

The year in review -- highlights of 1985

# AAA rating for region

**By ANI PEDERIAN**  
Herald Staff

Nothing like starting off a new year on the right foot. Halton region had that kind of a start in 1985.

Early in January, the regional treasurer had good news for councillors. With a proud and beaming face, Joe Rinaldo announced Halton had joined the ranks of Peel and Metropolitan Toronto, earning a triple A rating by the Canadian Bond Rating Service.

It was a first for Halton, a region that had considerable financial troubles in the late seventies. The AAA rating is the highest credit rating the Service can give and means Halton has been assessed to be a financially and economically strong region.

The good news made Halton the third region in the province to have such a rating. Besides the honor of such a ranking, there's the financial benefit in the region being able to save about \$3 million on interest payments for debentures.

What could top that high in 1985? Not too much, councillors found, as the lengthy wrangles over establishing a new regional dumpsite for Halton became more and more complicated and expensive. The year is over, the region is out a couple of million dollars, and still Halton hasn't a dump for

municipal wastes from Halton Hills, Burlington, Milton and Oakville.

Whatever savings the region was making thanks to its triple A rating and other successful programs, Halton was doling out of its other pocket for dump studies.

In February, the choice was narrowed down to the Burlington site as the "preferred" location for Halton's next regional dump. The choice of the 219 acre quarry site owned by National Sewer Pipe was made from a short list of six, and not surprisingly, didn't please Burlington councillors.

While additional studies were undertaken to prepare further documentation on not only the preferred site but also on the next best site, in Milton, Halton's garbage continued to be shipped to New York State to be burned as fuel by Occidental Chemicals Energy From Waste. This shipping of garbage is still on-going and will be for a three year period, by which time councillors hope to have a new landfill approved by the province and in operation.

The environmental assessment hearings are yet to be held and with all the affected groups gearing up for a big fight, promise to drag out through the

bulk of 1986. It will be tooth and claw between Milton and Burlington as each struggles to throw the hot potato of a regional dump in the other's lap.

Needless to say, garbage was a topic well thrashed out throughout 1985 by regional council. Although Ford Motor Company rejected an energy from waste plant to incinerate municipal garbage for energy at its Oakville plant, back in 1984, Acton's Chamber of Commerce indicated a willingness to take part in such a project with local waste this year. Before year end, a committee was established to study such a plant in Acton.

The public has taken time to mellow over the concept and to learn more about it since the first introduction of energy from waste in Halton, it appears. The upcoming year will prove interesting in this regard.

Halton was praised for its recycling program in all municipalities and earned two awards at a provincial conference this fall for encouraging recycling in the region.

On another vein, the region received three volumes from its consultant on how to enhance tourism Halton-wide. Action on the points made remains to be seen. However, a tourism co-ordinating committee has

been formed and local municipalities are eagerly awaiting its results.

Other tid bits of regional events during the year included the re-election of Peter Pomeroy for a second term as regional chairman; the rejection of a pension plan for regional councillors, unlike Peel region; the closing of agreement forests to hunters, just before the winter deer hunt; the acceptance of responsibility for toxic spills under the new provincial Environmental Protection Act; the establishment of the emergency number 911; the installation of special recording equipment to record committee and council meetings for transcribing; the move toward controlling smoking in the workplace by Project Smokeless; the undertaking of a feasibility study on Halton Region Museum; the budgeting of \$4,000 for an affirmative action study of regional hiring and employment; the operation of a successful municipal energy audit program that's saving at least 20 per cent of heating bills on all buildings studied; the improvement of the regional building washrooms and ramp for the handicapped; and last but not least, the resolution of the struggle between the Halton board of education and the regional health department over head lice screening in the schools.

# Schools avoid major problems in 1985

**By SANDY CAMPBELL**  
Herald Staff

There were no catastrophes in education this year, only circumstances that could have created one. Extended funding to separate schools, budget cuts, contract negotiations with staff, a consolidation study, the loss of a public school trustee in the north, were all potentially major problems that were handled with care.

Budget cuts bounded the public school system this year. Support from the government dropped to less than a 1 per cent increase over last year. Meanwhile the increase in teachers' salaries was almost 5 per cent. To help solve funding shortages the public school board had to rely on more municipal funding, Arlene Bruce, Chairman of the Halton Board of Education, said.

By doing this, homeowners ended up paying more taxes. "The province is transferring the responsibility to the municipality. I think it makes more sense for the government to pay," she said. If this was done, payments would be better distributed and not only homeowners would pay, she explained.

The extension of funding to Catholic schools is another event of 1985 that will hurt the public system, Mrs. Bruce said. Giving money to Catholic schools before legalities have been resolved "is like building a house and not having a permit to do it with," she said. After the gains of 1985, Irene McCauley, Vice-Chairman of the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board, is confident funding will be granted for separate schools up to Grade 13. She is also looking forward to the opening of a Catholic high school in Milton.

