

# Woman charged in fire deaths

A 37-year-old Acton woman has been charged with two counts of first degree murder in connection with two fire deaths.

Doris Jones of Acton was remanded Friday to undergo evaluation in the psychiatric hospital at St. Thomas. Mrs. Jones appeared before Provincial Court Judge Douglas Latimer at Oakville.

Halton Regional Police believe the fire victims are the accused's mother-in-law Mary Jones, 82, and son Brian Jones, 10. The fire was in their home beside Highway 25 south of Acton.

Meanwhile police are asking for help regarding the whereabouts of the father David William Jones. He is driving a 1969 Ford window van. The vehicle, licence number D89312, is white with a blue stripe. Police say he is not a suspect. However police want his help with the case.

Two people died in the flames of the R. R. 4, Acton home during the pre-dawn hours of Friday, April 13. The two-storey brick house was afire from top to bottom when Acton firefighters arrived. A barn and another building were also levelled by flames.

A pathologist's examination of the remains last week could only indicate they were of a male and female. No other information will be available for some time.

Mr. Jones has not contacted police since he visited his wife at Guelph's Homewood Sanitarium. Mrs. Jones was taken there from Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital after the fire.

The police investigation this week takes Sergeant Keith Robertson to western Canada.

When the firefighters went up the driveway off the highway towards the house, they found their path blocked by a parked Jeep. Police recovered a handwritten note which was attached to the vehicle.

Mr. Jones was at work in Mississauga when the fire broke out.

Early in the police investigation, arson was suspected.

The Ontario Fire Marshal's office is also investigating.



Liberal finance minister Jean Chretien visited Acton high school last Thursday, accompanied by Liberal MP Dr. Frank Philbrook. Stories on Page 5.

# The Acton Free Press

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## Fire calls up

The number of fires in Halton Hills during January, February and March is up from 49 last year to 63 this year, but damage is down from \$253,250 to \$142,553.

In the Georgetown Fire Area there has been 44 fires to date this year compared to 29 last year, while in the Acton Fire Area there has been 19 this year, until the end of March, compared to 20 in the same time period last year.

During the month of March 17 fires occurred, in the Georgetown area, with 11 in the same month last year, and in Acton area six this March as opposed to three last March, for a total of 23 in March 1979, and 14 in March '78.

The amount of damage in March '79 was \$8,501, a large drop from the \$20,850 damage in March '78.



They're closing the gaps. Representatives from social agencies serving North Halton met in St. Alban's Church hall to learn about each other's services and problems. The lunch hour meeting Wednesday was based on closing the gaps in the services. Eighteen groups, many from town, were represented. The meeting took about six months to arrange. The organizers are pictured above: l. to r. Terry

Grubbe, Acton Community Service Centre; Barb Stephens of Halton Helping Hands; Val Walters from the Rural Development Outreach Project; community and social services' representative Katherine Cook and the Halton District Health Council's Patty McLean.

Photo by ERIC ELSTONE

## Councillors say

# United Way not welcome

A Halton United Way is not wanted in this area, at least by most of the Halton Hills town council members.

At Monday evening's general committee a letter was received from Karen Hill, executive director of the Burlington Social Planning Council, asking committee to investigate all aspects of a United Way before allowing one to be set up in the area.

Ms Hill's letter noted her council had publicly supported such an idea since 1977. However, she wrote, before one should be instituted, more information is required.

Among the information she deems necessary is the question of whether donors give more generously to a Halton United Way than they currently do to existing United Ways. "Will individual agencies receive increased allocations and devote less time to fund-raising and thus be able to provide more service if funded by a Halton United Way?" the letter queried.

Co-operation from corporate donors must be assessed, was another view Ms Hill wanted looked at, as well as Co-operation from other United Ways which receive donations from Halton residents.

"We also question the suggestion that the Burlington Social Planning Council is the appropriate body to carry out the organizing task." She pointed out her

group has neither the man-date or the resources to set up such an extensive body.

Councillor Mike Armstrong warned the committee to steer away from a Halton United Way. "I want to get involved with this as much as I want to get involved with a dog fight," he quipped. Mr. Armstrong also made it clear he did not want Halton Hills becoming involved.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy defended the concept, explaining he had talked with other mayors involved in the proposals, who felt it was a good way to coordinate fund raising activities in Halton as the money is going out of the area now. It would also, the mayor claimed, stop some groups coming to council for a grant, and then going to the region for another one.

"We seem to have lost sight of the social agencies," Mr. Armstrong charged.

Councillor Walter Biehn said he was not in favor of a United Way as long as the local groups, such as the Cancer Society, Heart Fund, etc., were getting enough money with their own drives.

"I'm afraid of the United Way," he admitted. "They are an extreme high pressure type of fund raising." The letter from Ms Hill was received and filed.

## Clark

# comes Fifth person jumps into Halton race

Federal Progressive Conservative leader Joe Clark will be appearing in Halton.

