

## Regional councillors told: cut salaries

Halton Regional Councillors will be asked to show leadership in the fight against inflation and accept cuts in their own stipends of 10 per cent or \$850 per year.

That motion arose out of a discussion during Wednesday's meeting concerning a move to eliminate automatic merit increases for senior staffers.

The motion came out of an in camera meeting of the Region's Finance and Administration Committee. Committee member MacLean Anderson said the senior staffers were being paid "a damn good dollar. You have to start at the top and the buck stops here," he said, making his point in favour of ceasing merit increases.

Anderson had earlier told reporters he hoped that merit increases would be discontinued and that the move would lead to further spending cuts by the region.

Halton Hills Councillor Ric Morrow opposed the cancellation of merit increases and indicated council should meet in committee of the whole, in camera, to further discuss

the matter of staff increases. He argued there should be an incentive to work for every employee.

Councillor Gord Brown felt the taxpayer was accepting as much burden as he could now and favored a tough line on salaries.

Councillors favoring doing away with merit increases were reminded periodically

that there was no similar desire for restraining expenses when councillors voted themselves into a pension plan two weeks ago.

The motion cutting council salaries—proposed by Jack Raffis and Bill Mason—was withdrawn later in the meeting but Mason promised that the matter would be referred to budget discussions.

# The Acton Free Press

## No free swims

All free passes to town swimming pools will be cut off, if an administration committee recommendation is adopted by council.

Halton Hills administration committee chairman Les Duby said it was an austerity move, suggested by Recreation Director Glen Gray.

## Bingo!



ACTON FIREFIGHTERS have been busy in the past weeks assembling a giant float, in the form of the shoe from the nursery rhyme There Was An Old Woman. Alf Duby, Doug Mason and Did Price (back to camera) were just a few of the

men putting the huge shoe on a flatbed to go down to the Georgetown Santa Claus parade on Saturday. The same float will be in Acton's parade this Saturday.

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## Christmas bus to roll Friday

The town's Christmas bus will start its annual holiday route this Friday morning. It is again sponsored by town merchants and business people to provide rides throughout town during the holiday season.

Although naturally merchants hope shoppers will come downtown on the bus, it is also intended for anyone's convenience or pleasure. People are welcome to hop aboard to visit friends at the other end of town. (Older people are already planning to call on friends in the senior citizens apartments this way.)

School children are also expected to take advantage of public transportation to get to school these cold days.

The bus will be at the police station on the hour and half hour. The route will be almost exactly the same as last year only it will take in a few more

built-up streets in subdivisions.

Tyler Transport agreed to donate the last full day of bus service as their contribution. Because of this the service can begin a day earlier, this Friday, Dec. 12.

There will be no charge for passengers.

Chamber of Commerce president Mike Worthington is collecting for donations to pay for the bus and says he finds the merchants' response very enthusiastic. "Almost all of them say it's a great thing," he says. Donations are coming well.

For the first time blue and white decals have been prepared and these will appear on the store or business windows of each contributor.

C of C president Worthington hopes Actonians will notice these signs and thank the sponsors by patronizing their businesses.

## For winter

### Three hour parking limit is coming back

Halton Hills works committee decided Monday to take another crack at trying to get council to pass a three hour parking limit regulation.

The committee says a three hour limit is needed to prevent overnight parking during the winter because parked cars hamper snow removal operations.

Earlier this year the committee tried to have the three hour parking limit included in a comprehensive parking by-law but council rejected the idea because it would affect residents who had guests at their home who wanted to stay more than three hours.

Engineer Robert Austin says signs will be posted at the main entrances to the town warning people there is a three hour parking limit. The signs would be placed with Halton Hills signs. The procedure is used in many municipalities including Brampton to prevent parked cars from hampering snow removal.

It has been suggested several times by the committee that the regulation banning parking longer than three hours would only be enforced during the winter months.

### November building

Building permits totalling a value of \$26,100 were issued for Acton in November. There are just two buildings involved, a single family dwelling on Crescent St. for \$25,000 and a residential alteration for \$1,100.

The season for building is past.

### Bill town

Beardmore and Co. billed Halton Hills for outstanding taxes and administration committee agreed to the payment Monday night.

Acton parks board originally leased land reclaimed following lake dredging from Beardmore for \$1 a year and had agreed to pay the taxes. However this had not been done for the past three years.

The problem was explained and resolved by committee.



A WORKMAN SIGNALS to a powershovel operator, just off camera, to hoist one of the wood planks used to shore up a sewer trench in Cameron Street. The digging is heading north toward the lake, and is expected to take three weeks before the work is completed. Hidden from the camera's view are the workmen toiling several feet below the surface.