While plans for the high school in Milton develop, plans to shut down public schools in Halton Hills are coming to a close. The Halton Hills Consolidation Committee is almost at the point of announcing which schools should be closed because of declining enrolments.

After 28 meetings of 2 1/2 hours each, which began in January of 1985, the committee is finished collecting data and "are on the verge of making a decision," John Kavanagh, co-chairman of the committee, said.

Mr. Kavanagh said the committee is right on schedule. "Because of the large number in the committee I thought the task would be difficult, if not impossible. It's been the reverse," he said. He expects the committee will announce its findings to the public some time in March, after they make their presentation to the Halton Board of Education.

Halton Hills lost a trustee position on the public board this year. Equalized assessment resulted in combining Wards 1 and 2 which are now Arlene Bruce's wards. Wards 3 and 4 remained joined and Dick Howitt is now the trustee for those residents.

"The biggest loss was losing Betty Fisher from the board. She was a tremendous trustee for the north end of the region," Chairman Bruce said. Or less trustee in the north will mean more work for Dick Howitt and Arlene Bruce and one less person the people of Halton Hills can go to for help, Chairman Bruce said.

## Hobos donate

The Hungry Hollow Hobos camping club recently made a cheque donation to the Ronald McDonald House in Toronto. The \$100 handed over was raised from a summer camp-out and an auction.

## Carols for charity

Braving the chilling winds of December, seven students from Stewarttown Public School raised \$103.35 for The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. The grade 8 students sang for residents in the Moore Park subdivision, in the vicinity of Cinderbarke Terrace and Charles and Harold Streets.

They sang carols both Sunday and Monday nights before Christmas.

# The year in quotes

**Oct. 20**  
"They've left it up to us to decide how many and which. This is a fairer process than a school closure committee." - Betty Fisher, former Halton Board of Education Chairman, explains the Consolidation Committee for Halton Hills, looking at the possibility of closing schools because of low enrolments. Taxpayers and residents make up the majority of the committee.

**March 6**  
"My dad was the one who told me if you really wanted something bad enough you could have it." - Bob Goldham, former NHL defenceman and Hockey Heritage recipient.

**Aug. 7**  
"I can still hear my Japanese friends with their favorite lament: no more Hiroshimas." - retired Georgetown businessman Earl Ryder reflects on his visit to Japan after the Second World War. He wrote an article on the 40th anniversary of the dropping of an atomic bomb.

**Aug. 14**  
"I've personally been fighting it for 17 years, but the time has come." - Harry Levy explains why he's voting for approval of the Georgetown Secondary Plan, paving the way for further expansion. "It doesn't say anything about the people who voted you in. I have a feeling they're going to vote you out." - opponent to the Secondary Plan, A. Blencowe, expresses his opinion.

**Oct. 9**  
"Eighty per cent of the budget is salaries. Seven per cent of trustees have a conflict of interest and cannot vote. Either we need 20 trustees or 13." - retiring trustee Mark Bradley, explaining one of the reasons he won't be seeking re-election.

**Oct. 23**  
"I can remember a time when there were seven people in the audience and three of them were usherettes." Georgetown Little Theatre member Ron Hill reflects on the early days of theatre in town. GLT celebrated their 25th anniversary this year.

**Nov. 13**  
"I'm really disappointed. It was a kick in the teeth. I worked hard for this town." - Dave Whiting, after his defeat in the municipal election.

**April 24**  
"You don't imagine anything like this even happening. It's not like driving a car where you may get hit - you're on the ride for enjoyment." - Martin Ebling, victim of a ferris wheel accident in Georgetown.

**Feb. 20**  
"Scavengers have been appearing around the property since the accident. People don't come down with trailers behind their cars out of curiosity!" - Aluminart Products of Georgetown collapses under the weight of heavy winds and a snow storm. General Manager Jack Dorsay surveys the damage.

**May 8**  
"If Frank Miller had been Frank Miller, it would have been a lot different for me." - defeated candidate Peter Pomeroy after his loss in the provincial election against Liberal Don Knight.

**June 5**  
"You see it on television, but when you see the real thing, that's what got me." - Acton Red Cross worker Eileen McFadden after helping tornado victims in Grand Valley.

**June 19**  
"I knew it was a good one, though I thought I might get applause." - 19 year-old Joy Swain from Georgetown talks to a parliamentary subcommittee studying equality. She told the committee it was unfair women are barred from becoming fighter pilots.

**June 26**  
"Next year she was planning to go to university and get a nursing degree. She found nursing what she really wanted to do." - Rajiv Kalsi, brother of Indira, one of the passengers killed on the Air India jetliner.

**July 10**  
"How do you address what is going to happen to the quality of life on that road?" - Russ Bailey, one of the

opponents to development south of Georgetown, affecting Mountainview Road residents.



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