



The Ontario Provincial Police marching band was one of the features at the Halton-Peel St. John's Ambulance festivities Friday at Gordon Alcott Arena in Georgetown. Halton Hills was chosen as this year's host for the annual parade. (Herald photo)

Civic Centre officially opens Aug. 26

By LOIS FRASER
Herald Special

The moving vans are rolling up to the new Civic Centre, loaded with desks, files, regulations and all the stuff necessary to administer the business of our town. I keep hoping they will lose my tax records but I'm sure someone's done a double check to see that doesn't happen.

While the official opening ceremony is slated for August 26, 1989, our politicians and town staff are moving now as the building is ready for occupancy. This all seems rather proper and if it weren't for a couple of silly things taking place on the front lawn, we might all get carried away by the seriousness of the occasion.

There are two groundhogs who haven't got the message yet that the Civic Centre is here to stay. I have seen them chasing each other and cavorting on the front lawn on several occasions. I thought I heard one say the other day: "Oh no - politicians, there goes the neighborhood." It's pretty hard to forget our country roots with the woodland creatures out there misbehaving.

In the past year I have been part of the Civic Centre Donations Committee which is a group of citizens whose goal is to beautify our new Civic Centre. We have met regularly and have a pretty good idea of the site, building and what needs to be done to make it a source of civic pride. In all of these meetings I didn't notice plans for a grapevine on the front lawn so I was pretty shocked the other day when I drove past. Maybe it is real-

ly the press gallery and nobody told us about it. Can't you picture Hartley and Brian out there on lawn chairs waiting for the latest news? Turns out the landscape architect felt that as many of the original property's vegetation, such as apple orchards, evergreens (and grapevines) should be left intact to keep our 'country flavor.' Bob Austin says it is an experiment - they can always be taken down later.

I personally think they are making wine to keep councillors awake during meetings. I also have vi-

sions of Tom Shepard and the Recreation Department gang stomping barefoot in the grapes saying it's some kind of aerobic exercise that gives us extra points in our challenge against Guelph.

In any case, there is a lot of serious business going on inside the new Civic Centre walls. It really is beautiful inside and we hope to add some extras to make it spectacular. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Gary Brand at 877-0300 or Fred Helson at 877-5206.



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Law enforcement

America's law-enforcement community employed 2.1 full-time officers for every 1,000 inhabitants as of Oct. 31, 1987, according to The World Almanac. The highest law enforcement employee rate was in the Northeast with 2.9.

Volcanoes

More than 75 percent of the world's 850 active volcanoes lie within the "Ring of Fire." It's a zone running along the west coast of the Americas from Chile to Alaska and down the east coast of Asia from Siberia to New Zealand, notes The World Almanac.

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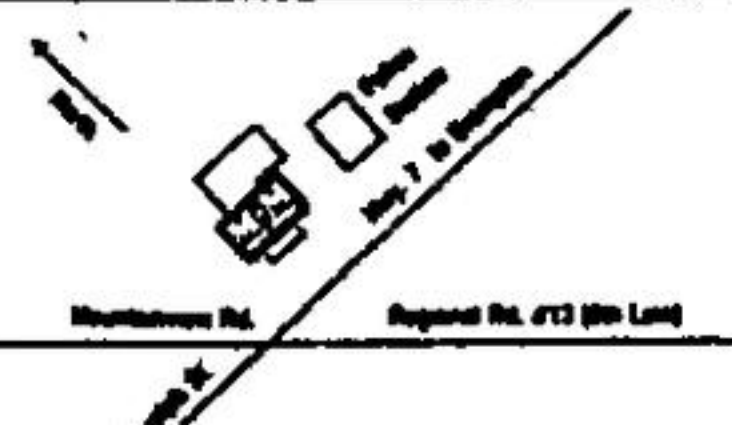
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