

Park for Dominion Gardens gets go-ahead

Site to be a 'central park' for the entire community



A larger than usual children's playground is one aspect of a new community park planned for Dominion Gardens. Pathway, parking and a pavilion are also in the plans.

It's "all systems go" for a community playground in the Dominion Gardens Park, after decisions made by Halton Hills council last week.

The building of the community park on the 10-acre site has been on hold this year, pending a decision on the location of the future Georgetown library.

Halton Hills Library Board and its consultant had narrowed their preferred site to the Dominion Gardens property, which would have effectively swallowed up a substantial portion of the planned park.

The Dominion Gardens Park concept has been on the books since 1999, after much community consultation. Last January, council gave the go-ahead to spend \$92,000 on playground equipment. But the playground was put on hold as both the Fire Department and the Library Board eyed the property as locations for their proposed new projects.

Then, the Fire Department began looking elsewhere, and at Monday's council meeting, Council turned down the Library Board's request to put its new proposed Georgetown library on the site.

"That site was purchased for a lot of money. And the decision was to have a central park for our community," said Councillor Jane Fogal, also chair of the Friends of the Old Seed House Garden at Monday's meeting. "Parks are really something that are important; they humanize our community."

"The way it looks like right now is not the vision for what it is going to be," she continued. "It is going to be developed— it's just that each

year we've been put behind. Last year we were going to put trees there (in 2005) and the community came and said they desperately needed a playground and we said, 'Okay, we would switch the trees and get a playground' and it should have been installed by now, but it was held up by this report."

Due to the lateness of the season and weather conditions, the playground cannot not be built until the spring.

But Warren Harris, manager of parks and cemeteries, said Wednesday, that it will be "all systems go" for spring building with a scheduled May opening, weather permitting, of course.

"Lots of residents in the area have been really looking forward to it," he said. "I think it'll be great."

Features of the new community park will include:

- the Commemorative Seed House Garden (already established after successful fund-raising and effort by the Friends of the Old Seed House Garden.)
- on-site parking area
- multi-use lawn areas for staging special events like last spring's

Art in the Park.

- children's playground— larger than most as this is intended to be a park used by the entire community. Designed for children, ages 2-12, it will have two slides, activity panels, rung climber, stepping stones and a universal access station. A splash pad will come in a later stage.

- pavilion/gazebo
- pathways and boardwalk around the stormwater retention pond.

To date, \$1.5 million has been spent on the park, which includes \$950,000 for the purchase of additional acreage, \$14,500 for design/public consultation, \$15,000 for detailed park design, \$107,000 for the servicing and playground development.

Another \$1,400 will be spent to store the playground equipment, already ordered, until spring.

While the intended vision of the park is to serve the whole community, about 750 residents living in the Dominion Gardens subdivision will use it as their designated neighbourhood park.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

Police blotter Vandals damage nine vehicles

Approximately \$7,000 damage in total, mostly to vehicles, was caused during a vandalism spree in Georgetown late Friday or early Saturday.

Halton Police report windows in nine vehicles parked on Prince Charles Dr. (4), Edward St. (1), Shelley St. (1) Raylawn Cr. (1), Rexway Dr. (1) and Keats Ave. (1) were smashed and a rock was thrown through a window at Boston Pizza on Guelph St.

Anyone with information on the incidents is asked to call police at 905-878-5511 ext. 2415 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Halton Police have charged a Ballinafad man with impaired driving and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood after receiving a call from an off-duty police officer who witnessed a vehicle being driven erratically on Ninth Line early Sunday. Police stopped the vehicle on Prince Charles Dr.

Charged is Tom Connors, 29, of Trafalgar Rd.

A Georgetown man is facing charges after police found a man asleep at the wheel of a vehicle on Main St. last Sunday.

Charged with impaired driving and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood is Rana Randhawa, 39, of Arbor Glen Dr.

Police are investigating the theft of a \$2,200 Honda generator from a trailer during a break and enter late Thursday or early Friday at a construction site at Ninth Line and 10 Sideroad. Entry was gained after a window was kicked-in.

Hotel's liquor licence to be suspended in Jan.

The McGibbon Hotel's liquor licence will be suspended for two weeks in January after the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) board found an intoxicated person was served alcohol and drunkenness was permitted in the bar last year.

The suspension will run Jan. 2-16.

