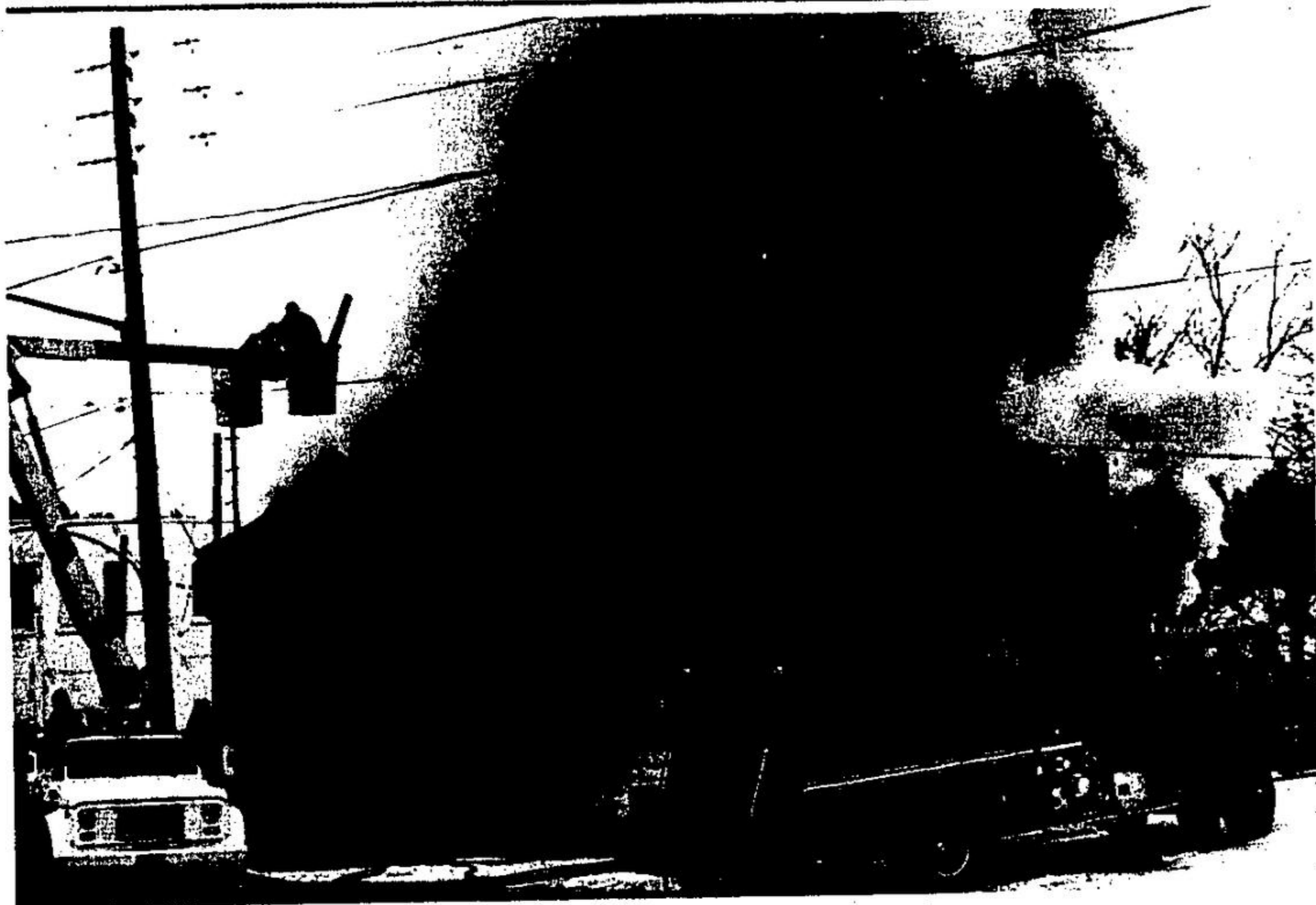


Packed meeting

Town supports arts complex study



A fire Friday morning in a three-apartment home at the corner of Guelph and Mill Streets closed Highway 7 for more than four hours as Georgetown volunteer firefighters battled the \$75,000 blaze. A faulty flue to a space heater type stove on the lower level was blamed for the fire which broke

out shortly after 11 a.m. Only one of the tenant's, Steve Kadona, 64, and the building's owner, Joseph Peto, were in the building when the fire started. Above, local firefighters battle the blaze. (Herald photo by Maggie Hannah)