## Town resolution in error

Two dead sheep aren't worth \$350 but four dead and two injured sheep are worth that much.

Last week, Councillor Ern Hyde called for the return of the wolf bounty in Halton after a resolution was passed by Halton Hills council

paying Russell Perry, R. R. 4, Acton, \$350 for two sheep killed by wolves on November 18.

The resolution was in error since the \$350 was compensation for four sheep killed on November 18, along with two other sheep injured.

## West end in darkness

Many Acton residents were in the dark Monday evening after a hydro sub-station became overloaded, cutting off the juice to homes in the west end.

Hydro superintendent Doug Mason said a crew was sent out to throw some of the load

over to different stations to restore the power.

Some areas in town were in darkness longer than others as one subdivision reported a 60 minute blackout. The Free Press clocks were 20 minutes slow the next day.

Livestock evaluator for Halton Hills, Clare Wilson said the dead sheep were each worth \$70 and the injured animals were worth \$25 each.

Mr. Wilson told this paper he received a number of calls after the wolf bounty story appeared in this paper because people wondered what kind of sheep were worth \$175 each.

A town spokesman said that since the compensation for the animals was correct in the resolution council passed it and it will not come up again despite the fact the number of animals involved was wrong.

## Santa will arrive in cutter welcome friends at Y after

Santa Claus is coming to town... on Saturday afternoon at 1.30.

He'll be driving a newly-painted cutter and have plenty of company in the town's best Santa Claus parade yet.

The Y's men originally called a meeting to discuss a Santa parade and from there on the idea snowballed.

On committee Tom Madrick is chairman of the parade committee which consists of Danna Coates, Louise Clark, George Wallis, Dave Swetman and Rick Aldridge. Chairman of the judges' committee is Elsie Syme.

Mr. Swetman and Mr. Wallis are heading the financial committee which has been collecting donations from merchants and business.

Some money is needed for float prizes, band expenses, candy purchase and a few rentals of costumes.

Acton Citizens Band will be marching without charge and the Georgetown Girls Pipe Band is coming for expenses. There was a similar arrangement last weekend for the Georgetown parade.

There will be three cash prizes for floats—first, second and third. There are no

separate categories. All the larger entries will be numbered so the judges can jot down their decisions easily Saturday afternoon.

Candy canes will be given out by clowns along the route of the parade, from the station down Mill, up Main and to the scout hall.

The firefighters will be acting as parade marshals as well as having three entries of their own.

In the Y The Y's Menettes are decorating the Y and it is here that Santa Claus will hold court after the parade. While children sit on his knee for a

chat, Jim Jennings will take pictures for parents who would like to buy them. Balloons and candy canes will be given out free to all the children who come to the Y after the parade.

Meanwhile, all the participants in the parade will be welcomed into the scout hall where they will warm up with the help of hot chocolate and doughnuts. The Scout Mothers Auxiliary is looking after this end of things.

There is a terrific lineup of floats and marchers which has float organizer Danna Coates delighted.

On the list Speyside school is bringing a float with students in costume.

Firefighters have three parts to their entry, the Old Lady who lived in the Shoe, a fireplace with children for their Muscular Dystrophy campaign and their 1927 Studebaker fire truck.

Scouts and Guides have a float called Fairy Tales.

Acton Snowmobile club plans "before and after" snowmobiles and costumes. Moss Hardware is entering Nursery Rhymes.

The John Deere dealer promises an entry called Snowmobilers' Holiday.

The Junior Farmers plan to display winter sports activities.

The Acton Figure Skating Club will have a float. The

## Rev. C. Beaton comes to Trinity

Sunday morning a unanimous congregational vote gave a special committee the authority to engage Charles Beaton as the new minister of Trinity United. He will begin his ministry here the second Sunday in January.

Mr. Beaton will commute here from Markham until the end of the school year in the spring. Mrs. Beaton works part-time as a music teacher and they have three teenage children in school.

They hope to buy a home here.

Mr. Beaton is well-

remembered as a former minister at Ballinacraig United church. He was ordained in the late 60's.

His first charges were in Alberta and then he became the assistant minister at Markham. He has been there since.

For the last two and a half years he has been in the real estate business.

The Rev. Eric Nelson will continue to preach some Sundays until Mr. Beaton arrives. However, a minister from Guelph will take the services on Christmas and New Year Sundays.

## Lake 12-inches deep concerns CVCA chmn. Two crashes

A 1,000 acre lake only 12-inches deep which would act much like a frying pan in heating up the headwaters of the Credit River, was pictured for the executive committee of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority by chairman Grant Clarkson Thursday.

