



Acton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society Activity Groups are busy throughout the year preparing hand-made items to go to cancer patients in various hospitals, at Christmas time. This year's Christmas bazaar was gathered Saturday. One Activity Group consists of: left side of table, Lula Sinclair, Grace McEnery, Isabel Milno and Ann Vickery. Right side, Irene Terry, Irene McLeod, Mary Pappillon and Isabel McDonald. Jean Leishman stands at the back. Absent were Agnes Holmes and Peg Spielvogel.

Apartment dwellers face possible 50% rent hike

Residents of 117 apartment units on Church and Maria Streets are facing rent increases of up to 53 per cent.

Tenants of Noble Towers and Diplomat Apartments are up in arms after receiving a notice from Milton Court Apartments Ltd., owners of their two buildings, informing them of proposed rent hikes when their present leases run out.

Doug Wilson, one of the affected residents, and spokesman for many of the tenants, explained that many of the residents will not be able to afford the increases and will be forced to find other lodging. Many are senior citizens on fixed incomes.

Wilson explained he is currently paying \$286 a month for his two bedroom apartment. In May when his lease is up, he will be paying \$400, if the owners are allowed their demands by the rent review board.

Rents for one bedroom apartments will be \$365, and \$435 for the three bedroom units. Apartments on the top floor are an additional \$5 a month, according to a notice distributed to the tenants.

Depending on when the tenants moved in, Wilson said, their rents will be increasing anywhere from 40 to 53 per cent, something which the tenants will fight against.

Wilson pointed out all the utilities are included in the rent except telephone and cable television, and the buildings are in reasonably good condition. However, even these advantages do not justify the type of increase the owners are seeking.

Wilson admitted that although he will be greatly affected by the increase, he will not be in as bad a position as some of the others whose only income is pensions.

The tenant notification gave the reason for the increase as mortgage renewals and increased operating costs. Milton Court Apartments Ltd. refused comment to the Free Press.

David Craig, a lawyer from Halton Hills Legal Aid secured by Wilson and other tenants, explained that a landlord can raise rents six per cent without any questions asked. Anything over that figure, he said, must be reviewed by the Residential Tenancies Commission.

Building owners must file a cost revenue statement, giving details such as what they make on revenues from the buildings, i.e. the rents, the washing machines, etc., their operating expenses; they must show any capital costs, i.e. if they put in a new fire system, or repainted the building; must show financing, i.e. mortgage papers, etc.

Craig noted a mortgage renewal is justification for a increase, but certainly not 50 per cent. The lawyer estimated if his mortgage is renewed at five or six per cent more than currently being paid, and operating costs have jumped 10 or 15 per cent, he may be able to justify a 15 per cent increase. "Generally that is what landlords are getting," he said.

If the owners can prove that they are, or will be, suffering a loss, the commission may even grant them a 20 per cent hike. "But I find it very difficult to imagine anything which would increase their cost 50 per cent."

No hearing date has been set by the Commission, but it will not be before the new year, the commission office said.

Meanwhile, tenants have filled out questionnaires for use by the lawyer, giving their present rent, and their proposed future rent, and their income, to help in their fight for reasonable rents.

By comparison, a one bedroom apartment on Ransom St. rents for between \$240 and \$260. Ads in last week's Free Press had a three bedroom duplex with utilities, fridge, stove, garage and garden included for \$415 a month.

United Way concerns Cancer Unit

Some charitable organizations in Halton Hills have expressed concern about the United Way expanding into North Halton.

In June, Halton Hills council asked charity groups raising funds to comment on a report calling for the United Way in the north part of the region.

Acton Cancer Unit expressed concern noting major charitable organizations shouldn't be included in the United Way and it needs to be determined which groups the United

Way will support. The local group also felt that the public must be made aware the United Way won't be helping retarded children, Flowers of Hope campaign, cancer and others, so it doesn't hamper existing fund raising drives. Cancer suggested a United Way campaign not be held the same month as any other major campaign in town.

The Georgetown Y, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Muscular Dystrophy, Acton Meals on Wheels and Acton Social Services

and Information Centre also commented, and four supported the United Way.

Fran Jamieson, a member of a committee looking at the United Way for north Halton, said she started out opposed but now supports the United Way because it will fund services not now available in the north. She noted an implementation committee is due to be appointed which will review how a United Way will operate in the north. Councillor Dave Whiting observed

some services the United Way would support are now paid for from tax dollars so the region would like to see the services not paid for by rate-payers.

Jamieson observed some local firms are giving to the United Way but unless they stipulate the money should go to a local charity the funds don't come back to the community. Residents who work out of town and give to the United Way and don't direct the money go back to Halton Hills face the same problem.



