

Provincial restraint program step in right direction-Reed, Raftis

by Steve Arnold
Bill Davis hasn't found the final answer to Ontario's economic problems, but he had at least taken a step in the right direction, according to two local political leaders.

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, and Halton Regional chairman Jack Raftis expressed general support for the Davis restraint package last week.

Reed, Liberal member for this area, said his party would support the eventual passage of the bill, "but we're also going to support a move to take it into committee."

While a move to control the rapid growth of government costs is an important step toward controlling inflation, Reed stressed it was not the complete answer to the problem.

"There are a lot of aspects to this problem, but we believe it's a start, it's a beginning." The final answer, however, would be a government-backed program of economic

recovery "the focus of which should be on using the resources we already have," Reed said.

The former energy critic for the provincial Opposition, said one such area would be in using waste forest products as heating fuel, a technique he saw being developed in northern Ontario.

"An economic recovery program for Ontario should capitalize on the assets that we aren't exploiting right now," he said.

Waste forest products, he said, could be developed into an energy source that competes with natural gas, but there is currently only one plant in the province doing that, "and it's the only plant in Harest that's using its full complement and working flat out."

"The whole field of energy substitution is something that will be very important to this kind of plan," he added.

Reed said a restraint program imposed by an Ontario Liberal govern-

ment would have been tougher than the Davis package and would have aimed at a broader base than simply civil servants. "To be really effective though, it should be national. Everybody has to pull together if this is going to work because it will really require an effort to pull the economy around," he said.

Reed also found an aspect to praise in the clauses of the restraint bill that impose conditional limits on those earning low incomes.

"That's a bit of a plus for the thing because it really won't serve the purpose if everybody starts to play catch-up next year," he added, stressing that committee consideration should be given to planning for the post control period.

After controls, he said, there must be a realignment of the priorities of the government in order for Ontario's economy to really recover.

Reed noted the recent

problems of Halton's subsidized day care program is an area where the priorities of the Conservative government are wrong. "Subsidized day care

Mayor Pomeroy says

Restraint program will impact on Halton Hills

The provincial restraint program will have a significant impact on Halton Hills, according to Mayor Peter Pomeroy.

Town staff is reviewing the new legislation and will report to council on the ramifications of the guidelines.

However, Pomeroy said, it is obvious the restraint program will do "several things" as far as Halton Hills is concerned.

For one thing it will impact on contract negotiations next year between the Town and unionized outside wor-

kers. The province has said transfer payments and grants from Queen's Park to Halton Hills will increase no more than five per cent, maybe less. So, Halton Hills council will have to take a long, hard look at its budgets, especially the capital budget, and consider project delays and reductions in the level of services. The restraint program will particularly impact on capital projects since the municipality plans five years in advance, consequently delays next year will set other projects back too.

Council will be shooting for a tax increase of less than 10 per cent for Halton Hills next year. Pomeroy notes preliminary budget work has already started for 1983. The Mayor added it is going to be "extremely difficult" to get the tax hike down.

The "way I understand it" the five per cent wage hike guideline affects all municipal employees, Pomeroy said. The arena workers though settled earlier so they won't be under controls because their contract expires after the provincial program expires.

people's expectations if it is to really affect inflation.

"Getting inflation under control and bringing our future expectations for in-

creases into line with reality are all basic ingredients of economic recovery," he said. "We all have to bite it together, the only proviso is that lower income groups get a fair shake."

"Inflation has some very serious problems associated with it. We seem to have an inflation psychology now where settlements are trying to reach well past the rate of inflation," Reed said.

"If we can get together, rather than isolating ourselves in the me syndrome, we will all emerge a lot stronger. The recovery process is going to be gradual, there is no doubt about that. It'll be a little time before there's some action in the market," he added.

One of the reasons that people have been reluctant to support restraint programs, he said, is the ever growing rate of inflation they face, so governments at all levels must try to hold the line on their increases this

year. "If we can end up seeing that we have at least held the line on taxes, I think we'll have taken a major step toward restoring confidence in this country," he said.

Raftis voiced cautious support for the program, adding that as early as April of this year Regional council was passing motions calling for restraint in government spending. "I think it will make the definitions much clearer," he said, adding that the largest problems facing the Region would be the effects of the program on its operating grants for

next year, coupled with the loss of assessment being suffered from the closing of industries such as the Shell refinery in Oakville. "I think we've done a good job in strengthening various areas. Right now we have no spirit of confidence, but this could succeed with everyone working together," he said. Raftis added that such a program should have been started sooner. "Private industry has been doing this for the last year. It was late in coming to government. I think they were about a year late," he said.

