



Jennifer Pearce came third in Canada-wide science fair in Newfoundland

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The circus came to Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena last weekend.

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Cull, Pasma crack top 10 at OHL draft.

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## Long wait for seniors homes

By DONNA KELL  
Herald Staff

Seniors in Halton Hills can wait anywhere from six months to two years to get into a retirement home as the seniors population in Halton Region soars.

This information comes from the Halton Housing Authority, which runs five "geared-to-income" residences in Acton and Georgetown, just after the release of a Halton Region report entitled "Accommodation Needs of the Elderly in Halton to the Year 2001."

While Halton's population between 1976 and 1986 increased by only 18 per cent, the seniors population increased by almost 75 per cent.

The Region published the report this month to survey the needs of the elderly and to project seniors population figures to the year 2001. In Halton Hills, where the population is an estimated 36,000, there are 2,800 seniors (those aged 65 or older). This figure will almost double if Region predictions for 2001 are correct at a figure of 5,500.

Eleven per cent of the Region's seniors live in Halton Hills.

Trends indicate that the Regional seniors population, which is just over nine per cent of 280,000 people, will increase to almost 13 per cent of the population by 2001.

The bulk of the seniors population in Halton Hills, and in the rest of the Region, is made of the age 65 to 74 age group.

There are almost 1,800 of this group in a total seniors population of 2,800 in Halton Hills. Of Halton's 26,000 seniors, more than 16,000 are between the ages of 65 and 74.

But the Regional report points to an increase in services needed for rural seniors. In Halton Hills, 23 per cent of the population lives in rural areas.

The Region says this could mean more of the elderly are institutionalized. "If access to community and home support services is limited, individuals may seek institutionalization at an earlier time than required," the report says. It points to transportation problems in the rural areas as a prime reason for lack of access to services.

Services such as those offered by the medical profession will also make it necessary for seniors to travel to urban centres, says the report.

Over 25 per cent of the Region's Halton Housing Authority-run retirement apartments are in Halton Hills. Two are in Acton and three are in Georgetown. But there are also other services offered locally to seniors.

The Bennett Health Care Centre in Georgetown also offers retirement residences. And although this 30-bed centre has vacancies, the 47-bed nursing home has a waiting list.

"We get applications almost daily," says Kelly Herbert, Director

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## Province will cover board's \$4 million loss

By BENDUMMETT  
Herald Staff

The Halton Board of Education is taking a wait-and-see approach to the province's proposal to make "a fairer and more equitable system for distributing local revenues" between the province's public and catholic school boards.

As a result of the new sharing tax assessment base-system, which was proposed in the government's recent budget and will come into effect in 1990, the Liberals predict the Halton board will lose approximately \$4.3 million in tax revenue over the plan's six year phase-in period while the catholic board will incur an increase of almost \$4.5 million. However the government plans to increase the public board's operating grants enough over the six-year period

that the board will actually receive a net gain of just over \$2.5 million compared to its current revenue situation.

The board's Superintendent of Business Services Jerry Jenkins, was reluctant to make any predictions concerning the government's promises.

Since the Liberals' estimates are based on the 1987 tax assessment figures, all the board can do is assume the government's figures are accurate, said Mr. Jenkins.

Mr. Jenkins' counterpart at the Halton Roman Catholic School Board said his board was pleased that its tax base will be increased. However he restrained his enthusiasm because proposed changes have yet to be implemented.

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Work That Body fitness instructor Laurie Burnis (left), Mayor Russ Miller and rec department special events supervisor Joanne Wilson are hoping the Halton Hills town flag will be flying over the city of Guelph next week and they're doing their bit today to make sure that happens. Halton Hills has challenged Guelph in the Great Canadian Participation

Challenge and the winning community's flag will grace its opponent's sky for a week. Halton Hills residents are encouraged to exercise for at least 15 minutes today before phoning the rec department hotline at 873-2600 before 11 p.m. to register. (Herald photo by Paul Svoboda)

## Help us win in just 15 minutes

Hey, Halton Hills. Today's the day.

Citizens of Halton Hills have a chance to defend the honor of their community as the annual Great Participation Challenge pits our town against the City of Guelph.

But if exercising alone isn't your thing, or if you need some encouragement to get involved to

day, just grab your sweats and come on down to the Georgetown Market Place for an outdoor fitness break.

Work That Body fitness instructors will be conducting outdoor 15-minute fitness classes open to the public beginning at 12-noon and running again at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Elsewhere, Georgetown schools are also getting involved.

So join in or strike out on your own. Run, jog, walk, pedal or swim. Just do it. And don't forget to phone the rec department's Participation Hotline at 873-2600 before 11 p.m. tonight to register.

Come on Halton Hills. Let's Beat Guelph!