

## Halton councillors get 5.5 per cent raise

Halton Regional councillors will see a 5.5 per cent increase on their paycheques next week.

Councillors Wednesday approved a pay hike that will give each councillor \$17,464 a year effective Dec. 1 and will mean \$66,498 a year for Regional chairman Peter Pomeroy.

Councillors were paid \$16,554 in 1988 while the chairman's annual paycheque was \$63,031. The

Region's administration and finance committee had recommended a 5.2 per cent increase but finance commissioner Joe Rinaldo said a formula used for calculating the politicians' annual income determined the 5.5 per cent figure.

Chairman Pomeroy is provided with a car and gas paid for by the Region. Regional councillors receive gas mileage for their work-related travel.

## Watchtower set for expansion

Facing delays in getting water for expansion, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society in Georgetown will go ahead with expansion that doesn't require more water.

The 172-acre site on Highway 7 near Trafalgar Road is slated for expansion to its residential buildings as well as expansion to a general service area that will include building a 10,000-square-foot garage.

The Town of Halton Hills will likely vote next Monday to approve phase one of Watchtower expansion that will include the 10,000-

square-foot garage, an enlarged kitchen and dining area, relocating accessory operations and building a drive-through canopy.

Like other projects in Halton Hills, the Watchtower expansion second phase of the Watchtower expansion cannot be approved until the society gets water allocation from the town.

The town has water for 1,350 new houses, or 25 per cent of the demand created by 34 developers' applications.

A recent hydrogeologist report said there is adequate water on the

Watchtower property to service the site, but the town in November said water allocations will be given on an individual basis.

Town administrative assistant Stephen Thomson said Watchtower's original "comprehensive" plan was split to allow the society to begin construction.

"We've basically broken (the plan) into two parts so they can get going ASAP," he said.

A building permit for the construction if approved Monday could be available as early as next week.



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### Local truckers say

## Longer trucks are safer and easier to control

By DONNA KELL  
the Herald

An Ontario ministry of transportation move to allow longer trucks on provincial roads won't affect Halton Hills, local truckers say.

The truck companies responded to a provincial bill to go for a first reading at Queen's Park in February. That bill, if passed, would allow transport trucks a 53-foot trailer.

The legislation would allow trucks on provincial roads to be a total 25 metres long, two metres longer than the present limit of 23 metres passed in 1983.

"It's strictly an economic issue for some of the larger truckers. They (ministry of transportation) are ignoring the consequence of accident and injury" with the longer loads, said Alfred Oakie, president of the Hamilton Automobile Club that serves the Halton Hills area.

Mr. Oakie said large trucks are already "pounding our highways to death and creating congestion."

But Ted Tyler of Tyler Transport Ltd. in Acton said changes to the Truck Transportation Act are "not going to have any great impact on me."

Mr. Tyler said if longer trailers are used, companies must purchase them to compete in the transport market.

He said lower density loads or long objects like steel and concrete beams could be easier to haul with the longer truck trailers and trucks could have a "safer" load because there is no "overhang."

Bob Burns of Burns Transport Ltd. in Georgetown said the longer vehicle and trailer combination

could be "easier to control" and would be safer, but he said he can "understand the concern of the motoring public with their cars."

But pressure from outside the province is forcing Ontario to comply with regulations already in effect in Western Canada, Quebec and the United States, Mr. Burns said.

"We pretty well have to do it (extend the truck length) anyway. Our business associates on either side of us... all have these large vehicles."

Mr. Burns said the traffic situation on Ontario's provincial roads is "a mess already."

"The only way to lessen the problem is to have more roads."

But according to Hamilton Automobile Club statistics, Ontario's provincial roads are the most congested in the country.

The density of truck traffic in 1987 was 998,473 truck tractors for 21,563 km of provincial highway.

### Damage totals \$6,500 in Acton break-in

Halton Regional Police are investigating a recent break and enter incident—at A and B Foodland in Acton in which the stolen goods, and damaged property totalled about \$6,500.

The culprit smashed the store's front window and then stole several cartons of cigarettes and a lot of meat sometime overnight Dec. 3. A pop machine and a cash register was also damaged.

Police have no suspects.



### Leader of the pack

Georgetown District High School students will present Leader of the Pack, a story based on the life of Ellie Greenwich, who wrote the famous song and other hits on Dec. 14, 15 and 16 at the high school cafeteria. Here, Jennifer Hewitt (who plays Ellie)

admires the piano playing of Paul Gardiner (Jeff Barry) during a scene from the play. Tickets are available at Oxbow Books and Christiane Hairstyles on Main Street in Georgetown. (Herald photo)

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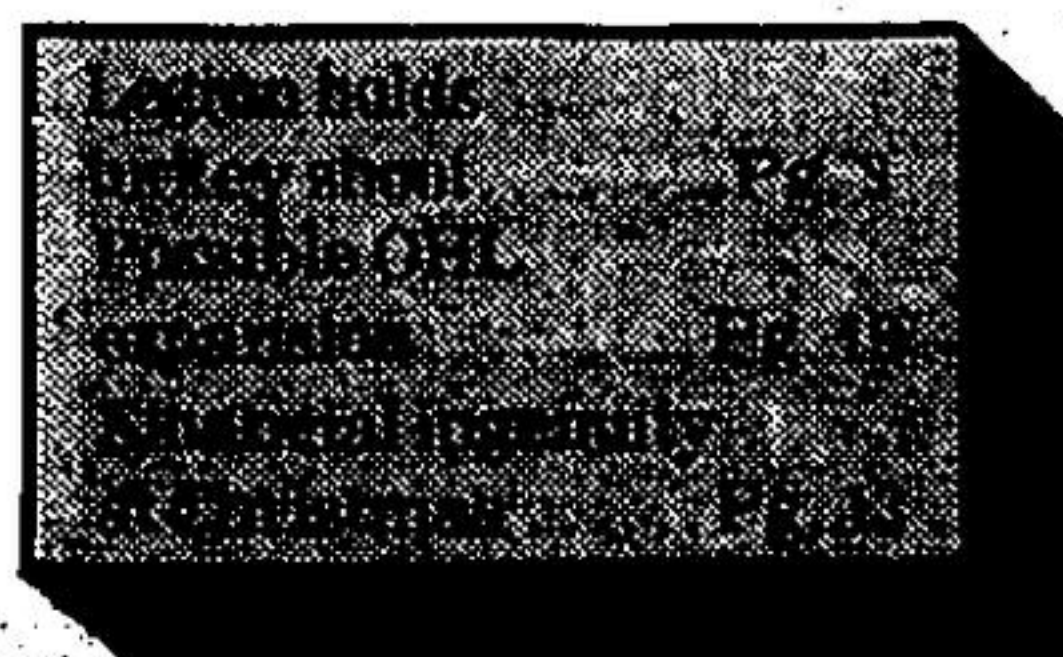
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