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Attempt to halt deer hunt shot down

A move to end deer hunting in Halton's government-owned agreement forests was shot down at a Regional committee meeting last week.

Oakville Councillor Janet Mitchell opposed the annual four-day shotgun hunt and two-month archery

season in the Region's 14 agreement forests. The hunts are held under Ontario ministry of natural resources guidelines that call for a Nov. 6 to 9 shotgun hunt and an archery season that begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 31 this year.

The hunts are designed to control

deer population. Region staff say deer caused a total \$72,000 damage to farmer's crops last year, including \$46,000 damage to field crops and \$26,000 to orchard and nursery stock.

Mrs. Mitchell was joined in her opposition to the annual hunts on

Regional land by Milton Coun. Bill Johnson. The majority of Halton's agreement forests are located in Milton.

"It should be referred to as a deer slaughter, not a deer hunt," Coun. Mitchell told the Region's planning and public works committee Wednesday. "I don't think this Region should have hunting on its property."

Hunting at specified times in the Region's forests was approved in 1986. A total ban on hunting imposed in 1985 was lifted from all agreement forests except the Coulson Tract in Hornby, which remains hunt-free.

A Regional staff report said the hunt has stabilized the deer population over the last three years, but Coun. Johnson said the deer population has not stabilized. He said the deer are being "squeezed" into smaller areas by quarries and by outdoor sports such as snowmobiling, hiking and cross-country skiing.

Regional planning commissioner Rash Mohammed said the 37 steps approved by the Region in 1986 to control the deer population are

working. he said the number of complaints made against hunters has decreased by 75 per cent since 1986. At that time, there were 20 hunting complaints, when 420 hunters participated in the season. In 1988, there were 585 hunters participating in the deer season, and five complaints launched.

The number of deer killed by hunters and by motorists has changed little since 1986. There were 69 deer-related vehicle accidents in 1986 and 65 in the Region in 1988. One-third of those deer killed on roads last year were killed in Halton Hills. Another 21 deer were killed in Milton.

The deer harvest - the number of deer killed and gathered by hunters - has hovered around the 150 mark for the past three years, although the number of hunters participating in the annual hunt increased.

One third of the harvested deer were killed during the archery season. Although opposed to both shotgun and bow and arrow hunting, Coun. Johnson said archery is more dangerous than guns.

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"An apple a day"

North Halton Scouts were out in full force apples in hand around town this past weekend collecting donations for the various North Halton Scout groups. Brad Crane of the Fourth Georgetown Scouts (left) and Brad Soucha of the First Limehouse Scouts were two

of the scouts collecting donations. Scouts were stationed outside shopping plazas as well as going door-to-door. At press time the total amount raised was unknown. The amount will be released Wednesday evening. (Herald Photo)

Single mom scratches a \$50,000 winner

...And the winner is...Susan Allan of Georgetown.

Ms. Allan, a construction worker, recently won \$50,000 in the Ontario Lottery Corporation Scratch and Win game.

"Right on!" is how Ms. Allan summed up her feelings about the cash windfall.

"It came at the right time. I am a single parent and I always wanted to buy a house for my family," she said excitedly.

But the new house is going to be put on hold for a while.

"I'm in no hurry to spend the money," she said. "I'm just going to let it sit in the bank and collect interest."

Ms. Allan who has been playing the scratch and win game for the seven or eight years, was carrying around the lucky ticket in her purse for three weeks before she pulled it out one day and realized she was carrying around \$50,000.

"I found the ticket at the bottom of my purse when I was cleaning it out. I scratched the ticket and there was three \$50,000 matches."

This is the first time Ms. Allan has ever won a lottery.

"At first I thought there would be a catch but I just went down (to the corporation office) and it was simple and it was true."

"I don't think it's hit me yet. But I'm sure it will one day when I go to the bank and see how much money I have."

Acton man killed in auto accident

A 20-year-old Acton man died and another Acton man, 19, was seriously injured when the vehicle they were travelling in left the Fourth Line north of Steeles Avenue in Milton and struck a hydro pole early Friday morning.

Halton Regional Police declared Michael John MacNeil of Acton dead at the scene of the 1 a.m. accident. Harvey Thorne was first taken by ambulance to Milton District Hospital and then transferred to Oakville Trafalgar Hospital where he is currently listed in serious condition.

Milton Hydro repairman discovered the accident at about 2:15 a.m. when they arrived at the scene to repair a power shortage, police say.

The driver is still unknown police say. An investigation is ongoing.