Chief considers leasing vehicles

Fire Chief Bill Cunningham is going to look into leasing a vehicle for himself and one for the fire prevention officer.

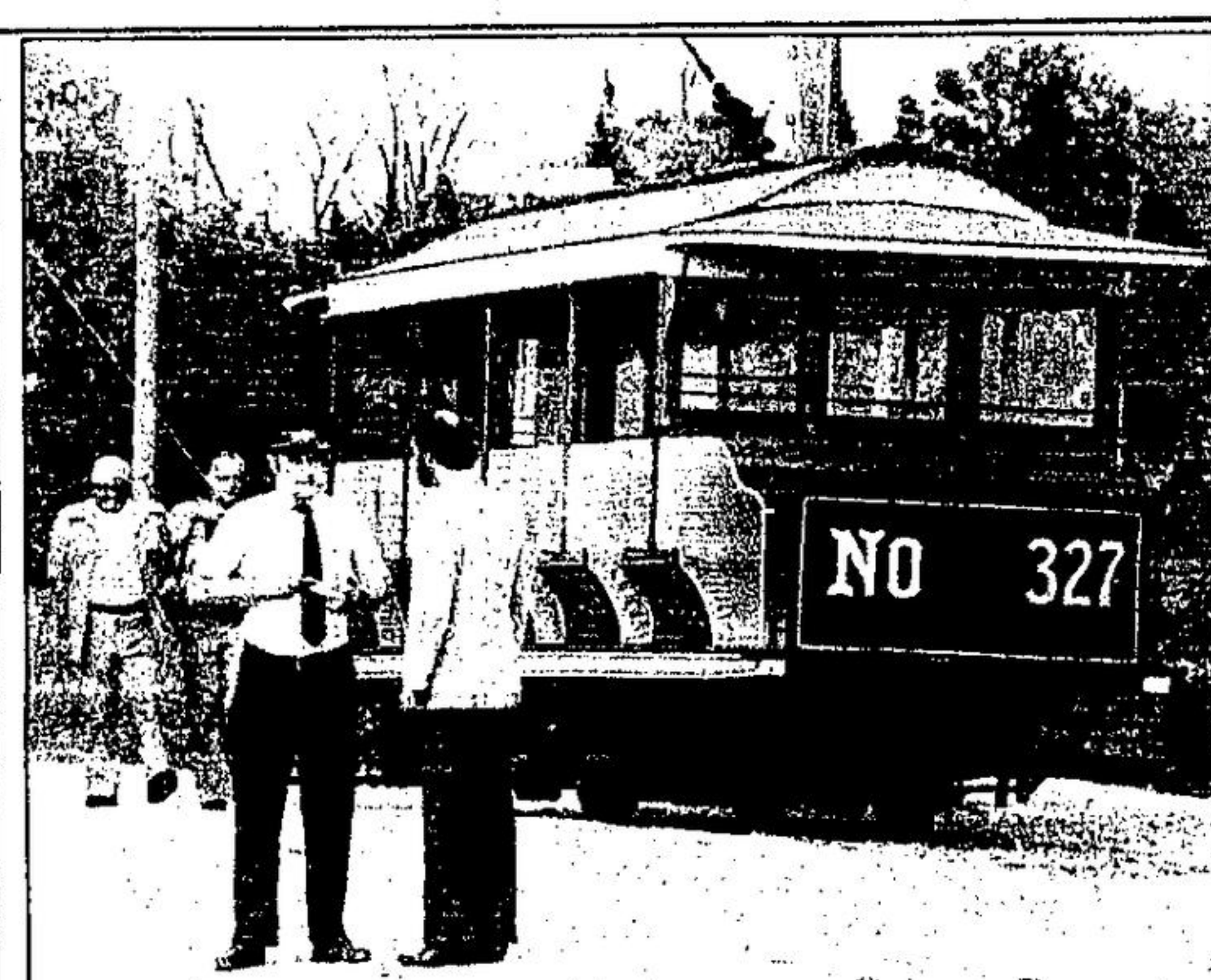
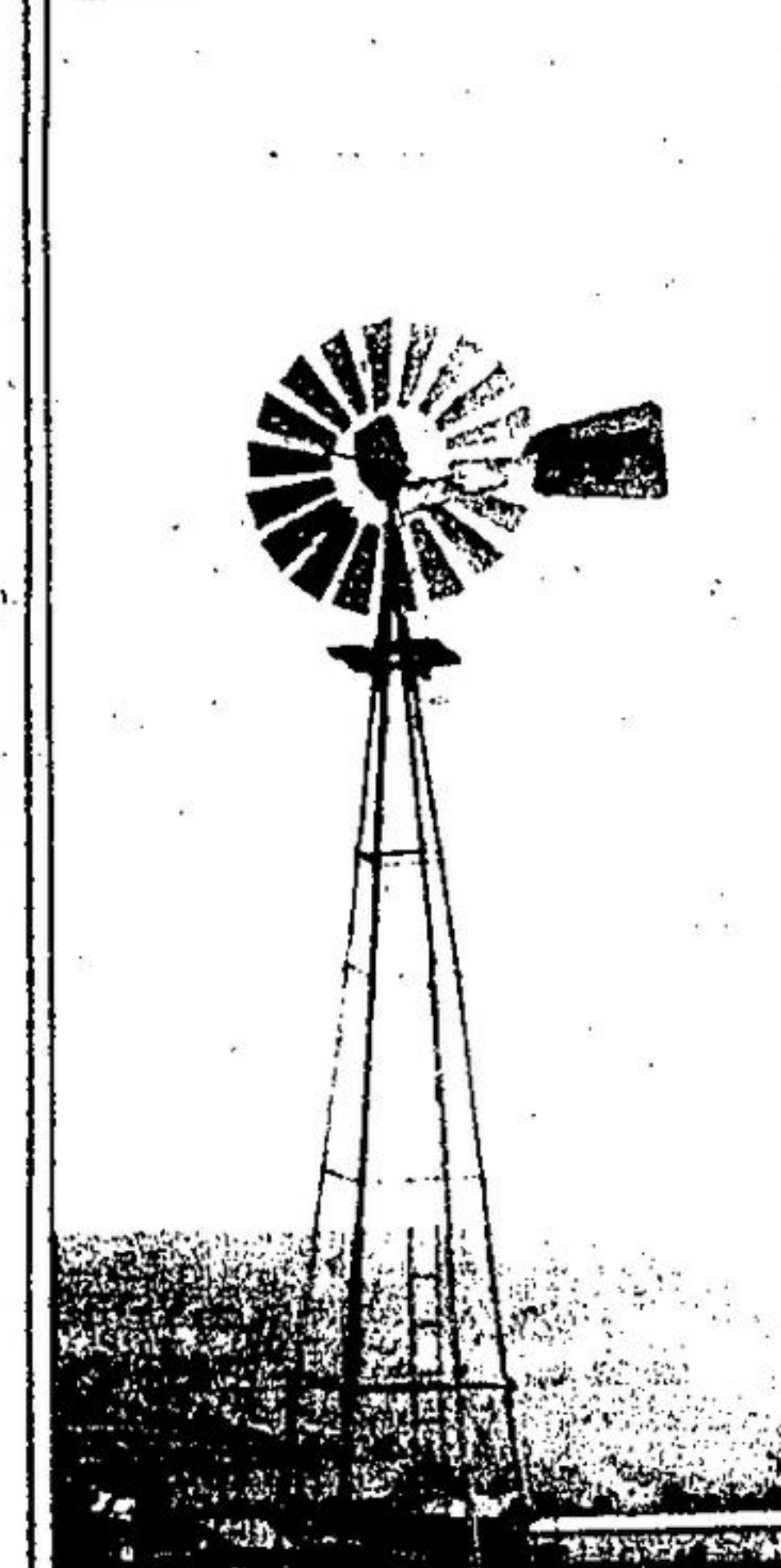
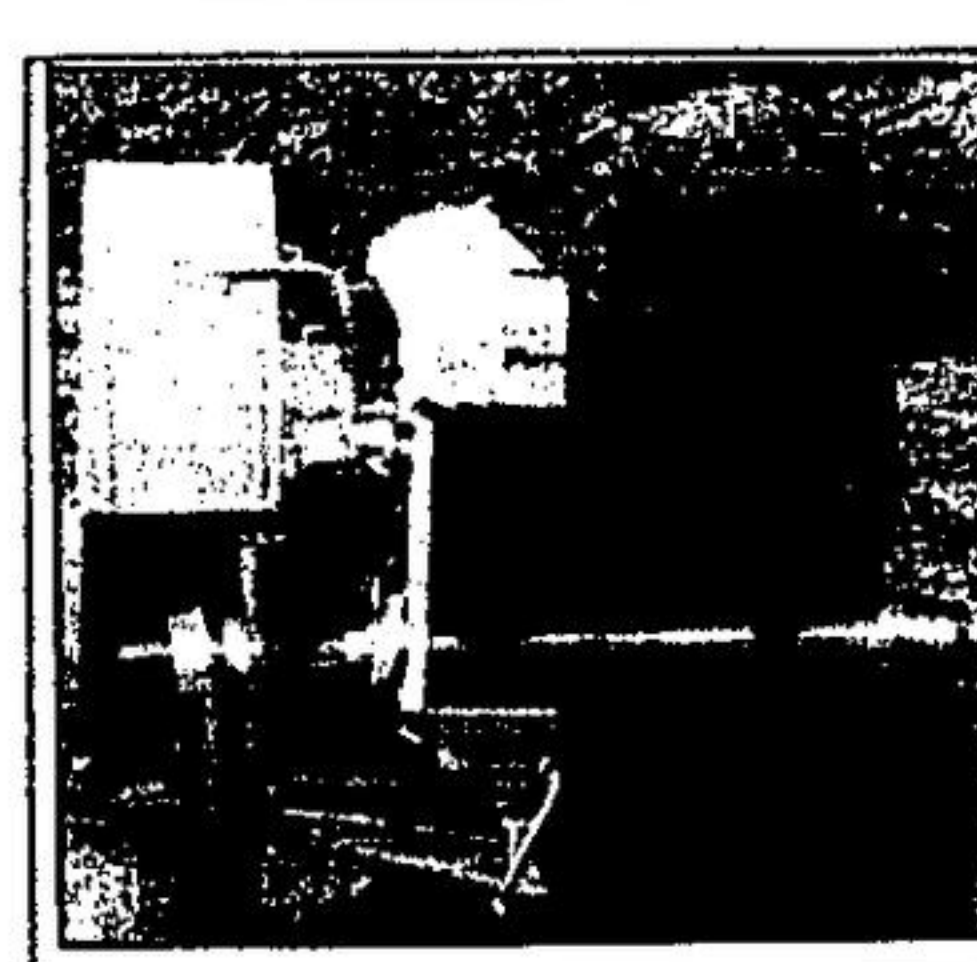
He told Halton Hills General Committee last Monday night that there is \$9,500 in the budget for a fire chief's car, the old one was taken off the road, and both he and the fire prevention officer drive their own cars. He noted both should be driving vehicles which are easily identified as fire department vehicles.

