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The annual Riverfest in Norval brought out a wide variety of unusual craftspeople including chainsaw sculptor Peter Mogensen (above) and bush survival expert Gino Ferri.

Photos by Christine Smyth

# Hwy. 7 bypass a priority— council

Halton Hills council has sent a message to Halton Region staff that it wants a Hwy. 7 bypass around Georgetown and Norval considered as a priority when a staff report on transportation is presented to the region's planning and public works committee May 26.

Council, in response to widespread citizen sentiment, approved a motion stating the bypass is the town's number one transportation priority to resolve the traffic problems in Georgetown and Norval.

The motion, approved at a recent council meeting, also urged the region to start the environmental assessment process as soon as possible, and to co-ordinate the study with the Ministry of Transportation, the Region of Peel, and City of Brampton. Peel and Brampton become involved because a portion of the bypass will be located within their boundaries. The Ministry becomes involved because Hwy. 7 is a provincial highway.

The town wants an environmental study process completed by fall 2000. The region has already included \$250,000 for a study in its 1999 capital budget.

A region consultant report, the North Halton Transportation Study, does recommend a bypass, but construction would not begin until 2016.

Town engineer Bob Austin, a member of the study's technical advisory committee, stated at a council meeting that warrants (number of vehicles) for a bypass won't be reached until 2016, so approving construction of a bypass earlier will have to be a political decision.

In a report to council, Austin did agree with a recent Glen Williams Community Association delegation that minor arterial road designations on some of that hamlet's streets be deleted. In its recommendations to regional staff, council then requested minor arterial road designations be deleted on 22 Sideroad, Eighth Line, Wildwood Rd., Main St., Prince St. and Tenth Line. That designation remains on Confederation St.

Ian Pember, a GWCA representative, told council at a recent meeting his group endorses these new recommendations and will work with staff in future meetings and during the hamlet's secondary planning process to reduce current traffic problems.

Janet Allison, 15 Sideroad resident, requested the minor arterial designation be removed from her road as it should be more appropriately labeled as a collector road. The road, she said, should not be used by trucks unless it is upgraded. It is currently signed unsuitable for trucks. Austin said while the 15 Sideroad designation as minor arterial remains, no capital works plans are expected for at least nine years— lessening the likelihood of trucks using it regularly. Austin added he would relay Allison's concerns to regional staff.

Once the roads report is adopted by regional council, the Halton Area Services Review (HASR) roads team will review a strategy to address roadway ownership and financial management within Halton, said Austin.

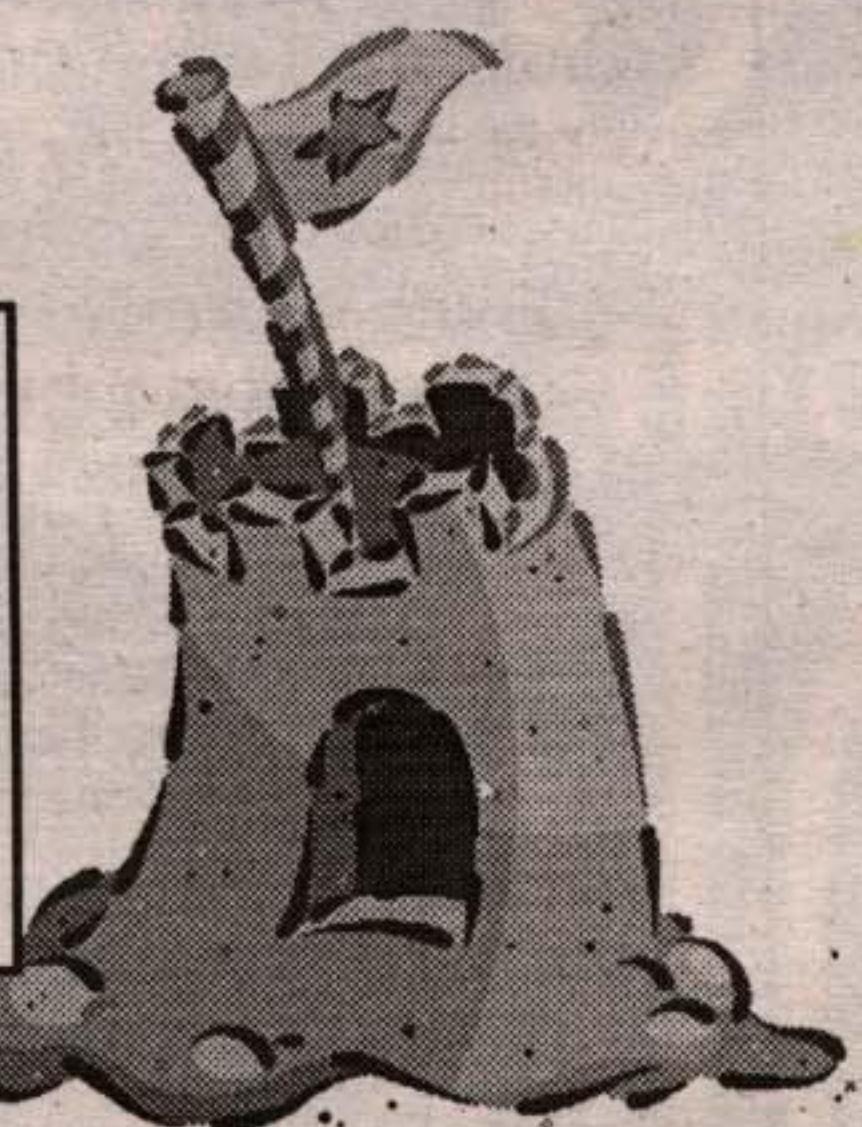
—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer



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