



JOHN HORNING, left, holds up Acton resident Steve Saxon's hand in victory after the Central Ontario semi-final public speaking contest on Saturday. Steve was the Georgetown Optimist winner and will now proceed to the All Ontario finals in Toronto.

## Ontario finals for Steve Saxon

Steve Saxon of Churchill Road, Acton, took first place at the Optimists club central-Ontario finals public speaking contest on Saturday. This marks the fifth victory for him in the last few months. Steve, a grade eight student at McKenzie-Smith, won the school competition and then took first place at the North Halton public speaking finals in February.

He also took his prize-winning speech on, Communications Between Parents and Teens, to the Georgetown Optimists club contest where he placed first and continued on to represent Georgetown for another victory in the zone finals. The Central-Ontario semi-finals victory on Saturday followed.

Out of 18 speakers, eight boys and eight girls, Steve placed first in the boys' division. Ruth Gould of Arthur placed first in the girls division.

Steve will now proceed to the All-Ontario Optimists finals on May 13. The competition will be held at the Optimists Convention in Toronto. The six speakers

from different areas of Ontario will compete for first place. The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship for the college of their choice.

This is Steve's third year of competition in public speaking. In 1976 he took second place in the All-Ontario finals, second in the central semi-finals last year and so far, first in the central semi-finals. Steve says this will be his last year of competition.

Steve enjoys animals and would eventually like to be a veterinarian, so naturally he is very happy to be receiving a horse as a gift from his parents for going as far as he has.

## Budget is tight

# Welfare cases up this year

Regional welfare expenditures are greater and the number of applicants and recipients are higher in 1978 than for the same time period last year, a staff report shows. Already it's taken a chunk out of the welfare budget, which is only slightly

increased over last year's. By the end of March 1978, almost a half-million dollars in general assistance was paid out. This figure represents 35 per cent of the estimated 1978 budget and is more than \$100,000 over the amount paid out in the first quarter last year.

## Proclamation

Halton Hills council proclaimed the week of May 8 to May 14 "Respect for Law Week", which is sponsored by Georgetown Optimist Club. In accordance with town policy if the Optimists Club wish the proclamation published they do at their own expense.

In 1977 slightly more than \$1.2 million was spent on general assistance, as the regional welfare program is known. For 1978 \$1,255,300 was originally budgeted for the program but \$40,000 was chopped from that figure at budget revisions last month.

By the end of February 637 Halton residents were collecting welfare from the region — 133 more than at the end of February last year. The proportion of recipients classified as employable has risen substantially, but there has been an increase in the number classified unemployed as well.

this year 566 new applications for welfare were received — over 100 more than in the first two months of 1977.

The decrease in the case-load of employables depends on whether the individual can find a job and whether unemployment insurance payments come through, Rene Vivian, administrator of family and social services, told the regional community and social services committee last week.

"What kind of control do you have on the individual who comes in and says: 'Hey man, you don't have a job do you?'" asked Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth, a former business man.

Mr. Booth said on six occasions he had asked Canada Manpower to send him job applicants. "None of them wanted a job and they made it very clear to me they didn't want a job. Unfortunately, I hired one or two. One stayed

two weeks and the other one day."

Oakville Councillor Laurie Mannell, a former contractor, said Manpower tries to unload those who have been on welfare longest, regardless of their interest in work. "They're under pressure to get rid of people. This makes it very difficult for the guy who really wants to work and for the employer."

Mr. Vivian said problems such as Mr. Booth described were few in Halton. Checks are made on welfare recipients, he said, adding the hiring of another staff person for the general assistance program in the near future should tighten controls and teach people how to get jobs.

It was in anticipation of decreased welfare rolls resulting from the hiring of an additional worker that the committee recently cut \$40,000 from the welfare budget, a move Mr. Vivian at that time referred to as "folly".

The region's general assistance program pays out welfare on a short-term basis only. Its general assistance budget is 80 per cent subsidized by the province. The region is obligated to provide assistance to people in need, even if it runs over budget.

