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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 1990

# Elderly couple still up in air over elevator

As of Thursday morning a couple in their 80's were still stranded in their seventh floor Royal Ascot apartment on Hall Road in Georgetown, because of no elevator service in the building.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller confirmed Thursday morning at press time the Toronto-based elevator company, Northern Elevator, is still refusing to replace a computer chip that controls the elevator's movement.

The company removed the chip a week ago Thursday and said it will only return the chip once it's paid the \$60,000 plus it's owed for installing the elevator, by the company that built the apartment complex, Toronto-based Granville Construction.

Sam Diamond, the Receiver Manager for the apartment complex, said Thursday he's hopeful the computer chip can be obtained from Toronto-based Otis Elevators. The company planned to inform Mr. Diamond sometime Thursday morning if it had the part, he said. If the part was available the elevator would be working that day. If the part couldn't be obtained Thursday, an emergency meeting between Mr. Diamond, his lawyer, Mayor Miller and the town lawyer was scheduled for late Thursday in an attempt to find a way to force Northern Elevator to replace the chip, said Mr. Diamond.

Mr. Diamond expects any pressure the town and he try to put on Northern Elevator to be accompanied with equal pressure from the province. The town and Mr. Diamond are restricted to what they can do because the province's Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations has jurisdiction over the operation of elevators.

A spokesperson for North Halton MPP Noel Duignan said Thursday a meeting was held Wednesday at the provincial level involving the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Peter Kormos, to determine if the province could force Northern Elevator to replace the chip. At press time, however, Mr. Duignan's office hadn't been informed of the meeting's outcome.

When contacted Wednesday, Mr. Duignan said he has been trying to resolve the situation since last weekend.

He was responding to comments made by Mayor Miller at Monday's Town General Committee meeting during which Mayor Miller said Mr. Duignan hasn't been very cooperative in dealing with the situation.

This situation has been allowed to happen, said Mr. Duignan, because of "gaping holes you could drive a truck through in the provincial Condominium Act." The Liberals Tory legislation must be changed," he stressed.

Meanwhile, Town Building Inspector John Holmes said Wednesday an inspection of the building's fire alarm system shows it is functioning but repairs are needed.

Mr. Diamond said the Regional Health Inspector visited the building Wednesday and believes there is justification for charges to be laid under the province's Health Act. The health inspector couldn't be reached at press time to determine if charges will actually be laid.

Halton Regional Police Detective Sergeant Mike Eacrett at 11 Division in Georgetown said an investigation is ongoing to determine if criminal charges can be laid against the elevator company.



## An old-fashioned Christmas

Using the theme of "an old fashioned Christmas" as their guide, 200 students at M.Z. Bennett Public School in Acton have been busily creating a variety of Christmas arts and crafts during the last two weeks. Among the crafts students made was a quilt. At some point during the two weeks, every student in the school had contributed to the making of either this quilt or a similar one, said principal Lynn

Snider. Some of the students who took part in the quilt's creation included (left to right), Joey Field, Grade 4; Katie McGinn, Kindergarten; Rose Andrew-Somers, Grade 1; Coryna Foster, Grade 4; and Erin Hay, Grade 5. Students plans to donate the quilt to a hospital but they have yet to decide on which hospital. (Herald photo)

# Region listens to taxpayers

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

Halton Region appears to have been listening to taxpayers' continuous demands for the Region to show restraint in determining the 1991 tax rate.

Halton councillors learned Wednesday how staff has come up with several cost-cutting measures over the past three months to arrive at a recommended 1991 tax-supported operating budget increase of 8.98 per cent and a recommended water and sewage budget increase of 4.7 per cent.

Council will now consider these recommendations during the next few months as part of the budgetary process before voting on the budget.

The two proposed budget tax increases taken together represent a combined increase of 6.67 per cent. That translates into Halton taxpayers having to pay an extra \$39 towards their 1991 Regional tax bill. In other words, the average household would pay \$637 next year instead of \$597 the same household paid this year in Regional taxes.

In September, Halton Region Treasurer Joe Rinaldo told councillors to maintain existing programs in 1991 the tax supported operating budget would have to jump by 14.5 per cent. The Region's operating budget pays for such Regional services as police, health and public works.

To reduce this increase to the recommended 8.89 per cent, Mr. Rinaldo indicated in the 1991 preliminary tax supported budget document, just over \$500,000 will have to be cut from existing Regional programs and almost \$700,000 less will have to be allocated to those boards the Region funds but doesn't directly administer. These agencies include the Halton Children's Aid Society and Halton Regional Police Department.

As well, Mr. Rinaldo is assuming the province will fully sub-

sidize the pay equity costs associated with those Regional programs once run by the province such as court security.

Also the tax supported operating budget does not account for any of the \$150,000 provincial subsidy shortfall that should be going to the Halton Region Conservation Authority and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. The authorities are saying the Region is responsible to provide this funding but the Region is refusing because it believes the province is responsible for the funding. A meeting between Regional staff and the province is expected for February to determine how to deal with the matters, said Mr. Rinaldo.

In the area of the Region's water and sewage budget, Mr. Rinaldo predicted in September the budget would have to jump 7.5 per cent in 1991 to maintain the status quo. But Mr. Rinaldo outlined several proposed cost-cutting measures Wednesday that if approved would reduce the increase to 4.71 per cent.

These include leaving open four recently vacated Regional public works positions and using surplus money in the 1990 water and sewage budget to complete work scheduled for completion in 1991.

But Regional Councillor Walter

Mulkewich said future water and sewage budgets will have to be reduced more than currently being proposed.

The Region will have to face the hard issues of the more water, a Halton resident uses the higher that person's water bill should be, he said. He made his comments in the context the Region must lower its taxes and the public must be more conservation conscious.

Meanwhile, Halton Hills Regional Coun. Marilyn Serjeanston told council the planning and public works budget committee has been able to reduce the amount of money Halton will pay to dispose its garbage from \$159 to \$155 per tonne in 1991. This figure will be \$39 more than the Region paid in tipping fees in 1990.

Burlington Regional Coun. Pat McLaughlin said landfill sites set the fees, therefore the Region is not in control of its own destiny. This will change however, when Halton's landfill site opens in early 1992, he said.

Although the Region pays the tipping fee, the local municipalities in the Region collect the taxes that go to meet this expense. The 1991 tipping fee increase, therefore, will be reflected in people's local municipal tax bills.

## Volunteer needed

A volunteer is needed by the Halton Children's Aid Society to work with and befriend a teenage girl who is presently in secure custody. The CAS is looking for a mature, accepting and non-judgemental person who can commit to visiting this girl on a regular basis. For more information, contact Corrie Galloway at 844-8211.

## Mayor appointed

Halton Regional Council approved the appointment of Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller to the Region's Chief Administrative Officer Performance Review Committee and town Regional councillor Pam Johnston to the Region's Audit Committee Wednesday.

The CAO Performance Review Committee monitors the performance of the Region's CAO who is John Fleming. The Audit Committee reviews the Region's financial statements before they are released to the public.



RUSS MILLER

## Region appoints medical officer

Halton Region's Associate Medical Officer of Health will be the Region's new Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health effective Jan. 1, Halton Chairman Peter Pomeroy announced Wednesday.

Dr. Bob Nosal replaces Dr. Graham Pollett, who has taken a similar position in the Toronto area.

As the Associate Medical Officer of Health, Mr. Nosal assisted Dr. Pollett with the administration and supervision of the Region Health Department.

Aside from the duties in his new position, Dr. Nosal will continue as a lecturer at the University of Toronto Medical School, according to a press release.

**10**  
days until  
Christmas