

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST



Across Halton Hills churches rang in the good news. It was Palm Sunday last week and at St. George's Anglican Church the congregation celebrated with the waving of palms. Seen here are (left to right) Tanya Martin, Sabrina Bassett and Ryan Martin.

(Herald photo)



TOP TALKERS

Optimist Club public speaking winners were established last week when representatives from the various schools in Halton Hills competed for medallions. Winners were (front row, left to right) Second to Anne-Marie Vito, First to Julie Holmes, Third to Brenda Walsh, (back row) Second to Sean Guistini, First to Wes McCauley and Third to Gordon Hillton.

(Herald photo)

Emergency offices selected

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

The town's council chambers on Trafalgar Road in Georgetown and Acton's Bower Street fire hall have been named communications headquarters in the case of an emergency in Halton Hills.

The two buildings were chosen by an emergency planning task force that expects to make public its report this summer.

Deputy fire chief Bob Hyde said the task force has representatives from the fire, engineering and planning departments, the clerk's office, Halton regional police and the region.

Together, these representatives have been working on a document that outlines what course of action should be taken during a declared emergency.

The task force was formed December 1983.

"What we're doing is tying down the format for the political field to deal with an emergency situation," Mr. Hyde said Monday night to town councillors.

If the emergency situation becomes too large for the town to handle on its own, it will go to the regional level, all the while maintaining local input; from there, help may be requested from the province, Mr. Hyde said.

Florida travels

By WINIFRED SMITH
Herald Correspondent
BALLINAFAD - Marilyn and Del Linstead and family arrived home on Saturday after a three week holiday in Florida.

Sally Ann for May

May is the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal month. Last week, town councillors made a proclamation designating it so.

Less than \$2 increase

Region taxes rise 3.8%

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Today (Wednesday), regional councillors are expected to approve a 1985 regional budget which would raise your regional tax bill by \$1.65 in Halton Hills.

That's a one per cent increase over last year's regional portion of your tax bill, if your residential assessment is \$5,500.

Across the region, the average increase was 3.85 per cent, or \$7 above last year's bill.

Why is Halton Hills' increase so slight?

According to regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo it has to do with property values. As property values go up in a municipality, so too does that municipality's share of the regional levy.

The drop in Halton Hills' share of the regional levy from 11.15 to 10.88 per cent means property values in the town aren't keeping up with those in the rest of the region, Mr. Rinaldo explained.

While Halton Hills is only paying 10.88 per cent of the regional bill



JOE RINALDO

for regional services like police, boards and agen-

cies. Burlington is paying 40.36 per cent, Milton is paying 11.5 per cent and Oakville 37.26 per cent.

The two northern municipalities in the region are paying much less than the more industrial and populated ones in the south.

Through taxation, Halton Hills has to raise \$2,977 this year for regional services. Last year's regional levy raised \$2,919.

In comparison, Burlington has to raise

\$10,669 or 5.9 per cent more than they did in 1984.

However, although Halton Hills' tax increase is slight, and its portion of the regional levy is smaller, the individual taxpayer has to pay nearly \$3 more on their tax bill than the Burlington homeowner.

That's because the province has an equalization formula of assessment to market value which impacts negatively on the town this year.

Through its levy, the region will collect \$26,723 for its 1985 budget.

Regional tax increases have been curtailed to average \$10 in the past three years, treasurer Rinaldo said.

Oakville Coun. Carol Gooding noted part of that is due to the provincial grants the region has been receiving.

Mr. Rinaldo agreed that the unconditional grants have a large impact on the region's budget and can alter taxation considerably.

This year, the region is receiving a 4.5 per cent increase in unconditional grants over last year, or \$9,487.

Acton Chamber needs new members: director

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

The Acton Chamber of Commerce needs new members badly, especially members with an optimistic and enthusiastic attitude.

That's what the Chamber's first vice-president and membership chairman Jennie Kuiken says.

She said there seems to be "a total lack of interest" in the Chamber by merchants and area industries. At a recent Chamber meeting, turnout was poor and "disillusioning", Mrs. Kuiken said.

Because of the lack of members willing to help out on Chamber projects, this year's Ciderfest activities may not go on.

"I don't see where we're going to get the bodies in the town to do the Ciderfest," Mrs. Kuiken told The Herald. "One person can't do it, and even three or four can't do it."

Many merchants have a negative attitude, unfortunately, when it comes to the Chamber, she said.

Household goods stolen

A color television, VCR and jewellery were taken from a residence on Mill Street in Acton Saturday evening.

Halton regional police have no value on the goods stolen at this time. Entry was gained after a door had been forced.

The Chamber regulars who've been doing all the work are feeling burned out and want to lighten their load.

"Some people are sick and tired of prodding all the time. One local merchant has been in it

30 years and says he's had it," Mrs. Kuiken said.

With over 270 names on a "potential member" list, drawn up last year, Mrs. Kuiken is going to undertake a membership blitz.

Forgot to brake

A 20 year old Georgetown resident with a week's driving experience stepped on the gas pedal instead of the brake resulting in approximately \$50 in damages.

The 1977 Buick was westbound on Guelph Street when it left the road and struck a house damaging the lawn, a post, the house railing and a wall.

The female driver was charged with careless driving by Halton regional police, after the March 24 incident.

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