

The long wait is over. After months of waiting CN crews arrived this week to repair the deplorable Mill St. rail crossing. Councillors Dave Whiting, Ross Knechtel, Terry Grubbe, Mayor Peter Pomeroy and Town staff complained and lobbied CN about the crossing since last winter.

## Halton Hills population up

The population of Halton Hills has increased by nearly 1,000 people. Monday Halton Hills council received a report, a 1982 census based on the municipal enumeration last month, which shows there are 913 more people living in the Town than there were last year. There are 7,044 citizens in Acton, another 9,803 people living in the rural area, and 17,769 Georgetown residents.

# Satisfactory care at Cher's, hospital Scott coroner's inquest jury is told

Earl Scott received satisfactory care at both Cher's Rest Home and Guelph General Hospital in the weeks leading up to his July 13 death. Witnesses at the inquest into the death of Scott testified Tuesday they felt all that could be done for the elderly resident of Cher's was done for him by the time he arrived at the hospital June 23. Crown Attorney Jim Treleaven, counsel for coroner Dr. Bruce Penton, in his opening remarks noted some of the evidence is directed towards the lack of regulations for rest homes. He emphasized the inquest was not to attach blame onto any one person or to be overly critical. Pathologist Dr. E.T. Ling told the jury of three women and two men that Scott was 82-years-old when he died of bronchial pneumonia in July. His knees were fixed (stiffened) at 90 degrees, which could have been due to staying in the same position for an extended time, or arthritis. Dr. Ling also noted numerous bedsores on Scott's body, mainly on his buttocks. One such sore on his foot was open to the bone. At the time of his examination, Dr. Ling said, the sores were clean and some were healing. Scott also had a heart condition which was not uncommon for someone of his age. The bedsores, Dr. Ling said, were a factor in Scott's death in that the patient was immobilized which makes anyone susceptible to pneumonia.

Dr. Ling told Cher's Rest Home solicitor Gerry Punnett the sores looked as if the person had been turned frequently during the day, which was proper treatment. Douglas McMillen, of the Halton Regional Police, told the coroner Cher's Rest Home was clean and tidy when he entered the premises on August 13, with only about 10 minutes notice. Dr. Walter Scott, coroner for Wellington and Waterloo counties testified he was concerned about the bedsores on the patient's body at the time of his death. He noted air mattresses could have been used to avoid the sores. He called for the inquest because he wondered if Scott had received adequate care. Dr. Scott explained that a nursing home would have a registered nurse or an assistant on staff. However, by present regulation, rest homes do not need to comply with this. By law, a rest home can be described as any number of possible lodgings, including a boarding home, the coroner noted. Dr. Scott told the jury he felt rest homes should be required to have someone on staff trained in administering medical care. Other methods of helping to prevent bedsores, Dr. Scott said, are sheepskins under the patient and a Stricker frame, which allows the patient to be turned over easily. This could have helped prevent the pneumonia, Dr. Scott said.

Acton pharmacist Bill Yundt said he filled several prescriptions for antibiotics against infection, and a cream for infections for Scott, beginning May 8 until June 12. He also sold pills for the heart condition. Most of the medication was prescribed by Dr. David van der Bent. Scott was "very adequately cared for," Dr. van der Bent told the inquest. He explained Scott was mentally in good shape but had arthritis, and got around in a wheel chair or with crutches. In January 1981, Scott suffered acute congestive heart failure and was put on medication. In May, 1982, he had bronchitis, but recovered with antibiotics. Dr. van der Bent said he first saw the bedsores on June 6, but they were not bad at that time. Scott had been given sheepskins on which to sit, which was adequate care at the time. Owner of the rest home, Tryphenia Cheroniak, was advised to tell the family their father was now a bed patient. In the next nine days, Scott's condition deteriorated very suddenly. On June 25, Dr. van der Bent felt Scott should be moved to the hospital. Mrs. Cheroniak told the doctor the family was aware of the situation and wanted him kept at the home. Two days later, Dr. van der Bent returned to find the patient's condition further worsened. He felt the family did not realize how bad (Continued on page 4)

# The Acton Free Press

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Over 300 dancers including several from Acton enjoyed the Pine Valley Squares' 5th annual hoedown at Georgetown high school cafeteria last Saturday night. Al Calhoun, a guest caller from the Barrie-Orillia area kept the dancers clapping and stomping to such tunes as O Lord It's Hard to be Humble and The Way You Wear Your Blue Jeans So Tight.

