

# Weekend

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Friday, March 19, 1982

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## Council Notes

### Coroner's verdict filed by town

After a brief closed-door session, town council Monday night voted to receive the coroner's jury verdict concerning the death last October of Derek Jones, a four-year-old Acton boy who drowned in a pond near the Kingham Road subdivision. The jury's verdict from the inquest held in December, recommends that the pond, located on private property, be fenced in or filled up. It also stated that the municipality "erred by allowing the developer to build so close to the pond and without adequate fencing between the race track (near which the pond was located) and the housing development". Beyond receiving the report, council gave no indication what further action it might take regarding the verdict.

### Hail to the chief

After 34 years of service, Halton Hills fire chief Mick Holmes will hang up his helmet July 3. His resignation was announced last week during the town's general committee meeting and accepted by council Monday night. In a letter to the town, Chief Holmes recalled that he had made known his plans as early as last November. The chief's position will be posted within the town's fire department brigades in Acton and Georgetown and the town will also seek candidates through advertising.

### Miller vice-chairman

Halton Hills Coun. Russ Miller was recently appointed the Halton Region Conservation Authority's vice-chairman. Coun. Miller, a regional councillor and member of the region's planning and public works committee, has been associated with the authority for six years, served on nearly all the authority's standing committees and chaired its finance and personnel committee. He is currently serving on the authority's building committee, which is planning a new works yard and administrative headquarters. Last year the authority had hoped to build on property it owns near the Hilton Falls conservation area in Milton, but the proposal was rejected by the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

### Headphone hazard?

Spurred by the death last year of a 17-year old Toronto man who was killed by a train near his home while wearing stereo headphones connected to a portable cassette deck, regional councillors asked Halton's Medical officer of health (MOH) for a report on the headphone devices and the dangers they present to users. Last week, MOH Peter Cole presented his report to the region's health and social services committee and determined that while there might be some temporary loss of hearing from the headphones, the most serious hazard to the listener is the "loss of awareness of one's surroundings and the potential for accidents while operating...near the vicinity of a motorized vehicle". There are no plans to curb the use of the headphones in cars in or near heavy traffic.

### Insulation info

Halton region's health department has published a pamphlet on urea formaldehyde insulation for homeowners who are concerned that the substance may be producing harmful gases. The region is now involving, with testing homes for formaldehyde gas and will provide homeowners with certificates stating that the home is insulated with the insulation if a certificate is not already available. The federal government last autumn announced a grant program for homeowners who must have the insulation removed because of high levels of toxic gas.

### More region grants

Halton's finance and administration committee last week approved a \$27,829 grant to the Halton Safety Council. In other grants endorsed by the committee last week and expected to be voted on in regional council this afternoon, Lorne Scots regiment received \$1,000. But, the committee rejected a request from the Sheridan Youth Orchestra for \$2,000 this year because, it maintained, the grant given to the group in 1981 was meant as "seed money"—a one-time grant to help the fledgling orchestra.

### Let province check

For the first time since it waded into a budgetary fiasco two years ago, Halton region has submitted its financial statements to the province's housing and municipal affairs ministry before the budget has been endorsed by regional council. Usually, the statements have been reviewed by the ministry after the budget has been set, making it difficult to take care of uncovered deficits in the budgets fiscal year. Other good news in the region's budget-making process, Mayor Pete Pomeroy reported Monday night, is that Halton's reserve fund "showed a mark improvement" over previous totals. The budget is expected to come before the region's finance and administration committee before the end of the month and while he declined to give details, Mayor Pomeroy said that there is "positive financial flow at the region; things look a lot better".



### NUMBER 27 AND STILL GOING STRONG

With a current membership of 125, the spread church on Highway 7 and Draper Street in Norval began as a mission church of Terra Cotta's Union Presbyterian Church back in 1835. Built on the plans of the Georgetown Congregational Church (now the library) Norval Presbyterian Church was erected for \$7,000 in February, 1878. Read all about Norval Presbyterian in Episode 27 of our churches series next Wednesday. "In the Churches", by Bob Ollivier, appears on page 3 of today's issue.

## Budget-conscious trustees won't hire special ed. staffers

A budget-conscious Halton board of education voted against a motion to hire two intermediate-senior special education consultants for next September, at last Thursday night's meeting.

Trustees Margaret Bullock and Elaine Riehm brought forward the motion for consultants to help special education staff develop program and curriculum continuity in Grades 7 to 13, although last week's finance committee presentation of the 1982 budget showed no support for it.

