

No man's land among farmers' rain-drenched fields

By MARY-LIZ SHAW
Herald Special

Although the weather has noticeably improved over the last two weeks, farmers continue to suffer poor crop yields because of heavy rains this fall.

Norm Biggar, chairman of the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee said many farmers in Halton cannot get their crop off the fields although special machinery, such as four-wheel drive combines, has enabled them to wade through much of the mud and water on the ground.

"It could have been worse," Mr. Biggar said, "but there are still an awful lot of crops out there waiting to be harvested."

The winter wheat and soybean crops were in the greatest danger this fall. Mr. Biggar noted he has managed to harvest 90 per cent of his soybean crop with another 200 acres waiting to come off the fields.

The gravity of this situation has led Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food (MAF) Jack Riddell to tour the province assessing the extent of crop damage. His report should be

available by the beginning of February.

Lee Allison, a communications director at the MAF said the report might lead to some form of emergency retribution for Ontario's farmers, but only if the losses are very high.

"The government will not be making any emergency payments until the amount of damage is fully assessed," Mr. Allison said.

Livestock farmers who harvest corn crops for silage have also been feeling severe losses. Lee Wilkinson,

a Georgetown livestock farmer has approximately 900 acres of corn for feed sitting in his fields.

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"The weather has just about made it impossible to get the crops off," Mr. Wilkinson said. "We've even rented a four-wheel drive combine but there's only so much mud you can go through."

Mr. Wilkinson, who does not have crop insurance, estimates he will lose between \$100-\$150,000 this year.

"Things are very grim," Mr. Wilkinson said. "The crops are pretty good - if we could just get them off."

Crippling losses across the province have also led to a review of Ontario's crop insurance plan, which guarantees farmers a crop even if they can't be harvested. The crop insurance commission, operated by the MAF, is reviewing information

released by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and will release its recommendations for changes early in the new year.

A crop insurance agent for the region of Halton and Hamilton, Wentworth said only about one-third of Halton's farmers have crop insurance.

"The farmers must be panicking right now. I can't understand how some farmers do without crop insurance when the weather's been so terrible," said Alison Amos.

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In the hills

Win a trip to Bahamas

Tired of wearing galoshes all the time, having to carry an umbrella and a scarf just to go out for a walk?

If the wet weather is getting you down, think sunshine, think savings.

The Herald, Golliger's Travel and participating merchants are sponsoring a dream trip vacation to the Bahamas. A free trip for a week at the Lucayan Beach Resort in Freeport is up for grabs just by filling out a special ballot form.

The draw will be made in early December and the lucky winner can head south for January 1987.

For contest details, see inside.

Simple scooping

The mystery of effective and simple scooping was revealed at town council Monday night.

An answer to this problem was explained by Coun. Pam Johnston. All that is needed is a plastic bag about the size of a lunch bag. They are available at health food stores, 100 for \$2.50, Coun. Johnston said.

By putting one's hand in the plastic bag one is able to pick up what has fallen. Then the bag just has to be turned inside out, tied and thrown away, Coun. Johnston said.

Top co-op students

It's hard to be modest, but...

A Georgetown firm trained two students who tied for the 1986 co-op award.

Monique Tobin, in English media and Jeff Amato, in a business program, tied with a mark of 97 per cent. Their mark was the highest of the 120 students taking part in the program.

The firm? The Herald.

Face painters



Georgetown Globe Productions will once again be painting faces of children for Halloween. Between 3 and 6 p.m. Oct. 31 in the lobby of the cultural centre on Church St. plain faces will be changed into those of clowns and punks. Seen here are face painters (left) Linda Parker and Karen Mulligan. Painted faces are safer than masks and are perfect for children having difficulty deciding on a costume. Ms. Parker said. (Herald photo)

Learn to skate

Have you ever wanted to learn how to ice skate or improve your skating skills but never took the time or found the right opportunity to give it a try? Well here's your chance!

