

Town's waste pick up policy is discriminatory - chamber

The Town of Halton Hills is discriminating against certain commercial businesses by not providing town garbage pickup for all of them, chamber of commerce executive manager Doug Penrice said last week.

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce approached the town earlier this year asking the town to inform local businesses of their right to town-funded commercial garbage pickup.

Mr. Penrice said it was a "modest victory" for the town engineering department to admit the present waste collection in urban areas is "discriminating" by charging all taxpayers for urban garbage pickup and not supplying the service to all commercial businesses in the urban area.

"There's been quite a concern raised by the chamber of commerce that a number of local people won't get equal treatment," town engineering manager Ted Drewlo said last week.

The town placed advertisements in the local newspapers in Acton and Georgetown, informing people that commercial garbage pickup for urban areas is available.

But Mr. Penrice said the adver-

tisements placed in the newspapers were "too small" to be noticed. The chamber reacted last week by sending 350 flyers to businesses who could be entitled to urban commercial pickup.

"The chamber said they were trying to get the word out better than we did by this newspaper ad," Mr. Drewlo said in response to the chamber's actions. He said the town's engineering department will wait until the chamber gets feedback on its flyers before adding new businesses to the town

commercial garbage pickup.

Town garbage pickup for businesses is restricted to commercial property. Any property zoned industrial is not entitled to the service, Mr. Penrice said.

Somestores entitled to the urban commercial waste pickup are located in the Georgetown Marketplace and on Mountainview Road, the chamber manager said.

The chamber of commerce is directing local companies who want urban commercial pickup to call Halton Hills town offices.



St. John's 150th anniversary

St. John's United Church Rev. Nancy Knox and chairman of the board Lynn Ferguson celebrated the congregation's 150th anniversary at the church on Guelph Street on Sunday. Former members and friends were invited back for the service in the 100-year-old building. (Herald photo)

Bell offers one-price calls to Toronto at double basic rates

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

Bell Canada sent over 10,000 ballots to Georgetown residents and businesses last week offering one-price calls to Toronto at more than double the present basic rates.

The surveys sent to the 873 and 877 exchanges in Georgetown are a result of the CRTC (Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission) ruling last year. The CRTC said Georgetown is one of about 120 communities in Ontario eligible to vote for the toll-free service to Toronto.

Georgetown, like the other communities, has more than 60 per cent of Bell callers phoning Toronto at least once a month.

The phone company must have approval from more than 50 per cent of the respondents before the toll-free line goes into effect. There are 9,000 residents and over 1,000 businesses in Georgetown.

A residential line now costing \$8.75 a month would increase to \$19 under the new system. Basic charges for a business line would increase from \$29.10 to \$64.55 a month.

Local Bell business office manager Nancy Creede said the Georgetown vote could go "either way" on the toll-free service, but

she said businesses would likely favor free calls to Toronto.

"Our latest figures show that in June, 66 per cent of people in Georgetown made at least one call to Toronto."

If the November results from the present survey show over 50 per cent support for one-price calls to Toronto, the service could be in effect within three years, Ms. Creede said.

If Georgetown votes to get toll-free calls to Toronto, the calling area would include Etobicoke, York, Scarborough and downtown Toronto. Areas between Georgetown and Toronto, such as Mississauga, will remain long-distance.

A local woman told the Herald Monday that she was concerned that not all residents would respond to Bell's survey. But Ms. Creede said there is an "80 to 90 per cent" response rate to the surveys. If people do not respond, Bell Canada will telephone the customers, she said.

Surveys were recently completed in Palgrave, a community north of Bolton. Those residents voted 61 per cent in favor of one-price calls to Toronto at a cost of almost three times the present rate. Rates in Palgrave will increase from \$7.40 to \$19 a month

for residential calls and from \$22 to \$64.55 for a business line.

Milton residents also received surveys for toll-free calls to Toronto. Ms. Creede said Milton is as likely as Georgetown to approve the phone service.

All Halton Hills 416-exchange telephones will face the same increases if the toll-free Toronto service is approved. Two-party residential lines will increase from \$6.45 monthly to \$13.40. A "measured" business line, where 95 calls or less per month are dialed, will cost \$34.70, up from \$16.85 and will include a total 205 calls.

