

Region warns again of possible water rationing

by Steve Arnold

Acton residents may have to endure another summer with the threat of water rationing but the fault doesn't lie with Halton's public works department.

Bob Moore, director of public works for the region, vehemently denied allegations last week that errors by his staff have stalled a long awaited solution to the area's water supply problem.

Moore, speaking to members of the region's planning and public works committee, said last minute interference by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is holding up a final solution.

Moore explained the regional department has dug a well at Fairy Lake which should meet Acton's future water requirements, but the well is not producing because of a higher than acceptable level of manganese in the water which has resulted in some staining of clothing and other problems associated with the yellow-brown water.

A solution to that problem is being studied by a consultant, he said, but now the CVCA and province have raised concerns about the effect the Prospect Park wells will have on water levels in both Fairy Lake and the nearby Black Creek.

"At all times we've been on stream with the MOE in what we've been trying to do in

Acton," he said, "but now the CVCA has jumped in with both feet and so have a lot of other agencies."

Concerns by these agencies, he said, are holding up a final decision on the future of the Prospect Park well and eventual water supplies in Acton.

Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy

started the discussion by accusing the public works department of "not having a direction" on the problem of water supply in Acton, an allegation Moore rejected out of hand.

"We're doing everything we can there. We are taking all of the actions we can be ex-

(Continued on page 7)

Teen dies after crash other still unconscious

A 17-year-old Acton girl died from injuries suffered in a one car crash in Guelph Thursday evening. Another Acton girl remains unconscious in Hamilton General Hospital.

Judy Pierce, 1 Mill St. E., a newcomer to town received injuries to the chest, according to Guelph Police, during the accident on Stone Rd. and was admitted to Guelph General Hospital. She was later transferred to Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, where she died Saturday at 5.30 p.m.

Madonna Cooke, 18, 42 Kingham Rd. suffered head injuries and was taken to Hamilton hospital. She has not regained consciousness since the crash, and remains in fair condition, according to a hospital

spokesperson.

The driver of the vehicle, 20-year-old Rose McDonald, of Guelph, is in St. Joseph's Hospital with lacerations, a broken nose and multiple abrasions, police say.

Sergeant Pat Martin, of the Guelph City police, said the 1968 convertible was completely destroyed when it broadsided a wooden hydro pole on Stone Rd. E. about 7.40 p.m. "The car was pretty much wrapped around the pole," he described.

Power was out for several hours to many homes in the area.

Results of an autopsy are not yet known, and an inquest may be called. No charges yet have been laid, Martin said.



Knox Ladies' Aid 95 years young

Knox Ladies Aid celebrated their 95th anniversary last week. Past presidents were on hand for the occasion. Seated, is Jennie MacPherson, and standing are Emily McIntyre, Irene McLeod, Marguerite Spellvoegel and Isabel Murray (present president). See inside today's paper for story.

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Saturday morning marked the beginning of another trout season for local anglers and they were out in force on the local rivers, streams, and creeks trying to catch themselves a big one. While several whoppers got away a few were caught. Local outdoor writers George Hoare (left) and Lorne Fletcher got together to prepare for the season by tying a few final flies and fixing a few last minute rods.

Photo by Robin Inscoc

Town, region and school taxes are up average \$63

The final tax levies for Halton Hills, education and the region are in and the bad news is the average tax bill in Acton and Georgetown is up \$63 and Esquering rate-payers are hit with an average \$56 increase.

Average tax increases are based on average assessments of \$4,482 in Acton, \$5,617 in Georgetown and \$4,621 in Esquering.

Acton up \$63.37

Based on the average assessment, the average Acton tax bill will jump from \$844.19 in 1982 to \$907.56 this year, an increase of \$63.37 or 7.5 per cent. Out of the total average tax bill, \$280.84 will go to Halton Hills, \$482.25 to the boards of education and \$146.63 to the region. Halton Hills is taking 30.9 cents of each tax dollar an Actonian pays, the boards of education 53 cents, and the region 18.1 cents. Taxes for Halton Hills are up \$19.32 in Acton, 30.83 for education and \$13.22 for the region.

Georgetown up \$63.40

In Georgetown the average tax will climb from \$844.19 in 1982 to \$907.59 this year, an increase of \$63.40 or 7.5 per cent. Of the total average tax bill in Georgetown \$280.79 goes to Halton Hills, \$479.97 to the school boards

and \$146.63 to the region. Of each dollar in tax a Georgetown resident pays, the Town takes 30.9 cents, the school boards 52.9 cents and the region 16.2 cents. Taxes for Halton Hills are up \$19.37, \$30.72 for education and \$13.31 for the region.

Esquering up \$56.74

Taxes aren't going up quite as much in Esquering since rural residents don't pay an extra levy in their Halton Hills taxes for garbage collection and street lighting.

