

Glen residents unhappy

Firemen rescue two from Credit flood



The Credit River overflowed its banks early Friday morning and caused extensive damage to the baseball diamond and the House residence located directly behind it. The water was so high that firemen had to borrow a boat from

the Credit Valley Boat Co. to rescue Mrs. Grace House and her dog when they were left stranded. For more pictures, see page 13.

(Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

By STEPHEN FROST
Herald Staff Writer

The Credit River went on its annual rampage late last week, culminating in a spectacular, but damaging, rise in water that residents called the worst they've seen in years.

When the ice broke in the early hours of Friday morning, the river took the course of least resistance and poured over the eastern bank into the old Davidson homestead, now owned by Ken and Grace House, dumping chunks of ice weighing up to 1,000 pounds around the house and on the ball diamond.

The water was estimated to be up to five feet deep, leaving Mrs. House stranded by herself in her home Friday. Town works employees tried to rescue her with one of the town trucks, but the truck got stuck in the water. The fire department rescued Mrs. House and the family dog late Friday morning with the aid of a boat loaned by the Credit River Boat Company.

WOLFE CAUGHT

Leo Wolfe, 72, of Georgetown, nearly lost his life Friday when he went to check on some trailers he owns which are in the flood plain in back of the John Street apartments.

"I went out in a canoe to check on my trailers and got

caught in the current. It pushed me into a pond and under a tree which tipped me over," he said. "I had my arm trapped and my foot in the limbs of a tree, and it wasn't until a fireman grabbed my hand and yanked that I came free. I'm sure glad to be out of the water, though."

Mr. Wolfe, who spent the night in the hospital, wants to thank the fire department and the ambulance service for their quick action.

"I've never seen anything like it," Mr. Wolfe said. "I don't think you can blame anyone, it's been a peculiar year weather-wise, and there are a lot of unforeseen circumstances that contributed to the flood."

Elmer Shire, who owns the house on the northeast corner of the bridge, told The Herald that the water came up over the road and flooded his basement on Friday morning.

"I've lived in this house since 1962, and I don't remember the water being this high. I had to chop the icebergs in my driveway to get the cars back in," Mr. Shire said.

FLOW RATE

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) measures the flow rate of the Credit River in Cheltenham in

cubic feet per second. The average flow rate over the summer months is between 30 and 40 cubic feet per second. When the floodwaters peaked late Friday evening, the rate was 998 cubic feet per second.

In the early hours of Friday morning, the water rose high enough to dump ice blocks on Confederation Street up to five feet high in places, effectively closing off the road north of the bridge. Large front-end loaders from Wheeler Haulage were needed to push the ice off the road and back into the fast-flowing river.

Glen Williams and Norval residents have had a lot to say since the ice began jamming Wednesday about what most of them seemed to see as a lack of effort on the part of the town of Halton Hills and the CVCA to prevent the flooding or lessen its impact.

Mrs. House said that "they (the town and CVCA staff) sat around and laughed for three days while they watched it build. A blind man could tell you Tuesday that it was going to flood by the end of the week."

"We were told by the CVCA that there would be dredging done this winter to deepen the channel and help alleviate the flooding. It wasn't done," Mrs. House said. "How can the Glen residents have faith in the town's elected officials and the CVCA when all we get is promises and not positive action?"

"The flood wasn't an act of God, it was an act of damn foolishness," she added. "Unfortunately, the insurance companies won't look at it that way because we live in the flood plain."

"We need our land and controlling the river to utilize land is what I call conservation," Mrs. House said. "All the conservation authority would say to us is that they were monitoring the situation. That's their byword. We could monitor our kids until they starved to death, but of course we would feed them before it came to that. The CVCA just sits there and monitors."

CVCA HINDSIGHT
When asked by The Herald if the CVCA would have done anything different, through the vantage of hindsight, authority general manager Glenn Scharr replied, "I can't think of anything we could have done differently."

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Teachers vote on settlement

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

Both the Halton Board of Education and its 1,200 secondary school teachers will be holding ratification votes April 3 on a tentative contract agreement reached over the weekend.

A news blackout imposed by mediator Martin Teplitzky, bans publication of the details until after it has been ratified by both parties.

The agreement, reached early Sunday morning after a marathon bargaining session began Saturday, will call a halt to fears of a strike if it is accepted by the board and the teachers, members of Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 9, Halton.

Changes in the pupil-teacher ratio and in the retirement gratuity scheme were also in contention.

Halton secondary teachers voted 93.5 per cent in favour of strike action to back up their contract demands earlier this month after 14 months of negotiations produced no results.

The teachers, members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation District 9, Halton turned down the board's final offer in February. That offer would have given a level four teacher with maximum experience allowance \$29,999. The teachers wanted a settlement closer to the provincial average for new agreements reached during the past year. That is about \$30,500.

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Region refuses to refund excess sewage payments

By RICHARD PETRASHEK
Herald Staff Writer

Halton regional council is taking the position that the best solution to the problem of alleged double billing of homeowners for sewer usage late in 1979 is... to do nothing.

A recommendation from the sewer rate committee reconfirming the method of billing used for the sanitary sewage system and rejecting the issuing of rebates or credits for

any 1980 sewer surcharge based in whole or in part on 1979 water consumption was approved by council following a lengthy debate last Wednesday.

"When the first water bills for 1980 were issued at the beginning of the year, the surcharge for sewer usage, included for the first time, was calculated on water consumption during the last two months of 1979. Homeowners already paid

for their 1979 sewer usage on their property tax bill and now they're paying again on their 1980 water bills," Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said.

Mayor Barrett contended that this billing system amounted to "double charging."

The amounts involved, charged on the January water bills, varied from \$3 to \$16.

