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# the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866

HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO

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48 EASTERN AVE., ACTON (519) 853-1821  
It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

## IN THE HILLS

### Warning issued

Police want to warn merchants against quick-change artists. A Dec. 4 incident at an Eastern Avenue, Acton, business left a merchant short \$100. Halton Regional Police say a male and female entered the store and made a purchase with a \$100 bill. After "quick conversation" while giving change to the customer, the money was misplaced.

The two suspects in the quick-change incident are described as one male, white, 5'8" tall, clean-shaven with straight brown hair, and a thin build. The female is also white, 5'6" tall, with a thin build with dark blond curly hair.

Police advise merchants against accepting large denominations for purchases or providing change for large denominations of money.

### That winning edge

Rosalie Wysocki, an award-winning motivational speaker, will be offering a dynamic presentation: "Developing the Winning Edge" to the Georgetown community on Jan. 10, from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Georgetown high school cafeteria.

She will offer techniques on how to achieve greater personal and business success by projecting a more positive, professional image. As well, she will detail what makes "a winner."

This public information night is sponsored by the University Women's Club of Georgetown, and is designed as a professional development seminar. Following the presentation, coffee and dessert will be served.

Tickets are just \$5 and are available from Young's IDA Pharmacy and Georgetown Fabrics. Come on out and get motivated!

### Childbirth classes

Child birth education classes will begin again Jan. 4, and will continue for six weeks. For more information or to register, call Carrie Aiello, C.C.E. at 853-4014.

### Theft charges

Two people were charged in connection with thefts from the Olde Hide House in Acton last week.

Halton Regional Police say the Eastern Avenue shop was minus a pair of sheep skin gloves valued at \$27, after a Dec. 8 theft that occurred around 9 p.m. An Oakville woman, 47, has been charged with the theft.

A man's leather wallet, valued at \$42, was discovered missing at the store Saturday. A Toronto man, 46, has been charged with theft in connection with the incident.

### Give blood

There will be a Red Cross Blood Donors Clinic Tuesday, Dec. 20 at the Legion Hall in Acton, 15 Wright Ave.

The clinic is scheduled to run from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### Immunizations

The Halton Regional Health Department is continuing to operate its monthly immunization clinics.

Local immunization clinics alternate between the Georgetown office at 93 Main St. South and the Milton office at 251 Main St., on the second Tuesday of each month, from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Immunizations are also administered at the Burlington office, 460 Brant St., on the first Wednesday of each month, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For an appointment, contact the Health Department office at 877-2238 in Halton Hills or 878-7261 in Milton.

### Pomeroy's back

Pete Pomeroy had no opposition as he was re-instated to his third term as Regional Chairman Wednesday.

Twenty-three of Halton's 24 councillors voted "in favor" of Mr. Pomeroy at the inaugural meeting. Halton Hills Councillor Pam Johnson was not present at the meeting due to a prior engagement but she said Thursday she would have voted in favor of Mr. Pomeroy.

Mr. Pomeroy was nominated by longtime Burlington Councillor Pat McLaughlin and his nomination was seconded by Halton Hills Coun. Marilyn Serjentson.

Only 10 shopping days until Christmas!

## Ready for the big move

Halton Hills councillors will be taking care of business in the new civic centre by April 10 if everything goes as planned.

Construction on the new civic centre is expected to be completed by March 17 and town workers should be moving their desks into the new offices by the March 31 weekend, says administrator-clerk Dan Costea.

The official opening of the centre is scheduled for the weekend of May 27 but that may have to be moved back because landscaping couldn't be finished this fall, said Mr. Costea. If the landscaping must be finished in the spring, the official opening date may be delayed to accommodate that, he said.

Town staff had hoped originally to move into the civic centre on Maple Avenue by the end of January but strikes and supply problems have delayed construction, said Mr. Costea.

But the good news is, the civic centre will come in fairly close to the \$8.1 million budget approved by councillors, said Mr. Costea.

"We're very close to the budget. There are your normal adjustments for work order changes," he said.

A citizens committee has organized to help raise money for improvements, such as a reflecting pool and more landscaping, to the civic centre.



Centre Stage

The excitement of being at centre stage can get the best of any performer, and that's what happened to Sarah Hamill as she spotted a familiar face in the audience. Sarah, along with Greg Seltz and Leslie

Devolin took part in the Halton Hills Kinder School's annual Christmas concert, and delighted parents with the singing of several well known Christmas carols. (Herald photo)

## Wildwood water headache

# Town won't kick in on hook-up

By BRIAN MacLEOD  
Herald Staff

A Wildwood Road family will have to pay between \$8,000 and \$9,000 to hook up to town water after councillors rejected a request Monday to pay for part of the costs.

The decision has left Alex and Beverly McKee, residents of 90 Wildwood Road, angry at the town, the Region and the developer of the Meagan subdivision in Glen Williams.

"It's extraordinary that this has gone on for so long. To get caught up in this legal game, it requires some courage," said Mr. McKee.

"I think the council and the mayor have had ample opportunity to look at this for a long time and we're very disappointed," an obviously angry Mr. McKee said after the decision was announced.

