



Ontario grants still available

Town will help fix your house

Wait! Before making those badly-needed home repairs, the town of Halton Hills and the province's housing ministry have something which might be of some help.

Under the Ontario Home Repairs Program (OHRP), the town was given \$40,000 last summer to disperse among homeowners meeting OHRP requirements.

But so far, the program hasn't attracted much interest.

If your family's total income from all sources doesn't exceed \$15,500 and you own and live in your own home you could be eligible

for up to \$7,500 under OHRP, repayable at low interest rates.

"There haven't been that many people taking advantage of it," town deputy clerk Delmar French said Friday, noting that only three applications for the program were received in 1980 and one so far in 1981.

While the loan isn't offered for new rec rooms or kitchen cupboards, it is available for bringing homes up to municipal standards by correcting faulty foundations, plumbing, heating and electrical problems and may be used to add insulation.

When the homeowner applies for the loan, Mr. French explained, his house is inspected by a town building inspector to determine what repairs are necessary to bring it up to the town's residential standards bylaws.

In making your application for a loan, determine that your "adjusted family income" is less than \$15,500 a year by deducting from the principle wage-earners gross income any or all of the following: spouse's earnings up to \$1,000; \$300 for each dependent child; the first \$1,000 earned by a one-parent

family; the principle wage-earner's living out and travelling expenses where not covered by the employer, excluding travelling expenses to and from work; self-employment expenses related to earning income or otherwise allowed as deductions by the Income Tax Act.

Up to \$4,000 of the loan is "forgivable", meaning that for each year the homeowner lives in his house, the province will consider \$600 repaid. The balance of the loan is repayable over a period of five, ten and even 20 years at moderate interest rates, although homeowners

must include the "forgivable" amount if they move before the province considers it paid.

Once the loan is approved, the homeowner may go ahead and hire contractors to do the job or he may do the work himself. The proposed construction must be discussed with a municipal building inspector.

In addition to helping homeowners with necessary repairs to relatively new buildings, OHRP may also be used to repair homes of historic value. The OHRP brochure is available at the town office.



DANCER'S CHOICE

About 350 square dancers from all over southern Ontario travelled to Georgetown and District High School Saturday night to do-si-do at the Pine Valley Squares hoedown. Five local businesses chipped in to make the event a success: Georgetown Ceramics, Georgetown Stove and Fireplace, Georgetown Little Theatre, Mackenzie Bulldall and The Weavers. From a wide cross-section of occupations, these square dancers have trained for some time to co-ordinate dance patterns. They were helped by Pine Valley caller Wes McCarthy and professional Jim Lee of Stoney Creek. Meanwhile, the Georgetown Lionsesses did some dancing of their own, sponsoring a successful Fifties-style swing session. See page A2.



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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

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Committees, positions revamped

Council agrees to streamline region

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Closely following recommendations made in an on-going management study, Halton regional council has approved wide-ranging reforms for its treasury department and committee system.

"There has been insufficient willingness (among councillors) to pursue a common goal of improving governance of the region," an executive structure report prepared by Hickling-Johnston Consultants of Toronto says.

"Instead," the report continues, "some appear, unrealistically, to hold the hope that the region would disappear or shrink in role and importance."

In the first of two parts of the study handed down to council during a special five-hour meeting Wednesday, Hickling-Johnston advised council to trim its present committee system to policy committees and one co-ordinating committee. The move blends Halton's smaller committees, sewer rates and solid waste manage-

ment, into a larger body called the planning and public works committee, while health and social services would remain an individual policy-forming body.

The third, smaller decision-maker would retain similar functions to the existing finance and administration committee, overseeing corporate planning, forming financial policy and handling personnel issues within the different regional departments.

AREAS OVERLAP
By combining the existing committees, Hickling-Johnston spokesman Larry Hall told council, regional policy planning should improve since services in different areas overlap.

Although the study favors more council representation on the two policy committees with 10 members each, while keeping the administration committee to seven representatives, regional councillors opted to equalize all three committees with eight representatives each.

And councillors agreed to

change at least some of the membership in each committee every year, yet retain a core of experienced representatives to prevent "self-made experts" from gaining too

much control over committee decisions.

The regional chairmanship and the chief administrative officer's (CAO) position have also been strengthened, in

accordance with suggestions in the management study.

Under the new committee structure, the chairman's leadership is particularly stressed both for the staff and members

of council. He is not only the region's chief public spokesman, the study notes, but his highlighted leadership makes him more accountable for decisions made at the committee level and then in council.

THREE MEMBERS
The CAO's office should grow by three members, the study suggests, including an executive assistant and a clerk.

While Hickling-Johnston suggest the CAO had often been bypassed by committees in search of information from departments, the office, along with that of the chairman, will act as the chief liaison between staff and council.

Approximately five different executive structures in use in major North American cities were studied by Hickling-Johnston, Mr. Hall said.

"These are by far the best recommendations of the options looked at-by this group," Mr. Hall said. "Don't

let me minimize what the costs will be."

Meanwhile some councillors expressed concern that recommendations in the second part of the study dealing with problems within the region's treasury department could mean Halton ratepayers will be paying for an expanded bureaucracy rather than greater efficiency.

