

## Court date for June

Doris Jones, charged with two counts of first degree murder, is scheduled to appear before provincial court at Oakville, Tuesday.

The appearance comes at the end of the 30-day remand period she received for examination at the psychiatric hospital at St. Thomas. She may return there for further testing. Halton Regional Police Sergeant Keith Robertson said he was not sure Tuesday if all the tests were completed.

Mrs. Jones, 37, is charged in connection with the deaths her son Brian, 10, and Mary Jones, her mother-in-law. Two people died early Good Friday morning in the Jones' farmhouse south of Acton.

Police efforts to locate the husband David William Jones have so far failed. Police say he is not a suspect in the case. Mr. Jones was at work in Mississauga during the blaze.



One of these men will represent Halton riding at Ottawa following the May 22 election. Left to right are Liberal candidate and incumbent Dr. Frank Philbrook, challengers PC Otto Jelinek and NDP candidate Doug Black. Polls open at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

ELECT  
OTTO  
JELINEK



Doug  
BLACK



# Region won't pay water line damage

A Church St. family has been without water for more than five weeks through what they charge is an injustice on the part of the Region of Halton.

George and Bernice Norton must rely on a garden hose strung from their neighbor's outside water tap for any cleaning or cooking water. Drinking water, according to Mrs. Norton, must be fetched from other neighbors in bottles.

The problem started about five weeks ago, the couple say, when the region's works crews were doing maintenance work on Brock St. water mains. According to Mrs. Norton, their line, which runs off the Agnes St. line and over private property to their home on Church St. was damaged by the works crew. Mrs.

Norton says the workers at the time admitted they caused the damage.

In the meantime, because the line was jarred, Mrs. Norton told the Acton Free Press, more leaks sprung along the line leading over the Nicolak property, causing damage to the property owner's garage. Apparently, the ground became so wet, the garage began to sink and crumble. Because of this damage, the water was shut off.

Rather than wait for the region to repair the line, Mr. Norton took two weeks off work and decided to go ahead and dig a new line from Church into his house. Because the house is many years old, no one seems to know why this wasn't done in the first place, Mrs. Norton says. However, now that the work is un-

derway, the Nortons charge, the region refuses to take any responsibility in the damages and claim all costs must be incurred by the Nortons.

Halton Hills mayor Pete Pomeroy is infuriated at the treatment the Nortons have received from the region. He himself has been busy trying to build a case against the region to get them to pay for the damages. If an easement across the Nicolak property can be found on register somewhere, the region is responsible for the costs. If not, he said, unfortunately, the Nortons are responsible.

"All that was needed here was a little bit of public relations on the part of the region," the mayor fumed. "Instead, they had to go out and act the way they did." He continued, "Those guys seem to forget who's paying their wages."

So far, Mr. Pomeroy says, an easement cannot

be located but he is still looking.

Mr. Pomeroy, however, feels the damage to the pipes, laid in the 1920's was due mainly to old age, and not to damage by the region. Nevertheless, he says, they should have to pay to fix or replace them.

Don Morrier, manager of public works denies the region did any damage, claiming work crews were 30 feet from the leak. He also denies anyone admitted doing the damage and says the age of the pipes is responsible.

Mr. Morrier however, said he is sympathetic with the Nortons. He explained to the Free Press he put himself "out on the limb" and told Mr. Norton if any proof of an easement or similar agreement between the former owners and the former town of Acton came to light, he would personally do everything he could to see that the man was reimbursed.

# The Acton Free Press

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## Once weekly garbage pick-up

There will be only one garbage pick-up per week this summer, instead of the previous two, if Halton Hills council accepts a recommendation of the general committee, made Monday night.

The practice has been to have twice weekly pick-up from June until October and once weekly through the winter months.

There will be a special pickup once a month in addition to the once a week service.

In a report from town engineer Bob Austin, he pointed out the second day pickup in the summer usually yields less than half the first day's. He pointed out some trucks

travel to the landfill site half empty so as not to leave a partially loaded truck overnight.

Austin warned the present landfill site would be closed soon, so part loads cannot be economically hauled to Oakville. He pointed out the special pickup once a month is to help get rid of the items

residents have been taking to the dump themselves. With the closing of the site this will be impossible.

The remainder of the report on the commercial garbage pick-up, which could change the pick-up points from the back of stores to the front will be discussed at a later meeting.