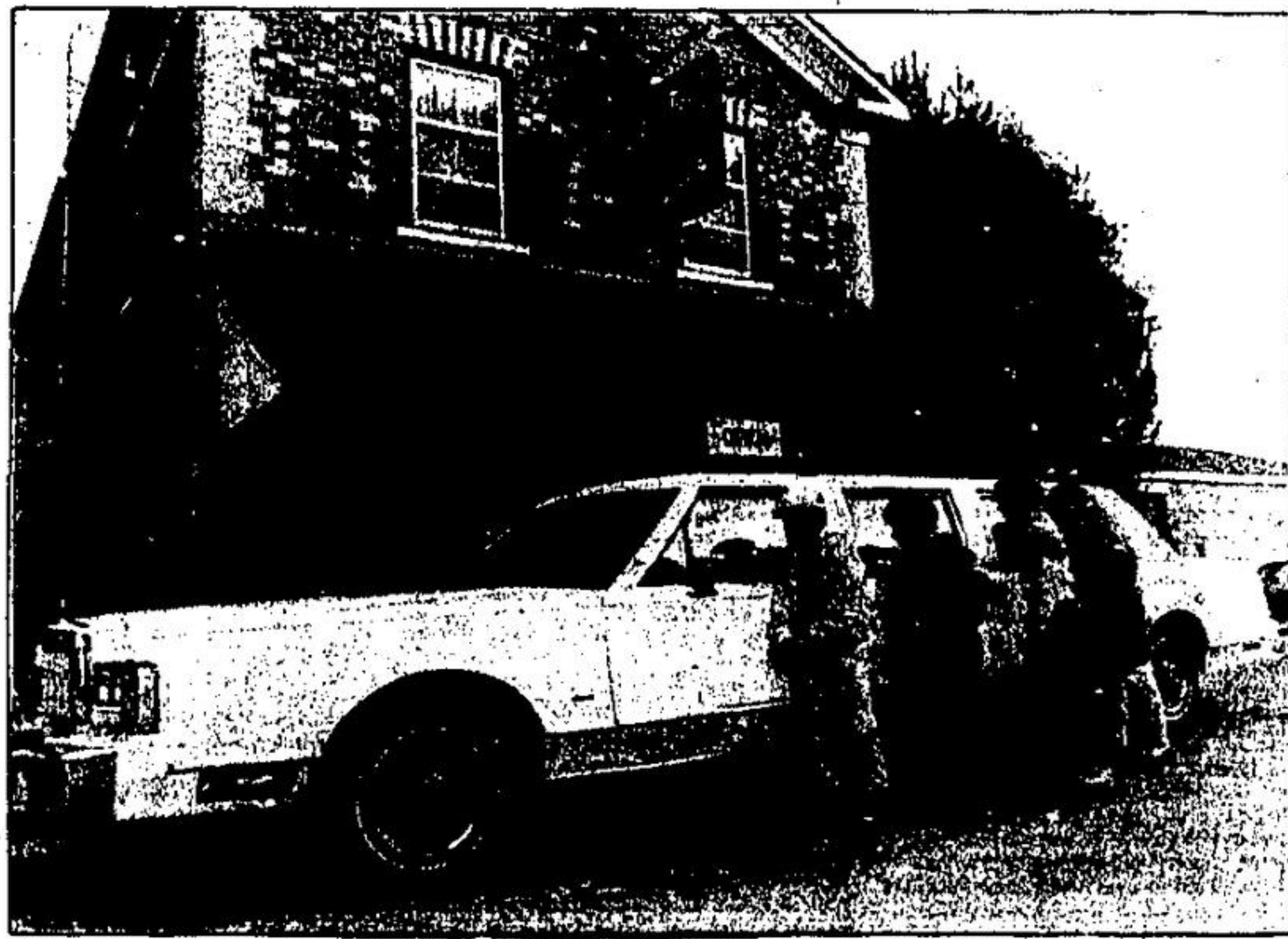
The recreation and parks dept. is now offering an eight week Adult Learn-to-Skate program on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. beginning tonight, Oct. 29.

Call in students!

The reunion committee of the Georgetown District High School is looking for former students they've lost track of.

If you know the whereabouts of the following people, call 877-3443. The Centennial Reunion Celebration, called Back For '87, is a three-day event beginning July 3.

Eileen Jackson, Joan Annandale, E. McKinnon, Robt. Cork, G. Morgan, L. Morgan, I.M. Bewick, D.D. Schoan, Burnell Loughheed, Isabel Loughheed, Eva Winfield, Ruth Oaley, Eileen Bolger, Doris Green, Doris Deforest, Irene Evans, Clarence Floyd, Campbell Ross, Kenneth Wilson, Dorothy Kyrre, Gordon Sharp, Maizie Fountain, Rupert Bell.



Stretching their imaginations

How many times do you see eight white stretch limousines in the quiet village of Glen Williams? Well, Friday afternoon the silence was broken with the hum of V8 engines as the limousines idled in front of The Copper Kettle on Main Street in the Glen. The limousines were

part of a Bell Canada car rally and The Copper Kettle was a rally point where contestants had to make a purchase. Looking in to see if they can spot a millionaire are (from left) Jonathan Norton, 8, Jamie Briggs, 8, Jennifer Norton, 10 and Elizabeth Briggs, 11. (Herald photo)

Acton plant fined \$15,000 for polluting Black Creek

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff

For polluting Acton's Black Creek with a liquid showing traces of mercury and other chemicals, Canada Packers Inc. was fined \$15,000 Oct. 22.

