

# Two killed in accident

Two local men were killed early Sunday morning after the vehicle they were in went out of control on Main Street, just south of Maple Avenue in Georgetown and struck a tree.

Dead are Charles E. Clark, 31, of Norval and Frank Keatings, 41, of Guelph Street.

The deaths mark the first traffic fatalities for Halton Region in 1989.

Halton Regional Police say a 1978 Chevrolet Impala, driven by Mr. Clark, was northbound on Main Street when it left the roadway and glanced off a pole and a

cement retaining wall, and then struck a tree on a residential property. The accident occurred shortly after 5 a.m. and emergency crews worked for close to two hours with the Jaws of Life to free the two occupants of the vehicle.

Donna Caine, a nearby resident was the first to discover the accident after being awakened by what she originally thought was the crash of a "small-engine plane."

"It was a terrible experience opening the door and seeing that there," she said.

Ms. Caine said police were on the scene a few minutes after her daughter had called the 911 emergency phone number.

Members of the police and fire departments, as well as ambulance personnel and the tow truck crew joined in attempts to save the men, according to Ms. Caine.

"Everything that could possibly be done, was done," she said.

Police say weather conditions did not play a factor in the accident. They are continuing their investigation.

# Hospital on target

The Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital expects to run up a \$600,000 deficit by the time the 1988 financial statement is complete.

Figures released by the hospital at a recent open meeting of the board of directors show the hospital is on target for the \$600,000 deficit budgeted at the beginning of the year.

The Bennett Health Care Centre has run a deficit of about \$511,000 up until the end of November. That compares favorably with the budgeted deficit of \$527,000 for the end of November.

Any deficits incurred by the hospital or by the Bennett Health

Care Centre will be covered by the Ministry of Health, which has already given the hospital a cash advance of \$2.2 million, said hospital executive director Mark Rochon.

The Bennett Centre actually runs a break-even budget, said Mr. Rochon. The deficit comes from interest on the \$6.5 million cost of building the centre which has yet to be paid off. The hospital is still working on ways to pay off that debt. Previously the hospital has said it would sell off some excess lands to raise some of the money.

Occupancy at the Bennett Centre is running at 95 per cent, compared to 91 per cent last year, the hospital board's finance report says.

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## Scout - Guide Week

Local members of Scouting and Guiding groups will take part in the festivities of Scout-Guide Week 1989, which runs Feb. 19-26. Seen here in full uniform colors are, front row, from left, Brownie Sarah Williams; Spark Carolyn Glatt; and Beaver Robert

Wagner. Back row, Venturer Kevin McElhone; Pathfinder Leanne Henselwood; Guide Elizabeth Crawford; Cub John Eddolls; Scout Stephen Clark; and Rover Dwight Spence. (Herald photo)

# Sunday shopping issue remains contentious

Halton Region will have to tackle the Sunday shopping issue this spring whether it likes it or not.

The provincial government passed two pieces of legislation last week which effectively puts the decision of whether or not to allow Sunday shopping in the hands of Regional municipalities.

Halton Region will have to come up with some sort of bylaw governing Sunday shopping, Halton Chairman Pete Pomeroy said yesterday.

But he doesn't think the issue will be a contentious one at the Region.

"I don't anticipate a great rush of businesses in Halton coming and asking for the privilege of opening on Sundays," he said.

Currently, only two Sunday shopping exemptions have been issued by the Region. The Olde Hide House may open on Sundays as a tourist attraction as can Oakville's Bronte Harbour area.

Chairman Pomeroy figures the new legislation may actually make it harder for businesses to open on Sundays because local politicians will be afraid of a rush of applications to open on Sundays if they permit even one business to open.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller wants the Region to hand over jurisdiction on Sunday shopping to the four area municipalities.

Mayor Miller doesn't want a Region-wide policy imposed on all municipalities. A policy which would benefit areas of Burlington and Oakville may not be appropriate for areas such as Halton Hills, he said.

And, if Halton does pass the Sunday shopping decision on to area municipalities, Mayor Miller wants to leave it up to the individual businesses to decide

whether they want to open on Sundays.

"If it was my decision I'd give them a free hand to be open when they want to be," Mayor Miller said of local businesses.

But he is "disgusted" with the province's decision to pass Sunday shopping jurisdiction on to the regions. Mayor Miller said he favored the current laws, which allows a municipality to ask for tourist designations for certain areas or stores but severely restricts Sunday shopping.

Halton North Liberal MPP Walt Elliot said the new legislation gives the politicians most closely associated with their areas the final say on Sunday shopping.

The much-feared "domino effect" of the new legislation shouldn't affect Halton Hills because it will likely rely on Metro Toronto's decision on whether or not to allow Sunday shopping, said Mr. Elliot. And Metro is likely to turn Sunday shopping down, he said.

Under the concept of the domino effect, some say if Metro Toronto were to allow stores to open on Sundays, surrounding areas such as Peel Region would have to follow suit to allow local businesses to compete with Metro. Halton, in turn would have to follow the same path.

Mr. Elliot also responded to a recent statement by Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Andy Brandt which claims he never once spoke on the Sunday shopping issue in the legislature. Mr. Elliot admitted he never spoke on the issue in the legislature but he said he did speak to his colleagues many times during closed caucus meetings.

