

The Golden Report concerns Halton Hills mayor

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

While Halton Hills mayor Marilyn Serjeantson has some "definite" concerns about the contents of the Golden Report, she believes to be totally negative at this point wouldn't be fair.

The mayor intends to withhold judgment until the town has thoroughly assessed the report's ramifications. After an analysis

council is expected to discuss the report in the next two to three weeks.

Serjeantson said Thursday she hadn't had time yet to read the entire report but was at the press conference Tuesday when task force leader Anne Golden released the report which proposes changes to governance in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), and Wednesday night when Golden spoke at a dinner in Oakville.

"The town has to assess the report, revisit our vision (of the town), and look at the options available," said Serjeantson.

After the session with Golden Wednesday night she said she had the impression the "common good is important and we (Halton Hills) are so small it doesn't matter."

The Greater Toronto Council as proposed, which is to replace the regional governments in the GTA, would see Halton Hills, Milton and

Caledon share one seat, compared to five seats for Toronto.

"We are concerned about our representation at the region, we could be swallowed up (at the new proposed council)."

Serjeantson said she understands the option of staying in or opting out of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is available to municipalities on the fringe of the GTA, such as Halton Hills.

She said if the town considered

opting out council would have to grapple with where it would go, would it receive the same benefits, would negotiations with another rural municipality be the answer or could staying in Halton Region be an option.

In the report Golden also recommends a province-wide shakeup of the tax system beginning with Metro, and a pooling of education taxes for business across the GTA.

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News

Digest

Flood alert

The Halton Regional Conservation Authority issued a flood alert Thursday afternoon. Owing to the warm temperatures and rainfall received last week, a lot of snow has melted. The saturated ground plus the rainfall created the potential for flooding. The authority also warned that rivers, creeks and streams were hazardous with slippery banks and fast moving currents.

Hospital board retreat

The Georgetown Hospital board members held a retreat recently to develop a corporate visioning document. They will hold a special meeting on Feb. 1 to discuss the document.

Goats, pigs stolen

Six goats, 14 pigs and a kerosene heater worth a total of \$3,000 were taken from a locked barn on the Eighth Line in Halton Hills sometime overnight Sunday, police said. The lock was pried off.



Don Swackhamer, Ken Robinson, and John Pimentel were honored January 12 for their work with the Halton Hills Public Works Department. The three recent retirees have a combined 81 years of experience, with at least 25 years each. Pimentel, who doesn't have a driver's licence, often told his co-workers he couldn't drive his wheelbarrow to work so he was presented with a specially designed wheelbarrow, outfitted with handle bars and a bicycle seat. The three men were presented with plaques and numerous other gifts to recognize their outstanding service.
HERB GARBUTT photo

At the OMB

Town is challenged

One of three property owners, objecting to town planning designations, dropped a challenge at an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing Wednesday.

Lawyer Bert Arnold, representing the property owned by Jane Hoddinott, submitted a letter Wednesday consenting to the town's amendment of the official plan as it affects the property. The owner wanted this land, near the Georgetown fairgrounds, to be medium density, but has now accepted the town's low density designation.

"That's good news. If we could only do that with the two others," said town planner Glenn Wellings. The designation of two others — the Zupet and Solnick properties — is still at issue.

Five weeks have been set aside for the hearing, which began Jan. 15, but Wellings said he hopes it won't take that long. The Zupet property on Maple Ave. is beside North Halton Golf and Country Club, and the developer has submitted a site plan to construct an eight-storey apartment building and 39 three-storey townhouses, making it a high density area. The town believes the land should be medium density.

The other property, owned by Victor Solnick, is in west Georgetown (near Moore Park and Marywood Meadows) and the developer would like this to be medium density, while the town says it should be low density.

The hearing will continue Monday (Jan. 22), and the rest of the week in the Halton Hills Council Chamber.

