

New council sworn in

Halton's 12 council members, the mayor and four hydro commissioners were sworn in, in Dec. 5 ceremony at the John Elliott Theatre.

In his inaugural address, Mayor Russ Miller said Halton Hills is a town in transition and the next three years will be crucial if it is to retain its small town identity.

A dispute between Wildwood Road residents and the Town and Regional governments came to a head Dec. 12 when councillors rejected a request to help a family hook-up to town water. The family, who had been hooked up to a fire hydrant since June, will have to foot the bill, estimated to be in the thousands of dollars, to hook-up to town water after their well went dry.

Acton residents responded to Halton Hills volunteer ambulance calls for help.

The ambulance service in Acton was desperately in need of new

December

volunteers. The service, which opened six months ago, had signed up only four volunteers from Acton. The service needs a total of 30 to be viable.

Halton Regional Police shot and killed two pit bull terriers in Acton Dec. 15 after the dogs escaped from a fenced area and attacked a Welsh pony.

Two police officers fired a total of 14 shots at the dogs. The horse was later destroyed by a local veterinarian.

The Georgetown and Acton Chambers of Commerce decided to

amalgamate early this month after months of speculation about the move.

The chambers will operate under the banner the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, members believe the amalgamation will make the two chambers stronger, because they can now speak for all the business in Halton Hills.

Perhaps the biggest news story of December centres around an amazing string of appearances by the same man, who kept that streak alive this Dec. 25.

Donning his familiar red and white suit, a jolly fat man with a huge white beard once again made the rounds to each and every household in Halton Hills, as he has done for centuries.

Santa Claus, as he has come to be known, reportedly flew in on eight reindeer, led by a shining red light.

He was not available for comment on his journey at press time.



Santa Claus once again took time out from his busy Christmas schedule to visit Acton and

Georgetown for the annual Christmas parades. Both events proved very successful.

Trucker rescued from wreckage



Rescue crews worked for more than four hours to free a truck driver whose rig had overturned on the Ninth Line, in an early morning ac-

cident. Through the co-operation of several different units, the man was freed and flown to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto.

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

Georgetown firefighters and ambulance crews worked for 4½ hours to free a gravel truck driver pinned in his crushed cab after his truck flipped over on the Ninth Line north of Glen Williams early Monday.

Richard Coles, 24, of Hillsburgh is listed in serious condition in Sunnybrook Hospital's surgical progressive care unit.

Halton Hills Volunteer Ambulance President Doug McLeod called the 4½-hour vigil the "longest and most difficult" rescue he's attempted in his 12 years with the service.

The truck was travelling southbound on the Ninth Line when it failed to negotiate a sharp left-hand curve at the bottom of a steep hill just below Sideroad 27. The truck flipped over dumping its load and pinning the driver inside.

Ambulance crews responded to the call shortly after 7 a.m. but it wasn't until 11:30 a.m. that the driver was removed and transferred into an air ambulance helicopter and transported to Sunnybrook Hospital.

"When we got there, we could see his right arm - just an arm. We checked and we had a pulse," said

Mr. McLeod.

But the cab was buried two feet deep in mud making it almost impossible to gain access to the driver, he said.

A construction crew supplied by Wimpey Homes Ltd. working in Halton Hills Village was called to the scene and a front-end loader gradually raised the cab out of the mud.

As the cab was raised, firefighters cut away trees to allow easier access to the truck. Firemen then shored up the cab with wood as it was lifted out of the mud.

Two paramedics arrived on the scene in the helicopter at 9:40 a.m. After examining the driver, they flew back to Sunnybrook to pick up surgeon Barry McLellan and returned to the scene at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Throughout the ordeal, ambulance attendants covered the driver with heatpacks to avoid hypothermia in the bitterly cold wind and administered blood and oxygen to the driver, said Mr. McLeod.

Firefighters worked for hours, using hacksaws to cut away the steering column, the housing and transmission to help free the pinned

driver.

The Jaws of Life were used only to spread the metal near the door.

"The cab was crushed and everything had to be done by hand," said Mr. McLeod.

The driver remained conscious and talked to ambulance attendants and firefighters throughout the rescue, said Mr. McLeod.

"He was talkative but we kept his voice down so he wouldn't use too much oxygen," said ambulance attendant Gord Kearsey.

Ambulance attendants cut away the driver's trousers to get him out of the cab. More than 4½ hours after the accident he was loaded into a stretcher, where attendants placed pressure pants around his legs to slow the blood circulation to his legs in order to keep blood near the major organs.

The driver suffered external lacerations but Mr. McLeod suspected he also suffered internal bleeding, as well as abdominal, leg and hip injuries.

"It was one hell of a good team effort with the fire department and us," Mr. McLeod said.

Downed tower causes 8-hour blackout

The greater portion of Halton Hills was caught in the grasp of a widespread blackout that lasted for eight hours Thursday morning.

The source of the blackout, which affected approximately 87,000 homes and businesses, was a 150-foot hydro transmission tower that came crashing to the ground emitting 230,000 volts of live power at 4:38 a.m. Hydro officials believe the incident was the result of vandalism.

Georgetown, rural Acton, Brampton and Mississauga were without power, including traffic lights until 1 p.m. when crew members rerouted electrical current from the Erin Mills Parkway-Highway 403 tower to local generating stations.

"It involves a whole lot of juggling to reroute power," said Ontario Hydro spokesman Mary-Jane Jaffray. "We've rerouted the power and we're going to install a new tower by Sunday."