## Angry audience told

# No expropriation for quarries

Land will not be expropriated for aggregate mining, Ted Harvey, of the Ministry of Natural Resources told over 225 angry land owners from all over North Halton last night (Tuesday) at a public meeting into the proposed "chilling" of lands for pits and quarries operations. Accusations of "Davis Gestapo" were hurled at Harvey by landowners fearing their hands will be tied on their own property, and some 14,000 acres of land in North Halton, mostly around Acton, frozen. The meeting was called to further inform residents of the Proposed Amendment Number Six to the Region Official Plan. Residents, for the most part, went home after almost three hours unsatisfied with answers, and just as angry and frustrated as when the meeting began. Residents were asked to attend next Wednesday's Public Works meeting at Regional Headquarters in Oakville, at 10 a.m. Halton Hills Councillor Dave Whiting demanded the meeting to be held in Acton, for the convenience of the people in North Halton, and that is still a possibility. The changing of the meeting will be brought up at today's Wednesday meeting. Failing that, Whiting asked for a special meeting to be held in Acton. "Bring the government to the people, instead of the people to the government," he appealed. Ted Tyler pointed out to regional planners Rash Mohammed and Bob White that Acton is willing to contribute its fair share to the aggregate industry, but questioned the need for providing most of the Halton share. He wanted to know why all the designated areas were in the north end of the region. His concern was brought up by many people throughout the evening. Tyler also wondered if there was any way the people would be

compensated for their land. Mohammed and regional lawyer Ken Anderson agreed there is no compensation for frozen land. Harvey explained that Halton has a variety of resources, with sand and gravel north of Acton, crushed stone around Acton and shale from the Georgetown area. "Ever since regional government," said R. Steen, R.R. 1 Limehouse, "we have been crapped on." Many residents asked about alternative mining sites around Ontario. One man wondered why the aggregate could not come from Crown land on Highway 25, if this area was so good. Mohammed stated Crown lands are not intended for aggregate extraction, which had one angry landowner interjected "Are you saying only privately owned land is good for extraction?" Mohammed admitted Crown lands had been considered, and then dismissed. These lands are meant to be wood lots. Another man interrupted by saying privately owned lands had had more replanting done than Crown lands, and he himself had planted trees on 30 acres. The Ministry representative was unable to tell the crowd what percentage of Ontario aggregate is coming from North Halton. He did however, hint that it was of substantial proportions. Chris Wood, of Acton, wondered what happens to the property owner once the extractors come to their door. Mohammed pointed out arrangements have to be made with the property owners. It was Mike Palmer, Rt 2 Rockwood, who wondered about expropriation. When Harvey answered that the government is not involved in expropriations, an unidentified woman related a story she had heard from a friend. Apparently aggregate

producers approached a friend of hers to sell their land. When he refused, the producers stated "we will take it anyway. A few days later, aerial photographs of his farm were on display at the municipal office." Regional lawyer Anderson pointed out governments can only expropriate something that is directly involving them such as property to widen roadways, etc. "The Region of Halton is not in the position of expropriating land for sand and gravel," he stated. Fred Buchanan said the entire matter was a fait accompli, that road work was already being done to accommodate the additional truck traffic. Chairman of the evening Bill Johnson noted that is why they are fighting it. One man went against the grain of the evening and told the planners he was tired of the meetings and just to get the amendment passed and settle the issue. Dennis Devine questioned why 1,500 acres could not be taken now to last until the end of the century. The present 1,400 acres of mined land has supplied aggregate for 15 years. Why are 14,000 minimal and 40,000 maximum needed now? Halton Hills' Mayor Peter Pomeroy said his council fully intends to fight the proposal, but the Town is not going to get anywhere without the support of the people. He agreed with a woman earlier who suggested a ratepayers association be formed. One man, who did not give his name, summed up the feelings of the majority of the people at the meeting, when he said "We are going to fight this damn thing right through and we are not going to get it!"

