

Cab fares up 5 per cent

Taxi cab rates increased Monday morning by five per cent making the average cost of a ride in one of Halton Hills 21 taxis \$5.15.

Halton Hills councillors passed the bylaw at a council meeting last week. The bylaw gave taxi company owners half of what they requested.

The owners of three companies in Halton Hills met with town officials in July to discuss rate increases.

The drop rate - the initial price of

entering a cab - increased by 25 cents to \$1.75. Taxi drivers asked for a 50-cent increase, making the drop rate \$2., but the town refused, said Halton Hills Taxi owner Willie Wilkonson. A three-kilometre ride was \$4.90 but increased Monday to \$5.15.

The \$18-an-hour waiting time applied for by the cab drivers was approved by Halton Hills council. This means an increase of 20 per cent from the \$15-fee previously charged.

Mr. Wilkonson said the first two

kilometres of a taxi ride will cost riders \$3.95. The price of 20 cents for each one-sixth of a kilometre after the first two will stay the same, he said.

Taxi drivers did not ask for a per-kilometre increase.

Taxi drivers sought hikes for the first time in the past three years, Mr. Wilkonson said.

He said the price of tires, gasoline, insurance and dispatching taxis pushed up costs for taxi company owners are "standard reasons" for increases.

NHADH gets \$328,000 grant from province

A provincial government grant of \$328,000 to the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped will improve the quality of life for eight handicapped people, executive director John Ellis of the Georgetown centre said Monday.

Months of negotiating with the Ministry of community and social services produced the grant announced by Halton North MP Walt Elliot last week.

Slightly over \$251,000 will provide increased staffing and operating funds, while \$77,000 will be used to upgrade a residential program in Georgetown and a day centre in Milton.

"We've been negotiating for several months with the government on this. We had originally asked for more than this, but we're very pleased with what the government has given us," Mr. Ellis said.

"It's a tremendous help at this time because it will allow us to continue our objective of helping people who are in institutions to live and work in the community."

Three new clients from group

homes will be included in an "independent living" program, Mr. Ellis said. Two more clients will move from an institution into a residence, and three clients will move into a residential setting.

The NHADH serves 150 clients in North Halton. From 80 to 100 per cent of funding for its projects comes from the Ministry of community and social services.

There are two sheltered workshops that provide day programs for the handicapped and there are life skills development programs for those who can't function in sheltered workshops, Mr. Ellis said. The workshop in Hornby serves 50 handicapped clients.

The NHADH also provides housing for the handicapped. The centre provides rent and owned townhouses and apartments in North Halton and a Weber Drive residence in Georgetown for the severely disabled.

There are plans to renovate the residence, which will include adding wheelchair access, and improving the day life skills programs.

Sandy Black directs Fiddler

Kitchener native Sandy Black will bring the epic musical Fiddler on the Roof to life on stage at the John Elliott Theatre this November.

Globe Productions has chosen Sandy Black as the artistic director of the play.

Mr. Black is the director of the technical production program at Ryerson Theatre School in Toronto.

In his travels throughout the world, he has directed over 100 productions and he is the author of Production Paperwork System.

After graduating from the Webber-Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London, England, Mr. Black studied directing under Michel Saint-Denis at L'Ecole Supérieure d'Art Dramatique de l'Est in Strasbourg France and he later served as director of productions for the London Players in Belfast.

In 1959, he was granted a Canada Council Award for a study of European theatres.

Mr. Black worked as stage and company manager at London's

Royal Court Theatre, the Ludlow Festival, and the Central School of Speech and Drama. In 1963 he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company as assistant to Mr. Saint-Denis and manager of the Royal Shakespeare Studio. In 1968 he became assistant to the director of the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company in Edinburgh. That same year he became a staff producer with the English National Opera in London.

In 1969 Mr. Black returned to Toronto to manage Burton Auditorium at York University. He was appointed to his present position at Ryerson in 1972.

In 1978 Mr. Black was the founding artistic director of the Laughing Water Festival in Meaford, Ont. and in 1984 he became the artistic advisor for the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts Summer Season. From 1984 to 1986 he was a member of the panel of judges for the annual ACTRA awards.

He is currently a member of the

design team for the new Meadowvale Theatre under construction in Mississauga.

Fiddler on the Roof opens with a gala evening on Nov. 16. Performances are also scheduled for Nov. 18, Nov. 23-26, Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m.

Matinees will be featured Nov. 19 and 26 at 2 p.m.

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