McKenzie-Smith Middle School walked off with top honors in the Triple Duet class of the North Halton Music Festival at M.Z. Bennett last Wednesday. Duet members are from left to right Heath Norton, Leah Marks, Jackie McMullen, Michelle McLean, Lori Turtscher and Andrea Fagan.

## Transit study for disabled?

Barbara Stephens, supervisor for Halton Helping Hands, urged Halton Hills general committee, Monday night to study the possibility of a transit system for the disabled, along the lines of Dial-A-Bus service.

She said the need is self-evident, with approximately 425 people in the area who would fall in the category of users. She said the provincial government will subsidize the capital and operating costs to a maximum of \$1.45 per capita, or 50 per cent of the deficit whichever is the lesser.

Mrs. Stephens pointed out the community at large may contribute to the municipal portion of the cost, and explained

many organizations including the Red Cross, Cancer Society, Halton Health Unit, Contact Centre, Friends in Deed, Acton Community Centre, the "Y" and the Jaycees have volunteered to serve council in an advisory capacity.

She claimed there is a possibility the business community would pick up the municipalities share of the 50 per cent for a one year trial period. She emphasized the intention is to use the provincial subsidy combined with resources within the community to try to cut out the need for municipal funding.

In reply to a question from Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson, Mrs. Stephens said the cost of a

van with a hoist and space for six wheelchairs is around \$17,000 new.

John Schaal, Project Planner for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, said a fare of at least 50 cents would have to be charged, and said the service can be operated by concerned citizens, non-profit

organizations, contracted out or run by the town.

He pointed out eligibility is determined by the municipality. He warned the operation is very expensive, estimating it at two to three times the cost of a conventional transit system.

## Trees start fire

Poorly placed trees caused a power black-out according to Acton Hydro Superintendent Doug Mason.

At the Hydro commission's monthly meeting last Thursday, Mr. Mason said trees had been planted under hydro wires, at the sewage treatment plant. When

the wind blew the branches, he said the trees touched the overhead wires. The friction caused sparks which blew a fuse in the sub-station. Further along the line, a fire started from the blown fuse. Churchill Rd. was in darkness for some time, he said.

## Earth movers Thieves get stereo

Acton's main streets are going to be torn up, beginning in June.

During a regional public works committee tour Wednesday, May 9, the public works staff said Acton's main thoroughfare—Highway 25, (Main St.)—will be torn up as part of joint project with Halton Hills.

The region's share is \$421,750.

Three component stereos were stolen last week during a break and enter at Halton Hills Furniture and Appliances on Queen St. Halton Regional Police so far have no suspects, however, the investigation continues. Value of the sound equipment is put at \$1,500. The theft took place some

time after 3 p.m. Thursday and before 11:45 a.m. Friday. One youth is charged and another sought in connection with damage to a telephone box near the Station Hotel early Sunday morning. Glass in the side of the booth was kicked in and the receiver ripped from the wall. Police estimate \$150

damages. Police are also looking into the theft of a \$100 lawn mower from the front of the Acton Rental store on Main Street North Tuesday.

An 18-year-old town youth was arrested after a stop sign was damaged to the tune of \$50. The man was later released on a promise to appear.

## Cabinet denies corridor review

Ontario Premier William Davis filled the ears of the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) with his final discouraging words after last Wednesday's cabinet meeting.

Cabinet turned down a bid by the ICG for a review of the Bradley-Georgetown 500kV corridor's route, or even the section that is to run through Halton Hills. The ICG will pursue the matter through the courts with tests of the Ontario Municipal Board's (OMB) to hear questions concerning Ontario Hydro.

Before taking the ICG's request for an independent study of the proposed route through Halton Hills' countryside to cabinet, Premier Davis cautioned the ICG that his next words could be taken as final.

Cabinet earlier this year backed up the OMB decision which set the 12-mile section of the corridor through Esqueving. The ICG wrangled a meeting with Davis in a final bid to secure a review. ICG opposition to the line started about five years ago.

The top request by the ICG is for a non-Ontario Hydro study of the north-south corridor, just like the one carried out on the east-west line by the Solandri Commission. Meanwhile MPP Julian Reed (L. Halton-Burlington) has had to be satisfied with his private member's bill proposing government control of Ontario Hydro becoming a plank in the provincial Liberal Party's platform. Tory opposition blocked first reading of the bill in the legislature.

The bill is entitled: An Act respecting the Public Accountability of Ontario Hydro, would have made the minister of energy responsible for policy governing the utility.