# Acton man challenges for the mayor's chair

A newcomer to political ranks has challenged Peter Pomeroy for the mayor's chair. A lifelong resident of Halton Hills, Glen McKenzie, Mill St. East Acton, announced his candidacy Monday afternoon after several days of rumors. He is the first Halton Hills mayoralty candidate from Acton ever. McKenzie is 27-years-old and works for Kitchener Coin. He says he is actively involved in recreation programs. He says he is running for Halton Hills top political post because he is "concerned about the apathy surrounding municipal politics." Pointing to past acclamations for the incumbent, McKenzie feels the "people of Halton Hills deserve an alternative." He wants to "guide the community in a new direction." McKenzie feels past administrations have "performed admirably" through the regional government "transition" period, but feels it's "time to build for the future." McKenzie would like to see the GO Train extended to Acton and wants commercial/industrial taxes reduced to "promote economic growth." Tourism is a "key growth opportunity" and he would promote this industry with tax dollars. He sees "Halton Hills 10 years hence as the tourist centre of south-central Ontario." Also, he notes, tourism is Ontario's number one industry and believes "recent success stories are just the beginning to this development." On other issues he has called for the demolition of the Acton Town Hall and the building of a community centre in the rural area between Acton and Georgetown. McKenzie has "vowed" to fight for private property rights threatened by the "gravel issue." Municipal government should be run like a business and McKenzie says taxes can be cut by increasing the tax base and eliminating waste. He says the economy is in "sad shape" and "not enough is being done at the local level." He says his candidacy began as a protest



Glen McKenzie

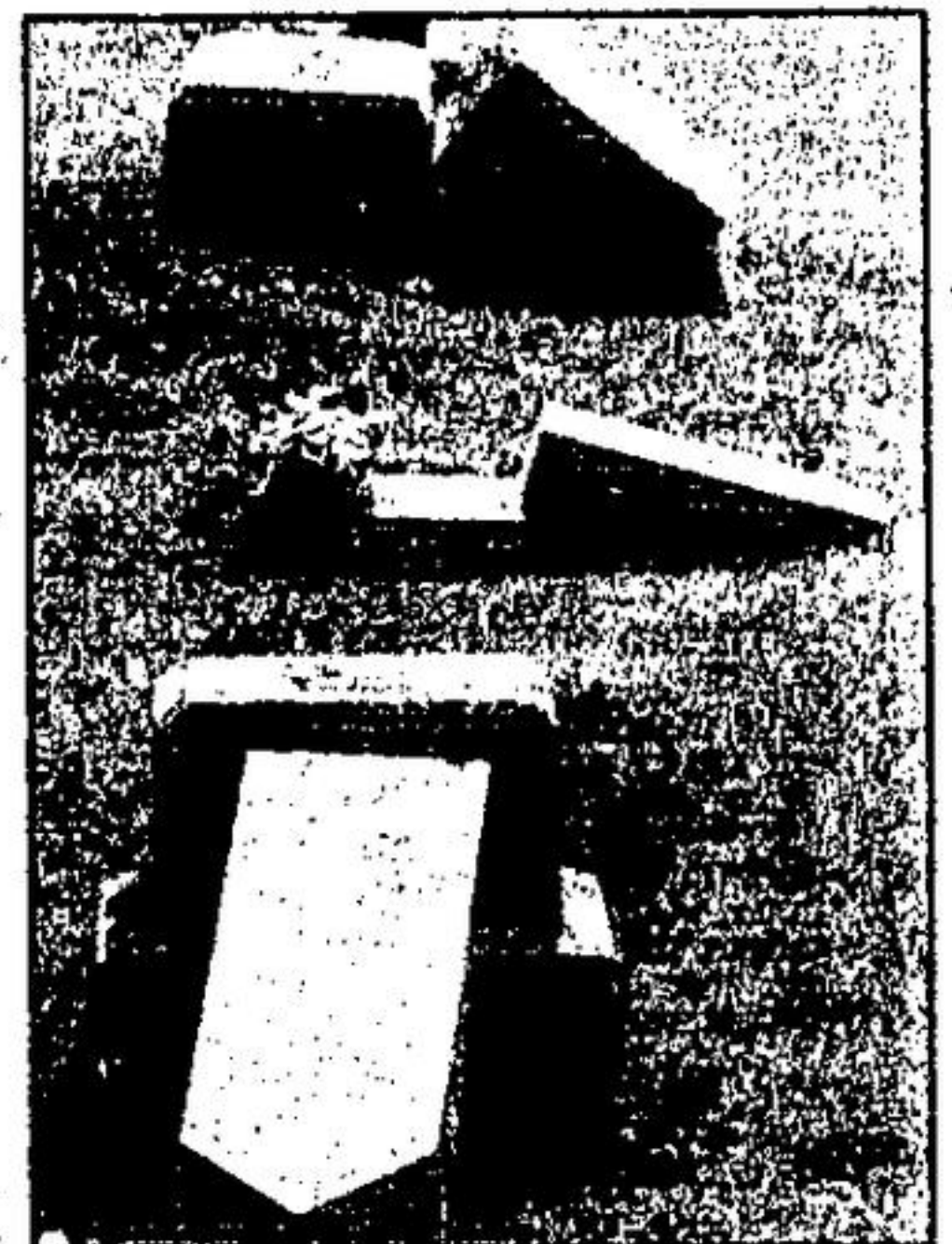
campaign but in recent days from talking to many voters it has "turned serious." He says his proposed program is "what Halton Hills needs" and he urges voters take a stand and work together for the future. "It's time to build this community, not just maintain it."

