



Hundreds gather
at Civic Centre
New Year's Eve

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Chamber manager
disappointed by
16% response

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Raiders double
Streetsville
by 6-3 score

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28 PAGES

Town set to implement mandatory recycling

By DONNA KELL
the Herald

Halton Hills residents who refuse to use their Blue Boxes for sorting newspapers, bottles and cans could risk losing their garbage pick-up.

The town is now working on a bylaw to punish the estimated five to 10 per cent of residents who are still putting recyclables into green garbage bags.

Town recycling co-ordinator Paul Sergent says the first move was made by Halton Region in January, 1989, when council voted to have the municipalities legislate mandatory recycling for 1990.

"We've provided opportunities for everybody to recycle their residential waste," Mr. Sergent said. "There's no reason why on garbage day people can't separate their reusables from other garbage."

Halton Hills will accept newspaper, corrugated cardboard, glass jars and bottles, metal food and beverage containers, plastic soft drink containers and magazines, catalogues and books in the Blue Boxes.

The first recycling program in Halton Hills was started in 1975 when the town was involved in a provincial ministry of the environment pilot project. A year ago the town implemented the Blue Box curbside garbage pick-up.

But town garbage pick-up now

includes only urban areas. Blue Boxes will not be in place in rural areas until a policy expected to be written and approved by Halton Hills government this year allows rural garbage pick-up to begin in October or November, Mr. Sergent says.

Regional waste management director John MacKay said rural areas now use large Blue Boxes for recyclables.

Apartment dwellers can look for Blue Bags to be introduced for recycling materials as early as sometime this month.

Waste pick-up drivers will monitor the use of the Blue Box, Mr. Sergent said. If no recyclable materials appear at the curbside for several consecutive pick-ups, a sticker will be attached to one garbage bag.

"We'll take the rest of (the bags) and we'll leave one behind. They'll say 'how come my garbage hasn't been picked up?'" Mr. Sergent said.

The next step enforcing recycling could be to hand-deliver a letter to the resident's home warning of an impending fine or the threat of losing garbage pick-up altogether.

Mr. Sergent said in Oakville, the place Halton Hills used to model its own policy, fines can reach \$1,000 for Blue Box offenders.

But it is unlikely Halton Hills would stop a resident's garbage

pick-up service.

"I think cutting off the service is probably threat enough for people to start the (Blue Box) system," Mr. Sergent said.

"It would have to be a very obvious abuse of the garbage system before service is discontinued," Mr. MacKay said.

Ninety to 95 per cent of people who have garbage pick-up in Halton Hills use the Blue Box pro-

gram for recycling, compared to a lower Region-wide average of 85 to 90 per cent.

The latest initiative in Halton Hills is aimed at the five to 10 per cent of those who don't recycle and could take three to four months to be passed by Halton Hills council.

"I can't see it happening before then," Mr. Sergent said.

With Halton sending its garbage to sites in Niagara Falls and New

York State for disposal at a cost of \$1 million a month, the Region's waste management team is trying to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill sites.

"Right now, we're at about 15 or 16 per cent waste diversion from landfill (sites), and that's without a mandatory push towards recycling," Mr. Sergent said. "But with mandatory recycling, we could reach 20 per cent."

Three more charges for Sunday openings

The Sunday shopping issue just won't go away.

Three stores in Georgetown and 11 stores in the rest of Halton Region were charged for opening on Sunday, Dec. 31 under the provincial Retail Business Holidays Act.

Police charged A and P on Sinclair Avenue, Loblaws on Guelph Street and Shoppers Drug Mart, also on Guelph Street, in Georgetown.

A Feb. 26 court date has been scheduled in connection with all three charges.

The manager of Loblaws, Ron McEachern and his counterpart at A and P, Rob James, wouldn't comment on whether their store would be open this coming Sunday. But the franchise owner of Shoppers Drug Mart, Al Fraser, said he would continue to open his store Sundays.

Martha Durdin, a spokesperson for the Committee for Fair Shopping, which includes A and P and Dominion, Loblaws Supermarkets

Ltd., and the Oshawa Group Ltd., said the A and P and Loblaws chains would open their stores this Sunday. She also said there is a good chance the stores will continue to be open on following Sundays in Georgetown and throughout Halton.

Halton Region's legal department has said it will take the major grocery chains and other repeat Sunday opening offenders to the Ontario Supreme Court to attempt getting an injunction to stop the stores from opening.

But no one in the legal department could give a date when they would take them to court.

The chains are defying the current legislation to protest its inequities, said Ms. Durdin.

The group disagrees that some stores are allowed to open on Sundays while others are not.

The protest openings began Nov. 12 and since then, Loblaws has been charged the two times it has been illegally opened. A and P has

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All the way down boys....

Kids and parents alike were at the North Halton up New Year's Day. Here 7-year-old Joshua Martin, Golf and Country Club in Georgetown tobogganing, (front) and his older brother John "catch some air" cross country skiing and just generally whooping it as they speed down a hill at the 10th hole.