

# Our response to emergency 'very good'

Red Cross officials are happy with the results of Sunday's mock disaster, but that doesn't mean there isn't still work to be done.

The Georgetown branch of the Red Cross Society, along with a team from the Acton branch and a number of

to give all the groups a chance to take part. For example, casualties would be treated at the scene by a field doctor and ambulance attendants, rather than by people trained in first aid.

The seriously injured casualties were also being treated by first aid people at the evacuation centre, when they would have been taken directly to a hospital in a real emergency.

Jack Reed, captain of the evacuation centre, said operations went smoothly at the centre, except for a problem in communications which had to be worked out.

Because of a number of casualties were taken into the first aid area for treatment, the registration procedures had to be changed from what would normally occur, and registration took place in the first aid area.

Mr. Kearsley said now the Red Cross has had the chance to see its emergency response plan in action, there will be meetings with representatives from all the organizations which took part to evaluate the plan's effectiveness and make any changes needed to improve the community's readiness to handle a major disaster.

other service organizations, took part in a mock plane crash Sunday to put its emergency response plan to the test with a dry run. Victims of the crash were treated on the scene by first aid people, and evacuated to a nearby centre, located at Georgetown District High School.

Spectators were also taken to the evacuation centre to take part in the registration procedures. A press conference room was set up to deal with inquiries from the media, a first aid centre to treat the minor injuries that would be expected to occur in an evacuation, and a clothing depot to supply clothing for those who were evacuated without time to pack a suitcase.

Gord Kearsley, one of the organizers of the disaster, rated the overall performance as "very good". He said there had been some changes in procedure from what would normally be done



Penny Van Dam, one of the casualties in the plane crash, "fainted" in the hallway of the evacuation centre, and Red Cross volunteers Lynn Clark and Henry Kroes were on hand promptly to take care of her. Organizers of the mock disaster played several tricks on volunteers, including a boy who refused to identify himself.

## 'We'll spend it wisely' say \$25,000 winners

Rene and Anne-Marie Larocque of Norton Crescent in Georgetown haven't decided yet what they will do with the \$25,000 they won in Thursday's Wintario draw.

Mrs. Larocque said this is the first time they have won such a large amount of money, although they buy tickets each week for the draws.

"We've never won anything like this before—it's a shock," she said. "That's why we want to spend it wisely."

They expect to invest the money, but for now it has been safely deposited in the bank.

Mr. Larocque discovered he was a winner at work

Friday morning. Before he started work, he stopped to check the winning lottery numbers in the morning newspaper. When he found he had one of the winning numbers, he couldn't wait to claim his prize. He took the rest of the day off and drove to Toronto to collect the money, Mrs. Larocque said.

In addition to the prize money, the Larocques won a free book of tickets. It was a ticket in a free book they had won in the last draw which won them the big prize this time.

Mrs. Larocque said they buy their tickets from different places all the time. They picked up the free book which took the \$25,000-prize at the gas station in Hornby.

First aid volunteers had a chance to work with casualty victims, who are spread out on a plastic sheet near the site of the mock disaster, such work would be handled by a field doctor and ambulance attendants. Gord Kearsley, one of the organizers of the disaster, said the procedures normally used in a disaster were altered slightly so that all those taking part would have a chance to use their particular skills.



Brigadier-General Jim Westhead (left), vice-president of the Ontario division of the Canadian Red Cross Society, was on hand Sunday to observe the mock plane crash at the fairgrounds. He also visited the evacuation centre at the high school, where he talked with Ed Hunter, one of the amateur radio operators who helped set up the communications centre.

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## Esquensing fire

A Halton Hills woman had to flag down a passing motorist to report a fire in her home Thursday.

The fire, in a house just north of 5 Sideroad, is believed

to have been caused by a coat which fell on top of the compressor on a cooling unit. Damage is estimated at \$9,500 and includes severe smoke damage.

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**HALTON-BURLINGTON PROVINCIAL LIBERAL ASSOCIATION NOMINATION MEETING**

Where: *Boyne Centre, Milton*  
When: *Saturday, Feb. 14, 1981 at 8:15 p.m.*  
Speaker: *John Eakins, Liberal incumbent for Victoria - Haliburton*

Those eligible to vote must be members in good standing 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**Valentine's Pot-Luck Supper**  
STARTS AT 6:30 P.M.  
Bring a pot for the 6:30 supper and/or for the 8:15 meeting.  
**ALL WELCOME!**

# Big Brother's been watching, Raftis tells surprised council

Regional chairman Jack Raftis' dismay over recent public revelations about Halton's financial and administrative practices has prompted a surprise announcement that the provincial government has been keeping a close watch on developments here since last fall.

Mr. Raftis was criticizing unspecified Burlington members for leaking confidential information to the press during last Wednesday's meeting when he casually advised regional council that the ministry of intergovernmental affairs has been keeping tabs on regional operations.

According to a letter from the ministry circulated at the meeting, regional department heads have been cooperating with ministry officials on a survey of Halton's administration and finances undertaken by minister Tom Wells "on his own initiative".

Burlington and Nassagaweya ratepayers failed to persuade the ministry to launch a public inquiry - specifically into the region's \$600,000 operating budget deficit - during lobby efforts last fall. Meetings have nevertheless been held between regional and provincial officials since Nov. 20, the letter said.

"The treasury department has a plan of attack and is working out its problems", ministry official Winston Easton concluded in his letter to acting chief administrative officer (CAO) Dennis Perlin.

The revelation came during a brief exchange over "press leaks" which Mr. Raftis blamed on unnamed Burlington councillors. The week previous, he charged, they had acted improperly in telling reporters that he had authorized a \$100 a week salary hike without council's permission for Mr. Perlin, who has been wearing two hats - those of the CAO and the regional solicitor - since assuming the former position on an interim basis after CAO Ernie Reid's resignation.

Eventually, council voted to redirect the payment made to Mr. Perlin back to the region and then deal with it through the region's administration and finance committee.

tion last summer. Burlington Mayor Roly Bird took exception to Mr. Raftis' criticism being directed

at aldermen from his municipality, but pledged support in overcoming the region's air of suspicion.

## Perlin's unsure about CAO post

While named to the chief administrative officer's position three weeks ago, regional solicitor Dennis Perlin is still pondering whether or not to take the job.

Mr. Perlin, who replaced former CAO Ernie Reid on an interim basis following last July's surprise revelations of a budget deficit, was drawn into the centre of a recent salary debate at the region.

In paying Mr. Perlin an additional \$5,000 - unauthorized by council - for his extra duties as acting CAO, regional chairman Jack Raftis came under strong criticism from councillors last Wednesday and one representative called for his

resignation. Eventually, council voted to redirect the payment made to Mr. Perlin back to the region and then deal with it through the region's administration and finance committee.

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