



**Hornby Box blaze**

Acton firefighters poured about three truck loads of water onto smouldering sawdust at Hornby Box and Pallet plant on Main St. N. Friday. Cause of the \$1,000 fire has not been determined, according to Fire Chief Mick Holmes. Fire was confined to a large dustbin at the rear of the plant. Firefighters spent about an hour at the scene.

## CAS needs volunteers

Halton Children's Aid Society (CAS) has a "crying need" for more volunteers in North Halton.

At a public meeting last Wednesday night of the Acton Trinity United Church Missionary and Outreach Committee Barbara Smith, CAS volunteers co-ordinator, said drivers, Big Brothers and foster parents are badly needed in Acton, Georgetown and Milton.

Noting there is no public transit Ms. Smith said volunteer drivers, who are paid mileage, are needed to get families requiring counselling services from the three towns in the north to Oakville. Counselling can often prevent family break-up, eliminating the need for "protection of children" by the CAS she explained.

Ms. Smith said the CAS often finds retired gentlemen enjoy being volunteer drivers and volunteers should be giving only their time, not out of pocket costs, so mileage is paid.

CAS Big Brothers work with boys from homes where there isn't a male influence, not just boys whose fathers have died. Foster parents are always needed Ms Smith added.

Some of the volunteers run weekly mother and child groups in Georgetown and Milton with car transportation from Acton. Volunteers will be needed for these programs this fall.

The weekly mother and child groups offer support to young mothers. Mothers share common concerns and learn child-rearing skills while the youngsters enjoy a structured program.



Harvey Kirkwood and Martin Van der Veen of the Trinity United Church Missionary and Outreach committee discuss the need for volunteers with Barbara Smith of the Halton Children's Aid Society.



**New planner**

Halton Hills has a new deputy planner, Bruce MacLean.

## Where are the Boat People?

The "Boat People" situation in Acton is still confused and not getting any better, it seems.

The second refugee sponsor group formed of members of the Acton Clergy last August, have been waiting since October for the two families for which they have made application.

However, the Christian Reformed Church in Acton has been informed a family for their congregation will be arriving in Edmonton by April 17.

The Christian Reformed Church made application recently and received word two weeks ago their family would be arriving within days. Unfortunately, the first family didn't arrive. Pastor John Cooper, minister of the Christian Reformed Church, was told they had been met by a brother in Edmonton and decided not to come on to Acton.

However, Pastor John says he's amazed how fast his church has been assigned another family when the Acton Clergy Group are still awaiting their families.

Confusion has arisen from the fact Pastor Cooper is immigration officer for both groups and the government had trouble keeping the applications straight. Pastor

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## Councillors won't back region abolition petition

A petition to end regional government won't be supported by Acton councillors.

A Waterdown man, Mike Majic, is circulating a petition in Ontario's regions, including Halton, hoping to attract 100,000 signatures for presentation to Ontario Premier William Davis. The petition calls for the provincial government to abolish regional government because of the extra level of municipal government has caused soaring taxes and was imposed on areas like Acton without the consent of the people.

Acton area Councillor Ross Knechtel says he isn't an admirer of regional government but wants to know what Majic is proposing as an alternative. He says it is fair to criticize regional government, but before someone calls for its abolition they should suggest an alternative.

Knechtel said he doubts Majic's threat of legal action is feasible and suggests if the petition was modified from just abolition of regions it might make more of an impression on the provincial government.

"I can't sign a petition when I only agree with 50 per cent of it," Knechtel declared.

Councillor Russ Miller said.

He recalled he supported restructuring the old county system but never supported regional government.

It is likely too late to turn around and abolish regional government.

Miller says he believes in Halton Hills as a workable unit.

He asks how Majic can say, in these inflationary times, that regional government is to blame for tax increases. He suspects property taxes would have soared even if there wasn't a region.

He won't be signing the petition either, since it would have a conflict as he is a councillor.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy predicted Majic's petition will be signed by a large majority of homeowners in all regions, including Halton. But many of the people who will sign the petition won't "be thoroughly conversant" about regional government.

He doesn't think the petition will change provincial government's stand on regional government and suggested the only way the view at Queen's Park will be changed is if a new government is elected. Pomeroy doubts even the Liberals would abolish regional government now, even though they said they would a few years ago.

Pomeroy said "there is no question regional government is more expensive than what we had (County government)."

"Absolutely, I won't sign," Pomeroy declared.

It's hard to say if the petition will do any good Esqueuing regional

Councillor Terry Grubbe, noting regional government was brought in by the province, said if people don't agree with it their best plan of action would be to change the government at Queen's Park.

She has no idea if Majic's petition will sway the province especially since it calls for the abolition of regional government. She added she doesn't sign petitions.

Acton regional Councillor Ed Wood said he doesn't know if this protest against regional government will do any good and recalled a move to pull Acton out of regional government failed a few years back. However, a full scale protest from people in all regions may have a bigger impact at Queen's Park, Wood allowed.

He said people are

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