



The recent snowfalls have kept the town's work department more than busy as snow has been shovelled, plowed and moved. This machine looks like the ideal solution for those long rural driveways.

(Herald photo)

Storm's aftermath: delays, roof concerns

Herald Staff
Where were you when the snow started to fall? Last Tuesday's massive snowfall caused headaches for many in Halton Hills as motorists became stranded and services were cut off or delayed.

The blizzard gained strength throughout the day, dumping 20.6 cm of snow.

Those with cable television who wanted to sit back to a relaxing evening were disappointed Tuesday night.

Halton Cable Systems suffered over \$3,000 in damages from a main power feed to their transformer which left viewers with 'snow' on their sets from about 7 p.m. until the next morning.

"We did everything that was humanly possible," said general manager John DeJong. The storm prevented Halton Cable from getting their heavy equipment into their Speyside transformer site.

Workers tried to feed power back through the system at an antenna site about 2 miles south of Acton, but that attempt also failed.

To top it off, callers couldn't get through to the cable answering service because that line wasn't working, said Mr. DeJong.

In rural areas like Speyside, it's been hard to get any mail. Said 15th Sideroad resident Irene Fairless: "Every time the snowplow goes by, it buries our mailbox. We haven't had mail for a week. I've had to go into town to get it."

Insurance companies meanwhile are starting to feel some of the after effects of the storm.

Rick West of West Insurance Brokers is worried about the risk of roofs collapsing under the weight of so much snow.

"I'm concerned as a broker and as a property owner," he said. "People don't know how heavy it is."

Wednesday morning a building collapsed across from the Georgetown Golf Course in which twelve employees of Aluminart were working.

Thursday Mr. West said about 10 claims had

been filed relating to the weight of ice and snow on roofs. But he thinks insurance companies haven't heard the worst of the storm - especially if there is a thaw and the snow freezes and the wind picks up.

Most of the claims have been for sheds, but Mr. West said "people should be shovelling now."

People should check their policy to see if it covers damage to roofs caused by snow. Some policies cover snow damage, but many do not, he said.

If your telephone wasn't working properly it was probably just caused by a slow dial tone, said a Bell Canada spokesman Jim McPeak. The sheer volume of calls resulted in some delays in calling, but there wasn't anything reported to the control centre in the way of damages, he said.

There were 29 calls during the storm and crews worked overtime until 10 p.m. Tuesday night, said spokesman George Herrington.

Computer dilemmas for budget committee

Herald Staff
Based on overwhelming support of parents for computer programs, trustees might find some opposition in trimming the '85 school budget in the area of computers.

That's the opinion of Halton Hills trustee Arlene Bruce. The Halton School Board budget is being discussed at finance committee meetings this month.

A proposal has been made for a 5.48 per cent increase in expenditures for 1985.

A large chunk of that budget consists of salaries for teachers and staff (78.6 per cent), but proposals have been made for increasing the use of computers in the schools.

It has been recommended that a data entry operator and repair technician be hired, as well

as expanding the use of computers for the administration offices and schools.

A proposal for the computer services department is asking for a 54.9 per cent increase from 1984.

Parents won't probably be upset by an increase in expenditures for computers, but the majority of taxpayers without children will find it difficult to accept, trustee Bruce said.

A recent survey of Halton schools found that 47 per cent of households have a computer at home.

Of parents, surveyed, 80 per cent said that implementation of computers in the classroom should be a priority of the board.

In one question, 91 per cent of parents said that computer education is

essential for students.

Mrs. Bruce feels the budget has to be cut back to reflect the current inflation rate. Halton doesn't have the industrial assessment that other municipalities have to absorb a big increase, she said.

An area that could be pared is staff development programs offered by the board, the trustee said.

It's a budget of despair, she said. Next week trustees will be coming back to the finance committee with a list of areas they feel need discussing for cuts, she said.

The saddest note is that the Halton School Board finished off the year with a \$1.9 million deficit, which is carried into 1985, the trustee said.

James Snow retires

MPP James Snow of Hornby announced he isn't going to run in the next provincial election, Sunday.

The 17-year veteran of the Ontario Cabinet represents Oakville riding.

Until the new premier announced his cabinet Feb. 8, Mr. Snow was Minister of Transportation and Communications, a post he'd held for 10 years.

Premier Frank Miller moved George McCague into the post and made Mr. Snow minister without portfolio for urban transit.

Following the announcement he's going to leave politics, Mr. Snow took off for a week's holiday in Florida.

SAME DAY TAX RETURNS
101 Guelph St. Georgetown
877-2217

Cattle theft trial

A Georgetown man has been bound over for trial before a Milton District court judge and jury on a charge of theft involving the sale of dairy cattle from a Rockwood farm to a Wisconsin cattle broker.

Gordon Bustard, RR4 Georgetown, was the agent for Henry Bartell of Ellsworth, Wisconsin. He was paid \$20,000 for two heifers purchased from John Benham of RR3 Rockwood in July 1981.

Mr. Bustard will also face a second theft charge involving a Georgetown farmer at a preliminary hearing March 4.

Hit by truck

A pedestrian escaped with minor injuries when he was struck by a town truck which was loading snow into another truck, Thursday.

The 51 year old Georgetown man slipped on some ice behind the loader when it struck him on Mill Street in Acton.

Vehicle stolen

A Glen Williams man has been charged with public mischief after he reported his vehicle stolen when he had actually been involved in an accident with the vehicle in Peel, Feb. 17.

\$250 in damages

Approximately \$250 in damages occurred at Alec Johnson Real Estate when a window was smashed, Sunday.

Halton regional police are treating the incident as a case of willful damage.

