



Eleven students received special awards for outstanding achievement at the high school recently. They are, front row from left to right: Patricia Foster and Laurie Mareau who tied for the Denny's Insurance prize, Year 3 accounting; Heather Thatcher, Nielsen's Clothing award for Year 2 French; Susan Auty, IGA scholarship for Year 2 Family Studies; Arlene Bruce, Board of Education trustee who presented the awards. Back row: Tanya Mokrytzki, Indusmin award for Year 2 environmental science; Lori Mussgaug, Acton High award for Year 1 Tech; Barb Hogenkirk, Dr. J. Facey award for Year 3 Biology; Brent Fry, Acton High award for Year 3 Tech; Steve Scott for Denny's Insurance award for Year 3 accounting; Paul McTrash, Acton High award for Year 2 Tech. Absent was Greg Silcock who tied for the Dr. J. Facey award for Year 3 biology.



Members of the Share group of Acton donated blankets to the Red Cross Emergency Response Monday. Grace DeGraff, left, and Jenny Hofstede, centre hand over the blankets to John Dalley, Fred Dehaan and Garry McFadden of the Red Cross. The Red Cross is looking for as many blankets as they can get, if anyone is interested in donating them.

### Fisher seeks chairmanship

Former Acton-Esqueing trustee Betty Fisher will seek the chairmanship of Halton's Board of Education during Thursday's inaugural meeting at Burlington. One of the strengths needed for the chairmanship is the ability to get people to work together for a common cause, said Fisher. Fisher, who was acclaimed in Georgetown, will go against Bill Priestner and Noel Cooper for the job.

### Suspect disappears

The man who attacked two females in Acton recently has disappeared and police believe he was someone who came into town for a brief time and has fled the community. Sergeant of detectives Ron Southgate noted it has been quiet in Acton now for over two weeks; there have been no more reports of attacks on females or of someone suspicious following children or lurking around schools. He said a sketch of the suspect published last week in several North Halton newspapers brought a few tips to police but investigation produced negative results. Southgate said he has to think the man doesn't live around Acton since nobody seems to be able to put a name to the face in the sketch. The suspect must be someone who came into town for just a few days since "you can't hide in Acton for long."

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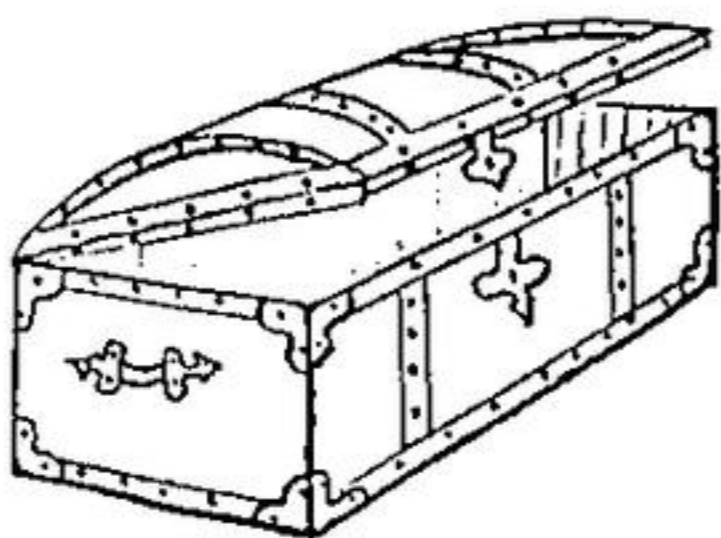
### Joke's on Pat

In welcoming the two new members of council to the 1981-82 council, Monday night, Mayor Pete Pomeroy pointed out Pam Sheldon is replacing "our colorful councillor Pat Patterson." The mayor said "Your attendance record is already 100 per cent better than his." He explained he said it because he knew Patterson received a newspaper in Florida and would see the comment. Patterson consistently had the poorest attendance record at council meetings.

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## Province wants later kindergarten start

The province is pressuring Halton into letting youngsters start their schooling later in life. Halton Board of Education trustees are not ready to comply—just now.

The provincial ministry of education wants Halton's starting time for kindergarten to be in line with the ministry's policy. If the board keeps its own policy—of starting children at less than five years of age—the province will cut the grants for those children.

That could cost Halton taxpayers \$100,000 a year according to board superintendent of finance Bruce Lindley.

The ministry's policy has been in the book for some years.

In order for the board of education to be eligible

for provincial grants that support kindergarten, the classes must be made up of youngsters who have their fifth birthdays as of the end of December.

Halton's policy for 11 years has been to allow children who reach birthday number five on or before the end of February to be eligible for kindergarten enrolment the previous September.

One other board—Niagara South—has a policy which does not agree with Ontario's.

Trustees are exploring avenues with the provincial government which may get around the ministry's policy. One asked for an exemption until next year to allow a phasing out of the Halton policy; another suggested a delegation meet the minister about keeping the grants.

Halton may decide on a course of action on December 11.

Board superintendent of special education Ron Chapman said he believes the ministry's recent direction concerning kindergarten policy is not based on education grounds. Some trustees said it was rooted in political reasons.

Acton-Esqueing trustee Betty Fisher and rural Milton trustee Ivan Armstrong indicated in separate interviews that they favor starting youngsters in kindergarten later than Halton practices.

Acton trustee elect Arlene Bruce had no comment on the subject and Esqueing trustee-elect Betty Walker could not be reached for comment by press time.

Armstrong indicated there have been reports

to the board which favor the later starting date and other reports which support Halton's position of an early starting time.

One such report in January 1978 from an ad hoc committee on remedial assistance stated that "significantly more of the younger children performed below the grade level than did the older children." That difference continued until grade four in some cases, said Armstrong.

Acton-Esqueing trustee Fisher, who will represent Georgetown after Thursday's inaugural meeting, indicated there has been pressure from teachers and parents for the later starting time.

"Generally speaking I favor moving the date back to December," said Fisher.

One way of getting children into kindergarten, who would be ineligible because of the change of starting ages, would be to have them screened by Halton's Early Identification System. "If they are found to be ready, they should

be allowed to do so," said Fisher.

"I don't believe the answer is in black and white," she said.

With the identification system the loss of grants from the province could be cut to \$50,000, said Fisher.

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### Still no parking on Elizabeth Dr. curve

Despite the need for parking in the area of the Elizabeth Dr. senior citizens' apartment building the town isn't going to allow parking on either side of the road.

Del Jordan, McDonald Blvd., recently attended the ward one councillors' Friday afternoon drop-in asking for the town to provide parking for visitors on vacant land across from the seniors apartment building.

Councillor Ros Knechtel explained then that the town doesn't own the property, although Halton Hills is working with a developer on a land swap which might leave the land in the town's hands. This arrangement could also result in parking at a small plaza in the area and Elizabeth Dr. being straightened.

Knechtel said the only solution he could see in

the short-term would be to allow parking on the street, but that would likely be a problem since there is a curve in the road in front of the seniors' apartments. He said he would discuss the matter with the engineer.

At Friday's drop-in Knechtel reported the engineer said parking can't be allowed on the road. Knechtel explained the curve would make for a dangerous situation, "dynamite" if parking was allowed.

He noted the town staff

felt the only solution to providing parking would be if council considers acquiring some land in the vicinity for a parking lot.

Councillor Terry Grubbe suggested the town consider making the provision of parking for the seniors' apartments a part of approval of any commercial development in the area. She agreed it would be dangerous to allow street parking in the area of the curve.

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