In the board's decision it was stated the breaches of the Liquor Licence Act occurred on December 10 and 11, 2004, and involved four patrons.

Evidence provided by AGCO inspectors stated one patron was so drunk he walked into a wall, and another showed signs of extreme intoxication outside the bar in front of a bartender, but was still allowed back inside. Neither was cut off.

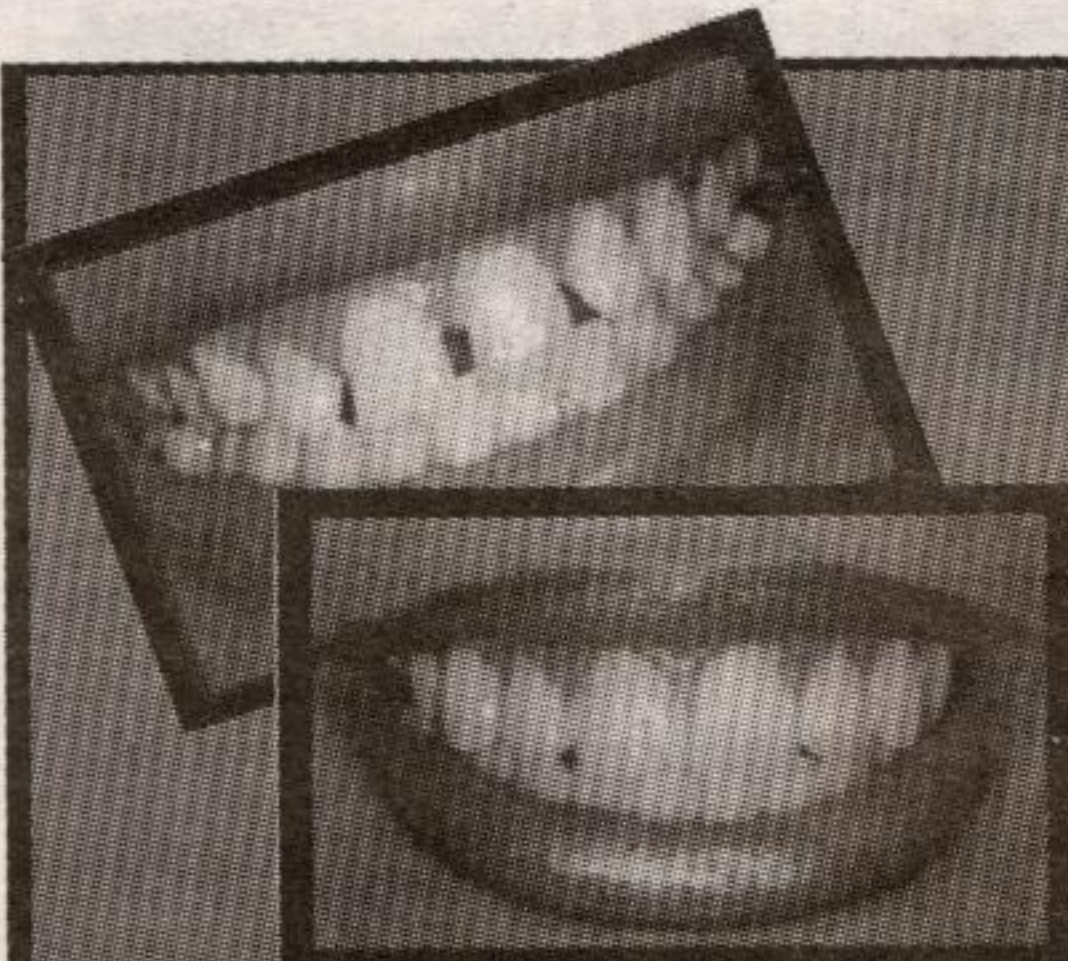
"The observations of the inspectors inside the premises indicated a very poor level of staff training and a permissive environment that allows excessive consumption of alcohol to prevail," it was stated in the decision.

The decision said the board took into account the previous commendable history of the hotel's operation but "considers the conditions inside the licensed area of the McGibbon Hotel to be such that they raise serious concerns about public safety in the broader community."

Parade fun


The Georgetown Market Place held its annual Christmas Parade Saturday with a cast of colourful characters marching through the mall. On hand to greet Santa Claus were Tommy Tee and the Candy Cane band along with Scrooge, Santa's elf, the Toy Soldier (right) and Mrs. Claus.

Submitted photo



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