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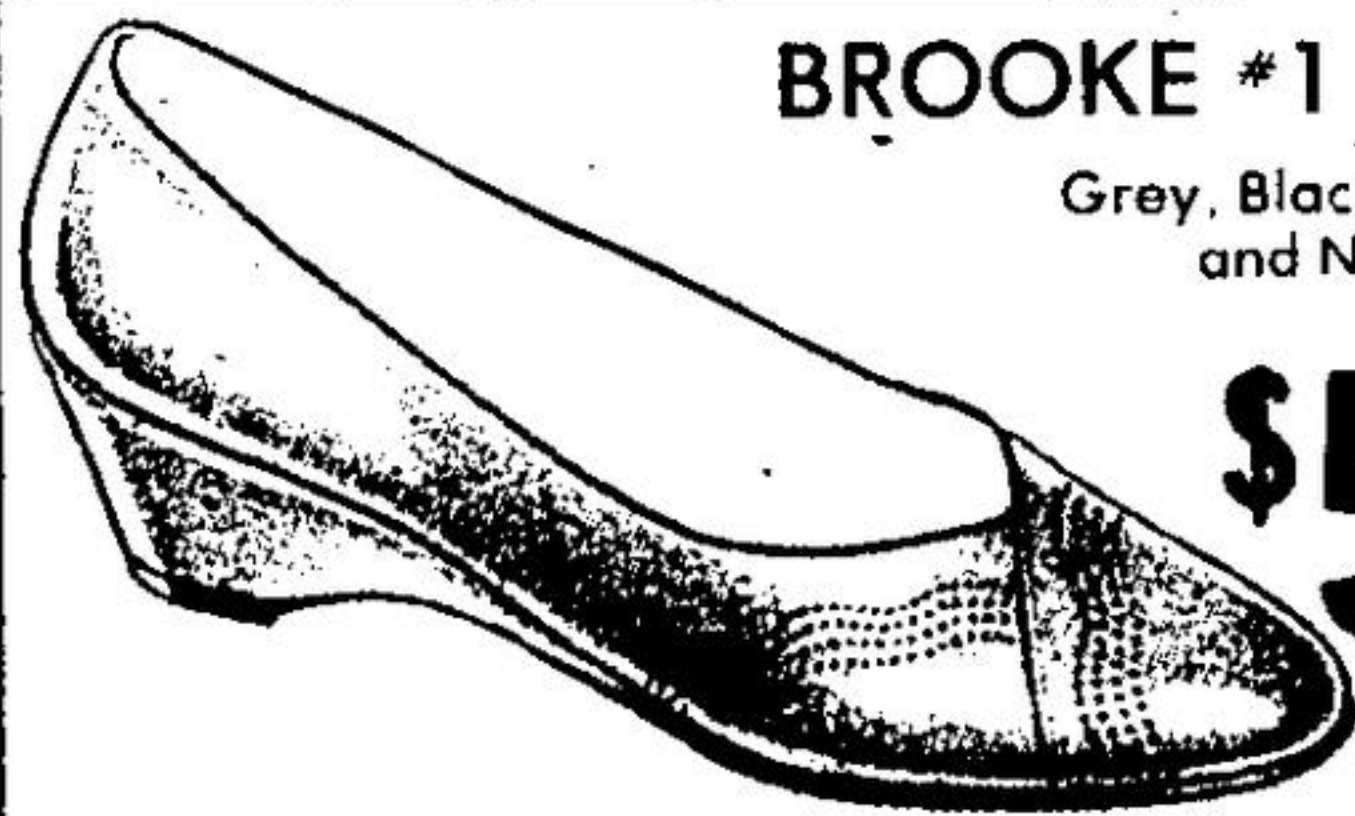
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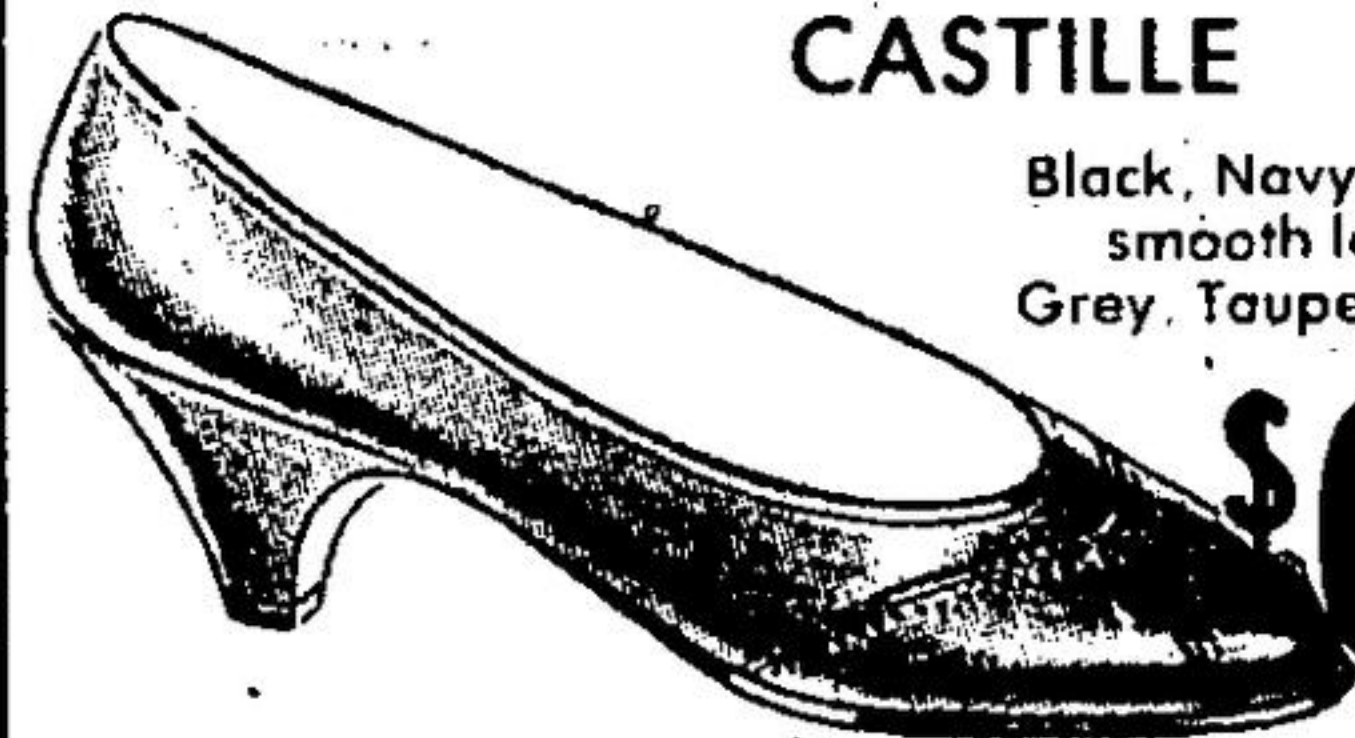
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