

New donor questionnaire offers more protection

The new Red Cross blood donor questionnaire which made its debut at a recent blood donors clinic at Holy Cross Church is a 19-question paper designed to protect not only from AIDS but from other diseases, said Red Cross co-chairman of Blood Clinics, Flo Street.

The form combines information from the old questionnaire with that of a separate AIDS information form.

The safety standard changes "are for the safety of the donor as well as the recipient," she said. The questionnaire poses general health questions but also has a separate section for AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) awareness.

"Do you understand the information about activities which may put you at a higher risk for AIDS?" asks the questionnaire. It then explains activities considered to be high risk. At the top of the list is men who have sex with other men, and intravenous drug users.

Also considered at risk for contracting AIDS are men and women who have had sex with more than their usual partner "who are from places where AIDS is commonplace." These places, says the questionnaire information include Central and Western America, certain parts of the Caribbean and "major American cities."

Anyone who regularly receives "blood products" is also considered at risk of contracting the AIDS virus. Any person who has had sex with people who fit into the above category is also asked not to give blood. Anyone who has had sexual intercourse with prostitutes or with anyone whose sexual habits are unfamiliar to them is also asked not to donate blood.

The form then asks if the potential donor is considered "at higher risk" for AIDS as indicated by the Blood Donations Safety Form.

The blue safety form is attached to the bottom of the questionnaire, but questions four and five cause the donor to fill out the section before proceeding.

The blue form detaches and is sealed with the results reviewed in confidence after the clinic is held.

Mrs. Street said she hopes the new questionnaire helps protect people who really shouldn't be donating blood as well as those who could receive the less-than-healthy blood.

"If you have high blood pressure, you cannot give blood... we're looking out for the donor as well as the receiver," she said.

Script Find

Two clay tablets more than 5,000 years old, showing examples of a pictographic script that led to cuneiform writing, have been found at Tell Brak, an ancient site in northeastern Syria.

They represent the earliest examples of a sort of communication that led to the cuneiform script and hence to writing as it is known today.



PhotoArt '89

Organizers of PhotoArt '89 announced the winners at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre Gallery March 1. The show, which is organized by the Halton Hills Camera Club, had over 200 entries this year. About 80 photographs are hanging in the Gallery until March 31. Winners of Awards of Merit are, left to right,

Alma Reipma for Daughter and Favorite Cat Making Contact, Sylvia Galbraith for Bas Relief, Barb Stephens for Mayfield Road, (Barb also won the Best of the Show award for Silo), and Bruce Andrews for Veggies. Mayor Russ Miller's wife, Gerry (right), presented the awards. (Herald photo)

Halton Region adopts study

Halton Region has cleared the way for businesses looking to settle in Acton.

The Region adopted the Acton North Implementation Study last week. The study designates which industrial and commercial lands will get full municipal services and which will have to rely on some private services.

The study was conducted by the town of Halton Hills based on growth of Acton to a population of 10,000 people and accompanying development of 57 acres of fully-serviced land for industrial use.

However, Acton has a huge 203-acre parcel of land located on both sides of Highway 25 north of the CNR tracks. The study adopted by the Region last week, says 57 of the 85 acres on the east side of Highway 25 will be fully serviced with water and municipal sewage facilities. The remainder of the land on the east side, plus the 92

acres on the west side of the road, will be supplied with town water, but developers will have to rely on private sewage facilities.

Of the 57 acres approved for full municipal services, 49 acres are actually earmarked for industrial development. The remaining eight acres are reserved for institutional and commercial development.

