

Police Beat

Men charged

Halton Regional Police charged two Mississauga men, 25 and 21 years old respectively, with possession of a small quantity of a substance appearing to be marijuana, during the early morning of May 2 in the Moore Park Plaza parking lot in Georgetown. Police report the two were arrested after they were seen behaving in an intoxicated manner in the parking lot. A court date has been scheduled for June 12.

Men arrested

An Acton youth, and man were charged with theft after a 1985 Ford which went missing from outside an apartment building at 311 Queen St., in Acton sometime during the early morning of May 1, was demolished at Third Line in Erin Township north of Halton-Erin Town Line. Police say the car keys were stolen from the apartment sometime that same morning. Guelph police made the arrests.

Car damaged

Police say someone tore off the rear air foil and severely dented the rear left fender of a 1988 Pontiac, parked outside the bank of 29 Main St., sometime between the evening of April 29 and the morning of May 3, causing \$700 worth of damage. The Pontiac was part of a promotional campaign put on by the bank.

Money stolen

Fifteen dollars of Canadian Tire money was stolen from a vehicle, parked on Byron St., Georgetown, sometime during the early morning of April 23. Police say the automobile was unlocked at the time of the incident.

Tools stolen

Police report someone stole \$900 worth of auto repair tools from a tool cabinet in the Georgetown District High School's auto shop sometime between noon, April 27 and 2 p.m. the next day.

Toilets missing

Four toilet bowls and four toilet tanks valued at \$1,500, were stolen from 43 Alice St., Acton, where Halton Hills Hydro is doing construction, sometime during May 2.

Plywood stolen

Police say someone stole \$900 worth of plywood from a construction site at the end of Hall Road in Georgetown sometime between the evening of May 2 and early the next morning.

Six charges

Impaired driving was just one of six charges police laid against a 27-year-old Oakville woman after her 1988 Ford left the road at Sideroad 15 and Fourth Line and struck a fence, during the afternoon of April 29. Other charges include failure to produce a driver's licence, failure to have proof of ownership, driving with no insurance and invalid licence plates. Police say the woman failed to slow down as she turned onto Fourth Line.

Charges laid

Charges of making an improper turn were laid after a 21-year-old Georgetown man driving a 1985 Chevrolet was severely damaged as a result of a collision with a 1986 Chevrolet on Guelph Street at Maple Avenue in Georgetown during the early morning of April 28. Police say the 1986 Chevrolet was travelling westbound on Guelph Street when the 1985 Chevrolet pulled in front of it.

Liberals emphasize education in recent throne speech

By DOUGLAS ARMOUR
Thomson News Service

The Liberal government's throne speech Tuesday placed a heavy emphasis on education while also focusing on social assistance, reform, health, tougher environmental laws, the economy and community security.

Opposition leaders criticized the speech, saying it lacked substance and ignored crucial issues such as housing, agriculture, municipal affairs and natural resources.

New Democratic Party Leader Bob Rae said the throne speech was tall on rhetoric and platitudes but short on details.

Progressive Conservative interim leader Andy Brandt said the speech was "stale, pie-in-the-sky rhetoric."

Both leaders suggested that inevitably the Liberals will blame federal government spending cutbacks and increased federal taxes for a failure to carry through with their promises.

In fact, the throne speech cautions that many provincial government initiatives could be threatened by a lack of federal commitment.

The Liberals promised in the speech that school boards will be

required to offer half-day junior Kindergarten for four-year-olds as well as half-day senior Kindergarten for five-year-olds.

Also promised was that funding for full-day senior Kindergarten programs will be provided where classroom space permits.

Curricula in Grades 1 to 6 will be revitalized with a focus on development literacy, and analytical and communications skills.

Grade 7, 8 and 9 will contain the core curriculum emphasizing basic skills and progressive problem solving.

Streaming will be eliminated in Grade 9 and Grades 10, 11 and 12 will be developed as years of specialization.

Premier David Peterson acknowledged that the educational changes will be costly. However, he gave no details about what funding arrangements will be made between the province and school boards that are already short of funds, teachers and pupil spaces.

The government also promised to remove barriers that serve as disincentives to working, increase shelter support payments for people on social assistance and increase children's benefits.