The only element of control government exercises over Ontario Hydro is reactive control, through orders-in-council, said Reed. The MPP went on to say that when he presented his bill earlier to the Porter Commission on the long-range plans of Hydro, the principle of the bill was accepted.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture endorsed the Halton-Burlington MPP's bill. Local ICG executives, as a result of cabinet's decision, contend the line through Halton Hills is going through because it suits plans for the export of electricity to the United States. MPP Reed agrees.

# Old town hall saved from the wrecker's hammer

Acton's historic old Town Hall has been saved from the wrecker's hammer.

Monday evening Halton Hills General Committee recommended the \$40,000 slated for demolition of the historical building go towards its restoration.

A handful of Acton residents attended the meeting to give their support to Dr. George Elliott, chairman of the Town Hall Restoration Committee. This committee was established by council to investigate and co-ordinate fund raising activities for restoration of the hall. The report to Halton Hills by this committee pointed out the implicit understanding was that council would favor the restoration if it presented no added financial burden to the municipality.

At Monday's meeting, Dr. Elliott outlined how, with the \$40,000 council has already learned they would have to spend for tearing down the structure, monies could be raised for the complete restoration.

Costs of the restoration have been set at \$200,000. If the municipal council backed the project, the group would receive \$50,000 Community Recreation Centre grant and a \$25,000 grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Of the remaining \$125,000, Wintario will pay one third (\$41,666). Citizens and local groups would be called upon for \$43,334, with the town paying the remainder.

The chairman pointed out in a mail-in pledge card, distributed at Christmas time, some \$9,500 was raised in just a few short weeks. Other people, he said, indicated they would give money if the committee got a firm commitment from council.

Dr. Elliott contended if the building were to be torn down, the site would have one large bare wall (the fire hall) and a "postage stamp size" parking lot. By directing the money into the restoration, council

would see a \$160,000 return on their money by having a town centre.

Possible uses of the hall once it was restored would range from a community recreation centre to office space for services such as legal aid, and a drop-in centre for senior citizens. Dr. Elliott told the general committee he had visited a restored town hall in Paisley which was still used for municipal offices.

The Chamber of Commerce has indicated a willingness to manage the facility.

The hall could be rented out to various organizations in Halton Hills to help offset the maintenance costs. Dr. Elliott noted, and run in much the same manner as the band hall, with a hall manager.

Restoration of the town hall, deemed by town engineer Alan Zeegen as a "fine example of the type of architecture common in Southern Ontario during the late 1800's," would provide a suitable place for rehearsals by a Little Theatre Group or a Choral Society. Dr. Elliott pointed out at present, Georgetown has such groups. With a place to practise, Acton might soon have such organizations also.

Councillor Pat Patterson told Dr. Elliott that although he would like to help out the committee, the rural people cannot afford \$40,000. He suggested council give the building to the committee and save the money.

Councillor Ed Wood of Acton, pointed out to Mr. Patterson the town hall would benefit rural people. He emphasized this fact by noting a letter received by council the previous week endorsing the restoration from an R.R. 4, Acton resident, and in the audience was a man from R.R. 2, Acton.

Councillor Roy Booth wanted Dr. Elliott to give council a firm commitment from the Chamber of Commerce for maintenance of the building, as well as to pay for any deficit. Dr. Elliott said he could not

year in advance. Another hall in town would be an asset and not considered competition.

Councillor Wood assured Mr. Miller there are 37 parking spots in the area of the town hall for the firefighters. "There has always been a parking problem," he said, but noted it was on the main street, not on the side streets. Anyone patronizing the town hall would have to learn they could not park right at the door like they try to do now.

Acton councillor Ross Knechtel was upset about the different treatment Acton was receiving compared with a similar request in Georgetown on Saturday.

"We approved something for Georgetown, and not one person asked these questions," he began. "I just do not understand the change in attitude when it is out there. It doesn't make sense," Mr.

Knechtel contended.

The Ward One councillor told the members of general committee the parking problem was irrelevant because the type of parking involved for the town hall would mainly be evening, when there is no problem. He noted Saturday's group did not have \$10,000 to show council they could raise money, as did the Acton group. On Saturday, he said, no one spoke of a deficit. He wondered why they were so hesitant to give the town hall committee the money.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy stressed the importance of backing the group so they could get the grant money they were applying for.

Councillor Patterson again said the country people are not going to pay the money to go towards the town hall. We suggested giving them the building. Dr. Elliott pointed out Ward One does not have



The Acton Town Hall has been saved. Fund raising activities will start almost immediately following Halton Hills General Committee's decision to give the \$10,000 slated for its demolition to the restoration.