After pleading their case, council went behind closed doors for more than an hour to listen to legal advice

from lawyer John Schajlo on the matter.

Once the doors were re-opened, Mayor Russ Miller issued a terse statement saying, "At this time the council is not prepared to take responsibility of your water. But that's not saying that it will not be looked at in the future."

The McKees say their well went dry May 26, two weeks after Meagan Developments began moving earth on the nearby subdivision, and two or three weeks after sewer works had begun in a nearby valley for the subdivision. They went without water for eight days before Halton Region hooked them up to a nearby fire hydrant with a hose. Halton, which the McKees say has now absolved itself of responsibility for the water problems, said it will remove the hose Jan. 9, leaving them without water.

Mr. and Mrs. McKee said there were provisions in the subdivision

agreement which guaranteed them water at the developer's expense, should anything happen to their knowingly-fragile water supply during construction.

Mrs. McKee said she was told by a Halton staff member last year that she was over reacting when she asked for that guarantee in writing. They never got the written guarantee, only an interpretation of the subdivision agreement by Halton planning director Rash Mohammed, which said the developer would pay if the McKees lost their water during construction of the subdivision.

And their home was one of three singled out as having potential for water loss problems in an earlier report, said Mrs. McKee.

"I'm very disappointed in the system. It was very naive coming in thinking that public meetings (which the McKees had attended) work, thinking elected officials can be trusted," said Mrs. McKee.

"(The developer) was supposed to test our water before a teaspoon of soil was removed," she said.

The developer didn't test the water until June 8, well after the well went dry, she said. But the developer said construction hadn't begun at that point, only earth moving, she added.

Mr. McKee said he "felt comfortable" after being given guarantees from the town and the Region, that their water should be paid for via a hook-up to nearby town water, if their well went dry during construction.

"Everybody has now found a way that they're not responsible," he said.

"No investigation would ever conclusively point out that construction did, or did not cause water loss," he added.

Wells went dry in five homes in a row on Wildwood Road shortly after their own well dried up, he said.

The McKees have lived in the home for 3 1/2 years with little or no water quantity problems.

Mr. McKee said he is prepared to pay for part of the water hook-up, but the town and the Region refused.

"I'm asking you this evening to go beyond the legal... to use your compassion as leaders of our community," he said, adding that they likely won't take the case to court.

## Seniors lay out their priorities

The town has thrown its support "in principle" behind the idea of two seniors centres - one in Georgetown and one in Acton - but no money has been earmarked for the projects.

A survey conducted by the Seniors Advisory Committee, headed up by Councillor Gerald Rennie, showed that seniors in Georgetown want a separate seniors complex. The results paralleled a similar survey conducted in Acton in September.

Ninety-four per cent of the people in both surveys said they favored a seniors centre in their respective towns. In Georgetown, 600 people responded to the survey, totalling only 25 per cent. Problems with picking up the survey from seniors homes may have contributed to the low response rate, said Administrative Assistant Stephen Thomson.

Eighty-eight per cent of the people in Acton and 89 per cent in Georgetown say they would use a seniors' centre regularly.

Seventy-seven per cent of the respondents in Acton said they'd be

willing to share a centre with other community organizations but only 67 per cent of the Georgetown respondents liked that idea.

Seventy-seven per cent of the respondents in Acton preferred a separate facility for seniors and 74 per cent of Georgetown respondents supported the separate facility.

"I believe council will recognize that the two surveys offer clear undeniable endorsement of centres for seniors by the seniors of Halton Hills," said Coun. Rennie.

"The need is there. The interest is there. Seniors' centres in the two urban communities is not a proposal that the council can ignore."

The issue of whether or not such facilities should be shared with other organizations to make it more financially feasible, or whether it should be separate, as most seniors seem to prefer, has not yet been addressed, said Coun. Rennie.

He also urged council to push for centres in both communities at the same time.

The seniors task force, created by the town to conduct the survey, should disband in favor of a seniors citizens group (The Georgetown and District Seniors Association) which could "carry the ball" on the seniors centre in Georgetown, said Coun. Rennie.

A citizens group is also working in Acton for a seniors' centre.

Lew Ward, president of the Georgetown seniors association, which favors a separate seniors complex, said the town seems to be coming onside.

"It sounds like there is some more degree of empathy and understanding there now than perhaps there used to be," said Mr. Ward.

The Georgetown survey results "confirms what I've been trying to tell them for a long, long time," he added.

Funding for such a centre would be divided between the town, the province and fundraising by the seniors association, said Mr. Ward.

## New parking bylaw passed

They didn't like it but councillors passed a uniform traffic control bylaw Monday which includes a three-hour maximum parking restriction 24 hours a day on town roads.

As soon as 26 signs can be changed at the entrances to Halton Hills the three-hour parking restriction will be enforced, said town engineer Bob Austin.

"I can see all kinds of public outcry. If that's enforced to the letter there's going to be all sorts of com-

plaints," said Coun. Norm Elliott.

"This is a radical departure from the present bylaw."

Currently, the three-hour restriction is in effect from midnight until 7 a.m. only.