He wants to look into buying one vehicle and leasing the other, just buying a fire chief's car, and leasing two vehicles before making a recommendation to council.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said Cunningham's investigation of the options will prove interesting and it may turn out the Town should be leasing and not buying vehicles. Cunningham said he wants a six cylinder station wagon for himself and a van for the fire prevention officer.

newsmakers

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, October 6, 1982



Don't fight a fire, phone the experts

Before making any attempt to put out a fire on your own, call the fire department.

That's just one piece of advice being given by Fire Chief Bill Cunningham during fire prevention week.

In an interview, Cunningham noted people sometimes waste precious time trying to put out a small fire themselves. If they fail, when they call the fire department the firefighters find an even worse situation to handle.

With chimney fire and wood heating season around the corner, Cunningham offered a number of tips. He urged wood burning stoves be properly installed, improper installation of wood stoves is a major cause of fire. The Chief noted his department has literature on wood stove installation available to provide advice and will inspect installations.

Likewise if you're wondering if your chimney is ready for heating season call the fire department. If you burn good wood then you may only need your chimney cleaned and inspected at the start of the season. However, if you burn green wood then a couple of months after the start of heating season your chimney may need to be cleaned to get rid of creosote buildup.

This week is also a good time to check batteries in smoke detectors. While an alarm sounds when batteries are failing, Cunningham notes maybe the alarm sounded while a resident was away so the detector may not be working now. Home and business fire extinguishers should also be checked to make sure pressure is up.