The study will be used by the

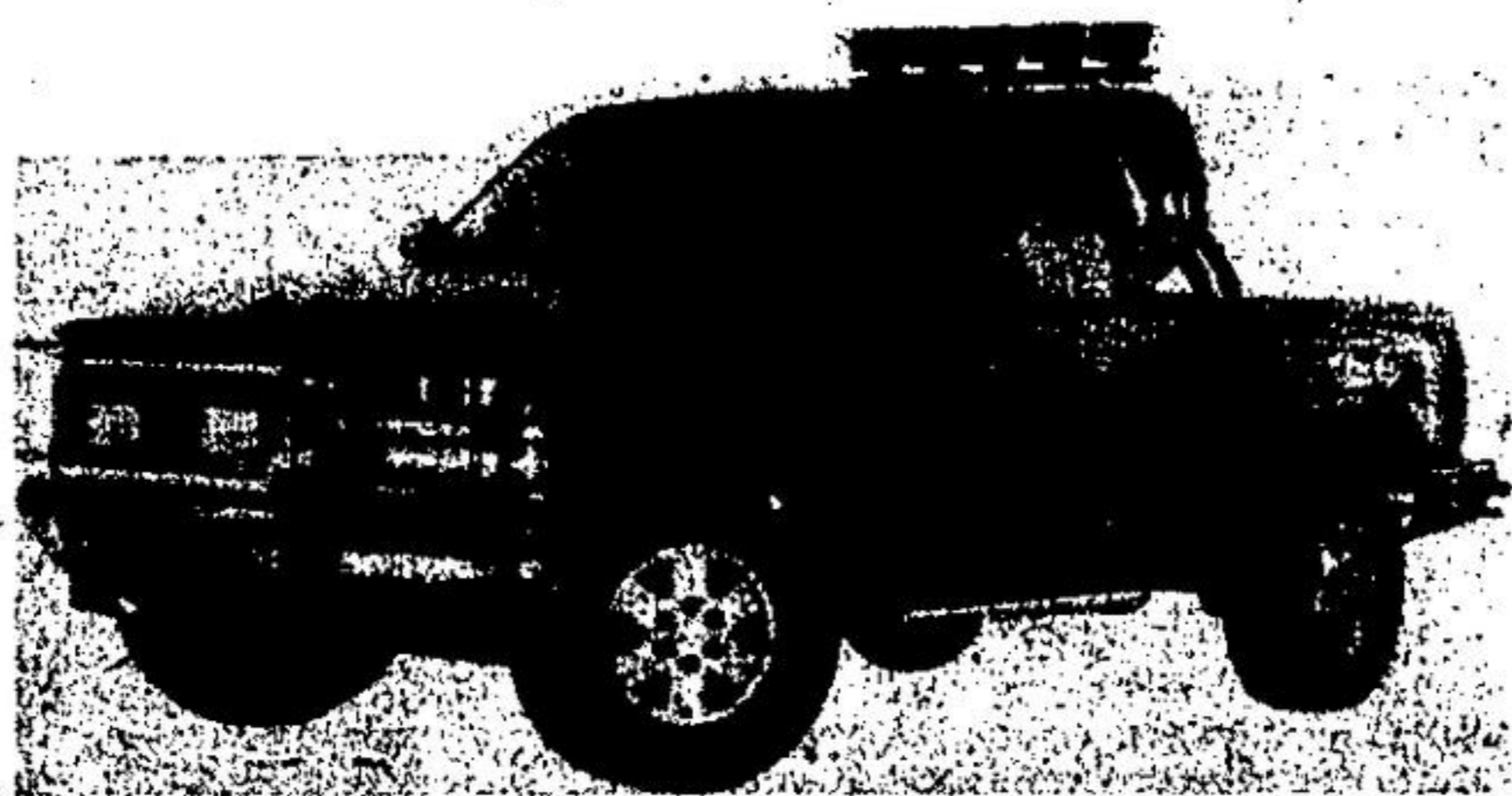
town as a guideline for development in northern Acton.

But Halton wants a say in future development of the town.

The Region wants to implement a sewage monitoring program to make sure the Acton sewage treatment plant has the capacity to handle the extra sewage coming from increased residential and industrial development.

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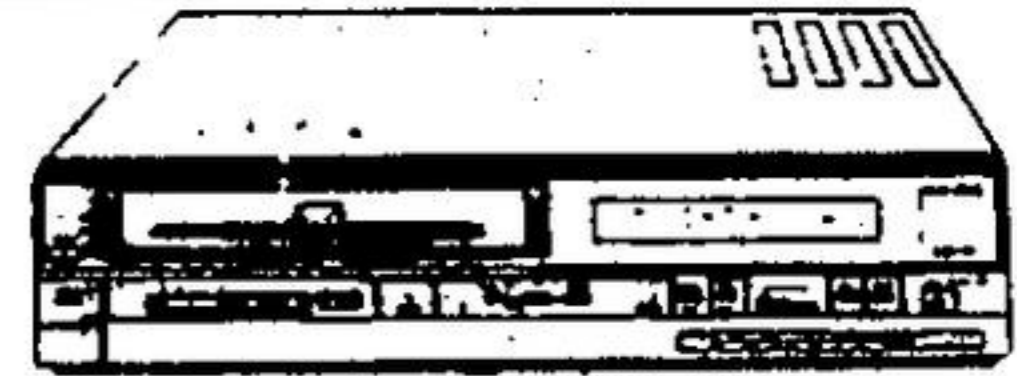
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