

## Shuffle increases Halton Hills' representation

# Wards 1, 2 get new school board trustee

### TAKE US TO YOUR LEADER-IN-TRAINING

(Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)



Halton Hills' recreation and parks department summer program closed Thursday night with a gala parade through Acton followed by a mini-carnival at the Acton Memorial Arena. The kids and leaders in training had worked hard for the event, designing costumes, sculpting incredible masks and

generally arranging to have a good time - which they did. Getting zapped by spacemen like Georgetown's Stephen Burns, 6, (left) and Jamie Harris, 6, is one of a photographer's occupational hazards. See page C1 for lots more photos.

A new school board trustee position - allocated to Halton Hills Monday afternoon following a region-wide shuffle of representation on the Halton Board of Education - will go to Acton and Esqueping, town council has decided.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson told council that clerks from the four municipalities in the region sat down last week to recalculate representation on the 20-member board according to an equaliz-

ed farm and residential assessment ratio.

Under the new calculations, required every four years under the Education Act (1974), Burlington drops one public school board representative from its roster of eight, while Halton Hills gains one for total representation of three. The number of trustees on the public school board representing Milton and Oakville remains at two and five, respectively.

Mr. Richardson said the decision to give the extra representation to Halton Hills was only received at noon Monday after discussions with the other clerks deadlocked Friday. Initially, Oakville was considered for extra representation, but Mayor Pete Pomeroy told council, "I would have recommended we appeal the decision if we were not given the extra member."

The decision to add the extra representation to Wards 1 and 2 (Acton and Esqueping) was reached by council after a half-hour of relatively calm debate.

Concerned that urban expansion in Wards 3 and 4 (Georgetown) would increase the demand for additional school board representation, Ward 4 Coun. Marilyn Serjeantsen recommended that any decision to give the extra trustee to Acton and Esqueping be "flexible" enough to change.

Mayor Pomeroy said that as long as the urban area of Georgetown expands, the assessment will increase as well, indicating "that we'd likely get an additional member anyway".

Ironically, Ward 2 Coun. Pat Patterson was vehemently opposed to extra school board representation in his area.

"You've got to put another member in Georgetown," he said, citing high school pupil populations of 4,800 in Georgetown, 1,900 in Acton and 1,000 in Esqueping. "You have to base this on figures, not individual likes and dislikes".

Coun. Patterson was also concerned that the additional representation for Wards 1 and 2 would financially hurt people on fixed incomes.

"No frills or thrills are needed in Ward 2," he said. "In Georgetown, you have the pupils, the population and the assessment to pay for it."

Ward 2 Coun. George Malby felt he felt his area should get the extra representative because of "different problems" encountered than in the "homogeneous population in Georgetown".

"It won't increase your taxes any," he said. "We aren't really paying for it and it's just an added fringe benefit."

Ward 4 Coun. Mike Armstrong concurred with an earlier comment made by Georgetown's board of education representative, Barry Shepherd.

"We want one more voice down there (at the Halton Board of Education's headquarters in Burlington)," Coun. Armstrong said. "That's the nature of the resolution."

Council drafted and approved the necessary bylaw, giving Wards 1 and 2 the additional board member one week before the September 1 deadline. The new member will be elected in November.

## Fisher seeks new seat in November elections

Halton Hills trustees Betty Fisher and Barry Shepherd have both decided to run again for board of education in November, with Mrs. Fisher choosing to run in the newly created Acton seat.

"It's like choosing between two children you said you would stand by, and all of a sudden you have to choose, and it's a very hard decision to make," Mrs. Fisher said. One of the factors influencing her decision was the fact that in some ways, the workland in Esqueping township is lighter. Because some of the school districts overlap municipal barriers, some of the schools are being looked after by two trustees, she said.

"In Acton, the entire responsibility is on your shoulders", she said. In Acton, work is underway to upgrade both facilities and curriculum to match

the rest of Halton. "The work on the curriculum has just begun, and I want to see it through," Mrs. Fisher said. "It's a matter of principle, it's a matter of pride. I want to make sure the curriculum is equal throughout Halton."

"My only problem with Acton is not living in the area, and I don't see personally that there's any problem with that. I can identify with the people in Acton," she said. "It's such a minor thing, it really isn't a problem. If someone takes care of your needs, then that's what matters, not where they live"

## Georgetown hospital not closing--official

By LORI TAYLOR  
 Herald Staff Writer  
 Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital will not be closing down for three weeks for lack of funds, a statement from the hospital board says.

A statement released by the hospital board Friday says Mr. Pollock's comments on the possibility of the hospital being closed down for three weeks were intended to demonstrate the severity of the hospital's present position, and not "as an alternative course of action to contain expenditures within Ontario ministry of health approved budget guidelines."

paid for under OHIP." Because there are no private laboratories or x-ray clinics in Halton Hills, the hospital has been providing these services, and this has put a real strain on the budget, Mr. Pollock said. In previous years, the ministry has taken this into consideration when setting the hospital budget, but that was not done this year.

