

Bingo license fee hikes put on hold

By HOWARD MOZEL
Oakville Beaver Staff

A plan to raise fees for local bingo and raffle licenses has been put on hold until Town Hall determines whether charities hosting the events can recoup the increase at tax time.

Tuesday's Administrative Services Committee voted to defer a proposal which would hike the cost of a license from 2% to 3% of the total value of prize money awarded.

Since 1970 the Town has been

responsible for the licensing of all bingos where the winnings do not exceed \$3,500 and raffles with prize boards up to \$5,000. The province controls all events in excess of those amounts. In 1989, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations granted municipalities the power to hike the fee to 3%.

At first, Committee members were completely against the idea of increasing license fees and representatives from three area organizations - the Bronte and Oakville Legions plus

Survivors of Strokes - agreed with them. Voting on the matter was delayed two weeks until a report can be prepared to see if charities can get money back when they file their taxes.

Phillip Bouillon, Supervisor of By-law Enforcement and Licensing Commissioner, said he would be contacting Revenue Canada on the matter, but added the Committee was not supportive of the fee increase unless the government had some good news for the charities.

Municipalities such as Hamilton,

Stoney Creek, St. Catharines, Burlington and Fort Erie are already charging 3% or plan to do so in the near future.

Administrative Services next meets Tues. Nov. 9th.

In the first six months of this year the Town issued 923 bingo licenses with prizes worth \$3,500. At 2%, the municipality's cut per event was \$70, or \$64,610 in total. Upping the fee to 3% (or \$105 each) would net \$96,915 - or more than \$32,000 than previously collected. A year-end projection

estimates the Town would receive more than \$65,000 in additional revenues.

Another factor which enters into the Committee's decision is the proposed provincial "downloading" of licensing events with prize packages worth up to \$4,500. Under the current system, the Town receives half, or \$45, of the 2% licensing fee. If the responsibility is shifted entirely to municipalities and the fee increased by 3%, Oakville could stand to make an additional \$94,000.

by Steve Nease

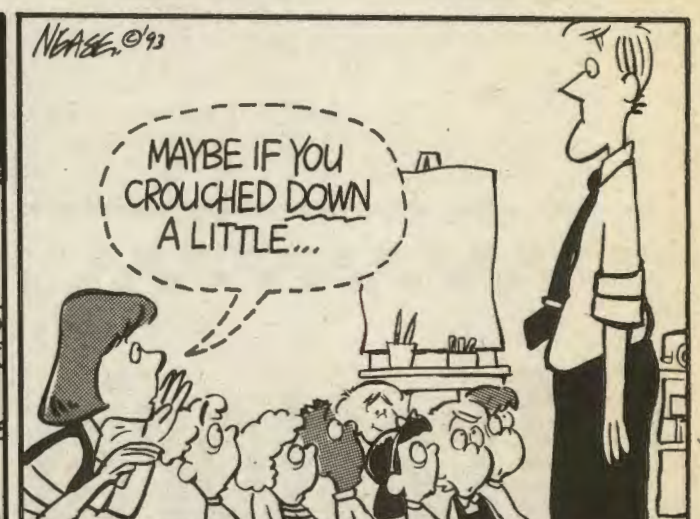
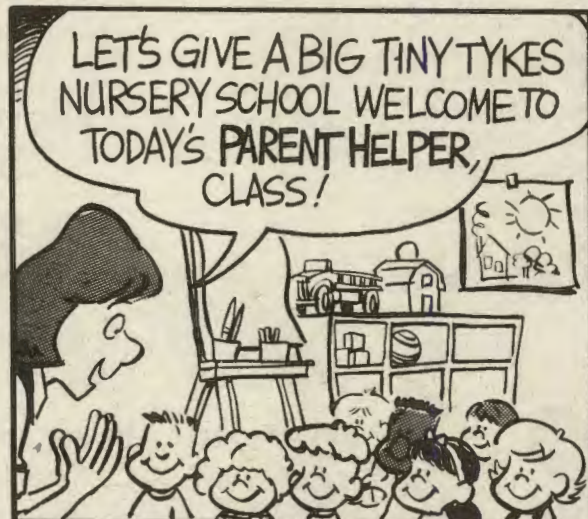
Safe driving course for those 55 & over

The Hamilton Automobile Club will be holding a two-hour driver Safety Course in Oakville on Tues. Nov. 2nd at 10 a.m. at the Howard Johnson Hotel on 590 Argus Rd.

The course is called 55 Plus. The Club is welcoming a limited number of non-members to attend this course as well as all HAC members.

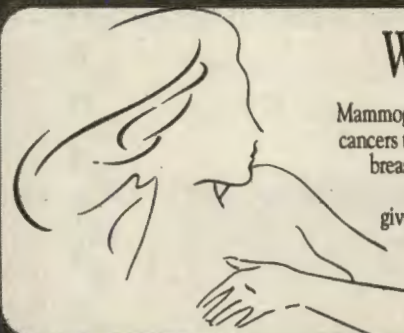
If you are over 55 and would like to spend a couple of hours obtaining valuable driving information to improve your driving habits call the HAC to register at 525-1520, ext. 2238. The cost is \$5.35 (incl. G.S.T.) payable at the door.

PUD



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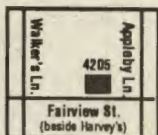
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