



Who better to help try out the town's new bus service for disabled residents than Acton's 1981 Citizen of the Year, Ron McKnight? ActiVan hit the Halton Hills roads in May thanks to people like Mayor Pete Pomeroy (left) and Acton travel agent and busline boss Ted Tyler.

Year of the Disabled only a beginning

Halton Hills showed promise

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

The Year of the Disabled may be over, but several of the seeds sown in 1981 to benefit the disabled won't come to harvest for another two or three years.

The biggest move to aid the disabled in Halton Hills was the establishment of ActiVan, a specially equipped van which disabled citizens can ride across town for a minimal fee of 50 cents.

Unanimously endorsed last March by the town, the ActiVan scheme became reality May 1. It's on a trial period until the end of April, 1982. Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson, Chairman of the committee which put ActiVan on the road, says there are now over 100 registered users of the service.

"Because it was the Year of the Disabled, we were able to set up the service in less time

than usual," she said. "Right now we're taking a little boy to school and two people to work with ActiVan."

Barb Stephens of Halton Helping Hands is concerned about whether the service will continue past its trial-period.

FIRST YEAR

Half of the \$65,000 cost of purchasing and operating the van during the first-year trial is being picked up by the provincial government. The rest came from the town and a public fund-raising drive.

However, Mrs. Stephens worries about what will happen to ActiVan when that funding support ends. She doesn't think another fund-raising drive for ActiVan will be able to compete with other much-needed support service drives in Halton Hills or that such a drive will be able to raise enough money to totally support ActiVan.

"Will taxpayers' money participate in the cost-sharing of this much needed service?" she asks.

Mrs. Stephens said ActiVan is so popular that already it's not meeting the needs of all the disabled in the community.

"We need more vehicles. There are meetings and recreational activities, in which the disabled can't participate because the bus isn't running," she said.

ActiVan operates Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., plus Sunday mornings when the disabled are taken to the Acton pool for a swim.

Halton Hills is unique in having such a service for the disabled even before there is a public transit service in the town, noted Mrs. Stephens.

WITH RAMPS

Other positive steps have been taken by the Halton Hills council for the local disabled.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy said all sidewalks constructed in 1981 were made with ramps, in order to be accessible to the disabled.

Proper access for the disabled to municipal buildings will

think we'll ever be able to change for the disabled."

Pointing out that the newly constructed Library Cultural Centre in Georgetown has a ramp enabling those in wheelchairs to enter, Mayor Pomeroy is hopeful that other such changes will be seen about the town within the next two years.

"We have an ongoing program for sidewalks to be built with proper ramps," he said.

Coun. Serjeantson praised the parking spots set aside for the disabled at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena and the shopping plazas. However, many more need to be set up around town, she said.

Acton businessman Lorne Doberthien is a disabled resident who copes quite well with his artificial leg, but this summer, difficulties in finding preferred parking close to shopping mall entrances made him more active in the cause

for the disabled.

WROTE MEDIA

"It is being drummed into my head every year that if you have a physical problem, you would withdraw from society," he said.

"This year is designated as the 'Year of the Handicapped', but what is the province of Ontario or Canada doing about it?" Mr. Doberthien wrote to various media and officials of the three levels of government.

And he got responses. Enough to make him feel optimistic about the work begun in 1981.

"It looks like there will be a federal minister of the handicapped, a position to be shared with an already established portfolio," Mr. Doberthien said.

With MPP Julian Reed, he went to meet provincial Minister of transportation Jim Snow



be included in the town's budget, the mayor promised.

"Some renovations will take longer because we have to provide elevators," he said.

"Places like the Esquering municipal building I don't

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1981

Gravel needs prompt road reconstruction

Fourth Line renewal announced by mayor

Halton Hills is about to embark on a \$1.2 million road reconstruction project on the Fourth Line between Sideroad 17 and Highway 7, a route

which will be used extensively next year as trucks haul gravel from area wayside pits to a number of provincial road projects.

While he stated that more details on the program will be available in the near future, Mayor Pete Pomeroy told The Herald Tuesday that the

project was made possible thanks to "additional" road subsidies from the provincial government.

Normally, the province's transportation and communications ministry gives the town 50 per cent of what the municipality annually budgets for major road works. The additional subsidies will be available this year, 1981.

