

# Always learning new methods

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dent Giberson. The old and crippled are not the only patients the ambulance crew attend to, he says.

There seems to be a balance between treating citizens who are suffering from car accidents and sickness, Mr. Giberson says. Sometimes the crew responds to heart attack calls where their life-saving CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) is attempted on patients. Often crews respond to calls on the phone when the injury or illness can't be diagnosed, he says.

Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Lightowler both agree that a majority of car accidents are alcohol related. They have seen over the years the positive aspects to wearing seatbelts and attribute them to saving many lives in car accidents.

Ambulance crews are well trained in certificate Red Cross or St. John first aid programs plus CPR, says Mr. Wilcox. Many attendants are instructors in first aid, he says.

An inexperienced attendant is introduced to the schedule gradually. He rides as an observer until he has seen all types of accidents handled by more experienced crews, Mr. Wilcox says.

When not on duty, the ambulance volunteers are able to relax in the basement of their headquarters where they may read, watch T.V., sleep or cook if they desire, Mr. Wilcox says. Often off-



Members of the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service (GVAS) receive top-notch training from highly-qualified professionals which extends beyond first aid and emergency care. GVAS attendants also learn defensive driving techniques, rescue tactics and how to use a two-way radio properly. In a simulated emergency, GVAS vice-president Peter Wolfe (left) and attendant John Lightowler monitor the condition of their patient, in this case the GVAS' training mannequin, "Resusc-Annie". The GVAS will celebrate 25 years of community service.



Georgetown residents relied on local funeral directors for ambulance service prior to the volunteer services founding in 1957. The vintage wagon shown above outside the original ambulance garage on Cross Street probably doubled as a hearse often. The GVAS later moved to the James Street building which now houses the town recreation department.

(GVAS photo)

## GVAS motto outlined in its brochure

"Making their community a safer place to live is considered sufficient reward," a brochure on the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service (GVAS) states in describing why residents join the 25-year old organization. Qualified personnel regularly keep GVAS members updated on new training methods, and joining the service opens doors to numerous other fields like defensive driving, radio communication, rescue tactics and first aid and emergency care. Individuals thinking of becoming members of the GVAS must be between the ages of 18 and 60, be physically fit and have a good driving record. For more information, phone 877-7772, or write to the GVAS secretary, P.O. Box 33, Georgetown, Ontario.

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duty attendants will stop by to socialize with crews which are on duty, he says.

The ambulance unit in Georgetown is a very tightly knit group with each man having to get along well with his partner and others on the service because teamwork is a very important part of their job, Mr. Wilcox says. "We can't afford to have any oddballs in the group," he adds.

In one of the few volunteer ambulance services in the heavily populated area of southern Ontario, it is comforting to know that the citizens of Acton and Georgetown may rely on this dedicated group of volunteers over Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Cold, short days and wind characterize the Arctic coast winter. Temperatures maintain an average daily low of -25 degrees Fahrenheit. Cold temperatures, combined with severe winds, create the severest "wind chill" — the maximum body-cooling rate — known anywhere.

# Grit convention attracts locals

With new leaders to be chosen for the Ontario Liberal and New Democratic parties, Halton-Burlington riding associations have selected most of their delegates for upcoming conventions.

Both Liberal leader Stuart Smith, twice defeated by Con-

servative Premier Bill Davis, and the NDP's Michael Cassidy, unsuccessful in the last provincial election, have resigned their leaderships. Five Liberal contenders - four of them MPPs - will vie for Dr. Smith's job while two prominent NDP MPPs and MP Bob Itae are hoping to replace

Mr. Cassidy.

Headed for the New Democrat convention Feb. 5 to 7 at Toronto's Harbour Castle Hilton are Halton-Burlington delegates Walter Behie and John Nicols of Georgetown, Allan Foster of Acton, Ron Ness of Milton and Sandy Gage of Burlington.

Ready to cast their votes at the Liberal convention are 15 local delegates: MPP Julian Reed, his brother Laurie Reed, riding association president Al Wilson, former Halton MPPs Frank Philbrook and Rud Whi-

ling, Bill Manderson, Kay Lawson, George Henderson, Doug Fendley, Jo-Anne Heath, Neil McLean, Lois Mackenzie, Carol Lawson and Carol Best. Two other delegates have yet to be named.

## Periodicals play up Halton's business

The Herald has some new competition as far as reporting on industrial progress in the area: Halton region's business development office this week forwarded copies of "The Halton Report" to 5,000 companies and individuals both inside and outside the region.

As a proud, personal message from regional chairman Jack Raftis reflects, the four-page, green-trimmed newsletter is designed to promote Halton as being "between Toronto and Hamilton at the centre of success".

The Herald also carries a story headlined "Building boom hits Halton". The article says the business development office has recorded 51 statements of intent by companies to locate in the region or to expand substantially. Together, the article says, they'll bring 2,000 new jobs.

Elsewhere in the first issue, stories about Milton's "Highway 401 industrial park" and GO transit expansions, spot-

lights on several Oakville and Burlington firms and a report on a Royal Trust housing survey that showed Halton's housing compares favorably with Toronto's, but comes cheaper by far.

In his front-page message, Mr. Raftis invites comments about the Report. The business development office can be reached through Halton region at PO Box 7000, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville, L6J 6E1 (phone 878-8113).

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