Tires slashed

Approximately \$600 damage was done to a 1979 Ford after three of its tires were slashed while parked on John Street in Georgetown, over the weekend.

Cars vandalized

Approximately \$1,200 in damages occurred to vehicles parked at the L and L Ford dealership in Acton, Saturday night. Antennae, windshield wipers, mirrors and tires were among items vandalized.

Assault charge

A Canadian Tire employee has been charged with assault as the result of an altercation between himself and a customer's parking arrangements.

The customer received a cut to the nose and forehead in the Feb. 11 incident.

Emergency man wanted

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Hiring a full-time emergency planning co-ordinator is just like buying life insurance, the regional chairman said last week.

Chairman Peter Pomeroy said it's a "relatively inexpensive" item on the 1985 regional budget books, which prepares the region for emergencies, like the Mississauga train derailment in November 1979.

He was supporting the Chief Administrative Officer's recommendation that the position be made permanent.

For the last two years, the region has had an emergency planning co-ordinator, thanks to an Ontario Municipal Training Program that ends in July.

Adelina Urbanski has been developing plans which would prepare agencies and private organizations to handle an emergency, should one arise.

Top priority on the list of projects that still need to be done is a Halton Centennial Manor evacuation plan, an emergency plan for the day care centres, and co-ordinating evacuation plans with the four municipalities and fire chiefs.

However, it's not enough that plans be developed, there has to be emergency practices and exercises.

"If the majority of the people in an organization do not know how to respond in an emergency, then the existence of a plan will not assist in the response, for the time of an emergency is not a time for reading and learning the plan," Mr. Perlin stated in a report on Halton's emergency program.

"Testing the plans on

an ongoing basis is needed to keep the people involved in the organizations concerned knowledgeable about emergency planning," he wrote.

Councillors at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting were reluctant to make the position a permanent one.

Oakville Coun. Carol Gooding asked if it was possible to carry on the program without a full-time person.

Mrs. Urbanski said there wouldn't be as much progress made if

that was the case. Burlington Coun. Joan Little wanted to tie the job with another job.

Mr. Perlin said that without a central person to push for emergency planning, agencies, departments and private organizations would put the matter on the back burner and do nothing to prepare themselves for an emergency.

He recommended the co-ordinator operate out of the Halton regional police headquarters, as the lead emergency service in any disaster is the police.

Challenges a right

Challenging provincial funding of the Roman Catholic School Board is the right of anyone, the provincial premier said yesterday (Tuesday).

Frank Miller said he saw nothing wrong with Metro challenging the legality of it. However, he objected if it was a ploy to stall the funding.

"My attitude is, fine. Number one, I don't want to be illegal, but, number two, don't use it as a stall," the premier said.

STUDENTS OF CENTENNIAL SCHOOL PRESENT "OLIVER" AT THE JOHN ELLIOT THEATRE
Tues. March 5 & Wed. March 6 & Thurs. March 7
7:30 P.M.
MATINEE PERFORMANCE
Wed. March 6 at 1:00 p.m.
STUDENTS & SENIORS - \$2.00
ADULTS - \$4.00
FAMILY - \$8.00
Tickets available from Mrs. Cowan of Centennial School.
877-6976

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TOWN OF HALTON HILLS
1985 TAXES INTERIM BILLING
In accordance with the provisions of The Municipal Act, pursuant to By-law 85-10 adopted by Council on January 14th, 1985, the first two instalments of taxes for 1985 will become due as follows:
ALL WARDS FIRST INSTALMENT February 27th, 1985
SECOND INSTALMENT April 24th, 1985
The above instalments represent an interim billing of 1985 taxes based upon one-half of last year's residential mill rates. The final tax bill will be issued about the middle of the year and will also be payable in two instalments, normally the last Wednesday in June and September.
Upon default of payment of the interim tax levy as set out above, a penalty of one and one-quarter (1 1/4) percent of the amount in default shall be added on the first day of default and on the first day of each and every calendar month. Ratepayers who have not received a tax bill should make immediate application at 36 Main Street South, Georgetown, or by telephone (877-5185 or 453-2411).
PAYMENT OF TAXES
These taxes may be paid at the locations and in the manner detailed on the back of the tax bill.
G.F. Usher, A.M.C.T. Deputy Treasurer Tax Collector

PROCLAMATION DRUG AWARENESS WEEK
WHEREAS, drugs and their effect upon the lives of our citizens continues undiminished, despite efforts by government, citizens organizations and many individuals, and
WHEREAS, the problems of drugs touch and affect all segments of our society undermining and eroding the moral and economic strengths of our communities and their citizens, and
WHEREAS, there is still a reluctance on the part of many citizens to involve themselves in action to insure the well-being of their fellow citizens, and
WHEREAS, Service clubs and their members continue to sponsor and support programs aimed at combating drugs through year-round efforts; now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that I Russ Miller Mayor of Halton Hills proclaim the week February 24th to March 2nd, 1985, as DRUG AWARENESS WEEK and ask all citizens of Halton Hills to join with the Service clubs in carrying the message of drug awareness to other citizens, and by example, exercise responsible citizenship.
Done at the town of Halton Hills this Fourteenth day of January in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and eighty five.
Signed Russell Miller (Mayor)
YOUR TEEN AND DRUGS
AUTHOR **NORMAN PANZICA**
WILL SPEAK AT THE **GEORGETOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIUM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1985 8 PM**
• FREE FORUM!
• OPEN TO ALL CONCERNED ADULTS.
• DRUG AND ALCOHOL CONCERNS TO BE DISCUSSED.
• DRUG DISPLAY COURTESY OF THE HALTON REGIONAL POLICE
• PAMPHLETS, BOOKS AVAILABLE.