Canada Packers pleaded guilty to the charge in Milton Provincial Court. The source of the pollutant was a pipe on the Beardmore property.

That pipe was discovered on Beardmore property Dec. 5, 1985 by an officer from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, George Nelson. He was taking samples of waste in the lagoons and ground water around landfill sites when he discovered the pipe.

The orange-colored liquid "appeared to be discharging under considerable pressure," said Linda McCaffrey, lawyer for the Ministry of the Environment. Tests of the liquid showed it contained chromium, ammonia, phosphorous and mercury, Ms. McCaffrey said.

The pipe from which the liquid flowed had a valve on it which was open. Charges of polluting were from between Dec. 2 and 6, 1985. The Ministry proved the liquid flowed from at least Dec. 2 (when the last snow fall was) because the snow was undisturbed around the pipe.

The Ministry tested the liquid in two places, where it came from the pipe and where it entered Black Creek about 250 feet away. The concentrations of chromium and mercury increased from the pipe to the creek.

"The effluent picked up more mercury and chromium," Ms. McCaffrey said. Amounts of chromium, phosphorous, ammonia and mercury taken from the pipe and by the creek exceeded acceptable levels,

Ms. McCaffrey said. No amount of mercury in waste is permitted, she said.

The source of the orange liquid was a sludge pump and ground water that had picked up things, Ms. McCaffrey said. The pipe was not connected to anything.

The pipe was once used to carry black water from the tanning process across the creek. Black water is the waste water from the vegetable tanning process, said Peter Takaoka, manager of energy conservation and environmental engineering for Canada Packers.

The pipe was cut about 15 years ago. It was removed by Canada

Packers shortly after it was discovered Dec. 5, 1985. The pipe was not in clear view, but was at the base of an embankment in a heavily wooded area. Mr. Takaoka said he had never seen it before.

Officials from the Ministry of Environment asked the plant foreman if he ever checked for discharges into Black Creek. "He had not checked for discharges for 30 years," Ms. McCaffrey said.

The employees who cut the pipe off 15 years ago made a mistake by leaving it in the ground, said Phillip Sanford, the lawyer for Canada Packers. "The company had no illegal aims," he said.

The lawyer for the Ministry of the Environment asked Canada Packers be fined \$25,000 per day for the three days they proved Black Creek was being polluted. Ms. McCaffrey also pointed out that Canada Packers had been fined before for polluting.

She wanted a fine large enough to have an effect on the multi-million dollar company. Ms. McCaffrey could not prove the polluting was intentional, but she did prove the company saved money by not having to treat the effluent.

The lawyer from Canada Packers, Phillip Sanford, stressed that Canada Packers is a large company and was bound to be charged at some time for polluting. "The company did not have illegal aims," he said. Publicity from the court case is worse than a fine, he said.

In making his decision on the amount of the fine, Judge Robinson said other companies must be alerted standards of the Ministry of the Environment must be met. The standards at the Beardmore tannery were less than what they should be, but it was not proven that the polluting was intentional, he said.

A hero's welcome for Rick Hansen

The accomplishments of wheelchair athlete Rick Hansen aren't being overlooked by the Georgetown Kinsmen service club.

The Kinsmen of Georgetown will be in Toronto Nov. 2 when Rick is scheduled to appear at Nathan Phillips Square.

Mr. Hansen also plans to travel through the south end of Halton region around Nov. 12 and the Georgetown Kinsmen plan to be there to help collect donations.

The Georgetown Kinsmen are helping to co-ordinate the collection of funds in this area. There are plans for a central donation point. At this time, Rick Hansen won't be travelling through Halton Hills, but he will be seen in Guelph and on the road to Arthur.

The Kinsmen members have hopes he may change his mind and re-route his marathon journey through Georgetown.

Bused voters help Norman top the polls

French trustee elections

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff

With the help of two bus-loads of Halton Hills supporters, Ken Norman was elected as a French trustee for the Halton Roman Catholic School Board Oct. 22.

The other two trustees elected are Gilbert McCraw of Oakville and Andres Paradis of Burlington. An estimated 375 voters attended the election at Ecole Ste-Marie in Oakville.

Trustee Norman received 159 votes, Trustee McCraw 124 votes and Trustee Paradis received 113. Three others were in the election. Paulette Laroche of Burlington received 81 votes, Marguerite Broten of Oakville gained 66 votes and Louise Moores of Oakville received 30 votes.

Each voter was allowed to cast as many as three votes for different candidates. Not everyone voted, three times, Trustee Norman said. And there were two spoiled ballots.

About 90 people (60 in buses and 30 in cars) made the 40 minute drive from Halton Hills to Oakville to vote for Trustee Norman, he said.