People on long-term welfare, such as single mothers or the permanently disabled, come under the province's jurisdiction through its family benefits program.

In 1977 Halton had one of the lowest welfare populations in Ontario. For example, in June 1977, 0.4 per cent of the assessed population in Halton were on the region's welfare rolls compared to the Ontario average of 1.3 per cent.

The percentage receiving provincial family benefits in Halton was less than half the Ontario average, according to figures available for October of last year.

## Police erect office signs

Halton Regional Police have erected the familiar blue and white identification sign outside their new offices in the Murray Memorial YMCA building on Mill Street.

One sign hangs from a post, and there is another one in one of the front windows. Inside the doors there is a smaller homemade black and white sign with the word "police" in three languages: English, Dutch and Chinese.

## Concert Sunday

The Community Players Wind Quartet played a concert Sunday evening at the United Church, Dave Sale and Dave Mashinter of Acton are in the group.

The program of chamber music was enjoyed by a small crowd.

## Old-time concert by Citizens' Band Sunday

An old-time concert will be given by Acton Citizens' Band Sunday night in the McKenzie-Smith schools. Admission is free, and the concert begins at 8.15 p.m.

Recently the band purchased the entire collection of music from a retired bandmaster in Guelph. Some of these selections are being

played Sunday, fitting in with the traditional tone of the evening.

The atmosphere will be from the turn of the century when Acton, like towns all over the world, had regular band concerts which provided pleasant entertainment in pre-TV days.

There will be old-time overtures and marches, and solos typical of the period. One of the pieces from this collection is the American-composed Atlantis suite, which is a dramatic one the players enjoy. "You can hear the waves coming up and covering the land," they promise.

Two or three of the numbers will feature the E flat alto horn, which recently has been replaced by almost all

bands by the French horn. All are welcome to the concert.

## Get police deal

Georgetown Chrysler called some more police car business Thursday when Halton Regional Police Commission decided to buy three Colts.

The police commission, meeting at Oakville, endorsed Police Chief Ker Skerrett's recommendation to purchase the sub-compact autos for \$10,060.59. The purchase leaves \$396 in the police vehicle budget, according to Skerrett.

Georgetown Chrysler was awarded the police cruiser contract earlier this year.

Burlington commissioner David Coons quizzed Skerrett about the reasons for going with the Colts. Is the decision predicated only on the fact it uses unleaded gas? Coons asked.

Skerrett said the type of fuel figured in the decision, but added that four years experience also played a part. He also pointed out that Colts use leaded and unleaded gasoline.



**Acton  
Citizens' Band**

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## Comments sought

Truckers as well as residents will be given an opportunity to comment on a draft by-law prohibiting heavy trucks from using 17 Sideroad and 10 Sideroad in Halton Hills. A draft by-law allowing the town to issue permits for trucks on the two roads has also been prepared.

Monday, Halton Hills works committee reviewed the two by-laws and Councillor Mike Armstrong said he wanted comments from both truckers and residents to see how they feel about it. He predicted not everyone will be happy with the by-laws. Armstrong wondered if it would hurt the truckers much.

They place an 11 ton limit on the two roads right across the town and provide for fines and permit fees. Permits cost \$100 for a year, \$50 for a single project and \$10 for a single trip. Fines can be as high as \$500.

Engineer Robert Austin said that while it isn't in the by-law his department will decide who gets permits to run vehicles weighing more than 11 tons based on their destination. There will be no special consideration for resident truckers he said.

If a trucker is going to Georgetown he'll get a permit, but if it's for Toronto he won't, Austin explained. The trucker must justify getting a permit for 17 Sideroad and show it is the best route to the town's satisfaction.

He said the draft by-law should be sent to the solicitor for his comment before it goes to council.

For several years the town has been exploring ways of reducing truck traffic on 17 Sideroad following numerous complaints by residents.

## Police nab man and loot

Halton Regional Police charged a man and recovered most of the cash which was stolen from a Crescent Street address last week.

More than \$500 was taken in the theft which took place April 25.

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