

Cuts and freezes

School board pars the budget

See News A3

Everybody can relate

If you've got one in your neighborhood, the play 'Busybody' will be easy to relate to. GLT opened Friday with this comedy-thriller at John Elliott Theatre. See page A8.

Swim crown denied

Official meet draws protest

See Sports C1

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ABOUT THE HILLS

Fire causes \$70,000 damage

An Acton woman and three children were driven from their home on McDonald Boulevard after a fire started in the basement Saturday morning.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined which left approximately \$70,000 in damages and took the life of the family dog.

Money to hire students

The federal government has a "Summer Employment Experience Program" which contributes to the hiring of young people.

The government is willing to pay private sector employers 50 per cent of students' wages, up to \$3 an hour.

For municipalities, SEED will pay up to 75 per cent of the provincial wage, and for non-profit groups, it will pay up to 100 per cent of the provincial wage.

March 15 is the deadline for SEED applications. For more information, call Jo Anne Lockhart at 451-8833 or the Employment Development Branch at 966-8315.

Children at birth

"Children at Birth" is a topic members of the Brampton Birth Alternatives Co-alition will be discussing March 4 when they meet at 48 Terryhill Square.

The meeting begins at 8 p.m. and everybody is welcome. For more information, call Susan at 873-1479 or Andrea at 846-2161.

Premier cost-sharing?

Ontario's premier Frank Miller and his Minister of the Environment Morley Kells are being invited to Halton to talk about money and garbage.

Regional councillors extended the invitation last week asking the two men to meet with the solid waste management committee, regional chairman Peter Pomeroy and the four area mayors to work out a cost sharing agreement for a regional dump, and the accompanying environmental assessment and hearing.

"I'm deadily serious about this event coming off," Burlington Mayor Roly Bird said.

Already, the region has spent nearly \$1 million to name a suitable site for holding garbage.

New Kiwanis chapter

The Georgetown Kiwanis Club is one of four area clubs that helped start up a Meadowvale Kiwanis Club.

The charter night for the new club is April 2, and members of the Georgetown, Flower City, Brampton, Humber Valley, Toronto and Kingsway clubs will be present.

"We've been actively working on putting it together for over a year now," Georgetown Kiwanis president Tom Reed said.

To start a club, 25 members are needed. Already, the Meadowvale Kiwanis have 30 members. Georgetown's Grant Isaac chaired the program to rustle Meadowvale membership.

Busybody continues

Georgetown Little Theatre's production "Busybody" continues Wednesday through Saturday Feb. 27 - March 2.

Come and join in for some laughter and suspense as you try to unravel the clues.

The play, the ACT-50 Festival entry will be adjudicated following the March 2 performance by Sandy Black, the audience is invited to remain for the public adjudication.

For tickets call 877-3700. Please note that all "Promenade All" tickets will be honoured for "Busybody".

New business man

Donald Eastwood has been hired as Halton Region's business development officer, it was announced last week.

Mr. Eastwood spent two years as an economic development officer with a major urban municipality, said Brent Kears, director of business development.

Mr. Eastwood has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in economic geography from the University of Waterloo.

He will be responsible for assisting prospective and existing regional firms with their physical space and facility requirements.

As a member of the business development department, he will assist regional businesses to assess senior government programs and services, said Mr. Kears.

Snow budget piling up for town

By ANI PEDIERIAN
Herald Staff

That flaky white stuff cost the town \$104,026 to plow off the roads last year. That's \$35,931 more than the snowplowing budget allowed.

As for the sidewalks, the town budgeted \$4,000 to keep them clear in 1984, and ended up spending more than twice as much, \$8,199.

Already this year, the town has spent \$58,000 for snowplowing, town engineer Bob Austin told The Herald.

"We're within budget," he reassured, declining however, to name the 1985 budget for snowplowing. It's currently being set by the budget committee, and will soon come before council for approval.

Mr. Austin wasn't able to say how much had been spent for clearing the town's sidewalks in the last two months.

Although January and February may appear to be heavy snowfall months, they're nothing like the record-breaking month of December 1983. Mr. Austin said the public works department spent \$200,000 for snowplowing roads and sidewalks that month.

"February is shaping

up pretty good," Mr. Austin said.

