



Place your bid

Theresa Rodobolski of Pictures and Presents adjusts "Don't Forget to Pray," a Greg Olsen print which is one of more than 45 prints that will be offered at her 7th Annual Unconventional Art Auction in aid of the Canadian Cancer Society. Starting Thursday, bidders can drop by the gallery at 124 Main St. S. Georgetown, to place their bids on the sheets with each having a reserve bid. The bidding continues until May 2, when bidders can attend a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. to place their last minute bids before the deadline. Since 1992, Pictures and Presents has raised \$23,362 for the Cancer Society.

Photo by Ted Brown

Town slashes dollars for fire station study

Halton Hills budget committee slashed \$150,000 from the fire department capital budget— money slated to investigate the feasibility of the Maple Ave. fire station.

The committee later added \$25,000 back in to pay for a study. This decision is not final until the capital budget is formally approved by council sometime next month.

Councillor Ron Chatten said the inclusion of the full amount is premature until a Fire Marshal Office (FMO) report is received by the town. The FMO had been requested to study Halton Hills' fire service and provide recommendations on its future expansion. The report received verbally recently by Fire Chief Bill Cunningham, suggested two stations to accommodate future growth; one located at either the Maple Ave. site or Dominion Gardens site and one located in Georgetown South. According to his conversation with the FMO, response times from Maple Ave. and Dominion Gardens would be about the same, said Cunningham.

The point is moot though. Halton Hills council voted last week to delete a condition requiring Parallax Land Corporation— owners of the Dominion Seed House lands— to convey a portion of that land for a fire station. That leaves the Maple Ave. station, which Cunningham told budget committee is inadequate and has safety hazards. He wanted the \$150,000 in the capital budget so he could hire engineers to look at the access hazards created by the site's elevations, traffic flow, as well as the feasibility of the aged building.

"Maple Ave. needs to be improved first before a new station is built, said Cunningham. "We do not have a functioning station now."

Dominion Gardens OMB

Town, developer square off on housing units

The number of housing units and the amount of parkland to be dedicated to the town are two key issues in the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing dealing with the Dominion Gardens property underway at the Civic Centre this week.

Parallax Land Corporation, the company planning to develop the 54-acre site, wants to build only about 305 units on the site (down from the 560 units that were draft approved by Halton Region). The big reduction is in the number of high density (condo or apartment) units, which was originally 360 and Parallax is interested now in only about 125 units.

On Monday Parallax's planning consultant Leon Hendridge said there is no market for 360 high density units.

The town's solicitor at the hearing Roger Beaman said the town is particularly concerned about the loss in units because that "then leads to the loss of the central park."

Beaman said Parallax already agreed to the region's conditions and fully endorsed the master plan for the property. He said Parallax is "chipping away at the comprehensive nature of what was done."

Parallax's lawyer Stan Makuch said "this is not an attack on the master plan." He said Parallax is not chipping away at the plan but attempting to resolve issues that don't now make sense.

In keeping with the reduction in density being sought by Parallax it only wants to dedicate about three acres of parkland to the town (instead of the five set out in the town's master plan for the property) and to sell the remaining five acres of land for the park to the town at the market price the day before the first building permit is issued.

Hendridge said the park dedication should be based on the number of units actually built.

The town on the other hand wants to follow what was included in the master plan for five acres of parkland to be dedicated to the town and only three acres

purchased at a price set in 1996. The town's deputy director of planning Karen Pianosi said those calculations are based on the parkland dedication requirements set out in the planning act.

The town and Parallax also have a difference of opinion on the type of stormwater pond to be built and Parallax wants to increase the grocery store square footage from 30,000 to 40,000 in the commercial block and sever that block so it can be developed quickly. It also wants to sever the fire hall block, which the town recently decided it no longer needed to build a fire hall on. Parallax also does not want to have to pay for improvements at Guelph St. and Mountainview Rd. and the town wants it to pay 30 per cent of the cost.

The school site on the property may also be dealt with by the OMB. Parallax wants to provide the Halton Catholic District School Board with an option to purchase the site at fair market value until December 31 2001. Linda Tanaka of the Halton Catholic District School Board said the board and Parallax are exchanging information and may be able to come to a resolution.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Acton men charged with assault

Two Acton men have been charged in connection with an incident that occurred at a Churchill Rd. S. apartment last Saturday morning. Police say at about 1:30 a.m. a fight broke out in the hallway. During the incident a man attempted to get into an apartment in the building and punched a 17-year-old girl in the stomach.

Also during the fight a 19-year-old Rockwood man was kicked and punched. Neither victim was seriously injured.