"It was excellent," said Trustee Irene McCauley of the turnout in Oakville. "The French community has always been very committed to education and language since I have been a trustee (six years)," Trustee McCauley said.

Trustee Norman estimated about 200 of the 2,000 eligible voters are from Halton Hills. Trustee Norman was overwhelmed by the support he received, he said.

He attributed his success to the hard working volunteers who helped with the campaign. Volunteers worked long hours and campaign chairman Marcel Blais did a "fantastic job". Trustee Norman said.

"We're a fairly close group here in Halton Hills."

After the election, over 50 of the Halton Hills voters returned to Trustee Norman's home to celebrate the victory.

The three trustees elected will serve Halton at large. The Catholic Board wanted to have elections for each of the three areas where there is a French school (Oakville, Burlington and Halton Hills), but the Ministry denied this, Trustee Norman said. The trustees will serve at large until the 1988 elections.

Of having another trustee from Halton Hills on the Catholic Board, Trustee McCauley said, "I'm looking forward to it. It will help give us a stronger voice at the Board."



Ken Norman

Andre Paradis

One of Trustee Norman's concerns is there is no Catholic French high school in Halton. Students are bused to Hamilton and Willowdale. He would like to see the Halton and Peel boards co-operate to solve this problem.

Firm protests short list

Town council will acknowledge a letter from a local architectural firm not included in the short list of firms to be interviewed for designing the new town hall, but it won't add the firm to the list.

Councillors said other firms, from the 39 which expressed interest in the project, met the town's criteria, but did not get on the short list to be interviewed.

Although they were sorry Intelco did not state its experience in building two town halls, members were not prepared to change the short list now when interviews are set for Nov. 7.

Three councillors complained that two of the eight firms on the list did not meet the criteria of project management capability and experience in designing a town hall.

They either wanted those firms struck from the list or Intelco added to it.

Municipally Owned Property Committee chairman Pam Sheldon pointed out that no criteria was decided upon until the committee met to examine the firms' submissions. Then members were free to use any criteria they decided upon including picking names from a hat. If two firms were included because members wished it, council had every right to make that decision.

Councillors also refused to extend the interview deadline to one of the shortlisted firms whose principle would be unavailable on the Nov. 7 interview day. Either the firm does what it can without the individual or it must withdraw from the interview.

More sidewalks will be plowed

The town will probably spend an extra \$9,000 to \$16,750 on cleaning sidewalks this winter as a result of additions to the sidewalk snowplowing program.

The proposal adds nine kilometres of sidewalk to the 11 the town is already clearing.

The committee which examined the proposed additions also looked at a bylaw requiring residents to keep walks adjacent to their residences cleared. It was rejected because of prohibitive administration costs, enforcement difficulties for staff, enforcement costs and because having the bylaw would not exonerate the town from liability in case of accidents on snowy sidewalks.

In addition to the present Acton sidewalks, the town will clear the north-west side of Queen Street from Churchill Road to Young Street, the full length of Young Street on the north side, Main Street North on the

west side from Elizabeth Drive to "No Name Street" on Guelph Street, and the west side of Wilber Street from Church to Mill.

Once a sidewalk is installed on the north side of Elizabeth Drive it will be cleared from the seniors' residence to Main Street.

In Ward 2 the town has added plowing the south side of Highway 7 from Silver Street to Casely Drive in Norval to its list.

In Georgetown the new walks are Maple Avenue west of Parkway Boulevard to the end of the sidewalk, the entire north side of DeLrex Boulevard and the east side from Maple to Edward Streets, the north side of Guelph Street from Mountainview Road to Alcott Drive, the west side of Mountainview Road from Sargent Road to Campbell Gate, Ontario Street from Main to Ann Streets, Main Street North from Kennedy to Ontario Streets, both

sides of Mill Street from Market to Guelph Streets, the west side of Mill Street from George to Maple, and the east side of Main from James to Park Streets.

The committee also established criteria for deciding on additions to the sidewalk snow clearing program. These include monolithic sidewalks, high traffic volumes, senior citizen buildings and apartments, private apartments with heavy senior concentrations, high pedestrian traffic volumes, elementary schools, hamlets with high volume highways, commercial areas, dangerous areas, nursing homes, areas of high density development and width of sidewalk.

The town did not consider the potential to have staff clear walks for seniors and add the bill to their property taxes.

Town engineer Bob Austin said that could not be done with present works department staffing.



Acton Arts and Crafts held its annual Christmas sale Saturday at Alban's Anglican Church. Here, Judy Shannon, left, displays her work along with Carol Lockhart. Carol specializes in ceramics and Judy's expertise is in tile and decorative oil painting. (Herald photo)