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Acton high school teacher Keith Black and his wife are pictured here with some of the 300 Acton residents who turned up at last week's board of education meeting to help defend his job. Following Mr. Black's conviction for theft over \$200, board officials threatened to pull his teaching certificate as head of the school's social studies department, but decided that circumstances surrounding the crime didn't warrant a dismissal.

School board dazzled by support for Black

Keith Black is back in the classroom at Acton High School this week after an unprecedented show of community support saved his teaching job from termination - the same fate already suffered by his 15-year old family homestead.

Delighting a crowd of 300 friends, colleagues, students and relatives of Mr. Black who jammed his chambers last Wednesday night, the Halton board of education ruled that the 44-year old social studies department head could keep his job at Acton high despite his Dec. 22 conviction for theft over \$200.

Suspended from teaching since Jan. 5, Mr. Black finally got to meet the administrators who were deciding his future during informal discussions which preceded the board meeting. Confident throughout that his contract would remain intact, he nevertheless praised with relief the "power of the people" - a loud, three-week long cry of support from his "beautiful" fans in Acton - which had rescued his 23-year old career.

Among Mr. Black's reasons for voting, even before the board ruling, to contribute even more to Acton high and the community itself and thus assure his supporters they "didn't make a mistake";

a petition signed by some 600 Acton high students urging the school board to reinstate a popular teacher who, according to one petitioner, "makes learning fun";

attendance at a preliminary Jan. 15 board meeting by some 200 supporters, who ended up chartering buses for the trek en masse to Oakville;

receipt by Wellington County Court Judge J.D. Sutherland, who heard Mr. Black's case, of some 70 letters unanimously commending his character, work and community efforts; the Judge said he'd never seen anything like it before;

personal testimony before the school board by two prominent Actonians, the Reverends Charles

Beaton and John Robertson, as to Mr. Black's moral character and popularity among students and parents alike;

public and private praise from the citizens of Acton who know Mr. Black. Their words of support convinced a Hamilton Spectator reporter that the reason for such an emotional outpouring of devotion and defence "has to do with the nature of Acton as a community and the nature of Keith Black";

Keith Black, of course, had no idea his conviction for selling cattle which he did not technically own to pay for feed so the remaining livestock wouldn't starve, would provide such a focal point for Acton's lingering independence and community identity. For some citizens who commented publicly on the case before the board, Acton's protectiveness for "one of its own" also involved frustration over the isolation the community feels from its agencies of government.

Mr. Black has long run a

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Lions Club banquet Feb. 22

Hospital, choral, sports work make Vi Haines top citizen

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer

Vi Haines is Georgetown's first Citizen of the Year to come from Glen Williams.

Lion Stan Callahan, chairman of the club's Citizen of the Year Committee, announced the decision this weekend. Mrs. Haines will be honored at a banquet Feb. 22 at the Lions Hall.

"Isn't this something? I still can't believe it," was Mrs. Haines' reaction when contacted by The Herald Monday. "It was the furthest thing from my mind."

Mrs. Haines celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary last fall. She and her husband, Tom, have three children, Joy Smallwood, and sons John and Bud, ten grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

"I've always been active in the community, I guess, in the homecoming after the war, in Centennial year, things like that," she said.

Mrs. Haines has a long list of community involvement. She has attended St. Alban's Anglican Church and has been a member of St. Alban's Guild for 47 years. She has been in the choir for 25 years, and has been a member of the parish council for several years. She has just completed a two-year term as people's warden, and taught Sunday School for number of years.

For several years, Mrs. Haines has been a member of the executive of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, and is halfway through a two-year term as president. She has also been a member of the Georgetown Choral Society, serving one year as president and several years on the executive.

Mr. and Mrs. Haines have both been active with various sports groups in the Glen, including hockey and lacrosse. Mrs. Haines served as president of the Halton County Ball League for one year.

During the Second World War, Mrs. Haines worked with the Red Cross, raising funds, sending parcels overseas. She has since worked with the Red Cross Disaster Unit.

For 12 years, Mrs. Haines was a member of the Rotary Club, serving a term as president of the Rotary-Annes. She was also involved with the support groups of the Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts.

She has been a member of the Glen Cemetery Board and its secretary-treasurer for a number of years.

"It just threw me, really,"

she said. "You're just doing what you want to do and you never have something like this in your mind."

"I had to have somebody at home to put up with me while I was doing these things," Mrs. Haines said of her husband, Tom. "It's been quite a year with our 50th anniversary and this, too."

Among her hobbies, Mrs. Haines lists rug-hooking,

crocheting, knitting, cooking, baking, travel and growing plants.

"I was active where I was needed, or if I could help somewhere-if I've been asked to help, I've tried to do my best," Mrs. Haines said.

"There are lots of worthy people who've done more things than I have, but it's a real thrill to be chosen," she said.



Vi Haines, shown here celebrating last year's Glen Williams' Canada Day Festival with a couple of young friends, has been named "Citizen of the Year" by the Georgetown Lions Club. Mrs. Haines becomes the first resident of the Glen to win the award, which will be presented during a special Lions banquet Feb. 22.

(Herald photo)

Heritage Council rewards James' 35 years' service



Bud James has won the Georgetown Hockey Heritage award for 1981. It was announced Friday night. Mr. James has contributed to hockey since his involvement with a Legion team in 1945. He has also managed the Georgetown Raiders through three consecutive championships.

See Sportsweek for details.