



Fire demolished a garage at Wilson's Used Car Sales on Main St. N. last Saturday. Fire Chief Bill Cunningham said there was \$80,000 damage done by the fire.

Mark Holmes photo

\$80,000 damage in Saturday blaze at Wilson Car Sales

The fire department estimates there was \$80,000 damage to an old Toronto Transit Commission bus, a car and the garage building at Wilson Car Sales in a spectacular fire Saturday.

Fire Chief Bill Cunningham explained the call came in at 11:44 and in the four minutes it took the firefighters to arrive on the scene the flames had consumed much of the building and were shooting skyward through the roof.

Dave Wilson had just backed one of the buses he's refurbishing into the garage. The back of the bus hit a 45 gallon drum of methyl hydrate knocking it over. Cunningham explained they believe the fumes from the methyl hydrate were ignited by an overhead gas heater, either the heater kicked in or the pilot light ignited the fumes.

The garage door was open, which was fortunate or there would have been a huge explosion, the chief noted.

Wilson was most fortunate, he'd just stepped out of the building, Cunningham explained. Wilson looked back and the fire was underway.

Seventeen firefighters battled the blaze for nearly two hours before leaving. They

had to return later though, at 2:50 p.m., when some insulation began burning again. Chief Cunningham said it was the "usual job well done" for the volunteers.

Blood clinic next Tuesday

This Christmas give the Gift of Life. The Acton Red Cross is holding a blood donor clinic next Tuesday, December 20, at the Acton Legion from 2 to 3:30 and 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Blood clinics chairperson Alice Schreiber pointed out in a press release that the blood bank has become quite low and with the holiday season upon us the situation could become very critical. "Please give the gift of life," she appealed.

A special guest at this clinic will be Santa Claus who will entertain the children while their parents make their blood donation.

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One Hundred and Ninth Year — Issue 23

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Welcome to Miller time

Veteran politician Russ Miller is the new mayor of Halton Hills. He was appointed, Monday night on a seven to five vote, beating Councillor Mike Armstrong the only other candidate for the mayor's seat.

Councillor Ross Knechtel, who originally announced his intention to run, withdrew from the race.

In one fell swoop Halton Hills not only got a new mayor, but a new Ward Two Regional councillor in Jake Kuiken, and a new area councillor Peter Norton, all by appointment.

Kuiken is a rookie councillor elected in October and Norton was the runner-up in the same election.

The election versus appointment battle was decided on a six to six tie vote. A tie vote is automatically lost.

Lined up on the side of an election were Councillors Rick Bonnette, John McDonald, Marilyn Serjeantson, Jake Kuiken, Dave Whiting and Finn Poulstrup.

Voting for an appointment were Councillors Phil Carney, Russ Miller, Ross Knechtel, Pam Sheldon, Harry Levy, and Mike Armstrong.

Leading off the debate on the resolution for an election, Whiting claimed the majority of the people seem to favor an election. Admitting there was an approximate cost of \$50,000 for an election, he said it was a small part of the total budget. "It's just a spit in the ocean and nothing at all."

He emphasized the appointment route could lead to "the very real possibility of having a mayor decided by drawing lots". (In a tie vote the Clerk Administrator can

designate someone to draw one of the two names out of a hat". Whiting claimed this would make the Town a laughing stock.

Whiting said he suspected at least two candidates, Miller and Armstrong, would support an appointment despite saying to the press there should be an election. "I dislike hearing everybody saying the people want an election then standing up and going for an appointment". He predicted a severe credibility gap.

Whiting claimed there is an issue the people want discussed openly, and would like to question candidates who would stand or fall on that issue. He recalled Armstrong had stated when an election or appointment for the vacant Ward Two seat was discussed, that he was all for an election because of criticism he (Armstrong) had taken when he was appointed. He concluded by urging support for an election so the people can decide.

Kuiken noted he had only been in office two months, and came by way of an election. He emphasized the mayors election was much more important. "\$50,000 is only \$1.50 per head and we can't afford to overlook the people".

Serjeantson said she had consistently favored an election, despite the fact she realized only 50 per cent of the people would be satisfied, no matter what they did. "But our own credibility demands and election".

Bonnette urged an immediate vote, pointing out everybody had lots of time to come to a decision.

He said further talk was futile. It was not an easy decision, said Councillor Russ Miller, but he said he was influenced toward an appointment by the ten

(Continued on page 9)

How they voted

Voting record on election versus appointment.