Clarkson said gravel pits in the Caledon area where well known sportsmen Conn Smythe and others have pits, will soon be refurbished and a 1,000 acre lake is planned to take the place of pits. His objection to the proposal centres on the 12-inch deep lake. He pictured the sun heating the lake and water flowing into the nearby headwaters of the Credit River system, destroying the ecology.

The chairman described the proposal to the executive committee of the Authority when the subject of gravel pits and recent OMB gravel pit hearings at Hillsburgh cropped up. The Authority has been criticized for not participating in the hearings by one witness, Eric Salmood, who testified the CVCA has failed to apply the basic principles of protection of the watershed.

Authority member Henry Wheeler of

Erin township told the executive the Credit runs through the area the Telephone City company proposes to mine and the Authority should be interested in the issues of gravel-pit mining.

But how could the staff do it? asked member Hazel McCallion.

General manager Harry Watson agreed. "We don't have the staff to carry out the work in the office now," he said, so it would be virtually impossible to have representation at the OMB gravel-pit hearings.

"We should let them know we are keeping an eye on it, though," the chairman suggested.

Mr. Wheeler suggested the Authority executive committee could look over reprints of the minutes at the Erin township offices and in this way keep track of the proceedings. He said the township clerk had a knack for separating wheat from the chaff and it would be worth the Authority's time.

Mayor Tom Hill, representing Halton Hills, felt copies of the hearings reports should be available to the Authority.

The matter was left for further study.

## Two crashes

Provincial police have blamed snowy weather conditions for two separate accidents Tuesday morning in which two Acton women on their way to work drove off Highway 25.

Milton OPP said Mrs. Grace Johnston was south-bound near No. 22 Sideroad when she lost control of her car. The car rolled down a ditch and landed on its roof, but the woman only suffered a bruised head and thighs.

Police estimated the damage to her 1968 Plymouth at \$1,000.

A second Acton woman, Mrs. Jennifer Worthington, escaped injury when her 1972 Datsun skidded off Highway 25 south of Speyside and rammed into a gulch post.

The OPP estimated the damage to the car's front end at \$450.

## Man killed in car-train crash

A car containing two Georgetown men was horribly crushed by the 1012 passenger train on the Acton Mill St. crossing Wednesday evening, leaving a passenger dead and the driver seriously injured.

Leonard Chiasson, 23, of 29 John St., Georgetown, died when the train demolished the side of the 1973 Datsun in which he was riding.

Collin Gibson, 26, of 51 Main St., Georgetown, suffered head and internal injuries. Originally in critical condition he is now listed as "stable" in Toronto General Hospital.

A citizen ran into the police office to tell them about the

accident and the first officer was at the scene in three minutes, at 10:15 p.m.

There soon By 10:31 p.m. the Georgetown ambulance had taken the badly injured Mr. Gibson to Georgetown hospital. He was soon transferred to Toronto. He comes from northern Ontario and is sports editor with the Georgetown Herald.

Blair Beemer, Clare Ct., Acton, a St. John Ambulance course instructor, crossed the tracks on his way home from a St. John meeting and stopped to give assistance.

Police report that the west-bound car apparently slowed down or stopped at the tracks

and then proceeded across the first two tracks before being struck by the train.

Witnesses told police the signal lights and bells were both operating at the time.

Train late There was very little damage to the passenger train driven by engineer John Armstrong, Toronto. It was held up beyond the Acton station for about an hour and a half.

CNR employee Bert Urquhart, Queen St., Acton, stayed in his car at the tracks all night to warn cars which might approach the tracks from the station. The signal light facing the station crashed down during the impact

and was not operating. All the other highway signals were tested after the collision and were still operating.

Six or seven trains pass through during the night, Mr. Urquhart explained.

Damage to the signal light was set at \$2000. The car was a total wreck.

By Thursday noon repairs had been made to the signal.

No decision Coroner Dr. A.E. McIntosh of Georgetown was at the scene at 10:45 p.m. He has not yet determined if there will be an inquest. Police have not been able to talk to the driver of the car because of his condition.

The three Acton cruisers were joined at the accident spot by a Georgetown cruiser and later members of the regional police identification unit.

A small group of people gathered at the accident scene in the sharp cold, watching quietly from a distance and passing on what they knew of the tragedy to shocked newcomers. Among them were the two friends whom the Georgetown men were coming to Acton to visit.

Funeral service for Len Chiasson was held at Sacre Coeur church in Georgetown Saturday morning, Dec. 6. Burial was in Greenwood cemetery, Georgetown.



CAR-TRAIN collision Wednesday took the life of Leonard Chiasson of Georgetown. The Georgetown car was struck at Acton's Mill St. crossing

by an eastbound passenger train about 10.30 p.m. Injured is Collin Gibson of Georgetown. The signal light (right) was demolished in the crash.