

Council considers \$4.2 million in capital projects

Halton Hills councillors are looking at spending almost \$4.2 million on capital projects in 1989.

The town's budget committee met last week to pare down a proposed \$4.5 million budget for the 1989 capital expenditures.

The preliminary capital budget has now been approved "in principle," but nothing is final until the entire capital and operating budget is presented to council early in April.

Although it's a capital budget of almost \$4.2 million now under consideration, the town would only have to raise about \$1.1 million in taxes to pay for the projects. Other funds would come from provincial

and "federal subsidies, revenue generating sources such as the hydro commission, lot levies and transfers from surplus accounts.

Among the projects recommended for deletion so far this year are a \$230,000 rehabilitation of the CNR overpass on Highway 7 just east of Carruthers Road, \$86,000 worth of fencing around the training ground area at the Maple Avenue fire station in Georgetown, \$71,000 for architectural services for a new fire station for Halton Hills Village, \$10,000 for a new sound system for the ice area and lobby at Gordon Alcott Arena and \$10,000 for roadway improvements at Cedarvale Park in Georgetown.

The \$1.2 million the town would need to raise in taxes includes a \$20,000 levy on urban area residents who receive town services.

Throughout the budget process the town is attempting to maintain its "pay as you go" financing policy, town treasurer Ray King says.

Included in the proposed 1989 capital budget is upgrading the various departments' computer systems at a cost of \$188,000. Subsidies from other government agencies would cover about \$57,000 of the upgrading.

The town will also borrow \$500,000 on behalf of the Halton

Hills Hydro Commission to help pay for the move from the Mill Street building in Georgetown to the Alice Street building in Acton.

However, that loan will be recovered through hydro rates.

Other major projects left in the capital budget so far include - in the engineering budget - \$200,000 for reconstruction of a portion of Winston Churchill Boulevard; \$90,000 to repair a culvert on Sideroad 32; \$215,000 for gravel resurfacing of various roads; \$223,000 for surface treatment of other roads; \$460,000 for stormwater sewer construction on Armstrong Avenue; \$300,000 to replace public works equipment.

In the fire department budget money has been included for almost \$20,000 to pay for emergency traffic control systems so lights can be changed to green from the fire vehicles, and \$85,000 is included to help pay for a new firetruck.

In the parks and recreation budget money is earmarked for structural repairs to the Acton arena at a cost of \$21,000 (\$123,000 more in repairs is scheduled for the next few years); \$10,000 in repairs to Memorial Arena in Georgetown; and about \$50,000 for lighting a baseball diamond and redevelopment of the diamonds at Prospect Park in Acton.

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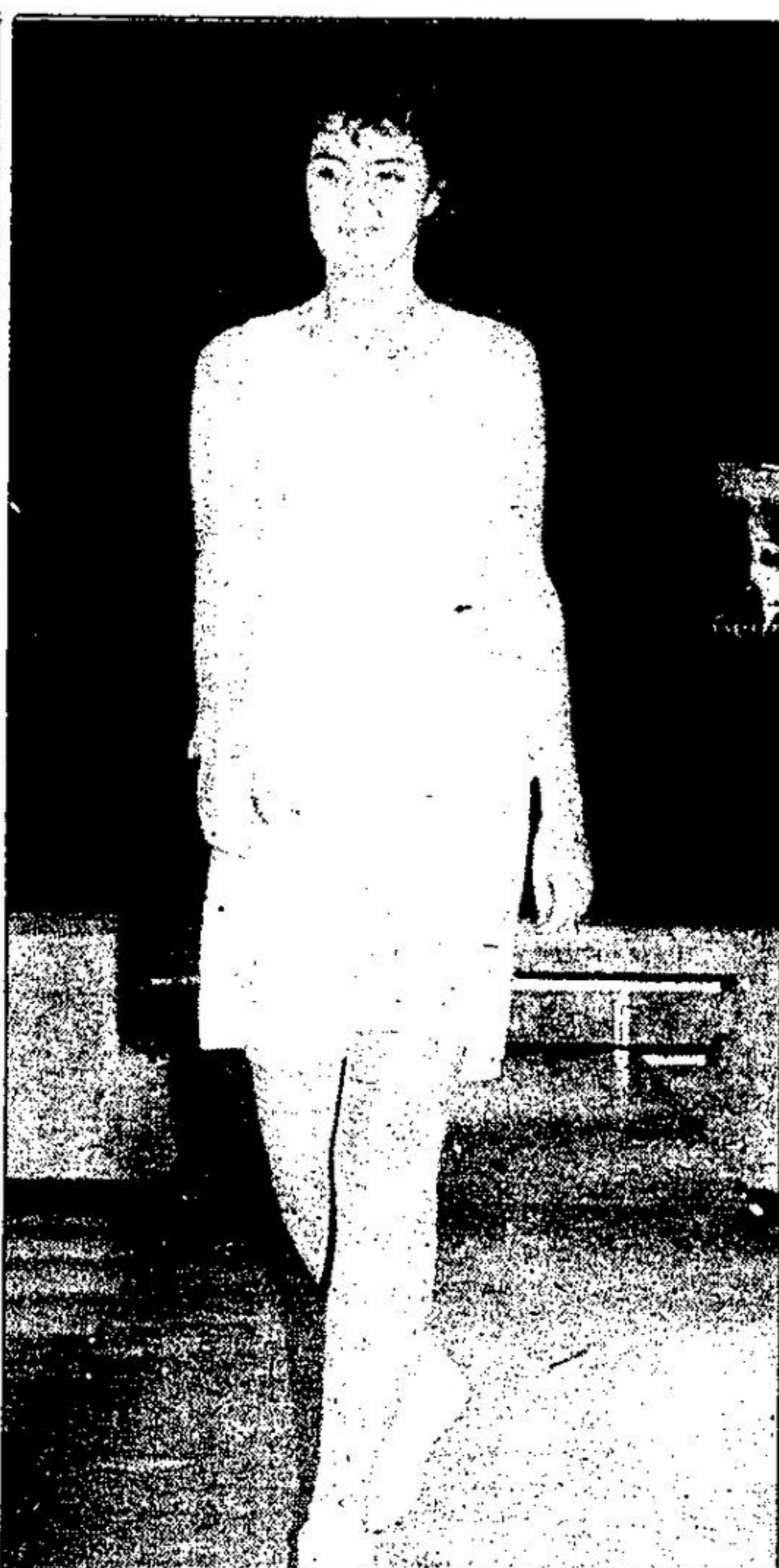
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It won't be long...