On health issues, a promise was made to place more emphasis on health promotion and disease

prevention and address specialty care needs in areas such as cancer, emergency services, AIDS and cardiovascular services.

On the subject of the environment, the Liberals said they would create a new provincial lottery - Cleantario - to help pay for environmental protection projects.

Calling it "a crapshoot," Mr. Rae complained that the lottery means people will have to pay for a cleaner Ontario.

New legislation also will be enacted to reduce automobile pollution and programs aimed at developing pollution abatement equipment and encourage the efficient use of water will be launched.

In the area of economics, the government said they would emphasize skills training, help expand export markets and develop entrepreneurial talent and also develop adjustment programs for laid-off workers.

Following on the recommendations of a police-race relations report, the government said it would provide a race relations training for police forces and promote racial equality in police employment.

Also promised was an expansion of drug enforcement units, and drug treatment and education programs.

Watch Tower neighbors want a green belt

Local residents sent a 14-signature petition to the Town of Halton Hills asking for a greenbelt buffer zone between their homes and the Watch Tower site on Guelph Street.

The Eighth Line residents were reacting to a proposal by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society to expand building on their 172-acre lot. Delegations living

near the Trafalgar Road-Highway 7 location spoke at a recent town council meeting both in support and against the Watch Tower expansion.

"Although we have no objection in principle to the request of the applicant, we have some concerns pertaining to the details of the proposed and future development," says a letter that was sent to town councillors with the Eighth Line petition.

The letter says that although Watch Tower has assured area residents the project would have "no impact on the view from Highway 7... this planning has greatly increased the effect on the existing residential areas to the north and east."

In the petition residents ask for "a dense green belt between

(Watch Tower) facilities and the surrounding residential areas."

The town also received a letter from John and Gabrielle Voros who live on a property adjoining the Watch Tower site. The Voroses say there is "780 feet of adjoining property."

"Our peace and quiet is gone," says the letter. "Noise can be heard every day, even on holidays."

The Voroses say they fear the value of their house will go down if there is no "substantial" greenbelt separating their property from the Watch Tower buildings.

The Town of Halton Hills delayed a recommendation on the proposed Watch Tower expansion until water complaints against the property made by a local resident, can be reviewed.

Average urban resident will pay \$1,600

Tax assessment now in the mail on their way to Halton Hills' residents will show an increase of an average \$138 over last year, over half of which will fund education costs.

Urban residents in Halton Hills will pay an average \$1,600 in taxes this year, an increase of 9.4 per cent over last year. Rural residents, who do not have municipal garbage pick-up, will pay \$1,490, an 8.6 per cent increase over last year.

The bulk of these tax levies will go to education costs. Both urban and rural residents will pay an average \$900 to both education boards in the Region. Education costs will take an average 56 per cent of rural tax levies, and 60 per cent of urban tax levies to pay the \$93.4 million in education costs in Halton Hills.

The big contributor to education taxes will be residents and farm owners who will pay nearly 78 per cent, for a total of \$72.6 million.

Commerce and industry will kick in 15 per cent of the needed total at \$14.2 million. Business will contribute seven per cent for a \$6.6 million total.

The Halton Board of Education will receive \$83 million from the Town of Halton Hills. The Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board will get the remaining \$10.4 million collected.

In addition to education tax, Halton Hills residents will pay an average \$380 annually with an extra \$113 charged to urban residents. Rural residents will pay 26 per cent of their tax levy to the town, urban residents will pay 31 per cent of their tax levy to the town.

The remaining 14 per cent of collected taxes goes to the Region of Halton which will take \$218.

For operation in 1989, the Town of Halton Hills will collect \$27.7 million.

This year's budget includes \$3.4 million budgeted for street light projects in Glen Williams (\$1.9

million), Norval (\$750,000), Stewarttown (\$660,000) and Ballinafad (\$110,000).

The town collects taxes four times a year, including the next two payments which are due in June and September. Taxes for the following year will be assessed on last year's mill rate - the system used to determine taxes - and will be paid in February and May. The difference, once an increase is added in 1990, will be paid on the next tax bills.

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