



CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF
Holding the annual Cancer Society flag in Georgetown last week were volunteers (left to right) Doris McNabb, campaign chairman Mart Allison, Steamer Emmerson, Mayor Russ Miller and Christina Golden. April is Cancer month and volunteers, dedicated to the cause for many years, will be coming round to homes and businesses to collect donations. (Herald photo)



TAPPED OUT
Staff members Michelle Bartlett, Rosalind Mecheffe, Jennifer Bateman and Marly Bateman crowd around a pot of maple syrup stirring inside one of the wooden shacks at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre near Campbellville. Mountsberg in the early spring is a favourite for families wanting to watch how to tap a sugar-bush to make maple syrup. (Herald photo)



SUMMER SWIMS
Georgetown's 'Work That Body' presented their own style of fashion last week with 'Fashions to Spring Into Shape', Rhonda Hall, Virginia Walker, Donna Lauthier and Laurie Burns display what will be the fashionable swimwear for this summer season. (Herald photo)

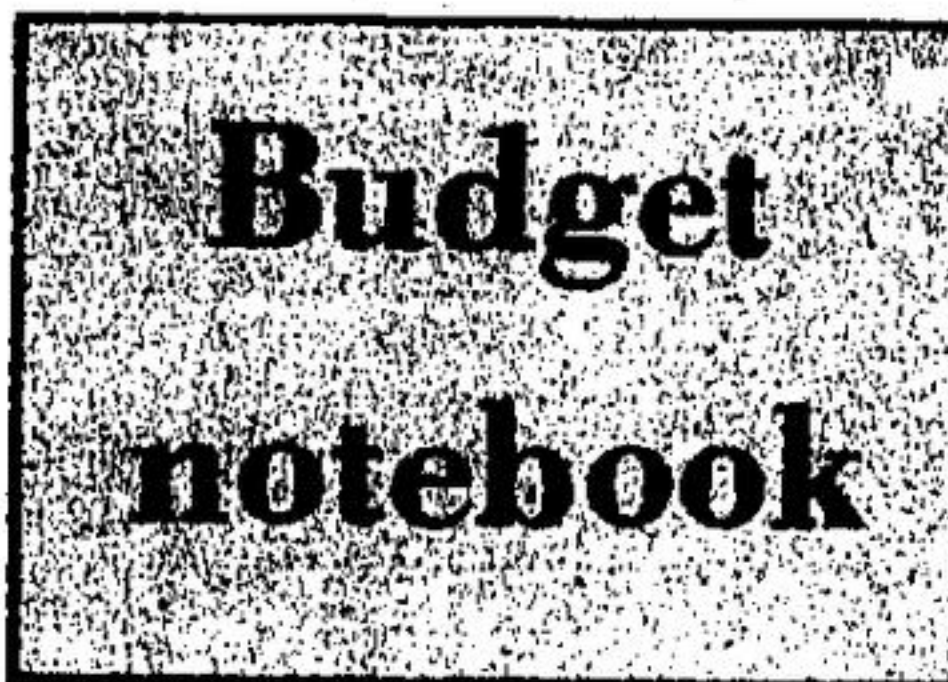
April euchre cancelled
April's Red Cross euchre has been cancelled due to the Easter holidays but will resume on May 3 at 8 p.m. at Scout Hall, on School Lane in Acton with prizes and lunch provided. Information may be obtained at 853-2799 or 853-2965.

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'No real accountability'
Secrecy is undemocratic: Sheldon

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff
Conceiving a budget in secrecy is undemocratic, and almost prompted her to vote against the 1985 town budget Monday night, Coun. Pam Sheldon said.
"I considered not supporting the budget this evening. I thought long and hard about it, but I decided I couldn't do that because there was a lot of hard work in it," Coun. Sheldon, a member of the budget committee, said.
She said she was unhappy with the in-camera method of preparing the town's budget.
"I don't think it's democratic. The public has a right to know how we make our decisions," Coun. Sheldon said.
Otherwise, there's no real accountability, she said.
Holding budget meetings closed to the press and public is contrary to the town's policy, Coun. Sheldon said. The policy holds that only legal or personnel matters should be dealt with in-camera.
All committee meetings by town councillors, except for general committee meetings, are now closed to the press.
"The decision to meet this way is a council decision," budget committee chairman Ross Knechtel said.
He said many things that can't be discussed in public are discussed in the closed committee meetings.
Once the town's five year forecast is done



with, would be a good time to look at the issue, Coun. Knechtel said.
Noting that the Halton regional government's council and committee meetings are all open to the public and press, Coun. Mike Armstrong said, "...our task down there is different from what it is here...isn't given the same time and effort as it is here."
The long and arduous budget committee task is one that would "bore the press to tears", Coun. Armstrong claimed.