Members and supporters of Arts Plus, an umbrella organization for Halton Hills performing arts groups, filled the town council chamber to overflowing Monday night in a successful bid to persuade the town's general committee to take immediate action on proposals that could ultimately lead to the construction of a multi-use theatre and arts complex.

Yielding to the group's wishes, the committee recommended to council that a six-week, \$10,000 feasibility study should be launched to determine "community demands for arts-related recreational facilities... and to determine how best to meet those needs now and in the future."

If council accepts the recommendation next Monday, the town will contribute \$5,000 toward the cost of the study, while the Wintario corporation will provide the balance on the basis

of a grant application filed by Arts Plus.

SOME CONSENSUS
"There seems to be some consensus that the time has come for such a facility," Georgetown Little Theatre president John Roe told the committee.

Among the proposals to be considered in the feasibility study is the plan suggested by the Little Theatre early in 1978 that would see Halton Hills working in co-operation with the Halton Board of Education to build a theatre facility onto an extension of the board's construction at Howard Wrigglesworth Public School in Georgetown. A two storey, L-shaped theatre addition with tiered seating is foreseen.

The Little Theatre and board officials worked out tentative proposals for the addition after the board announced that the gymnasium at Wrigglesworth, which has provided the setting for the Little Theatre's produc-

tions, will be converted into a resource centre. A new gym is to be built at the rear of the school, and the Little Theatre now hopes that, if better sites cannot be found for an arts facility in town, some form of theatre facility can be incorporated into an expanded design.

Mr. Roe told the committee Monday that the cost-sharing project between the board and town would total about \$400,000 while construction of a new arts facility has been estimated to approach \$1.5 million in cost.

WANT INDICATION
The board's Wards 3 and 4 trustee, Barry Shepherd, informed the committee that the board is looking for some indication as to the town's intention by early March. If there is no commitment made on the town's part by then, he said, the board's expansion plans for Wrigglesworth will likely proceed for education purposes only. Mr. Shepherd added that he cannot yet speak for all board trustees, but expressed confidence that that would be their decision.

Arts Plus spokesman Rex Heslop told the committee that the organization will abide by the results of the feasibility study. Mr. Heslop, along with Norm Bigg, represents the interests of the Georgetown Rotary Club on the Arts Plus committee, which was formed in November to realize proposals for the complex.

The Rotary Club has made an offer of a three-acre parcel of land near Georgetown's Fairgrounds Park which the committee believes could become a suitable site for such a complex. Also represented on the Arts Plus committee are the Halton Hills Arts Council, the Kiwanis Club, the Georgetown Choral Society, the University Women's Club, the Credit Valley Artisans and the Little Theatre.

Buses wanted survey shows

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

The results of an August, 1977, transportation survey conducted across Halton region were unveiled before the regional planning committee last Tuesday, showing, among other things, that Halton Hills residents want a localized bus service and that the average size of Halton's households has decreased from 3.7 to 3.4 persons per home in just six years.

Ho Wong, the region's senior transportation planner, outlined highlights of the survey results for committee members, explaining that such information is needed to update data collected in 1964, to monitor ongoing changes in transportation patterns, to help the region predict traffic flow patterns and to obtain public input with regard to existing problems.

POST-CARD FORMAT
Mr. Wong said that copies of the postcard-format survey questionnaire were delivered along postal walks throughout Halton, reaching some 10,000 homes. Neighborhoods were selected on the basis of urban population, housing types, geographic location, income level and the neighborhood's age, he said.