However, the last week of January wasn't very kind to the snow budget. Mr. Austin said the town racked up 450 hours of overtime in that one week.

Like early last week, snowplows go out not just when there's fresh snow, but also when road conditions become poor because of blowing snow.

"We budget on 16 storms a year," the town engineer said, and not by what was spent the year before, he said.

According to Environment Canada climatologist Denis Paquette, the town received 133.2 centimeters of snow in 1984. So far this year, it has received approximately 97 centimeters.

"People think we got a lot of snow this year," Mr. Paquette said. "We haven't. We just haven't had any thaw."

He said usually there's a thaw after snowfalls. This year there hasn't been breaks of weather warm enough to melt the snow, and instead it's been accumulating.

"It's the same amount of snow, it's just in our heads that we've had a lot of snow," Mr. Paquette said with a chuckle.

Patching potholes isn't cheap job

Herald Staff

Patching potholes isn't cheap, although it's cheaper than building a new road.

Last year, the town doled out \$105,156 to mend those axle-busters on its 286 kilometers of roadway.

Town engineer Bob Austin said only a minority of the town's roads are in bad shape, and most of them are gravel roads.

Although the number of asphalt roads has been steadily increasing, gravel roads still make up more than half the roads in Halton Hills.

Mr. Austin said the town's working at making more and more of those gravel roads into

asphalt roads.

Asphalt roads are easier to take care of, the town engineer said.

"The maintenance costs are horrendously less, but the capital costs are tremendous," he said.

To help the town convert gravel roads to asphalt, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications offers a 50 per cent subsidy.

Patching up the ruts on gravel roads cost the town \$35,234 last year. Patching asphalt roads cost \$69,922 in 1984.

Last year, there was construction on Georgetown's McNabb, Albert and Guelph Streets and on Acton's Meadowvale and Westcott Roads.

Break-up has peaked

Credit flowing smoothly

Water levels on the Credit River peaked early Monday morning and "the worst is over now."

That's according to Credit Valley Conservation Authority general manager Glen Schnarr.

So far the CVCA is only monitoring the breakup of ice and spring runoff. Blasting crews will be made available, but to date there hasn't been a need for their use, Mr. Schnarr said.

However he cautioned, "Mother nature can always make a liar out of you."

Across the Credit River system the water flow has been coming down steadily without any major problems, he said.

One area in Glen Williams is causing some flooding over the Credit River banks.

On backyards bordering the river between the Barber Mill dam and north of the Glen Williams Main Street bridge, ice blocks have caused a jam.

The water level isn't threatening any of the houses.

Monday morning the river hadn't flooded any homes in Terra Cotta or the Willow Trailer Park in Norval, although some buildings were precariously close to the raging river.

The river system peaked Monday between 3 a.m. and 8 p.m. Mr. Schnarr said he's pleased with how the breakup has been going in Glen Williams and Halton Hills.

Parents are being



The Credit River rose to near dangerous levels Monday morning after a few days of spring-like weather. This picture, taken at about 8

a.m. was the time the river had reached its peak level, according to a Credit Valley Conservation Authority spokesman.

(Herald photo)

warned to keep their children away from the Credit River and other water bodies in Halton Hills, by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Water resources manager Don Tefft said children shouldn't be playing near the water, which has been rising with the weekend rain and warmer temperatures.

Keep a close eye on your youngsters and help avoid a tragedy.

Glen Williams came through "with flying colors" over the weekend, the town's public

works director Frank Morette proclaimed Tuesday morning.

Despite fears flooding would be a problem in the village, the rainfall and melting snow Saturday and Sunday caused very little problems in the Glen.

Mr. Morette attributed it to stepblocks developed by the Credit River Dam by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. They allow water to flow more easily.

The situation was the same in both Acton and Georgetown urban areas, Mr. Morette said.

"We were quite fortunate. There were very few complaints," he said.

However, things weren't so great in the rural areas, where public works staff had to close off Sideroad 5 between Eighth and Ninth Lines. A culvert wasn't taking enough of the water coming through, and it was eight inches deep on Sideroad 5.

Although the worst is over now, the department is still hauling gravel and other granular material to the wash-out areas.

There was one inch, or 24.1 millimeters of rainfall Saturday.