Tuesday, May 1 is the date set for a rally at Oakville Arena. Otto Jelinek, PC candidate for Halton, made the announcement Monday.

Local riding organizers were told Thursday Mr. Clark would appear at the evening rally if they could guarantee there would be at least 2,000 people at the arena that night.

Wilf Rudd, Oakville area campaign manager for Mr. Jelinek, said he was totally confident the arena "will be jam-packed".

The announcement was delayed until Monday so it could be made at the official opening of Mr. Jelinek's Milton campaign office.

The rally is set to begin at 7 p.m.

The man who is running independently in the Halton federal election has no previous political experience.

Robert Ritchie, 41, a self-employed public accountant living and working in Oakville, has tossed his hat into the ring.

"I don't feel the parties have anything to offer," he said.

Mr. Ritchie will be



ROBERT RITCHIE

conducting his own campaign.

He began distributing his election platform Tuesday.

Married with a 16-year-old son, Mr. Ritchie resides at Unit 7, 1008 Falgarwood Dr.

In his prepared platform, Mr. Ritchie says, "We have become too dependent on foreign investment controlling our country. Even with wage and price controls, we have created one of the free world's worst rates of inflation, unemployment, government deficits and an unstable currency."

The platform lists economic opinions on jobs, pensioners, housing, currency, business and inflation as well as capital punishment (the favors), education and farmers.



Halton Progressive Conservative hopeful Otto Jelinek was on hand at the Guelph Rod and Gun Club Monday night to take aim against Bill C 51 on Gun Control. To Mr. Jelinek's left is Bill Jones of the National Firearms Association. —See Page 3.

# Dogs killed in shooting spree

A senseless act of violence has the McMillan family, of R.R. 2, Rockwood angry.

Ises, their three year old Lab and another dog were shot to death late Saturday afternoon as they frolicked in a neighboring farmer's field. Ises was shot first, and as the pet owned by Gunner Jespersen, also of R.R. 2, Rockwood stood over the body, the trigger-happy hunter shot him too.

The animals' bodies were seen from the road by a passing motorist, who notified the farmer on whose property they were killed.

Both the farm owner and Hugh McMillan heard the gun shots, around 5 p.m. However, Mrs. McMillan told the Acton Free Press, no one thought anything of the sounds.

The animals frequently played in the field, Mr. McMillan explained, at the knowledge of the owner and with no objections from him. The family suspects the shots were fired from the road, but noted both animals were shot in the head, "So whoever did it, knew what they were doing," Mrs. McMillan pointed out.

Both dead dogs were family pets.

The McMillan family is

**\$50,000**

# Fire destroys home

Six people escaped early Sunday morning as fire razed through their country home near Speyside, causing about \$50,000 in damages.

Residents of the 15 Sideroad house, owned by A.N. Hullohazy, of the West Mall area, escaped with no injuries, according to Halton Hills fire chief Mick Holmes. One man, however, Fred McConchie told reporters he singed his hair while attempting to save \$1700 worth of uninsured drum equipment.

Careless smoking has been blamed for the fire



Bonnie Caplan and Jennifer Buscher do the bump Saturday during the high school's Bump for Life. The 10 hour dance-a-thon, sponsored by the Georgetown Kinsmen Club, raised over \$4000 for Cystic Fibrosis. See Page 6 for more photos.

## Back to Acton Days July 1

by Kay Dills

Another exciting Back to Acton Days celebration began to take form last Thursday at a special meeting in the Y. There were 22 enthusiastic representatives of various community groups in attendance to talk over the big July 1 weekend here.

It was generally agreed Mill St. would be blocked off downtown on Friday, June 29 and Saturday, June 30 and

that on the Sunday, July 1, all the events would likely be in the park.

Dates and times will become more specific at the next meeting, called for Wednesday, May 9. Nick Kekic offered to host the open meeting in the dining room of the Station Hotel at 7.30 p.m. He also promised another beer garden, barbecue, outdoor dancing and entertainment as he had last year.

Pat Wood agreed to

convene the popular calithumpian parade and her husband Ed Wood the contests and entertainment.