Halton Hills Hydro worker Ken Hodgson puts up the new Christmas lights bought for the town by the Acton BIA.



Leanne Brace, of Rockwood admires some of the items for sale at the Hockey Moms' Christmas sale.

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Legion happenings

The Legion-Rotary dinner for the Golden Agers was an overwhelming success on Thursday. Santa did a superlative job and was the hit of the evening.

Final sign-up of your child's name for the Christmas party is this Saturday. Check the list, do not let your child be disappointed! Grandchildren are not eligible.

The couples night and Beef Draw is this Saturday, have you turned in your draw tickets yet? Your ticket is your admission to this fun evening.

Hockey pool winners for November 21 were 1st goal A. Dyc and C. Auger, last goal J. McKnight and L. McIntyre. There will be a mixed teams Dart Tournament this Friday at 1 p.m., everyone welcome.

Art Daigle is in Guelph General, and Mary would appreciate a ride, 853-1776.

Turkey roll is Saturday, December 5, at 2 p.m. in the Games Room. There is entertainment in the lounge this Friday.

There are still a few seats available for the Ladies' Auxiliary bus trip to Kitchener on Saturday, November 28, call Lily Higgins 853-2906 or Fern Shultis 853-0866. Ladies Auxiliary general meeting is December 3.

Lorne's letter makes rounds

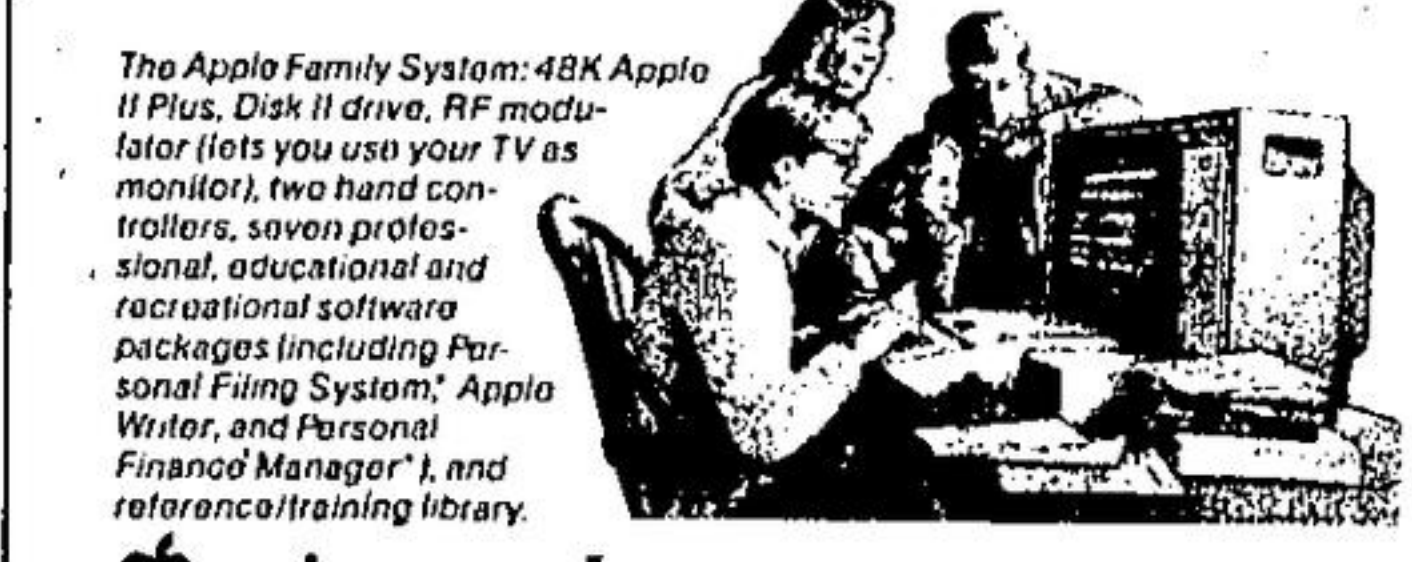
Halton Hills council last Tuesday night acknowledged receipt of a letter from the region regarding Acton resident Lorne Doberthien's concerns of lack of handicapped parking.

Region had previously endorsed Doberthien's urge to have a legal prohibition of parking in spaces designated for handicapped parking, at major sites around Ontario.

In the letter to council, regional chairman Rafits requested the municipality review parking requirements in the zoning bylaws, and parking regulations on private property to ensure handicapped parking in the municipality.

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• 1979 Monte Carlo \$7837.00 Silver, P/S, P/B, air, auto, like new, Lic. No. OXC117	• 1977 Toyota \$3987.00 Impala, auto, 4 cyl., immaculate mini. Lic. No. 5F5046
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