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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1982

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## ABOUT THE HILLS

### Students help crime victims

It's the year of the victim for Halton regional police, whose slogan for the year is "We're all victims of crime". In appreciation of this, the federal solicitor general's office has granted the force funding for seven summer students to work in the crime prevention bureau.

Working till the end of August, at all the Halton stations, two students will update files on businesses in the region, two will work on monitoring false alarms, and two others will improve police efficiency by developing a night directory and calling up victims of home and auto break-ins.

### Wild times for 75 cents

In honor of this week's "Wild West" theme, the Etobicoke Children's Theatre will be performing their show "Dance Drama and the Wild Wild West" tomorrow (Thursday). Everyone is welcome to come out to the Georgetown High School Cafeteria at 9:30 a.m. to see the show and meet our leaders. The show lasts approximately 45 minutes, and at only seventy-five cents, it is this week's entertainment bargain!

### Cedarvale offices

As reported in last week's Herald, the Georgetown Red Cross will close its offices for holidays between July 16 and Aug. 3. However, the article incorrectly stated that the Red Cross' offices are located on Guelph Street. They are, in fact, in the Cedarvale Community Centre. The Herald regrets the error.

## Cunningham named new fire chief

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

A 35-year old former Halton region police officer who says that fire fighting is in his blood has been named the town's new fire chief, replacing Mick Holmes who retired earlier this month.

Bill Cunningham, a sixteen-year veteran with the regional police department, most recently serving as a uniformed sergeant in Oakville, is the second fire chief the town has had since the Acton and Georgetown fire departments were amalgamated in 1974. Mr. Cunningham is a Shelley Street, Georgetown resident and has been a member of the local volunteer fire brigade since 1968.



BILL CUNNINGHAM

His appointment was announced Tuesday morning at a press conference held in the town's Trafalgar Road municipal offices and follows an extensive local and cross-Canada search.

Mr. Cunningham and Georgetown resident Dave Creighton were honored last year by the Halton Safety Council for the daring Nov. 1980 rescue of a woman who fell from the roof of the Georgetown room when she fell asleep with a cigarette.

Now in charge of a fire department numbering nearly 80 men in Acton and Georgetown, Mr. Cunningham said that firefighting in Halton Hills is exceptionally professional.

"I wouldn't hesitate putting them against any fire department in the province," he told The Herald during an interview, and said that the town was one of the largest in Ontario to have a volunteer force.

He, along with deputy chief Bob Hyde and fire prevention officer Bob Meads, are the department's only fully-paid personnel.

Confident of the department's efficiency, he said he has no intention of changing the town's reliance on a volunteer fire service. The recent purchase of a new rescue truck assures that the department has some of the best equipment in the region, he said.

Oakville and Burlington have paid firefighters, leaving Milton the only other municipality in the region which recruits volunteers.

Mr. Cunningham's father, Jack Cunningham, was a volunteer firefighter for Georgetown for 36 years, and was fire chief for the community in the early-1970s.

"I guess it's in my blood," Mr. Cunningham said.

Managerial skills acquired while working with the police will help in his new job, Mr. Cunningham added.



UP UP AND AWAY

Who can resist the allure of a merrily smiling clown with lots of lovely balloons? Not many could at the Varian company picnic Sunday. Generously passing out candies, balloons and little gifts, "Katie the Clown" was a winner with the kiddies. The company provided free food, and the social club volunteers helped make the day a success. Putting everything together for a good time

wer social club president Mary Franks, vice-president Chris Hamilton, treasurer Trudy Paul, girls commissioner Diane Gillies and "bubbling helpers" Vickie Hollingshead, Ljahn Duma, Helen Gremada, Denny Foley, Chris Cain and books Barry Insoe, Jim Franks, Barry Hamilton and Zarko Duma.

(Herald photo by Harold Bransch)

## Councillors follow federal incentive

### Raises held at six per cent

Following what they described as an "incentive" in the federal government's most recent budget, town councillors have limited their 1982 pay increase to six per cent more than their current salaries.

The move parallels federal finance minister Allan MacEachen's decision to limit salary and wage increases in the public service to six per cent this year and five per cent in 1983.

At six per cent, the mayor's annual salary of \$16,500 will increase by about \$990 while councillors will each get an increase of \$391.

Although the increase is still well below the usual annual rise of 10 per cent, some councillors maintained that during the country's economic slump, there should be no increase at all for municipal politicians.

Coun. Russ Miller called on his colleagues to "reject any increment for 1982" as an incentive to cut back on spending. He

was strongly supported by Coun. Harry Levy, the town's budget chief, who indicated there is a risk that the town will end up spending more money this year than it had accounted for when the municipal budget was passed in April.

"Every cut we make will help us finish the year in good standing," he said.

Recent damage to roads caused by a recent rain storm have added costs in the public works department and the town will have to find more funds to pay for the increased costs of running the municipality caused by the provincial budget unveiled in May.

Coun. Miller told councillors that in the 18 years he has served as a town politician he has expected a reasonable increase in his salary; but, he added, fewer and fewer people are getting pay increases regularly as companies find ways to cut back. He said he felt councillors shouldn't be any different.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy announced last week that he would encourage councillors to reject the proposed 10 per cent increase and accept one four percentage points lower this year. By following voluntary wage guidelines, council can play a small role in the government's fight against inflation, he said.

Those reps who feel councillors shouldn't get the six per cent increase. Coun. Ross Kneehiel suggested, don't have to take it.