A story which appeared in a Toronto newspaper last week quoted hospital business manager Brian Pollock as saying the hospital board was considering closing the facility for three weeks in an attempt to keep this year's deficit down.

"The board of directors has taken the position, as responsible officials, that a deficit of this magnitude is not acceptable and that a reduction in services would be necessary if additional funding is not provided," the statement continues.

Mr. Armstrong said, however, that the hospital has not cut back on any services, and does not intend to make any reductions in services.

"We've pared our budget as best we can," Mr. Armstrong said. "We can't do any more. We need that money to give people the services they've

"At no time did the board ever talk about closing the hospital," board chairman Paul Armstrong told The Herald Monday. "First of all, we couldn't do that to the people in the community, and secondly, our job is keeping the hospital open, and arguing with the ministry to get the money to keep it running."

The 72-bed hospital is facing a possible deficit of \$108,000 this year, compared to a \$30,000 deficit last year.

# Reserve funds to empty as region fights with deficit

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
 Herald Staff Writer  
 Project deferrals, program cutbacks and the use of reserve funds were approved by Halton regional council last Wednesday afternoon as Halton scrambled to recover at least part of its half-million dollar deficit before the end of the year.

Council approved an administration and finance committee recommendation calling on department heads to weed out projects on the 1980 operating budget which can be deferred indefinitely. The treasury department is looking at cutbacks which can be made in regional programs already showing sizable budgetary savings this year.

A major portion of the deficit which now stands at \$600,341, will be recovered from the \$320,402 reserve for "working funds" and the \$147,620 reserve for road construction, both of which have been described as "day-to-day cushions" for the region's operation. Council faces the further problem of replenishing the reserves in next year's budget.

"I don't really like dipping into those reserves," Burlington Coun. Joan Allingham said, "but I think that's what those reserves are for."

Coun. Allingham said she did not want to see Halton's rate-payers slapped with a hefty tax increase next year to recover the deficit and recommended that the deficit be gradually phased into the tax bills.

Oakville Coun. Terry Mannell was concerned that the public did not have a clear understanding of the region's

## Ernie Reid resigns, 37-year career ends

A 37-year career in municipal affairs came to an end last Wednesday when Ernie Reid, Halton's chief administrative officer, announced his retirement in the midst of the region's current half-million dollar deficit debacle.

Mr. Reid is the second top executive within the region's administration to step down since last month's stunning revelation that bungled bookkeeping had left a \$435,000 shortfall in the 1980 operating budget. Further disclosures have since escalated the deficit to more than \$600,000 and it could reach \$700,000 pending the results of a review of engineering revenues and expenditures for subdivision inspections.

Two weeks prior to last Wednesday's council meeting, Don Farmer announced that he was stepping down from the regional treasurer's job to assume "a less demanding role" within the administration.

Following an in-camera session of council last Wednesday, regional chairman Jack Rafits announced that council had unanimously agreed to accept the terms of Mr. Reid's retirement, negotiated by a council sub-committee composed of Mr. Rafits and mayors Pete Pomeroy of Halton Hills and Roly Bird of Burlington.

Mr. Reid, who turned 80 Friday, was given a \$68,700 early retirement allowance and, according to one source in the region's personnel department, he will collect 65 to 70 per cent of his accumulated pension from the region. Mr. Reid's retirement becomes effective Monday.

Mr. Reid began his career in 1943 as a clerk in the former city of Fort William. In 1952, he became city clerk for St. Thomas, but returned to Fort William in 1960 as city administrator. When Fort William and Port Arthur amalgamated in 1970 to form the city of

Thunder Bay, Mr. Reid was named city co-ordinator.

Mr. Reid joined Halton region in 1974 as its first chief administrative officer and has served in that capacity for six years, despite an illness last year which forced him to take several months sick leave.

According to a press release following last Wednesday's closed council session, Mr. Reid will spend more time on favorite hobbies, including his association with the Burlington Amateur Radio Club, the Burlington Salvation Army Band and genealogical research. Mr. Reid may seek part-time work, the press release says.

Meanwhile, council is getting ready to embark on its proposed management study.

Under the management review, Mayor Pomeroy told The Herald Thursday, the consultants will "identify the strengths and weaknesses" of the regional administration.

The recommendation also calls on the deputy treasurer and the solicitor to draft guidelines for the regional auditors, a move calculated to prevent another late audit in the future. The regional auditors will meet with the administration committee at least twice a year.

Regional chairman Jack Rafits described the move as a means of developing "better liaison" between the administration committee and the auditors.

"Quite frankly," he said, "we just want to tighten up our control."

The audit committee was originally made up of councillors already serving on the administration committee.

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ACTARIO WINNERS DINE IN ST. V'E

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Frueler and Mr. and Mrs. Doug Mason enjoyed a dinner at the "Inn on the Prospect Park" last Tuesday night as the winners in the second Actario early bird draw. Ticket sales for the lottery are on the rise again after a mid-summer slump, Actario committee member Ted Tyler said.

The dinner, which was served by members of the Actario committee, was the second early bird prize, the first having been a ride in a hot air balloon for Kay James. The regular draws for the lottery will begin Sept. 6.

(Herald photo)