Mr. Wong conceded that the limited response to the survey - about 2,500 homes responded, for a 3.5 per cent return - represents the "bare minimum" of statistical significance. He further pointed out that any of the survey results that are to be used in regional planning should first be thoroughly checked for

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\$75,000 fire destroys local homes

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

Two men escaped serious injury Friday morning when fire swept through a three-apartment home at the corner of John and Guelph Streets in Georgetown.

The blaze which forced the closing of Highway 7 for about five hours gutted the inside of the building leaving three families homeless and destroying most of their possessions. Defective flue piping from a space heater type stove in the downstairs unit is blamed for starting the \$75,000 blaze which was reported at 11:16 a.m. by Ontario Hydro employees.

Steve Kadona, 64, and the

landlord Joseph Peto, were in the building when the fire broke out.

"I was dressed and lying on top of my bed," Mr. Kadona said, "and I began to smell smoke. I went around and checked my apartment but I couldn't find anything. I was just going out to see if something was wrong downstairs when the landlord came running in yelling to get out because the house was on fire."

NO INSURANCE
Mr. Kadona had lived in the building for 4½ years but had no insurance. He lost everything, he said, except for a new portable television set which firefighters managed to carry

out for him. "I tried to go back and get it myself," he said, "but the fire came too fast. I'm lucky I was awake and got out alive."

Mr. Kadona, who is a widower, has no family in Canada and is expected to go to friends for a while until he finds a new apartment.

Kim Walsh, 23, and his 21-year-old wife, Barbara, just left the building shortly before the fire started.

"I just got a job this week working nights for Go Transit in Brampton so normally I'd have been in bed," Mr. Walsh said. "But I didn't have to work Friday night so we went to do some shopping instead of going to bed. We had our dog with us in

the car but we were worried about the cat because it was shut in the house. Apparently when the firemen opened the door it went flying out so it's okay."

The Walshes only moved into their apartment on the north side of the building in December and had no insurance on their belongings.

"All we've got is the clothes we stand up in," he said, "but we figure we're lucky to be out and not hurt. Barbara's parents will take us and the cat and my parents will take the dog. I guess we have to start all over again." Mr. Walsh considers he's lucky too that he now has a job because he was unemployed until last week. Mrs. Walsh has

been off work with a back injury.

GIVE CREDIT
You have to give the firemen credit," Mr. Walsh said. "They did their best but it had quite a start by the time they arrived and I hear they were really fast too. It's an old building so it got a good hold in all that wood."

Phil Winer, manager of the Halton Hills Community Credit Union in Moore Park Plaza, has offered the use of the building as a drop off centre for anyone wishing to donate household items to help the Walshes. Mr. Kadona or the Joe Lowryes (the occupants of the third apartment) get their homes established again."

Prisoners charge police abuse as "sweat box" hearing begins

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

The hearing involving two Halton Regional Police constables charged with discreditable conduct began Monday with testimony by three prisoners transported by the two officers in alleged sweatbox conditions in a police van last summer.

Constables Raj Swaminathan and Arnold Vanclief, both stationed in the Milton division, have been charged under the Police Act with discreditable

conduct and neglect of duty in connection with an incident August 14, 1978, in which prisoners who had been transported from Milton provincial court-house to Metro West Detention Centre in Toronto charged the officers drove the van with the windows rolled up and the heater turned on, although the temperature outside that day was over 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

Douglas McConachie, QC, is acting as legal counsel for the Halton Regional Police Commission, and W.E. MacDonald, QC,

is acting on behalf of the two officers. County Court Chief Judge William Coulter is presiding at the hearing.