Charged with assault, break and enter and breach of probation is Bronson Snow, 18 of Churchill Rd. S. Also charged with assault is Clayton Prucyk, 18, of Churchill Rd. S. Snow was held for a bail hearing and Prucyk is to be in court on June 7.

What You Said

'What would you like to see in the next Ontario budget to be unveiled in the Legislature on Tuesday?'



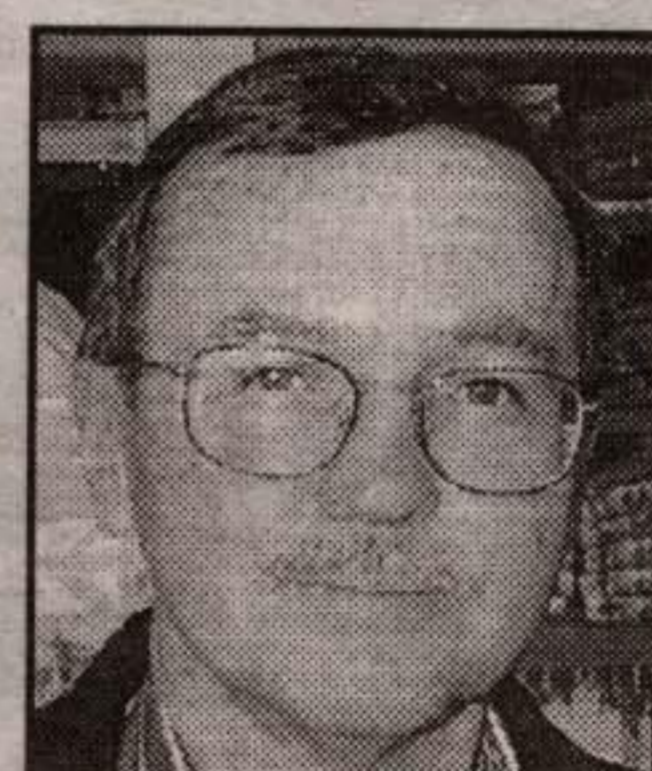
Vesta Jorgensen, retired, Ottawa

"I would like to see more money for health care. I think the cuts have been too severe and it's time to start restoring and getting back to the standards we're used to."



Pauline Robinson, library technician, Glen Williams

"I would like to see more funding for health care and education. The government balanced the budget so they should be able to put more money toward health and education."



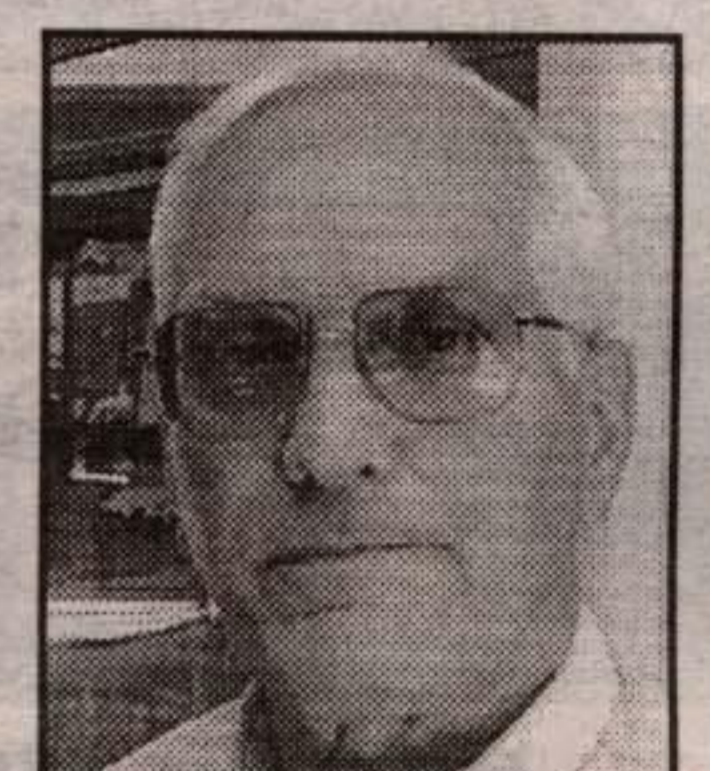
Paul Stevenson, insurance broker, Hillsburgh

"I'd like to know what their plans are for that first age group that is going to miss Grade 13. How will they make space available for two age groups heading off to school?"



Leona Arnold, mother, Georgetown

"I think children should have a safer environment at school...because of what happened in the U.S. If they could create more activities for kids to do at school then ... it would make schools better."



Cecil Simpson, retired teacher, Georgetown

"No more tax cuts. I don't think we can afford them."

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