



ELECTRICAL PANEL inspections are routine for Fire Prevention Officer Larry Bassard. He is presently inspecting all businesses and plants in Acton.

Police catch 3 robbers minutes after hold-up

A mere five minutes after a robbery at Mac's Milk, Moore Park Plaza, Georgetown Monday night, police had three suspects in custody. The car was stopped on No. 7 highway by a member of the Acton detachment of the regional police.

Broken water mains may cost \$200,000

Halt residents may have to face increased water rates as a result of the damage caused by the severe cold winter weather that has been experienced this season.

Manager of Maintenance and Operations Don Morrier told the Regional Public Works Committee that it is too soon to know how much the damage will cost.

Committee member Vern Connell suggested the broken mains and frozen services could cost in excess of \$200,000.

Mr. Connell said that if the severe weather is a new trend, the region might have to adjust water rates to cover costs and lower the water mains deeper into the ground where they would be less apt to be affected by the frost.

Mr. Morrier said it is expected that some form of meteorological record will be set this season.

"It is also predicted that we are starting a trend and establishing a pattern of colder and harsher winters in the years to come. These low temperatures, combined with the lack of a January thaw has affected our waterworks system throughout the region. With frost penetration as deep as five feet all waterworks systems in Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills have experienced an abnormal amount of

Renting may be answer to town space problem

With almost all town department heads crying for more space, Halton Hills finance Administration Committee decided a short and long term solution should be studied immediately, and instructed department heads to come back with specific requirements. A short term answer would cover three to five years. A long term one could mean a new building, or addition to present one.

Rental space was the short term solution suggested by various councillors, with alternatives such as renting one large space to house departments in one spot, or separate rental space, for the engineering, planning and fire chief. In all cases the treasury department on Main Street would be renovated, if the town retains it.

Chapel Street school will be considered as a future home for some departments. Councillor Roy Booth suggested the sale of 36 Main St., the treasury department, would more than pay for any renovations to Chapel Street School.

Engineer Bob Austin said basically he is concerned about hazards to people and vehicles crossing the works yard to get to the engineering and the building department.

He said they could live with anything if they had to, but pointed out the present quarters in the works garage building were 50 degrees in the cold spell.

Councillor Pat Patterson said it would be better for the engineer to be where the "action is." He said "If you move are you going to know what's going on in the works department?"

Austin admitted it was an advantage to be close, but said there are also advantages to being near other department heads.

Glen Gray said he can get by in his office at Gordon Alcott Arena, but said there

might be more advantages to being near other department heads.

The Treasurer said his report said everything. He said the treasury department is cramped, and lacks washroom, lunchroom, and storage space. He said the boiler needs repairing to keep the heat up, and the electrical system needs overhauling. He said he could live with it as long as no staff is added. He said the committee room is now used as a lunchroom, the office now used by Fire Chief Ken Buikema would give the department another 270 square feet.

Planner Mario Vendetti said he was extremely short

of space both for staff and storage of documents, which must be kept.

He said ideally the planning department is close to all other departments since they work together. He said the planning department will extend in the years ahead more proposals from developers mean more work for the planning department.

Fire Chief Ken Buikema said he felt his office should be at the firehall on Maple Avenue. He pointed out when something is shipped, with no one at the firehall all the time, he must go up and wait for the shipment to arrive.

Councillor Roy Booth said a possible solution was the renting of space for the engineering department and for the planning department, and move the fire chief.

Booth suggested a municipal complex might be five or 10 years down the road, and

asked the treasurer if the town could start budgetting for it now and set aside an amount each year in the capital budget.

Treasurer Ray King replied, "It's feasible, if council wishes to be consistent in doing it 'over the years.'" He said he had included it in the preliminary draft of the next five year capital budget. "Based on that we could make yearly allocations."

ASSOCIATE TAX CONSULTANTS
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Friendly welcome for fire inspections

Business fire inspections are underway in Acton this week, according to Halton Hills fire prevention officer Larry Brassard. He has inspected 39 stores and businesses in the downtown area so far, most of them on Mill or Main Sts.

He is also anxious to make home inspections, to assist families in becoming aware of fire hazards and safety precautions. "Home inspections are invited and welcome," he says. Any

people who would like to talk about a home inspection are asked to call the Acton fire chief's office, 877-5185, extension 53.

Mr. Brassard is also making inspections at schools and factories.

Although he encounters a feeling of apathy about fire prevention he finds everyone's welcome "friendly." There is a general lack of education in the fire safety field, he finds.

For classifieds that reach call **The Acton Free Press** 853-2010

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Prepare for increase

Hydro rates are going up as of the March 1 bill. Acton Hydro Commission had previously announced the increase, but felt consumers should be reminded once again before the bills go out. Ads will appear in this newspaper giving particulars.

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Town of Halton Hills 1977 TAXES INTERIM BILLING

In accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act pursuant to By-Law No. 77-4 adopted by council on January 11, 1977, the first two instalments of taxes for 1977 will become due as follows:

ALL WARDS	FIRST INSTALMENT	SECOND INSTALMENT
	FEB. 28th, 1977	April 29th, 1977

The above instalments represent an interim billing of 1977 taxes based upon one-half of last year's residential mill rates. The balance will be billed about the middle of the year and will be payable in another two instalments. All interim tax bills have now been issued. Ratepayers who have not received tax bills should make immediate application at 36 Main Street South, Georgetown or by telephone 877-5185.

PAYMENT OF TAXES
These taxes may be paid at the locations and in the manner detailed on the back of the tax bill.

G. F. Usher, A.M.C.T., Deputy Treasurer, Tax Collector.