The three witnesses, Reg Harris, 20, of Newmarket, Robert Turner, 22, of Clarkson, and Frederick Carley, 25, of Niagara Falls, each testified as to the course of events on August 14, when the incident is alleged to have taken place. The three men were in the van during the alleged incident. Each of the men was charged at that time with escaping lawful custody

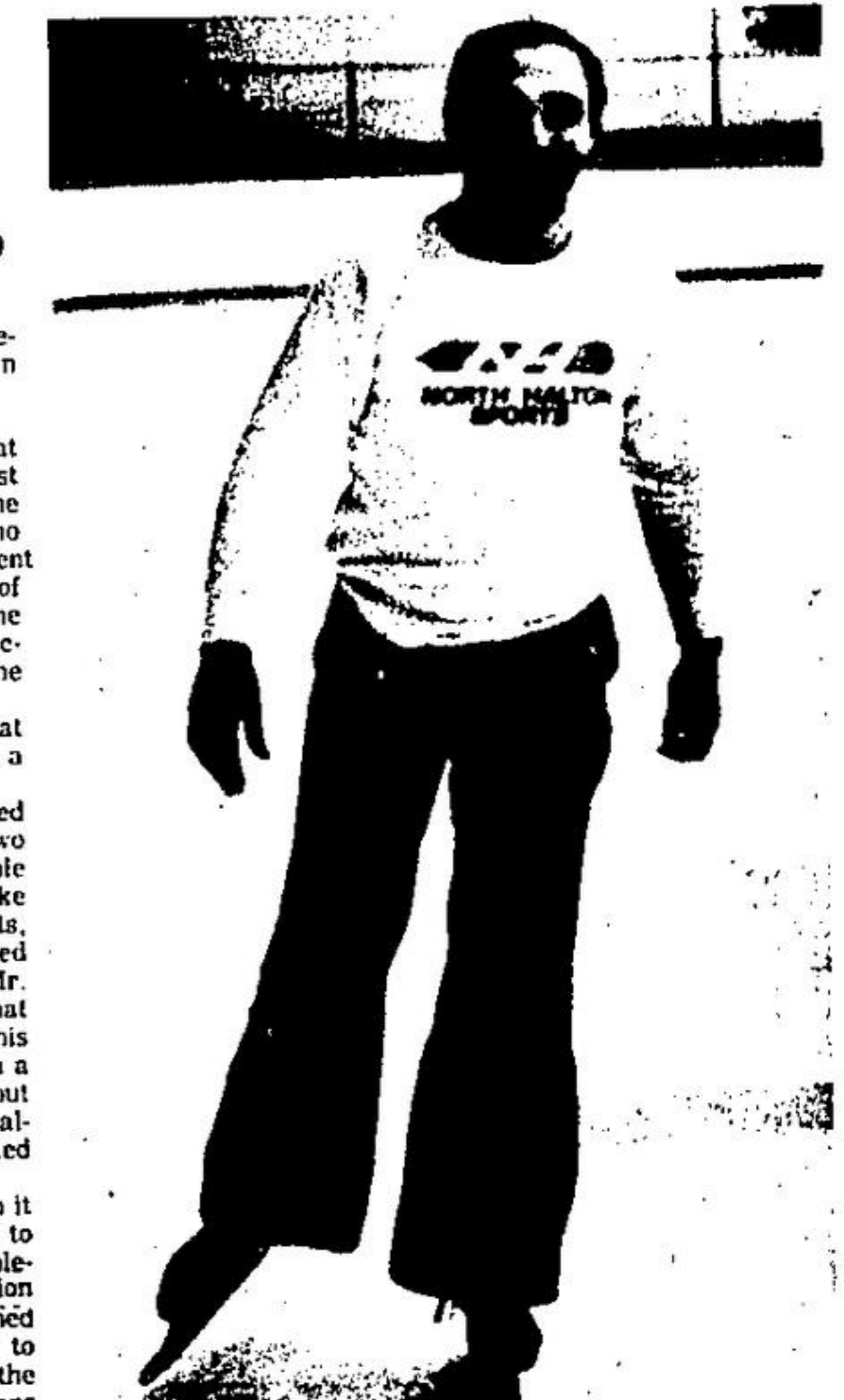
following an escape from Maplehurst Correctional Centre in Milton.