The average Esquering tax bill will jump from \$804.29 last year to \$861.03 in 1983, an increase of \$56.74 or 7.1 per cent. Of the total average tax bill in Esquering \$228.66 goes to Halton Hills, \$485.57 to education and \$146.81 to the region. Of each tax dollar an Esquering resident pays, 26.6 cents goes to the Town, 56.4 cents to education and 17 cents to the region. Tax for Halton Hills went up \$12.29, education \$31.09 and the region \$13.26.

Figure your own tax

If you know your own property assessment you can calculate the increase for each of the three levels of local government as well as your total increase and final tax bill. Just multiply your assessment by the mill

rate for the ward you live in and move your decimal point over.

Mill rates
In Acton the total mill rate has jumped from 189.90 to \$203.04. For the Town 62.66 mills are levied, 107.62 mills for education and 32.76 mills for the region.

In Georgetown the total number of mills is up from 150.29 to 161.68 this year. The Town levies 49.99 mills, the region 26.14 mills and boards of education 85.45.

The Esquering mill rate has climbed from 174.05 mills to 186.33 in 1983. The Town levies 49.48 mills, school boards 105.06 mills and the region 31.77 mills.

Town collects for region, education

It is important to remember that while the tax bills come from Halton Hills, the Town is by provincial law required to collect taxes not just for itself, but also the boards of education and region.

Halton Hills is going to raise \$4,636,008 while the boards of education will collect \$8,337,469 from Halton Hills taxpayers. Of the over \$8.3 million for education paid by Halton Hills residents, \$409,852 goes to the separate school board and the balance to

(Continued on page 7)

Weekend picnics for 1,500 to 2,000

Plan ethnic camp south of Speyside

by Gord Murray

Another ethnic cultural and recreation centre could be operating in Halton Hills as early as this June.

This newspaper has learned a multi-cultural organization called International Peace Camp plans to start holding weekend picnics this summer at a 260 acre site known in the 50s and early 60s as Twin Lakes. International Peace Camp has a lease on the land between Highway 25 and the Town Line just south of Speyside from an unknown owner for 25 years.

They plan to develop the property over the next several months and are preparing for picnic crowds of 1,500 to 2,000 people.

International Peace Camp officials report they have made preliminary contact with both Halton Hills and the Niagara Escarpment Commission, but haven't made a formal proposal of their planned operation to these bodies yet.

Chairman of the board of International Peace Camp, Pastor Rev. Alberto Cunha and another official of the organization, Hermeno Inacio, were interviewed about the project Friday afternoon at Santa Cruz Catholic Church on Argyle St. in Toronto.

Contrary to rumors which have been circulating, this new cultural-recreation centre won't be exclusively for Portuguese peoples, though the principals involved contacted by this newspaper are Portuguese.

Father Cunha explained the International Peace Camp organization has about 200 members now and is still growing. Besides representatives of the Portuguese community, Spanish, Italian, Ukrainian, German, Polish and Hungarian etc. community officials are also involved.

Cultural-recreation centres for Ukrainians, Croatians and Yugoslavians are already well established in Halton Hills.

Two, the Croatian and Yugoslav centres, have been the subject of considerable controversy. Neighbors have complained about noise frequently—noise bylaw violation cases have even gone to court. There have also been various concerns about traffic, crowds, barbecuing—cooking odors etc.

Officials of both centres have been at Halton Hills council to discuss site development, conflicts with neighbors, and to seek municipal approval of liquor permit applications. Neighbors, sometimes with legal counsel, have also frequently appeared at council as delegations with concerns about these cultural-recreation centre operations.

While the International Peace Camp organization is based in Toronto, the centre will be used by ethnic peoples from throughout Ontario.

Development of the property will include 100 to 150 camping sites.

Father Cunha predicted they will be a "very good" neighbor, noting the Twin Lakes property has been in disuse since the early 60s and "motorcycle gangs" and other hoodlums have been gathering on the property.

He said they secured a lease to rent the property from an unnamed company "some months ago."

The aim is to develop a family camp and recreation centre "dedicated to cultural activities."

International Peace Camp wants to bring different ethnic groups together to promote good relations and understanding. The concept has been in the making for five years, though plans didn't start to firm up until a year ago, Father Cunha explained.

Weather permitting they hope to have picnics every weekend starting in mid-June

(Continued on page 2)



Pam Murray receives help from her five-year-old daughter Sara, who has Cystic Fibrosis. In stuffing envelopes for the annual CF Mothers' Day Tea campaign in May. The campaign helps raise money for research into the disease and its treatment.



Inside today's Free Press

It was education week and both McKenzie-Smith and Speyside schools showed off their budding scientists. See This Week Turn The Lens on page 2.

Property tax assessment was the topic at Acton councillors' drop-in last Wednesday night. Turn to page 51.

Acton High School's Done to Death is reviewed on page C1 and you'll find on the same page stories and photos from the M.Z. Bennett and Robert Little education week operettas.

A local couple celebrated 63 years of marriage at a party Sunday. Turn to page 11.

Legion crib and dart award photos are on pages C1 and C3. An Acton juvenile has been charged in connection with five burglaries. More on page 6.

McKenzie-Smith's choir came home with top prize from a music festival. Story and photo on page 9.