For Election

Bonnette
McDonald
Serjeantson

Kuiken
Whiting
Poulstrup

For Appointment

Carney
Miller
Knechtel

Sheldon
Levy
Armstrong



New Mayor Russ Miller is flanked by Esquimaux's new Councillor Peter Norton, left, and new regional councillor for ward two Jake Kuiken.



At the ninth annual Halton Hills Water Show held in the Acton Lion's Pool Friday several enthusiastic swimmers showed off

their skills in a synchronized heop routine.

Photo by MARK HOLMES.

Start of Bicentennial celebrations

Tyler will ring in 1984

Acton's Citizen of the Year, Ted Tyler, has been selected by the Halton Hills Bicentennial Committee to ring in 1984.

On New Year's Eve Halton Hills is sponsoring celebrations to mark the start of the 200th anniversary of the settlement of Ontario in both downtown Acton and downtown Georgetown areas.

At press time it hadn't been determined where the festivities will take place in Acton, at the town hall or one of the churches.

Besides the bell ringing to mark the arrival of 1984, 200 helium filled balloons will be released at midnight and hot chocolate will be served.

Chairman of the Town's Bicentennial Committee, Councillor John McDonald, said he hopes people will leave their parties on

New Year's Eve for a short time and come downtown so the communities can "celebrate together."

"The Province of Ontario will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary in 1984. This will be a unique opportunity for us to rediscover ourselves and explore both our heritage and our broadening horizons. We will be celebrating with people from around the world who have journeyed to Ontario and shaped and shared in our community life," a Bicentennial Committee press release states.

"In recognition of Ontario's Bicentennial, the Town of Halton Hills has appointed a Committee to help our community to organize and perform in the Bicentennial year.

"The theme for the Bicentennial Year is "celebrating together" and I feel that it is appropriate that we start Ontario's Bicentennial Year celebrating together in our community on New Year's Eve. This will be an opportunity for groups of people to take time out from their parties and for families to bring in the New Year together with their friends and neighbors.

"Our Committee will be keeping council, the press and citizens aware of the festivities planned for our community throughout 1984. During the year, we will also be recognizing the 120th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Georgetown, as well as the 110th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Acton, along with the 200th anniversary for the Province of Ontario."

Lavoie knitting — Bristyon Furniture tenants

Beardmore building fire cause not absolutely determined yet

The cause of Sunday night's fire at Lavoie Knitting-Bristyon Fine Furniture, 100 Frederick St. (the Beardmore Industrial or old Wood Combing Building annex) hasn't been "absolutely determined as yet" by the fire department.

Deputy Fire Chief Bob Hyde said the fire department suspects the blaze which was in an adjoining wall between the two firms started in a sawdust pile on the Bristyon side. He explained the sawdust may have been ignited by a possibly defective heating cable which was being used to prevent freezing of water draining down from the roof of the building.

The heating cable has been sent to the Canadian Standards Association for examination.

All losses were insured, Hyde reported, and most of the damage was from water, there was minimal fire damage.

There was little damage to the Bristyon side and about \$30,000 damage at Lavoie Knitting. There was also damage to the building owned by Beardmore and possible some hides stored in the basement were damaged, Hyde reported.

The firefighters were called at 10 p.m. and remained on the scene for about an hour.

Cost of hydro on the increase

It's going to cost 8.9 per cent more for electricity beginning January 1, but that's only .7 per cent more than what the local power utility is paying for the juice from Ontario Hydro.

Halton Hills Hydro Commission last Wednesday approved the increase, which will raise the average home bill from \$65.90 to \$69.40. The average business, using 10,000 kilowatt hours, will be paying about \$67.40,

an increase from \$65.78.

Ontario Hydro is raising the rates to Halton Hills 8.2 per cent, so the local group is only meeting these increases and adding very little on to cover other costs, explained general manager Jerry Trudell.

Brampton customers are facing a 10 per cent increase and Burlington 11 per cent, Trudell said.

inside

Rose McDonald received 60 days in jail last week for dangerous driving. See page 10.

The fund raising drive to aid the blind fell well short of its goal. Details on page 11.

Police beat is on page 12.

Betty Fisher was returned to the chairmanship of Halton Board of Education. Turn to page B2.

Murt Allison is the new chairman of Halton Hills Hydro Commission. See page B7.

Readers will find lots of photos inside from holiday season events.

Sabres coach quits page 13

Bishop Reding died last week. More on page B4.

Horoscope, Recipe of the Week, McDonald's Community Calendar and Crossword are in the Real Estate section of today's paper.

Learn Scots hands are needed for England. Turn to page C3.



Do Christmas carols have a family theme in '87