Precipitation built from six millimeters on Thursday, to 7.2 on Friday to 24.1 on Saturday (about one inch). Sunday it dropped off to only one millimeter of rainfall.

In Georgetown, Mr. Morette said his staff went to a Raylawn Crescent home Saturday where residents feared water would come into their house from a back ditch. Public works staff used their snow shovels and made a path for the water.

A RECORD?

Short, but not sweet

Herald Staff
Monday night's 15 minute council meeting had to be a record.

"If there's no delegation or anything important for council to deal with, why don't we call off the council meeting," Coun. Mike Armstrong said.

"It seems ridiculous to drive down for a 15-

minute meeting. It could have been done by a conference call."

Last week's general committee meeting was cancelled because there wasn't enough on the agenda to warrant holding it.

Although council's had it easy the last couple of

weeks, finance committee chairman Coun. Ross Knechtel warned of tough meetings ahead, as the 1985 budget looms closer on the agenda.

He said March 9, councillors are to have a day long budget meeting.

"A lot of hard work, I assure you. We've got some real problems," Coun. Knechtel warned.

Hundreds call about flooding with problems

The region's phones were ringing non-stop over the weekend as concerned homeowners called about flooding problems.

Public works director Bob Moore said several hundred calls were received from throughout the region.

A lot of calls had to do with ground water and storm sewer problems, which are problems looked after by local municipalities, he said.

Mr. Moore had three pieces of advice for home owners worried about flooding.

He suggests you check that your property is graded away from your house. If the fall of the land is away from the home, the melt water will flow away too.

Make sure weeping tiles around your house aren't feeding into the sanitary sewers, but into the storm sewers.

As well, make sure the down spouts from your roof aren't pouring into the sanitary sewer, either, but into the storm sewers.

If you've got water trickling into your basement, or wet walls, Mr. Moore suggests it may be a structural fault and you should contact a private contractor to check it out.

Housing proposal deferred

An Ontario Municipal Board hearing into an application to develop land northwest of Fairy Lake was deferred from April to possibly late May.

The land is west of Lakeview Subdivision in Acton, to the First Line, and 100 acres large.

A 'people' person customizes his jokes

What do the critics say about the banquet," he says laughing.

Steamer Emmerson?

Actually, it's pretty hard to find someone who will say a negative word about this year's Citizen of the Year.

Coun. Mike Armstrong who has known Steamer most of his life says, "you couldn't find a better guy. When he walked into a room, he lit it up."

"It would be hard to find someone in this town who would say something bad about him," Coun. Armstrong says.

Steamer had the ability while on council to put a number of people together and to get them to collectively put their ideas together. There wasn't 'for and against' factions with Steamer as mayor, Coun. Armstrong says.

"Steamer could see humor in everyone," he says.

That's exactly what happened at a banquet in his honor Saturday held by the Lions Club of Georgetown.

A former councillor who represented the town the same time as Steamer Emmerson, Sandy MacKenzie, attended the banquet.

"Steamer likes to use a lot of jokes," Mr. MacKenzie says. "He's good at customizing jokes to suit personalities." He took a strip off of Pete Pomeroy and John McDermid at

the banquet," he says laughing.

The former mayor of Georgetown is characterized as optimistic, very friendly and an "up front type of guy".

The two friends usually meet on Mr. MacKenzie's street where Steamer walks his dog every day.

The citizen of the year still likes to talk local politics and keep a keen eye on what's going on in the community, Mr. MacKenzie says.

Former Herald editor and publisher Walter Biehn remembers him as a "pretty darn good mayor".

"If you meet him once you don't forget him," he says. "He's a million dollar personality."

Mr. Biehn recalls Steamer initiating a mayor's clean up day in the spring where service clubs and scouts took part.

Bill Hunter of Terra Cotta worked with Steamer on town council. "He was a good mayor, great at meeting the public. He was there all the time," says Mr. Hunter.

As a member of the Cancer Society in Georgetown Steamer is known for keeping everyone going and 'up', says president Barb Johnson. "He's full of energy and full of ideas; he's exactly the type of person you need with the cancer society," she says.



Steamer Emmerson (centre) was the guest of honor Saturday night as the Lions Club held their annual Citizen of the Year dinner in Georgetown. Celebrating with Mr. Emmerson, were Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller (left) and Lions Club president Carl Hansen.