

# Outlook on Halton Hills



Seniors at the Bennett Health Care Centre in Georgetown helped raise over \$1,200 for the Alzheimer Association this past summer. Presenting the cheque to Robbie Harrison (far right) of the

Alzheimer's Association in Hamilton are Mark Rochon, executive director of the Health Care Centre and the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, and Centre residents Myrle Zullo and Alice Jepson (seated).



Kindergarten students at Glen Williams School were dressed for Halloween last week, as they celebrated the spooky festivities a

little early. From left are, Andrew Gadoutais, Heather Stephens, Eric Simon, and Heather Kerton.

## Miller incensed by remarks

Mayor Russ Miller doesn't like what was said about his performance in his absence at last week's council meeting by Ward 2 Coun. Pam Sheldon.

"I was a little surprised at some of the things that were said last week at the council meeting," said Mayor Miller.

Coun. Sheldon said last week that the Mayor did not act quickly enough to meet with the provincial transportation minister to solicit funds to make repairs to Halton Hills rural roads following a school bus-gravel truck collision in September.

The mayoral candidate said she urged the mayor several times to meet with the minister but he has a "cavalier attitude" about meeting with ministers.

Mayor Miller said Monday that Coun. Sheldon has only asked him once to set up a meeting with transport minister Ed Fulton.

"I have addressed (road repairs) for 20 years. Coun. Sheldon has been here for 10 years and all of a sudden

there's all sorts of accusations being thrown around," said Mayor Miller.

The mayor said he has met with the minister and he has requested another meeting with him but he doesn't tell council every time he meets with a minister.

He asked council to trust that he is working to secure more funds for road repairs.

"I don't believe it's a matter of trust, I believe it's a matter of courtesy that councillors are advised when a meeting happens with any minister of any discipline," replied Coun. Sheldon.

"We certainly get that type of circulation at the Region," she added.

Coun. Sheldon said "a very professional meeting" must be set up with the minister to request catch-up funds to repair the damage done to Halton Hills' roads by heavy aggregate trucks over the years.

"A very professional meeting needs to be arranged and should have been arranged some time ago," said Coun. Sheldon.

"You say that you've been going to the minister for 20 years, why aren't they listening to us?" Ward 3 Coun. Betty Fisher asked the Mayor.

The town does get supplementary subsidies for road repairs but it's very difficult to get 80 or 90 per cent funding for projects, said Mayor Miller. And extra funding has been made available but the town didn't have the funds to supply the necessary matching grants, he said.

"Hopefully we'll have a good meeting with the minister very shortly," said Mayor Miller.

The mayor also wants the aggregate bill to be hastened and passed by the provincial legislature. That bill would mean municipalities would collect royalties from aggregate producers for each tonne of aggregate produced.

Last year aggregate companies extracted 10 million tonnes of crushed stone from Halton Hills' quarries, said Ward 2 Coun. Joe Hewitt. That would have put about \$30,000 into town coffers, he said.

## Region balks on call for water help

A plea by Councillor Pam Sheldon for Halton to help residents on the Sixth Line with their water problems fell on deaf ears at a committee meeting Oct. 28.

Twenty-three homeowners submitted a petition to Halton in August asking the Region to help investigate their lack of water.

Private wells in the area are drying up and residents' homes are outside the urban envelope so it would be very expensive for them to hook up to the town water supply, said Coun. Sheldon.

But they are adjacent to the municipal water supply, she said.

"We have a lot of homeowners who are looking to the Region for help," said Coun. Sheldon.

Water is the Region's responsibility and Halton should at least investigate the water quantity problem, she said.

But councillors from southern municipalities balked at the suggestion Halton take on water quantity problems of rural homeowners on private wells.

"Are you prepared to do this throughout the whole Region and ascertain the cost in how many billions of dollars," asked Oakville Coun. Fred Oliver.

"Don't put me on the spot like that," replied Coun. Sheldon.

"I can't answer for the whole Region," she added.

Burlington's Joan Little said there are many pockets of residents with water problems throughout Halton and the Region can't begin to help in

their plight.

Even suggesting Halton look into the water quantity problem is "judicious," said Coun. Little.

Halton will look into health problems associated with water quality problems but not water quantity problems of private well owners, said Rash Mohammed, Halton's commissioner of planning and development.

"I don't just think we can walk away and not look at this," said Coun. Sheldon.

The homes were approved by Halton at some point even though they had major water problems, she said.

"If the Region has to deal with that, we'll just go right through the roof with our taxes," said Coun. Little.

It will likely cost between \$500 and

\$600 per well to investigate the problem, said Mr. Mohammed. Halton is prepared to have a hydrologist examine the wells if the homeowners absorb the costs, he said.

Mayor Russ Miller said it has cost some homeowners in Glen Williams as much as \$10,000 to hook up to municipal water.

Mr. Mohammed said Halton staff is aware of the problem but councillors have continually refused to pay to hire a full time hydrologist.

Burlington Coun. Pat McLaughlin, also the chairman of the planning and public works committee said people who choose to live in the rural areas must deal with their own water quantity problems.

"You pays your money and you takes your chances," he quipped.

## Diesel spill cleaned up


Firefighters were called to Fifth Line, south of Highway 7 Oct. 25 to wash down an overturned tanker. Officials arrived at 1 a.m. to clear up the spilled diesel fuel.

Firefighters used the Jaws of Life to remove a person trapped in a car following a motor vehicle accident shortly after 10 p.m. Monday night in Glen Williams. The accident took place just north of Preston's Lucky Dollar Grocery, on Ninth Line North.

Early Sunday, firefighters were called to wash down the scene of a motor vehicle collision at Maple Avenue and Guelph Street in Georgetown where there had been a fatal accident. Firefighters arrived

on the scene shortly after midnight.

Officials responded to three false fire alarms this week, including an Oct. 25 activation at the Bennett Health Care Centre, an Oct. 26 false alarm at 60 Park Ave. and an Oct. 30 activation at St. Francis of Assisi School at 4:29 p.m.



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