

# Council decides to clam up on pool issue

Halton Hills councillors voted to "muzzle" themselves Monday from talking publicly about the Halton Board of Education's proposal to close all six school pools in Halton.

Councillors voted 7-6 not to discuss the pools issue in an open session on the advice of their lawyer.

"I'm totally disappointed. This council deserves all the public criticism it gets," said Acton Coun. Norm Elliott after the vote.

Coun. Elliott had begun a detailed background of the pools issue, when he was cautioned by Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson about discussing the issue in public because there could be legal action

involved.

Coun. Elliott then asked for the vote to rule on whether or not the issue could be discussed in public.

"It's time this council takes the opportunity to lift the code of silence surrounding the swimming pool situation," said Coun. Elliott, adding that he had numerous phone calls from the public on the issue.

Newspaper articles over the last two months have given one-sided views from the Halton Board of Education on the pools closing issue, he said.

The school board voted last week to "investigate the feasibility" of closing all school pools in the Region. The board says it's costing

them more than \$1 million a year to pay for the maintenance of the pools. The issue arose two months ago at the board when Milton trustee Bill Harrison submitted the motion to examine the possibility of closing McKenzie-Smith Pool in Acton. An amendment was then added to include all school pools, including the Georgetown pool.

The other pools are located in Burlington and Oakville.

Mayor Miller said last week that the town has a 20-year agreement with the board on the Georgetown pool ending in 1996. The agreement with the board states that the board wouldn't have to pay for the pools, but they would have to pay the maintenance costs, said Mayor

Miller.

Local municipalities poured more than \$550,000 into building the two pools and the town of

Halton Hills will continue to pay the debt of the Georgetown pool until 1996, said Mayor Miller.

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## PLEASE GIVE

The need for blood has never been greater than it is today. Demand has diminished the supply of blood and the Red Cross is urgently in need of donors.

The Georgetown and District Branch of the

Canadian Red Cross Society is holding a blood donor clinic this Monday, Feb. 13 at Holy Cross Church Auditorium, from 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in conjunction with the Georgetown Optimist Club.

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## Have a heart

Mark Fantegrossi (6) had a devil of a time when his kindergarten classmate Emily Ferguson (6) passed on this little valentine at Holy Cross School in Georgetown last week. Students throughout Halton Hills are busy making

valentines for that special person. Don't forget Valentine's Day is coming up this Tuesday so you've got six days to find your sweetheart that something special. (Herald photo by Brian MacLeod)

## United Way drive goes over the top

After officially "closing down" in late January, the United Way of Halton Hills has met its 1988 campaign goal of \$130,000, mostly through the unprecedented success of special events fundraising.

The United Way set their special events target at \$8,000, but surpassed that goal by almost three times the amount, tallying in at \$22,500.

In 1987, special events donations raised \$6,400.

Events like the Chairman's Ball, the Egg Nog Jog sponsored by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the May walk-a-thon sponsored by the local Kiwanis Club and the berry festival sponsored by local growers helped the United Way color the red in their annual goal thermometer.

But other areas beyond special events were successful. In Acton, residential amounts "tripled" over last year, according to Halton Hills United Way chairman Steve Williamson.

The residential donations goal for 1988 was \$25,000 for Halton Hills, an amount surpassed by \$1,500, said Mr. Williamson.

Other strong areas included the professional sector - donations from local lawyers, teachers and doctors - which returned \$6,500 on its goal of \$5,000.

National firms contributed twice the projected amount when \$3,000 was estimated and \$6,000 was raised.

Halton's two boards of education contributed a "reliable" \$12,000, said Mr. Williamson. The education donations goal was set at \$13,000, but the boards could not bend in their budget allocations, said Mr. Williamson.

Areas where the United Way fell short of its projections included government contributions. The



United Way

ocal United Way miscalculated this year after receiving a grant from the Regional government last year. Donations this year were \$8,500. Mr. Williamson said he didn't realize a large grant was included in last year's donation when he set the government goal at \$15,000.

Industrial donations were projected at \$22,000 because the United Way has increased their campaigning in local businesses. But the business campaign was over-estimated and \$13,500 was raised, leaving the United Way \$6,500 short of the industrial goal.

Over all, the United Way of Halton Hills is 25 per cent over last year's total, which was \$104,000. Last year's projected goal of \$143,000 was "unrealistic," said United Way Executive Director Betty Fisher.

The United Way has campaigned in Halton Hills for the last three years, steadily increasing their final goal and the donations received.

This year's \$130,000 compares to \$104,000 raised last year and \$80,000 raised in 1986.

Some of the campaign's success this year is due to the 500 canvassers in Acton and Georgetown, said Acton campaign chairman Jim Lindsay.

A large number of campaigners means less "burn out," said Mr. Williamson.

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**Something's afoot**

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