Burlington Coun. Joan Allingham, chairperson of the sewer rate committee, said her committee rejected giving rebates to homeowners because the money given out would have to be recovered by a rate increase later in the year.

"We're going to write each homeowner explaining the billing system and send them the committee's report" outlining why no rebates are to be given out, Coun. Allingham said.

Cancer Society's Daffodil dance next weekend.

"When my wife told me Dave Whiting had called I figured I knew what he wanted," Mr. White said. "I sent out letters to all the organizations asking for donations and I expected he wanted to discuss the donation with me. I never suspected it would be this."

"I almost turned it down when he asked me if I'd be their Citizen of the Year. Then I decided I'd be letting down the people who were kind enough to nominate me and that wouldn't be right so I accepted. It was the last thing I ever expected."

Mr. White says he isn't as active in St. Joseph's Church as he once was. He was an usher there for 40 years but he has let the younger people take it over now. He still visits the shut-ins, however.

Besides alley bowling, Mr. White enjoys lawn bowling and played both baseball and hockey in his youth. He is one of three surviving members of the Halton County Championship baseball team from Acton.

He has one daughter, Joan Tyres living in Acton and a son Jerry lives in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. White and his wife Elimere have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have six grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Acton honors Arlie White

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

Acton Chamber of Commerce chose resident Arlie White as the town's 1980 citizen of the year.

Mr. White, 73, is an active volunteer with several organizations as well as being keenly interested in federal and provincial politics. He is an enthusiastic bowler and an active church member.

He retired from Beardmore and Co. Ltd., in 1971, 51 years after he began working there as an office boy. From 1944 until his retirement he was foreman in the upper leather beam house, and he still bowls with the Beardmore league even though he has retired.

It was when he got more free time that he began doing his volunteer work including canvassing for the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society for the past 10 years. Five of those years, he has been fund-raising campaign chairman.

He also canvasses for the Canadian Institute for the Blind, the March of Dimes, and the Canadian Society for Crippled Children.

"I never refuse if I have the time," he says.

In fact, when the call came from the Chamber Tuesday evening telling him he had been chosen, Mr. White wasn't home. He was out delivering canvassing kits to captains and selling them tickets to the

Cultural Centre fund is launched by mayor

Mayor Pete Pomeroy has started the ball rolling with a \$1,450 pledge to the newly begun fund raising campaign for the proposed \$1.7 million arts and cultural facility.

Mayor Pomeroy made the pledge at Monday's general committee meeting shortly after suggesting that Ab Tennant and Rex Heslop Jr., members of the building committee, be co-chairmen of the fund raising drive.

At the same meeting, architect Keith Wagland displayed a model of his design for the proposed new arts centre.

"The fund raising goal is \$200,000," Mayor Pomeroy said in announcing the plans for the public participation portion of the funding for the complex.

The donation by Mayor Pomeroy was actually the second donation made.

Rex Heslop got credit for the first donation when he placed a dollar bill on the model. The \$200,000 fund raising

She admitted that the public's confusion over the billing system can be traced to the poor public relations job the region did in explaining the system.

"Is it legal to charge for utilities in advance?" Burlington Coun. James Grieve questioned.

Coun. Allingham responded that she did not think so.

The region's solicitor, Dennis Perlin, when questioned by Milton Coun. Bill Johnson, said that he believed the billing system is legal, but admitted that legal counsel for one of the municipalities disagreed.

"I questioned our solicitor about the legality of the billing system," Mayor Barrett explained, "and he advised me that it was not legal."

Coun. Terry Mannell of

Oakville suggested that the region reimburse homeowners with a flat \$10 for the double billing and then increase rates in July to recover the shortfall.

"Coun. Mannell's suggestion would cost the region \$60,000," Oakville Coun. Bonnie Brown said after making some quick calculations.

Coun. Allingham noted that the administrative costs would be an additional \$50,000.

"There has been talk of a class-action suit in Oakville," Coun. Johnson said, asking Mr. Perlin if this is possible. Mr. Perlin responded that a class action suit is a possibility, but he had not heard of any suit being instigated.

The vote reconfirming the billing system passed by an overwhelming twenty to two count, with the only opposing votes being cast by Oakville's Mayor Barrett and Coun. Terry Mannell.

goal is an attainable objective, according to Mr. Heslop. "The way we arrived at that figure was to assess what could realistically be raised in an area our size," Mr. Heslop explained.

He said that he and Mr. Tennant compared fund-raising goals in towns with a similar population to Halton Hills.

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Dominion Hotel trial postponed

Herald Special

Milton Provincial Court Judge J.E.C. Robinson tentatively set the 10 court days from September 8 to 19 as the date for the preliminary hearing of three Acton men charged with murder after the death of a man in a fire which destroyed an Acton hotel last August.

The lengthy delay was necessary to allow Arthur Maloney, who represents hotel owner Cosimo Mercuri, time to recover from his recent illness and catch up on the work

backlogged by that illness. Brampton lawyer John Smith, who represents co-defendant Michael McCrystal told the court the case would require a lengthy period for disclosures in order to minimize the number of witnesses to be called. Since it seemed best to run these days consecutively rather than splitting them up two or three at a time, he suggested the whole matter be set back to the fall.

Milton lawyer Peter McWilliams represents the third defendant, Leonard Cripps.



Beamsville Captain Bryan Huisman figures winning the International Bantam Hockey Tournament Sunday was worth it, especially when he got a kiss from Judy Pomeroy, who represented her husband Mayor Pete in the presentation of the grand champion Jaycee trophy. Beamsville beat out 43 other teams to win the week-long tournament. More in Sports Week.

(Herald photo by Mark Clairmont)