citizens' Group. The Ratepayers' Group was formed in June of 2001, to address the concerns and priorities of Campbellville residents. Several committees were formed to address issues associated with water quality, police and fire safety, town beautification and other concerns.

Two of the current priorities identified by the Beautification Committee include development of a colour scheme for the flower beds in the hamlet, and working with the Halton Region to try to ensure the recycling depot at the fire hall is kept as tidy as possible.

The committee also feels it is important to interact with existing community groups that share several interests, including the

Campbellville Area Business Association (CABA), the Milton Horticultural Society and the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee (NCCC).

For example, the committee is working with CABA, with the assistance of the Milton Horticultural Society, to develop a plan for improving the flower bed across from St. David's Church on Guelph Line, as this is seen as being a "gateway" to Campbellville.

Committee members have assisted CABA and NCCC in a clean-up of Reid Side Road, with the Harvest Fall Festival decorations and assembly of CABA's Santa Claus Parade float. Thus, the Beautification Committee is not intended to replace these other groups, but rather to supplement their efforts in areas of common interest.

If you have a green thumb or ideas for town beautification, the Campbellville Beautification Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month and we are always looking for volunteers to help with our activities. Contact Ruth Hull 905-854-3677 for details. The next meeting is March 5 at 7 p.m. chez Ruth.

Halton Region

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Every year, Halton's drinking water is quality tested more than 125,000 times by qualified technicians in Halton's own regional laboratory. It has consistently tested safe, meeting the required Ontario Drinking Water Standards.

Halton Region's Water Quality Quarterly Report (October-December 2001) is now available. The report provides detailed information about where Halton's drinking water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the Ontario Drinking Water Standards.

Find out more about
water quality in Halton:

To view results for all water supplies in Halton Region, visit:
www.region.halton.on.ca/ppw/water

Pick up a copy of the Water Quality Quarterly Report from Halton's Planning & Public Works Department or call us at the numbers below to order a copy of the report

Halton's Water is Clearly Top Quality
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

Guelph Line (Regional Road 1) Improvements
Between 15 Side Road & 20 Side Road (Town of Milton)
Class Environmental Assessment Study

The Regional Municipality of Halton has been conducting a Class Environmental Assessment to study transportation operational issues in the Guelph Line Corridor, from 15 Side Road (Regional Road 15) northerly to 20 Side Road (Regional Road 34) in the Town of Milton (see map below). To address operational deficiencies associated with this segment of Guelph Line, a number of road improvement alternatives have been examined as part of the study. These include road reconstruction, cross-section elements, profile improvements, over-all operations and the impact of such improvements on the social and natural environments.

The second Public Information Centre will be held to present the results of the evaluation of identified improvement alternatives and to review the alternative roadway designs for improvements to Guelph Line within the study corridor.

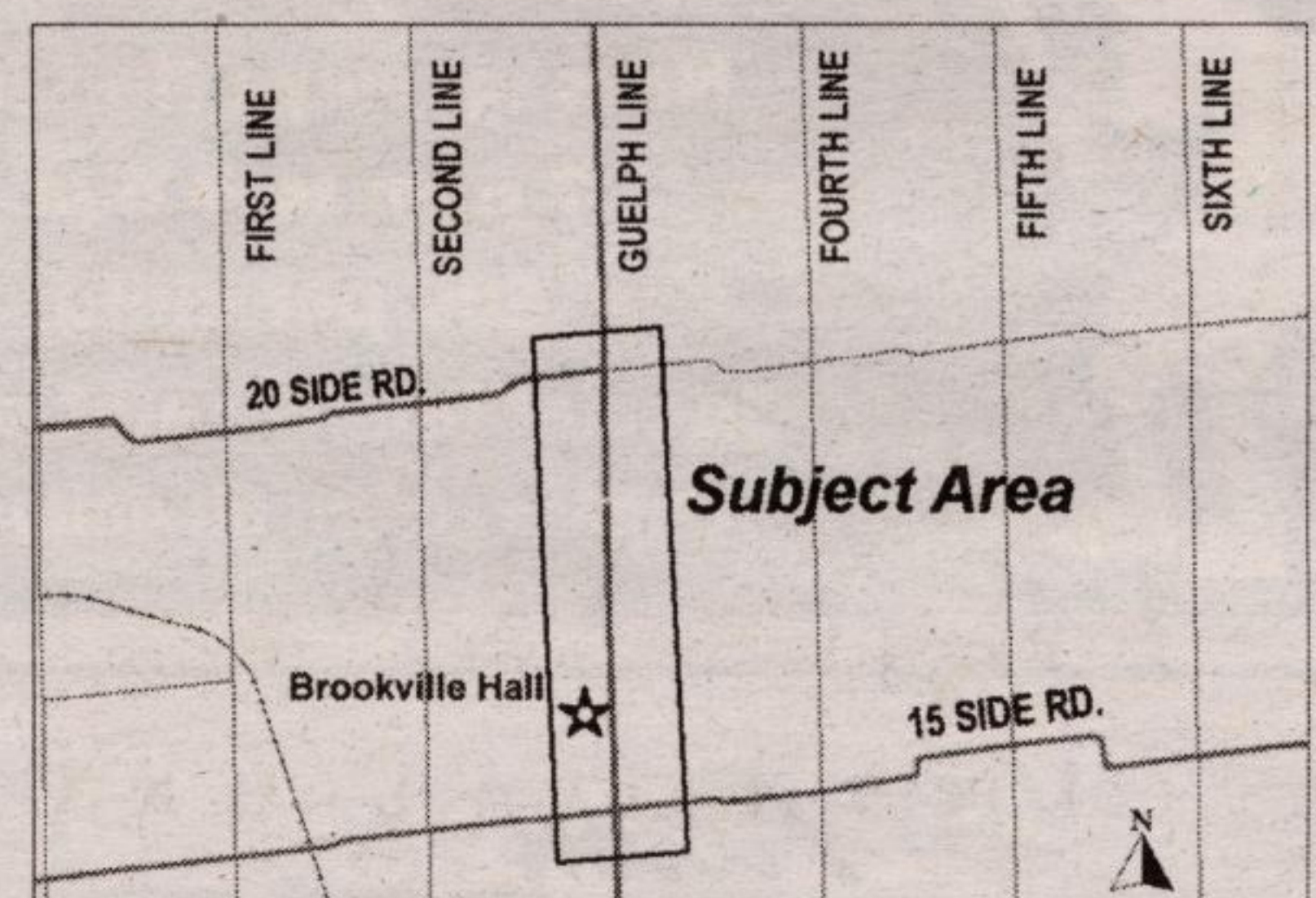
This study is being conducted in compliance with Schedule C of the Municipal Engineers Association *Municipal Class Environmental Assessment* (June 2000). The PIC is to be held:

Tuesday February 26th, 2002
Nassagaweya Community Centre
(Brookville Hall), 11264 Guelph Line
(at Cameron Drive), Milton
Open House 5:30 - 8:00 PM
Presentation 7:00 PM

If you are unable to attend the Public Information Centre and wish to provide comments or obtain further information about the project, please contact the individuals below.

Mr. Matt Krusto, Project Manager, Halton Region
Ext. 7225 — Email: krustom@region.halton.on.ca

Mr. Jim Horton, P. Eng., Itrans Consulting Inc.
100 York Boulevard, Suite 608, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J8
Phone: 1-905-882-4100 — Fax: 1-905-882-1557
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www.region.halton.on.ca/ppw/planningroads



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