Halton Hills trustee Betty Fisher asked if staff could be shifted so the board would have two fewer employees elsewhere in order to have the two special education consultants at the secondary school level.

"The real issue is adding on staff. I want to stress the responsibility this board has in working to reallocate and not to increase its staff," trustee Jim Clelland said, voting against the motion.

Although supporting the board's work toward meeting the needs of special education, Halton Hills trustee Arlene Bruce felt a different approach was needed than what the motion offered.

"I feel we have to support the finance committee," she said in explaining her refusal to vote for the motion. "As part of our approach we might look at the board's use of consultants and perhaps move them to look at special education needs."

Trustee Cam Jackson defended the finance committee's decision in not supporting the hiring.

"I don't think it's proper to present it as an item slashed by the finance committee," he objected. "I think trustees should know the kind of thought that went into not supporting this."

## Town rejects appeal, refers firm to region

Halton Hills will send a letter to Maple Lodge Farms Ltd., a chicken processing plant near Norval, explaining why it could not endorse the company's plans to dump sewage sludge on farm fields in town.

Town council should also encourage Maple Lodge secretary-treasurer Bob Mays to meet the region's planning and public works committee, Coun. Russ Miller said Monday night, possibly persuading the committee to bend its policies in this case, concerning accepting sludge from other municipalities.

Last month, council agreed with Coun. Miller's objection to the proposal by which Maple Lodge would dump sludge from its processing operation on a Halton Hills farm near the plant. Nearby residents had expressed concern about what effect the sludge, low in metals and deemed by the province's environment ministry (MOE) to be "superior" to municipal sludge, would have on nearby waterways.

Regional policies, supported by Halton's agricultural advisory committee, state that Halton has little enough land to

handle sludge coming from Halton-based industries, let alone wastes from "outside" the region.

But Coun. Miller seemed to agree with statements made earlier by Ward 3 colleague Roy Booth who noted that the Maple Lodge Farms employs many Halton Hills residents. Mr. May, Coun. Miller suggested, should go before the planning and public works committee to seek an exemption from the policy.

In a letter to council, Mr. May argued that the region's

### 'Great day for Canadians' - McDermid

## Commons bells silent as MP hails victory

The return of Parliament Wednesday afternoon was a great day for Canadians and for democracy, Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid said.

"I think the people in Canada won, not the Tories," the Conservative MP said after taking part in a recorded vote which brought the Commons back to work for the first time since March 2.

The Tories had presented the Commons with a motion to adjourn and then refused to appear for the vote to protest the government's Energy Security Bill, which they said should be dealt with as several separate pieces of legislation.

"We weren't doing this to force an election and we weren't doing this to make the government look bad," Mr. McDermid said.

"We were doing this to preserve Parliamentary democracy."

Mr. McDermid declined to predict whether the Conservatives would use the tactics of the last two weeks again.

"But we wouldn't use it irresponsibly. We can assure people of that."

One of the things the Commons has to look at now very seriously is Parliamentary reform, Mr. McDermid said. The events seen March 2 have pointed out the urgency of Parliamentary reform.

## 'Public backed fight against arrogance'

By JOHN McDERMID  
Brampton-Georgetown MP  
Democracy wins.

On March 2, Opposition House Leader Erik Neilson proposed that the Commons bells stop ringing if the Liberals called for other business while splitting the Energy Security measure was discussed. On March 16,

government house leader Yvon Pinard publicly conceded to our requests.

When Bill C-94 is split, members of parliament can properly debate such things as the proposal that a minister on his own should be able to raise a tax on a gallon of gas by 98 cents and members will be able to vote against

the proposal. Other parts of C-94 that may help the economy can be passed quickly so that jobs can be created and uncertainty removed. Common sense has won the day and, in turn, democracy has won.

The Canadian people joined with us in fighting an

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### HERALD HELPERS

There've been some new faces around The Herald in recent weeks as students tried out some newly-learned skills. Doreen Freestone of Georgetown (above) spent several days helping operate our press, one of three traditionally-male jobs she's tackling as part of a Sheridan College Women's Retraining course. Brenda Greeley (below) and Frank Robitaille took turns helping our composing room staff to gain on-the-job training on their graphic skills course at E.C. Drury School for the Hearing Impaired in Milton.

(Herald photos)



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## MEMORIES, PART 2: DEPRESSION ERA SCHOLARS

A number of Georgetown High School alumni recognized themselves and former classmates in the 1933-34 school photo featured March 16 in The Herald. There likely won't be as

many familiar faces in this memorable GDHS portrait from 1929-30, also recovered recently from the school's vault. Stay tuned to The Herald for more glimpses of past school days.