## All-candidates meeting

The all-candidates meeting for people running for Acton seats on Halton Region and Halton Hills councils, Halton Board of Education, Halton Separate School Board and Halton Hills Hydro Commission will be held tonight (Wednesday) at Acton High School at 7.30 p.m.

# Mayor calls for reward for capture cemetery vandals

Halton Hills councillors have been asked to consider a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of cemetery vandals who toppled 50 to 60 headstones in Acton last week, causing about \$3,000 damage. Monday Mayor Peter Pomeroy called for a staff report on a gate system for Fairview Cemetery which would see the grounds locked each night, as well as council consideration for a reward. Fairview isn't the only Halton Hills cemetery to be vandalized, Pomeroy said, adding it is an "impossible" situation to deal with unless council closes cemeteries except for funerals and puts up a six foot chain link fence. However, he has information which leads him to believe people living in the area of Fairview Cemetery have seen the vandals and he wants to give them an "incentive" to come forward. The headstones were toppled with the use of vehicles, he declared. There comes a point where vandalism is simply no longer "acceptable" the mayor said, adding that point has been reached. He'd like to see those responsible for this damage to public property "captured" and have them "pay the price." He termed those responsible for the attacks on Fairview as "animals." He has discussed this problem with the Halton Regional Police and concluded the only solution is citizen participation. Councillor Dave Whiting informed council he has received a letter from the Oakville community anti-vandalism committee, a body he has dealt with through council drop-in for Acton, and that group is planning to work in Acton and Georgetown. He said this body can't solve the vandalism problem, but do make the public more aware of vandalism and the need for citizen action. He noted part of the vandalism menace is a result of



There was over 50 headstones knocked over last week at Fairview Cemetery causing an estimated \$3,000 damage.

Judicial system shortcomings. Pomeroy said the town can't wait any longer to act on vandalism and it is important to the "integrity" of the municipality that the issue be "resolved once and for all."

## inside this week's Free Press

The visiting Welsh Choir waster-mendous. See story and photo on page 6 and Cole's Slaw on page B4.

You'll find editorials on page B1 and On the Leavril on page B2.

Sports is featured on pages B1 and B2.

The election races are now set. Today's paper has stories on Halton Hills races on pages 2, 3, 6 and B9. Also we have reports on the elections in Erin Township page 6, Nassagaweya page B3 and Erasmoua page B10.

There's a special car care supplement inside today's paper.

Bill Smiley's column is on page RE3.

North Halton has received an \$8,000 grant for a Youth Services Project which will operate out of the Acton Social Services and Information Centre. Details on page RE3.

Council won't lift the ban on Sunday auctions. Turn to Newsletters.



The trouble with public school... they get elected.