But all the other municipalities have adopted the new three-hour restrictions, along with other changes in the new bylaw, at the request of Halton Regional Police who want to enforce similar bylaws in all municipalities, said Mr. Austin.

Town staff want the new bylaw enforced so garbage pickup and snow

removal won't be hindered, said Mr. Austin.

"We're not going to have the Green Hornet running around writing tickets," replied Coun. Elliott.

"It may be in other municipalities but I don't know if we want to see this happen in Halton Hills."

"It can be used as a method of discrimination," added Coun. Anne Currie.

"I can see nothing but problems coming out of this one."

## Council stands pat on lot levies, despite request

The subdivision agreement for Halton Hills Village Homes on the Ninth Line was approved by the town Monday but not without a dispute over lot levy policies and a changing in the phasing for construction.

Originally, the developer had planned to build 173 homes on the east side of Mountainview Road and 337 on the west side but that has now been changed. Now, the developer plans to build 417 homes on the east side of Mountainview Road and 93 on the west side.

Pre-servicing work is now being

done on the east side of Mountainview Road in preparation for the larger part of the first phase of the development.

But lawyer Bert Arnold said the town was changing the rules for the developer on the lot levy policies.

The agreement allows for the town to charge the lot levy amounts in place, prior to the building permits being issued.

But Mr. Arnold said his clients want the lot levies agreed upon now, when the subdivision agreement is signed, so builders will know the lot costs. Mr. Arnold said he was seek-

ing the same treatment as other developers.

Town treasurer Ray King said staff will present a recommendation on new, and likely higher lot levies to council within a month.

Councillors heeded the advice of Mr. King, who said the policy of charging lot levies which are in place when building permits are issued has always been town policy and it represents no change.

"Quite frankly, I'm surprised this is an issue," said Mr. King with what Coun. Norm Elliott would later describe as "controlled anger."

## Future of local pools in question

After the Christmas break, Board of Education trustees will look at sharing the costs for local school pools with the Town of Halton Hills.

The Halton board presently pays for maintenance of pools, which includes providing water, chlorine and lifeguard service. But the board spent \$75,000 on repairs to McKenzie-Smith swimming pool two years ago. At that time, according to Georgetown school board trustee Dick Howitt, the board struggled over the issue of continuing funding for all regional school pools.

Thursday night, Milton trustee Bill Harrison issued a notice of motion, requesting that the board "investigate the feasibility of draining and closing the McKenzie-Smith pool." Mr. Harrison also recommended Halton Hills town council be informed of the board's consideration.

Mr. Harrison's motion said that "as pools age, greater expenditures for normal operation over and above daily maintenance occur."

He added that the motion would attempt "to indicate to municipalities our real concern about the need to renegotiate (and to change) joint agreements in which both parties are not served equally."

Mr. Harrison was referring to a contract signed by the Town of Halton Hills and the Halton Board of Education in the 1970s, which gave responsibility for maintenance to the board.

But this is a task the board no longer wants. "We could spend the million dollars in a year for regional pool (maintenance) on educational endeavors, rather than in maintaining the swimming pools," said Mr. Howitt.

"We're not trying to get out of maintaining the schools completely (but) they're also used by the town in their recreational activities."

The Town of Halton Hills charges a fee for public swimming, which Ray Waters, Field Officer at the board, says goes to offsetting personnel costs.

McKenzie-Smith Pool will close for several days in December to undergo pool repairs, but they will not cost the board money. "We had the pool repaired last summer, so it's guaranteed for a year," said Mr. Waters. He added that the repairs this time around are "not a big deal."

Mr. Waters said the board's concern for renegotiating a contract is likely due to the contract's expiry about five years from now, but trustee Howitt says the board has tried "for at least three or four years" to talk to the municipalities. "But we've met with no success," he said.

"There should be a better arrangement for sharing the costs in maintaining the school pools," Mr. Howitt said.

The issue won't reach the Board of Education until regular meetings resume in January. And involvement with the Town of Halton Hills should take even longer, said Mr. Howitt.

But he added, "It's a regional issue, it's not just McKenzie-Smith."

## Driver's condition improves

Richard Coles, the gravel truck driver who was pinned in his crushed cab for more than 4 1/2 hours after his truck flipped over Dec. 5 is now listed in good condition at Sunnybrook Medical Centre.

In one of the longest and most difficult rescues in recent memory, Halton Hills ambulance crews, firefighters, police and construction

crews spent almost five hours attempting to free the 24-year-old man.

The truck overturned when it failed to negotiate a sharp curve at the bottom of a steep hill on the Ninth Line north of Glen Williams.

He was taken from the scene by air ambulance to Sunnybrook where he was originally listed in serious condition.



But was he good?

Santa Claus was at the Georgetown Chamber luncheon at the North Halton Golf and Country Club Monday bearing gifts for all the big boys and girls. For Mayor Russ Miller, Santa, who looks amazingly like one of the mayor's former col-

leagues, gave Mr. Miller a Miller High Life box full of white surrender flags for all the folks down at Queen's Park when they throw in the towel on issues holding up development. (Herald photo)