Students at Georgetown District High School took in the latest fashions courtesy of Elizabeth's Fashion on Wednesday. The band and the jazz choir are holding events like this fashion show to raise money for a

trip to Germany and Austria for 10 days in April. Each student must raise about \$1,400 for the trip. Here, these ladies show off some of the latest fashions. (Herald photo)

Police led on chase

Five police departments were involved in a high speed chase that started in Halton and ended in Pickering Tuesday afternoon.

Halton Regional Police say a man, who allegedly assaulted several people and stole a car from an Oakville woman, led police on a chase that began at Dorval Drive in Oakville around 2:30 p.m.

The suspect, driving a stolen 1985 Lincoln Continental travelled east on the Queen Elizabeth Way to Highway 403 and north on Highway 403 to eastbound Highway 401. Four Halton police cruisers pursued the car along the highways.

Halton police asked for assistance from the Ontario Provincial Police, the Peel Regional Police, the Metropolitan Toronto Police and finally Durham Regional Police as the 85-km pursuit led to the east of Toronto.

A Halton police spokesman said the suspect car travelled "in excess of 140 km-h." The chase ended

when the suspect collided with a police roadblock set up at Whites Road in Pickering.

The Lincoln Continental and two cruisers, one from the Metro Toronto force, the other an OPP car, were moderately damaged in separate collisions.

Police report no injuries in the chase.

An Oakville man, 30, faces 11 charges in connection with the incident, including two counts of robbery in connection with the car theft, one count of sexual assault, allegedly against an Oakville woman, three counts of common assault in separate attempts to steal cars, one count of threatening, one count of mischief, one count of causing a police pursuit, one count of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, and one count of theft.

The accused was held Tuesday for a bail hearing.

Fire cause undetermined

Halton police and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office said this week that the cause of a \$1 million blaze at CCP Liquidators in north Georgetown last week will remain undetermined.

Halton Regional Police said "the Fire Marshal's Office is unable to determine how the fire started," at Custom Country Products Liquidators on 10th Line Wednesday afternoon.

The suspicion that the fire might have started in a ceiling furnace could not be confirmed, said Chief Bill Cunningham of the Halton Hills Fire Department.

"Because of the destruction of the heating units (they) cannot be determined as the cause," he said.

The fire began about 2:30 p.m. March 1, burning about "75 per cent" of the business complex.

Twenty-two fire officials were at the scene to put out the blaze, and

firefighters remained on the scene for six hours.

The Fire Marshal's Office, Halton police and fire officials investigated the blaze Thursday and Friday, dousing the charred building one final time Saturday night, said Chief Cunningham.

Halton Hills fire officials called Caledon, Milton, and Acton fire departments for back-up support through a Fire Mutual Aid System. Chief Cunningham, a member of the Halton Hills Fire Department for 20 years, serving six years as chief, said he can't recall Fire Mutual Aid being used in the recent past.

"It's been a good number of years," he said. There were no injuries reported in the fire.

Captain Gord Cash of the Maple Avenue detachment suffered minor burns to his feet but was back in action the next day, said Chief Cunningham.

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