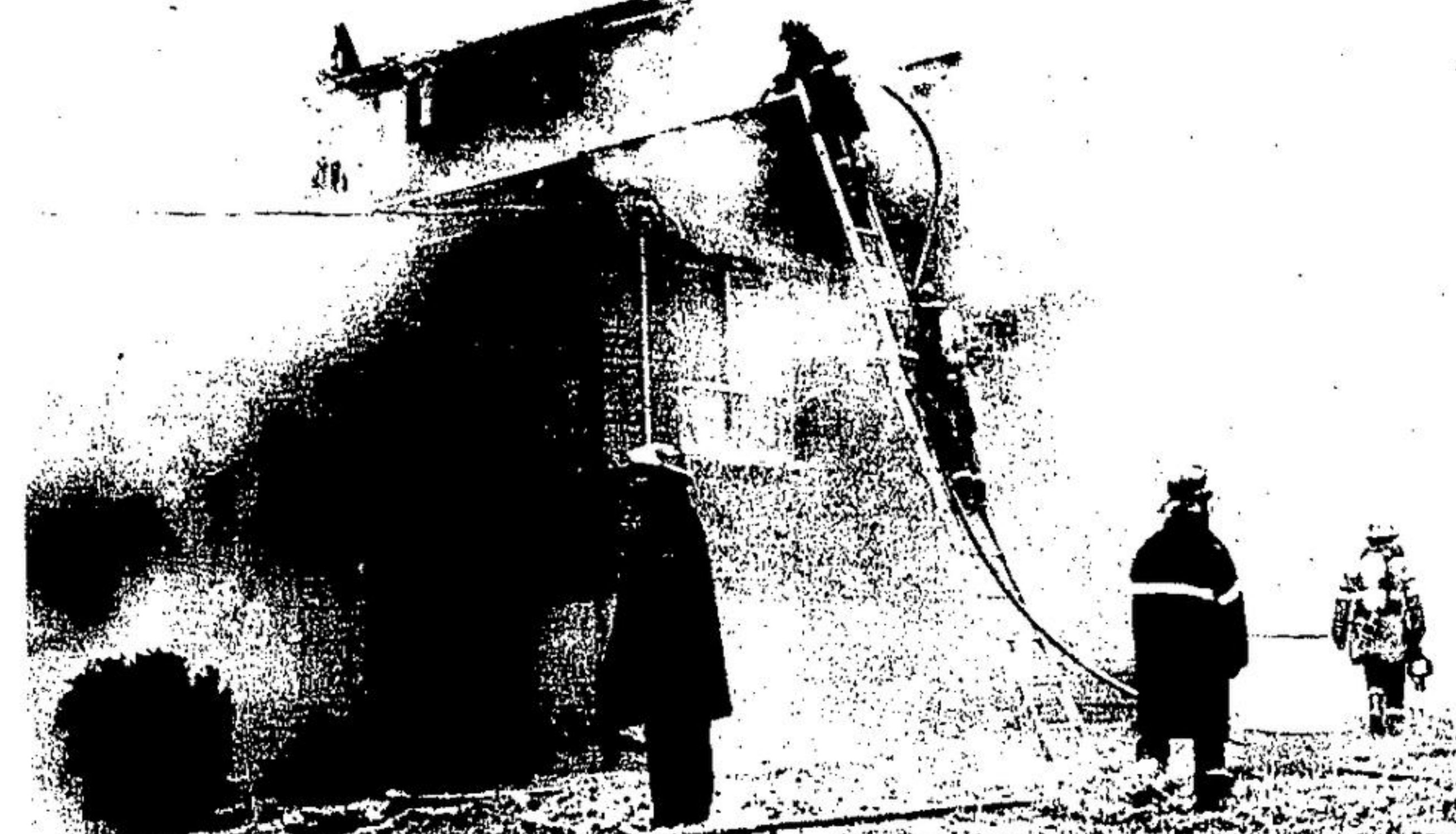
Paul Nielsen and Wayne Ruse will look after the retail section involvement. Bob Austin and Bill Phipps are in charge of permits, blockades, security and policing.

The Y's Men and Y's Menettes are talking about a Health Hustle on the mall. Acton Arts and

Crafts group, churches and service clubs are planning booths.

New features talked about are displays from local industries, flea market, farmers' market and possibly an outdoor church service.

Terry Grubbe, co-ordinator of the Community Services Centre in the Y, has agreed that contact can be made through her office, for any aspects of the Back to Acton Days.



Smoke billowed out of the roof of a 15 Sideroad home early Sunday morning as firefighters from Milton and Acton attempted to save the structure. Six people are homeless following the \$50,000 blaze, which fire chief Mick Holmes says was started by careless smoking in an

upstairs studio. No one was hurt in the fire, but one resident of the house escaped with singed hair after he re-entered the building in an effort to save some musical equipment.

Residents of the 15 Sideroad house, owned by A.N. Hullohazy, of the West Mall area, escaped with no injuries, according to Halton Hills fire chief Mick Holmes. One man, however, Fred McConchie told reporters he singed his hair while attempting to save \$1700 worth of uninsured drum equipment.

Careless smoking has been blamed for the fire

which started in an upstairs studio, according to the chief. The fire was probably smouldering for at least three hours before the fire broke out, he said.

Milton firefighters were the first on the scene with a number a

van and tank truck. The Acton department arrived shortly after with another pumper and van.

Mr. Holmes explained water was obtained from a nearby swamp. The fire was "through the roof," the chief noted, by the time the Acton men arrived on the scene. By the

time the men left at about 8.30, all that remained standing were the brick walls.

Residents in the house were Bruce Metcalfe, Doug Davison, and Steve Lindsay. Mr. Holmes does not know what living arrangements they have made.