



Bicycle rodeo

Harry the Hobo (Acton Optimist member Wilfred Gardner) provided the comic relief during the second annual Acton Optimist Club Bicycle Rodeo for the children of Acton last Saturday at the Acton Arena. About 75 children showed up during the day long event. (Herald photo)

Handicapped awareness week

Halton Hills council has officially declared the week of June 11 as National Awareness week for the handicapped in Halton Hills.

The week is being recognized throughout Halton to promote the independence of the handicapped. And this means society has to direct its efforts to break down barriers that currently prevent the handicapped from carrying out everyday activities, according to the town's declaration.

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Environment ministry should control escarpment, Elliot says

The provincial government is reviewing the structure of its ministries, Halton North Liberal MPP Walt Elliot said at the annual meeting of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce.

In his speech May 16, Mr. Elliot told the group of business people the Niagara Escarpment Commission will be transferred from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to the Ministry of the Environment within about six months. "A lot of us have felt strongly, for a long time, that it (Ministry of the Environment) would be a more logical place for it to be," he said.

While the idea for the commission started a long time ago, the actual commission was only set up five years ago, Mr. Elliot noted. He credits Conservative Norm Stirling with presenting the idea to the minority house and making sure the commission had a review set up for it. This review resulted in the switch of the commission to another ministry.

Most of the acts that came out of the Conservative provincial government were not reviewed, he said. He stated one act specifically that had not been reviewed for 79 years. The Mining Act of 1906 was not reviewed until about five years ago, he said.

Curwood celebrates 20th anniversary

Georgetown-based company Curwood Packaging is inviting Halton Hills residents to help celebrate the company's 20th anniversary this Saturday between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Special guests include Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner, North-Halton MPP Walt Elliot and Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller.

Activities offered during the day include musical entertainment, plant tours and balloons for all the children. As well, coffee and donuts will be offered during the morning, and this will be followed by a buffet lunch later in the day.

Mr. Elliot said he has been asked why the province did not move the commission sooner. "It would have been inappropriate to do this (moving) a couple of years ago," he said.

Another move within the ministries is the operation of close to 200 sewage treatment plants. The plants are moving from the Ministry of the Environment to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The idea behind this is to "divorce" the environment from development, Mr. Elliot said.

Mr. Elliot did not only talk about switches within the ministries but also spoke about the budget. For the first time in 40 years there has been two back-to-back balanced budgets, he said. This year is also the first time in 43 years that the provincial government has paid part of the debt, he said.

The income tax accounts for 33 per cent of the government revenue, Mr. Elliot noted. About nine per cent of the provincial revenue is spent paying the in-

terest on the provincial debt. Approximately 34 per cent of the revenue is spent on health care, he said. Mr. Elliot added that 19 per cent goes to paying for programs from the ministries of education, skills development and community colleges. Another 17 per cent of the revenue is spent on social services, he said. Four per cent of the revenue is spent on law enforcement, he said. He noted the four per cent is only spent on the Ontario Provincial Police because the other forces get money from other levels of government. "I think we could be spending more in the Toronto area," Mr. Elliot said.

He noted at the chamber that there is a problem in spending money. "For every buck that we're spending we've been requested for five," he said. "I've been hammered in a number of meetings," about increasing transportation spending by only 11 per cent. He said this was six per cent more than what the transportation ministry should be getting.

ANNUAL MEETING

of the HALTON DISTRICT HEALTH COUNCIL

will be held on

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13th, 1990

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