NEW RULE
The witnesses testified that the trip from the Metro West Detention Centre to Milton in the morning was routine, with no disturbances. The first incident to take place was the removal of jackets and cigarettes from the prisoners before they were placed in the holding cells in the basement at the provincial courthouse, as the result of what the police officers said was a new rule.

All three witnesses testified that a police officer, which two of them identified as Constable Vanclief, on being asked to take care with one of the jackets, dropped the jacket and stepped on it. The jacket belonged to Mr. Harris, who also testified that while he was in the cell, his mother tried to see him, with a message from his lawyer, but was not allowed to enter, although this had been permitted on previous occasions.

At the end of the day, when it came time for the prisoners to be transported back to Maplehurst and Metro West Detention Centre, the prisoners were lined up and handcuffed, one to another, as they had been in the morning. However, no leg irons were used, as had been the case on the morning trip.

All three witnesses testified that the cuffs were too tight, and each said he asked the officer to loosen them, but the request was ignored. The prisoners were put in the van and waited there for a period of time before the van left



ROTARY SKATE

Rotary Club member Spencer Roberts skated the entire day at his club's skate-a-thon, held Sunday at the Memorial Arena to raise money for crippled children. For more pictures of the fundraising event, see page seven.

(Herald photo)

This Week

Help for widows

The North Halton Contact Centre has offered its help in the proposed foundation of a new group in town designed to lend much needed support to recently widowed women.

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Hydro pros and cons

The pros and cons of Ontario Hydro's plans to build a high-voltage transmission line through Halton Hills were summarized by four lawyers involved in an Ontario Municipal Board hearing that ended Thursday in Georgetown. A full report is inside.

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Ward four councillor

Halton Hills town councillor, Marilyn Serjeantson, representative for ward four in Georgetown, discusses her road into politics with Herald editor Michael Hollett in this week's installment of "Halton's People".

Page seven

Teachers settle contract

Halton's secondary school teachers have reached a new one-year contract agreement after four months of dispute. Details of the new agreement, which carries a six per cent wage hike across the boards, can be found inside today's Herald.

Page 3

Acton skating club

Halton Hills skaters did well at the Northwest Toronto Inter-Club figure skating competition hosted Sunday by the Acton Figure Skating Club. Photos and story inside.

Page 20

OMB hydro hearings finish with debate

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing launched Jan. 2 in Georgetown to evaluate Ontario Hydro's application for permission to build a major transmission corridor through Halton Hills ended Thursday after eight days of detailed technical testimony, accusations of delays and cover-ups and continuing claims that Ontario does not need a corridor that has already cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

OMB chairman Henry Stewart and his associate, William Dyer, reserved judgement on the issues described to them in a contentious detail during the hearing after summations by lawyers for the four parties involved - Hydro, Halton Hills, Citizens Group and the Interested

Citizens Group (ICG) - brought the proceedings to a close.

AT STAKE

At stake in the hearing was Hydro's application for official plan and zoning bylaw amendments, thus far refused by the town and region, that would enable the crown corporation to erect and string towers for the final 12-mile section of its 100-mile long, 500,000-volt corridor.

The northern and southern sections of the corridor have already been constructed, bringing the line of towers to Halton Hills' northern boundary from the Bruce nuclear generating station on Lake Huron and to the southern boundary from the corridor's terminus at the Milton switching station just south

of Highway 401.

In presenting his case, Hydro lawyer John Parkinson treated the close proximity of the corridor's northern and southern sections as a mitigating factor in the OMB's considerations. Mr. Stewart lent support to the argument early in the proceedings when he admitted that the presence of hydro towers outside Halton Hills' northern and southern boundaries, and the cost that would be involved in moving or rerouting them, has to be a factor in the board's final decision.

The OMB also seemed willing to accept Mr. Parkinson's contention that established government policy must be chal-

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