With many people cleaning up leaves this time of year, Cunningham points out the Ontario Fire Code stipulates there is to be no open burning. There are many reasons why people shouldn't be burning leaves in their ditches, but the major one is because the smoke interferes with the vision of drivers.

During fire prevention week volunteer firefighters in Acton and Georgetown, as well as Fire Prevention Officer Bob Meads, will be visiting most, if not all, local schools conducting fire drills and inspections.



McDonald's Restaurant has provided the Fire Department with fire safety checklists for the home, for school children and when youngsters return they completed to McDonald's they receive free fries, Cunningham said. Fire trucks will be at McDonald's in Georgetown on October 9. This Sunday the Fire Department will revive an old tradition with Acton and Georgetown volunteers holding a Church Parade at Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown. Next year the Church Parade will be held in Acton.

Moderator says Sharing world's resources only path to world peace

Peace will only come when there is justice for all and as long as six per cent of the world's population consumes 50 per cent of the resources there won't be justice or peace, according to Rev. Clarke MacDonald.

The Moderator of the United Church of Canada was at Trinity United Church Acton, Sunday morning to discuss world peace and nuclear disarmament. He was interviewed following the service.

There will be a referendum on global nuclear disarmament in Halton Hills on the November 8 municipal election ballot.

He says his anti-nuclear and pro-peace stance isn't meant as a "desecration" of those who have fought wars in the past. "There is no more tender movement in our nation's life than when the White Cross Mother lays the wreath at the national war memorial in Ottawa at the 11th hour on November 11th."

Rev. MacDonald's concern about nuclear war isn't just a fear confined to a bunch of "peace-loving preachers." Physicians everywhere are referring to nuclear holocaust as "the final epidemic." Scientists are calling on politicians and military

leaders to resolve the nuclear issue before there is a "chain reaction" of events which "suffocate the earth." Lastly retired military leaders, like General E.L.M. Burns of Canada, are calling on all peoples and politicians to resolve the issue before they unleash powers with "apocalyptic results."

Rev. MacDonald conceded not everyone agrees with his stand for global nuclear disarmament, but he feels the Church "can't sit on the fence."

"I have a firm position, but I respect other opinions." He says his anti-nuclear and pro-peace stance isn't meant as a "desecration" of those who have fought wars in the past. "There is no more tender movement in our nation's life than when the White Cross Mother lays the wreath at the national war memorial in Ottawa at the 11th hour on November 11th."

Rev. MacDonald says his stance is motivated simply, he just doesn't want to see war again. He recalled in his young years in the 20s and 30s people referred to World War I as the "war to end wars." During World War II

people called that the "war to make the world safe for democracy." Yet today "from Iran to Argentina to South Korea to Czechoslovakia (and elsewhere) there are more dictatorial forces at work than at any other time in this Century."

MOH suggests fluoride treatment

In an attempt to anticipate the fluoride shortage in Georgetown and Acton at the end of the year, Halton Regional Health Department is urging parents to consider a home treatment. Municipalities throughout Ontario are running out of fluoride and are being forced to discontinue the use of fluoride in drinking water. A report by Halton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Peter Cole, has shown that fluoride in the water reduces cavities up to 60 per cent.

Dr. Cole said the supply for the Georgetown Acton area will end "in about four months." "You will run out," he said, adding he believes the supply will be

replenished soon after the new year. To offset the lack of the cavity-reducing fluoride he recommends parents consider using a home fluoride. He admitted that getting parents to "foot the bill" for the treatments "isn't the best answer," but he said the region couldn't do anything else.

Sharing world's resources only path to world peace

"But we wouldn't expect parents to carry on a long-term basis," he said. "It's only going to be a temporary thing."

One of the ingredients used to make fluoride is a by-product of fertilizer and, as farmers haven't been using as much fertilizer this year, the fluoride supplies have been lowered.

North Halton Heritage Area



It's a nice place to visit

North Halton Heritage Area offers lots of attractions as journalists from all over Ontario discovered on a media tour last Wednesday. They visited (counter clockwise from top left) the Ontario Agricultural Museum in Milton; Pine Valley Farms in Norval; Chudleigh's on Highway 25; the New Artisan Village at the old Hilde House; and the Halton County Radial Railway, among other places.