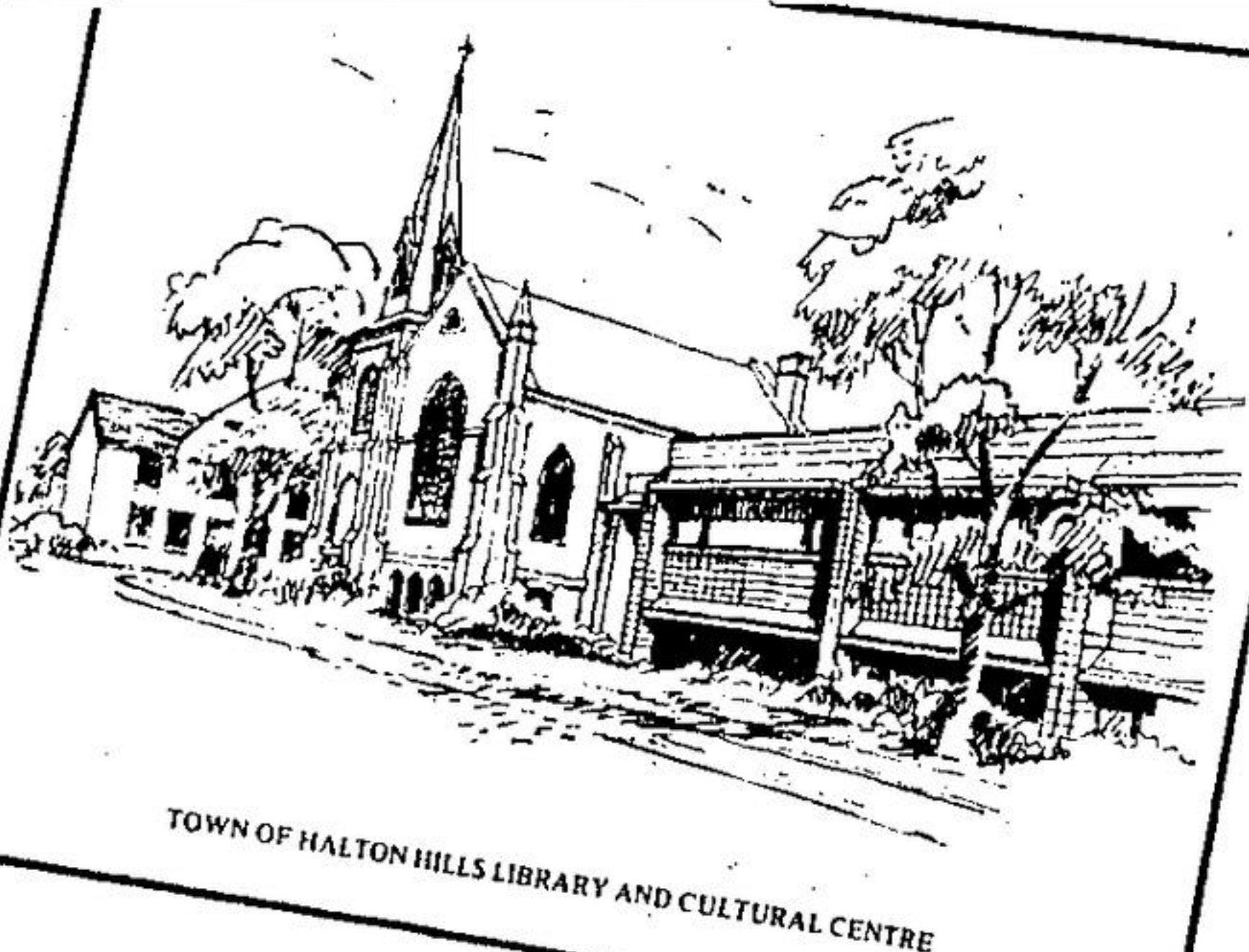
"There will be more details as we get things tidied up," Mayor Pomeroy said. "It's been in the mill for quite some time through meetings which have been held with the ministry for the last four months."

Town council Monday night agreed to hire Bot Construction to do the road work which will include widening and realigning the route.

Three pits in the area have been listed by the ministry as gravel sources for road works it is carrying out along the Highway 401, Highway 403 east of Halton Hills and the James Snow Parkway in Burlington.