"If you're going to leave the doors open, don't think you're going to have anybody there," he said.
Mayor Russ Miller said he supported open budget committee meetings, but that they should be phased in.
"I don't think we'd come out with a better budget, no matter how we do it," he said.
Opening the doors wouldn't change much of what was said by councillors, the Mayor said.
For the first time in presenting the town's budget to the press, the mayor, councillors and town staff held a press conference at 6 p.m. Monday, an hour before the council meeting at which the budget was passed.
As well, the press were able to pick up copies of the budget at 1:30 p.m. from the town treasurer, so they could have time to peruse it before the press conference.
These changes are a big step in the town becoming more open, Mayor Miller said.
The most outspoken opponent to the open budget meetings was Coun. Harry Levy.
"I don't agree with what's been said and there are many reasons," he said. "We, without outside interference, are able to look at the budget objectively."
"I've got a feeling that would not happen as easily...with each councillor out for their own ward rather than where the need is most urgent."

IN BRIEF

Service cuts
Herald Staff
A counselling service in Halton Hills may be further cut because Burlington Youth Residences didn't get as big a regional grant as it wanted.
Burlington Youth Residences wanted another \$2,835 more than what the region was willing to hand out. Last week's appeal for more than a 5 per cent increase over the 1984 grant to the agency was unsuccessful.
As it stands, the counselling service is getting a \$27,011 grant.
Burlington Youth counsels parents and troubled teenagers in the region.
"We have no place else to turn for funds," board director John Steven said.
He said a reduction in funding in 1984 meant the agency had to cut back its counselling and parenting series from 24 to 20 hours a week in Halton Hills.
"We'll have to further reduce our time spent in the north," Mr. Steven warned.
He noted there was no United Way in Halton Hills that his group could turn to for money to support work in the north.

Anti-drinking grant
Herald Staff
The Anti-Drinking and Driving Committee got a \$500 grant from town council Monday night, on the request of Committee chairman Pam Sheldon.
Coun. Sheldon said the program hasn't lost its momentum and needs the money to make copies of two hard-to-get films it's been using at school presentations.
As well, the money would be spent on bumper stickers and other needs that came up, she said.
Approving the grant, councillors however, indicated they expect the community to be supporting the committee in future. They said this grant was to help ease the transferring of the financial burden onto service clubs and other community support groups.
Last year, the committee got \$1,000 to get started up.
By not giving a grant this year, the town would be taking a backward step, Coun. Dave Whiting warned.

John Street may get a sidewalk
Herald Staff
If there's any money left in the pot from construction projects this year, Georgetown's John Street will have a sidewalk.
That's what councillors decided to do after Coun. John McDonald made a plea that the sidewalk not be deleted from the 1985 town budget.
The \$26,600 project had been canned last year because it was \$7,000 short of what was needed.
The original budget hadn't taken into account the extra work involved because the slope of the land required steps.
"It was carried over to this year's (budget) so it could be done fully," Coun. McDonald said, reminding fellow councillors of an accident involving a youngster two years ago on that street.
The road is heavily travelled with workers heading to the Smith and Stone plant, and it's narrow too, he said.
Coun. Harry Levy reminded Coun. McDonald that the budget committee hadn't made its decisions lightly on the 1985 budget package.
"We as the committee, hate to make cuts. Unfortunately, these are

Some items outrageous
Coun. Serjeantson says

Herald Staff
Some items in the town's 1985 budget sound "outrageous" to Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson.
She picked off the \$70,500 budget for the Wesleyan Street parking lot as one of the "outrageous" items, Monday night.
To be paid for entirely by the taxpayer, the project includes paving the lot, drainage and



MARILYN SERJEANTSON

installation of meters, town engineer Bob Austin explained.
Another extravagant item noticed by Coun. Serjeantson was \$8,500 to build an exit door at the Georgetown Memorial Arena.
Recreation and parks director Tom Shepard said he was required to have this dressing room exit as there aren't enough exits out of there. Mr. Shepard said

Crawford staff offer sugar maple exhibits
Crawford Lake staff will demonstrate how the native people at Crawford Lake prepared maple sugar during the 1400s. There will also be regular tours of the long-house and Crawford Lake that describes the unique characteristics of these two features.
Special events will also be offered to visitors on Sundays and include such activities as bead work demonstrations, a presentation and hike on edible wild plants, a watercolor art exhibit on Crawford Lake, a seminar on hiking, camping and outdoor equipment and a program on canoeing and camping opportunities at Ontario's wilderness park, Quetico Provincial Park.
Exhibits and displays on Crawford Lake trails, North American Indians and the evolution of Dinosaurs will also be available for viewing in the Conservation Centre.
Crawford Lake Conservation Area is located on Steeles Ave. and Guelph Line, just south of Hwy 401. For further information, call (416) 878-4131 (weekdays) or (416) 854-0234 (weekends and holidays).

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Crawford staff offer sugar maple exhibits

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