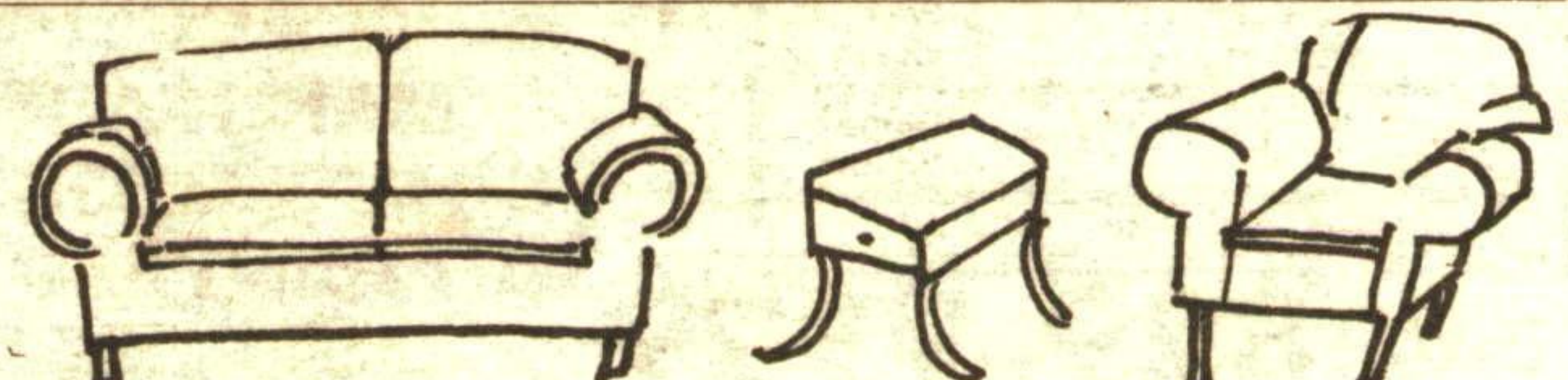
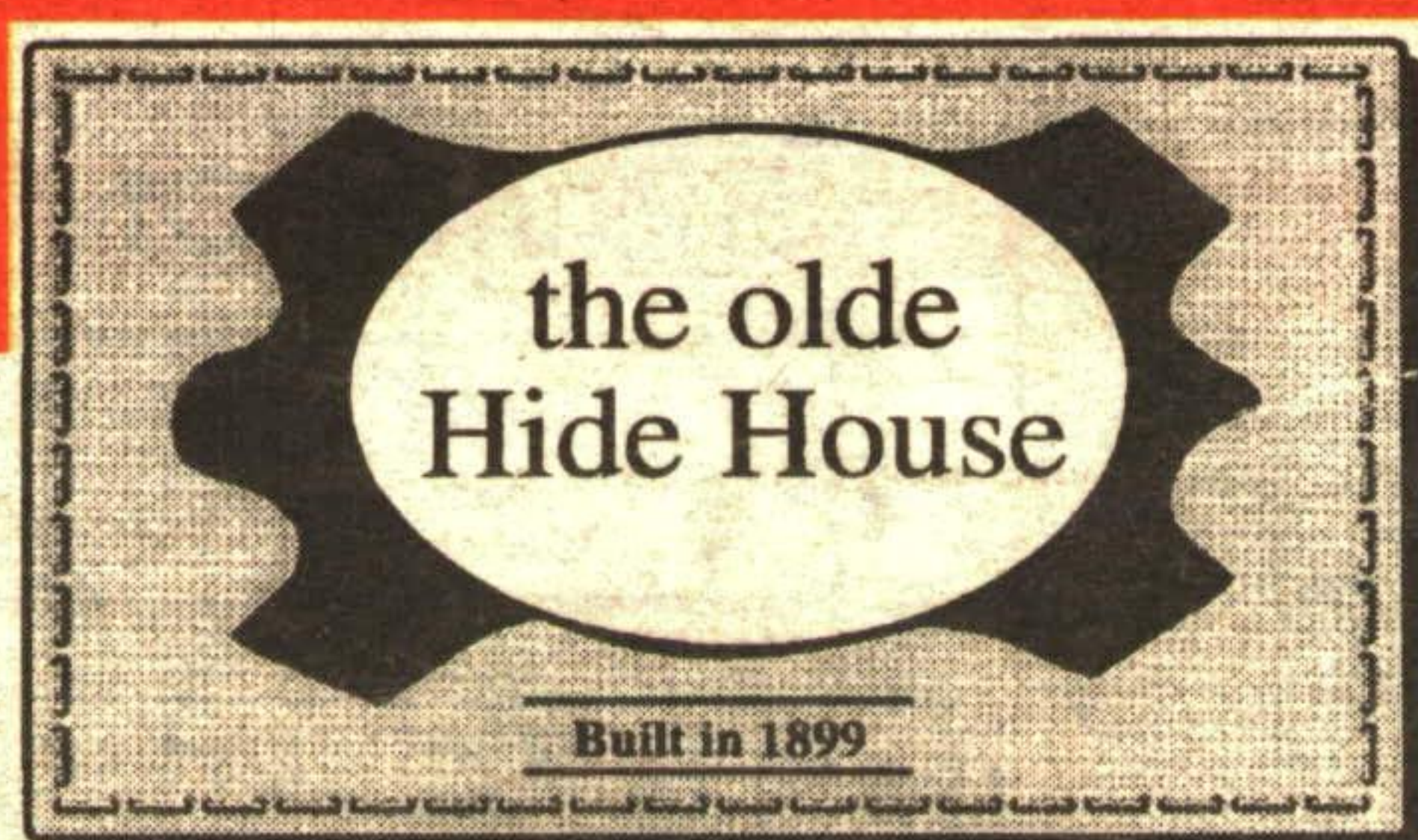
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