Truck mishap charges

The driver of a truck that rolled down Georgetown's Main Street last Tuesday morning has been charged with failure to park his vehicle properly. The Glen Williams truck had slipped out of gear from its parked position atop the Main Street hill, and, driven down, had rolled downhill, sideswiping a parked car in the other lane of traffic, climbing the curb near Household Finance and hitting a brick wall between that business and Sykes Bakery. The impact of the truck's contact with the brick wall brought it to rest. Halton regional police now estimate the damage to be \$7,000. Nobody was injured.



TOWN OF HALTON HILLS LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTRE

The Mayor and Members of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills cordially invite you to attend the official opening ceremonies of the Town of Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre 9 Church Street, Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown) on Sunday, October 18, 1981 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

R. J. V. P.

Refreshments

BEST PARTY OF THE YEAR

In the view of Herald staffers, the opening of the new Halton Hills Library-Cultural Centre in October was the News Event of the Year, and those who worked on the project the Newsmakers of the Year. For those who received the above invitation, Oct. 18 was a day to remember. See page A4 for our choices of 1981's "best" and "worst". Photos from the past 12 months appear throughout this section.



GOOD NEIGHBORS AND OTHER SANTA HELPERS

Sheridan College students Robin Thompson, Tom Gartaka and Wanda Szymczyk and Georgetown District High School students Greg Quinn and Rob Horning help Halton regional police constables Bill Phipps and Raj Swaminathan drive to local schools to pick up canned goods and presents this year. The Good Neighbor service, run by Roma Timpson of McIntyre Crescent for ten years, also collected gifts and money from businesses in the community to make Christmas more pleasant for those less fortunate. Mrs. Timpson said 82 baskets of food were given out with the aid of the Elks Lodge and the Salvation Army Dec. 23.

(Herald photo)

Jelinek claims Liberals are creating economic 'chaos'

Dump 'restrictive' budget -- MP

Halton M.P. Otto Jelinek has condemned the federal government's budgetary proposals for inflicting economic chaos on an already faltering economy, and called upon finance minister Allan MacEachen to replace his document of Nov. 12 with more realistic and positive budgetary measures.

Mr. Jelinek stated Dec. 18 that "it is a restrictive budget and represents nothing more than a massive tax increase at a time when the economy is in a tail spin", and concluded that "it is inappropriate for the economic circumstances of today, and that it should be withdrawn and rewritten as soon as possible."

During his remarks in the House of Commons, Mr. Jelinek cited numerous budgetary assaults on private sector initiatives, such as the reduction of the S.D.B. program, as well as other budgetary proposals that will further erode the takehome pay of private individuals by imposing taxes on employee benefits such as



OUR OWN 'JESUS'

Maria Jaramillo delivered a very personal Christmas present to her husband in the form of Jesus Antonio Jaramillo, eight pounds, six ounces, Christmas Day, Little Jesus was the first Christmas baby born (at 9:52 p.m.) in the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Jaramillo said she and her husband lived in Georgetown for one and a half years until they moved to Mississauga in September. The two expect to be going home Thursday, where Jesus will meet his two and a half-year old sister.

health and dental plans, the use of company cars and travel passes, as well as on retiring income.

"I am disturbed, as are my colleagues, that at a time when

government spending, as documented in the budget papers, is slated to increase by some 22 per cent, the government has allowed its academic socialists to remove those incentives

from our business community that have produced investment, employment, and growth, and has further imposed yet another hefty tax burden on all Canadians."

Red Cross seeks aid for Poland's woes

As part of the international Red Cross appeal for Poland, the local Red Cross branch will accept cash, cheque or money order donations only. No gifts in kind can be accepted.

Donations can be made to: Georgetown and District Red Cross Branch, P.O. Box 106, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4T1 — clearly marked "Polish Relief Programme". Donations are tax deductible and an official receipt will be issued.

The international appeal by the League of Red Cross

Societies in Geneva is for approximately \$7,500,000 to help provide food, clothing and medical assistance for needy Poles this winter. The Canadian Red Cross Society has made an initial contribution of \$25,000 towards this emergency operation.

This appeal was issued at the request of the Polish Red Cross and after a visit to Poland by two senior League delegates. The appeal calls for funds to buy blankets, winter clothing, soap, detergents, butter, tinned meats and cheese for the neediest of

senior citizens. Diapers, baby clothing, and baby foods for children of low-income families are also required.

The appeal will also allow the Polish Red Cross to set up an emergency pharmacy for life-saving medicines and a pharmacy programme for delivery of medication to the elderly.

More than \$5,000,000 in assistance has already been sent to Poland this year by other Red Cross societies, chiefly societies in Europe.

