



Hawaiian maidens 'hula' up a storm under the swaying palms of Hawaii.

**This week thru the lens**

**Holiday Hi-Lites**  
Photos by **Diana Waltmann**



Mickey Mouse (Lorie DeBruyn) leads Disney on Parade.



Off on an Alpine Adventure were these Junior B girls, as Swiss maidens.



Tina Krzyzik left, and Stacey Perry right, performed in Moonlight in Vienna.

## Water, sewer bills up Whiting explains why

Water bills are up again and residents are trying to figure why.

Unfortunately the bills aren't easily understood. Acton's regional councillor Dave Whiting, says he has received more calls about water bills recently than any other single subject since he took office in December.

And he can't blame people for being confused by their bills. It took him numerous calls to have the system properly explained to him.

The bottom line? The cost of water and sewer service is up.

Because of a deficit last year in the water and sewers account in the neighborhood of \$500,000 rates have been pushed up substantially. Before leaving office at the end of November the old regional council decided to put the rates up 25 per cent. Whiting recalled in an interview this week.

The new rates went into effect on March 1, but only half of Acton has received their bills so far so half the people haven't felt the impact yet.

Last year the minimum water charge was \$3.70 a month, or \$7.40 every two months. Most residents receive their water bills every two months. The minimum sewer surcharge, which before equalization of rates across Halton in 1980 was on municipal tax bills was \$5.34 a month or \$10.68 for two months.

As of the start of last month those rates have jumped over \$1 a month each. The minimum water charge is now \$4.74 a month or \$9.48 every two months and \$6.69 for sewer charge a month or \$13.36 for two months.

So even if you've been away for two months you still must pay \$24.38 for water and sewer service, up from \$18.08 in 1980. Rates go up from the minimum based on consumption.

Questions about water and sewer bills are to be directed to 853-0501, extension 374.

Whiting did that.

What he found was the person on the other end of the line how couldn't ex-

plain water bills for Halton Hills.

A call to chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin resulted in the person on the other end of the phone now knowing how water bills are handled for Halton Hills. As least Whiting hopes so.

Whiting thinks people have read so much of region financial errors, such as two years in a row of deficits, that when they saw their bills were up they wondered if the region had made more mistakes.

Then they discovered the bills aren't easily understood.

The key to understanding the water bills is realizing that there is a direct relationship between water consumption and sewer surcharge.

Regardless if your metre measures the water consumption in gallons or cubic metres

you are charged on the basis of 19.12 cents a cubic metre (M3) a month. A cubic metre is equal to 220 gallons, he notes.

The amount of sewage coming from a home isn't measured. The sewage surcharge is based on water consumption. The region figures every drop of water used is going back into the sewer system. However, people water lawns and fill swimming pools. To make an allowance for that fact, sewer charges only go up to 10,000 gallons. If a person used 15,000 gallons they pay for all the water, but only pay sewer charge on 10,000 gallons, Whiting explained.

To determine sewer charges 27.04 cents per cubic metre of water consumed and then gives the customer an automatic 15 per cent discount.



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Kara Leatherland right and Kent Petty were a waltzing pair in Vietnam.

### Approve transmission shop

Halton Hills council gave approval to a site plan for a transmission shop on Main St. North, Monday night.

Paul Wheeler, who operates Acton Transmission on Queen St., applied for site plan approval for a piece of vacant property. He said that he expects to build a transmission shop on the site in the "foreseeable future."

The town's site plan review committee approved the application last month subject to seven conditions. Wheeler will have to deed a small part of property to the town for road widening, select a suitable spot on the site for garbage storage and

have exterior lighting approved by the engineer before a building permit is issued. As well the owner must apply for an

entrance permit, provide five parking places at the rear of the property, secure water and sewer permits.

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