In a recorded vote, councillors Pam Sheldon, George Maitby, Terry Grubbe, Marilyn Serjeantson, Dave Whiting and Roy Booth endorsed Mayor Pete Pomeroy's plan to accept the six per cent increase. Councillors Walter Biehn, Levy, Mike Armstrong and Miller were opposed to the recommendation.

Coun. Armstrong said the increase is so low after taxes that council might as well not have it at all.

Halton regional police constable Gavin Hayes was a hero over the weekend when he saved a life. The constable responded to an ambulance call at 20 Main Street in Acton and found an unconscious male with no sign of pulse or respiration.

Removing first a blockage of blood and mucus from 28-year old Stephen Gordon's airway, Const. Hayes applied artificial respiration until the man began to breathe again.

Mr. Gordon was taken to Georgetown Memorial Hospital and kept overnight for observation.

The 37 Main Street North resident had been drinking, police said, and had a bleeding nose when his cousin Paul Gordon phoned for help.

Acton man owes life to Const. Hayes

## More aid required during slow growth

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer

Poor economic conditions in the country are blamed for the increase in the care of children by the Halton Children's Aid Society (CAS), and for the decrease in foster homes available to the Society.

"The numbers of foster homes have been steadily decreasing, basically because of the economy, the recession, and people losing their job. All this places bigger stresses on the family and families are splitting up," CAS public relations officer Theresa Palomo told The Herald Monday.

Although the CAS pays foster parents from \$6.75 to \$8.09 a day for regular foster care, she said a lot of families can't cope with the cost of caring for an extra charge.

With 219 foster children and 57 foster homes now, the Society has recently found itself asking board members to open their homes to children for emergency care.

"We never had to before," Ms. Palomo said. "We've never been in such a desperate situation in which we've had to ask board or staff members to help out like this."

Back in February, the Society anticipated problems in providing substitute families for children either temporarily or permanently separated from their parents.

In their annual report they warned that budget cuts, in progress since the mid-1970s would cause a decrease in foster homes.

"We will continue (to see) the loss of foster parent resources," said the report. "There will be an increased difficulty in recruitment over equitable rates and foster parents will continue to subsidize our children."

For 1982, the CAS hoped to recruit 25 new foster homes and retain at least 80 per cent of the 70 they already had. As well, they hoped for increased allowances and rates to foster parents in order to be competitive with neighboring Hamilton-

Wentworth and Peel regions.

Rates for regular foster care in Metro Toronto vary from \$8.25 to \$11.50 a day. Hamilton pays between \$7.75 to \$10.40. Halton's rates are also lower than Peel's.

Although the province, which funds all Children's Aid Societies, allocated an additional \$300,000 for Halton's 1982 budget in June, the Society needs \$412,000 and is still negotiating with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ms. Palomo said.

The province sets the amount of money to be given to each CAS, she said.

"There's no formula. They pick an amount out of the clear blue sky," Ms. Palomo claimed. "There's no rhyme or reason to the amount of money they give us. We have never had enough money."

Regional councillors

voted on a \$3,254,211 budget for the CAS back in March, an 11 per cent increase over their 1981 budget.

"The only thing we can do is to let people know that we need them," she said. "We can't twist people's arms."

Having run a campaign early in the year to try to recruit more foster parents, Ms. Palomo said the CAS won't be running another campaign until next year. She said the issue has had generous coverage in the media and leaflets were dropped off at Halton homes concerning the Society's need for foster homes.

"In February we had 44 calls from people interested in becoming foster parents. Twenty-nine couples came to our meeting to get information about it. Of that, we only took three applications," Ms. Palomo said. "We

Continued on page A2

## East end homes and businesses affected

### Ice cream survives power blackout

A tractor-trailer truck making an evening drop at the Guelph Street A and P Food Store in Georgetown was responsible for a power blackout that affected the east end of Georgetown and various rural routes for up to three hours last Tuesday.

Halton Hills Hydro general superintendent Hugh Campbell said a hydro pole in front of the A and P store on Sinclair Avenue was hit and a low Bell telephone cable ripped as the truck tried to leave the store's parking lot around 7:15 p.m.

He said there was \$1,000 damage to Hydro property and though power was restored to the area homes and businesses affected, the repair work is still not completed. He expects it will be completed by Friday night.

"People can't seem to keep their cars on the road," Mr. Campbell joked. "They keep hitting poles."

A and P manager Jack Schlieman said the power blackout cost his store \$700 in spoiled fresh meat. He said produce was put into the store's coolers immediately after the power cut and with the cooler doors closed survived.

"We had to close down at 7:15 p.m.," Mr. Schlieman said. "We suffered some loss but I think people understood it was something we couldn't do anything about."

Occasional refrigeration breakdowns occur so A and P staff knew how to handle last Tuesday's power cut, Mr. Schlieman



SLOW PITCHING FOR NHAMR

Thanks to the athletics of ten teams in the town's slow pitch league, the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded (NHAMR) is \$21 richer this week. The slow pitch clubs played each other recently in a tournament and raised money for the Association through a 50-50 draw, silver collection from among the bleachers and general team contributions. Presenting the cheque last Tuesday to NHAMR president Bert Arnold (centre) are (left to right) Bill Lane, tournament treasurer; Gord Lane, chairman of the tourney and Brian Hill, president of the slow pitch league. The money will be used for the Association's own athletic activities. The Association is grateful to the slow pitch league which consists of the Park Lincoln, Choice Air, Georgetown Firefighters, Klansmen, Lions Club, Elks Lodge, Jaycees, Random Car Club, the Newfoundland Club and Royal Pizza teams.

(Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

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