

## See how public works works at week-long open house

The central works yard of the Halton Hills Public Works Department is open for tours until the end of the week, superintendent of public works, Frank Morette, said.

The staff is holding the open house because this week is Public Works Week across North America.

The display at the central works yard, on Trafalgar Road, will allow people to check out the machines outside and numerous displays inside the main building, Mr. Morette said. This allows people to familiarize themselves with the public works department, he added.

"I think (Public Works Week) is making people aware that we are professional people," Mr. Morette said. A long time ago people believed "If you can't work anywhere else, you work for the municipality," he said. This week should help correct those old ideas, Mr. Morette said.

"We operate with a budget in excess of \$2 to \$2.5 million," Mr. Morette noted.

The public works department takes care of refuse collection and disposal, recycling, road maintenance, snow plowing and cleaning up spills, to name a few, Mr. Morette said.

The refuse collection and disposal is the largest expenditure of the public works department and snow plowing takes up almost \$1 million by itself, he said.

Four classes from Glen Williams Public School have already visited the yard, Mr. Morette said.

The four-day showing is being hosted by the supervisory staff of the public works department under the direction of Mr. Morette. Everyone is invited to

view the display and ask questions, Mr. Morette said. The displays will also be open at night until 8:30 today (Wednesday) through Friday.



Superintendent of Public Works, Frank Morette, backs a truck into position for this week's showing of the facilities at the central works yard on Trafalgar Road. The week-long showing ends this Friday. (Herald photo)

## Day care spaces needed

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care facility, said Ms. Jonz.

Ms. Jonz is in charge of implementing a long-term child care facility plan. Ms. Jonz's job is to encourage people in the Region's four municipalities to set up licensed subsidized or private home care facilities and non-licensed home child care services. The implementation program also includes providing education on child care to those who set up non-licensed services.

Non-licensed child care facilities are those in which people offer babysitting services throughout the day, explained Ms. Jonz.

Several Halton Hills residents have enquired about setting up a child care service, said Ms. Jonz. But she was unwilling to reveal any names of the people because nothing has been confirmed.

Although Halton Hills is in need of more child care spaces it doesn't have the problems faced by other municipalities in the Region. There are more than 200 people on the waiting list for Oakville, said Ms. Jonz.

The idea of expanding the Maple Ave. centre became possible after the Region decided in 1988 parts of the building needed reconstruction.

The renovations were required because the deterioration of the foundation and the exterior walls were so great that if left in disrepair they would have presented a safety hazard for the children.

The building was converted into a child care centre from an old farm house that was built sometime during the early 1900s. Renovations are expected to cost

between \$80,000 and \$120,000 with the Region paying between \$16,000 and \$24,000, according to a Regional report authored by Halton's commissioner of social

services, Bonnie Ewart.

The province is expected to pay the difference and the Region has no concerns that it won't fulfill this expectation, said Ms. Ewart.

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## Seniors will make pitch to town May 28

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because of its old age, said Mayor Miller.

But even if the Memorial Arena has to be replaced, the design of a new arena would depend on available funding.

If the public wants the land that is occupied by Memorial Arena turned into a park instead of sold to be developed, the town would lose a major source of income to build a new arena, said Mayor Miller. And "the town doesn't have money coming out of its ears," said the mayor.

This kind of scenario could possibly unfold in the near future because of the opposition from several Acton residents towards the town possibly allowing the Acton Old Stone School property to become part of a Regional non-profit housing project.

Although no decision has been made, Mayor Miller predicted town council will decide not to sell the Old Stone School property to the Halton Region Non-Profit Housing Authority, because of the recent public outcry. If this decision is made, then another source of money is eliminated, said Mayor Miller.

But the Mayor also speculated a large portion of town-owned land in

and around the Civic Centre - once it's hooked up to the town's water and sewage line - could be sold for several million dollars. Enough, said the mayor, that many of the town's capital projects could be easily funded. The hook-up could happen in two years, said the mayor.

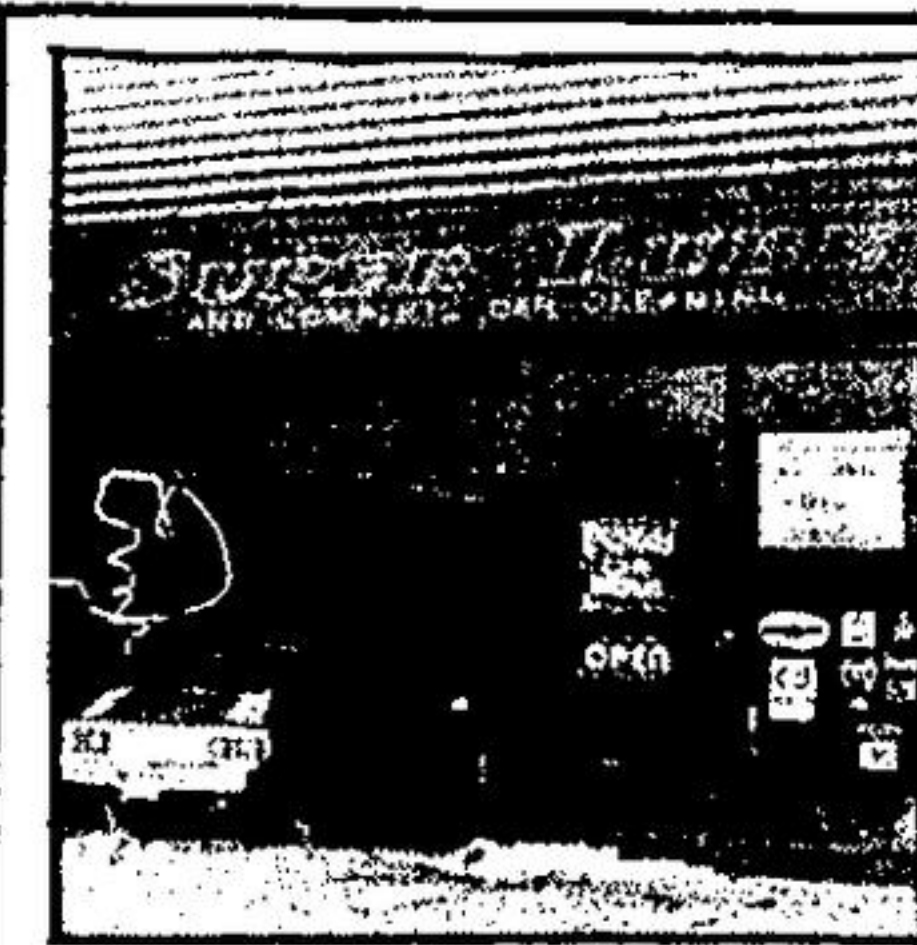
The seniors association chose the option of building the centre in partnership with the town over several other possibilities because it's the least expensive option. Mr. Mellish argued it is more economical in the initial cost of the centre and in the ensuing operating costs to combine buildings that provide several different services.

Based on a 1988 town survey of the needs of seniors in Halton Hills, Mr. Mellish suggested the centre should be able to provide a range of services including space for social gatherings, a lounge, club meetings, a fitness area, a kitchen and an office.

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