

Police Beat

Theft at arena

Halton Regional Police say an Acton hockey player is missing \$400 after a hockey game in the Acton Arena on Dec. 30 between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. The player told police unknown suspects entered locker room number two at the arena and removed \$400 he was carrying to pay his brother's mortgage. He, along with fellow teammates, believe the locker room was locked but weren't sure if the side door was.

Chainsaw stolen

A yellow McCullough chainsaw was stolen from a garage on Cobblehill Road in Acton, police say. A resident of the home said the chainsaw was stolen from his garage between Dec. 7 and 30. Before he reported the theft, the

resident attempted to locate the saw himself.

RIDE blitz

Halton Region policemen were exceptionally busy during December when their annual RIDE blitz was held. This year, 28,695 vehicles were stopped with only 14 drivers being charged with impaired driving. These figures indicate only one impaired driver per 1,906 cars checked. Of the total number of vehicles stopped, 263 were given roadside alert tests from which 48 drivers got 12-hour suspensions. This makes one suspension per 556 cars checked. Other drivers were given warnings (609) and 87 people received other charges. Compared to 1989 statistics, the drinking and driving problem seems to be improving since one in 1,076 drivers were impaired last year and 1 in 430 drivers received 12-hour suspensions.

Conservation authorities set to take Region to court

By BEND DUMMETT
The Herald

Two area conservation authorities will likely take legal action against Halton Region for funds the Region refuses to pay.

Halton Region Conservation Authority General Manager Murray Stephen said Wednesday, "I've been instructed (by the Authority's board members) to contact our solicitor if Halton hadn't paid by December 31." As of Wednesday, Mr. Stephen hadn't received any money and he said in the next while he would

ask the Authority's lawyer to start legal proceedings against the Region.

Acting General Manager of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority Ken Owen, also said Wednesday the Region hadn't paid the outstanding money by the Dec. 31 deadline. Legal action "appears likely," said Mr. Owen.

Under the province's Conservation Authority Act, municipalities are expected to fund a percentage of the budget of those Authorities with jurisdiction in their area. The amount a

municipality pays towards an Authority's budget corresponds to the amount of area under the Authority's jurisdiction within the municipality's boundaries. For instance, the CVCA's area of jurisdiction falls in the municipalities of Halton, Peel, Township of Erin and Orangeville.

The remainder of an authority's budget is funded by the province, which under the act represents 55 per cent of an authority's budget.

The province, however, only paid 46 per cent of the HRCA and CVCA 1990 budgets. That means the conservation authorities requested Halton make up the shortfall, which the Region has refused to do. In the case of HRCA, the shortfall is \$141,000 while the Region owes the CVCA \$1,400.

According to Mr. Owen, legal action probably wouldn't happen until Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy meets with the province in an attempt to resolve the disagreement over funding. "The CVCA doesn't relish the thought of going to court," said Mr. Owen.

Mr. Stephen said, however, there is no indication a meeting will be held.

The Region first told the authorities last month a January meeting with the province would be scheduled.

"The Region had to Dec. 31 to get a meeting with the province or reconsider their position," said Mr. Stephen. However saying there will be a meeting doesn't resolve the problem," he added.

Both Mr. Stephen and Mr. Owen said the added financial burden on the Region results from the province "downloading" programs to the Authorities without increasing funding.

Halton-North MP Noel Duignan said Wednesday he disagrees with provincial downloading. "I would like the province to live up to its commitment," he said.

Willow Park deadline near

There is probably no chance of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority extending the spring deadline by which time the residents of Norval's Willow Mobile home park are required to vacate the property, said CVCA Acting General Manager Ken Owen, Wednesday.

The deadline has already been extended a year and "every day the people live in the park there is a risk of a major flood and the loss of life," said Mr. Owen. "Our (the authority's) objective is to eliminate this possibility; it would not be responsible for us to perpetuate the problem," he added.

The CVCA expropriated the land in March 1989 and gave the 25 families living in the park to November of that year to find a new location for their mobile homes. The authority expropriated the land because the property is located in the Credit River floodplain, said Mr. Owen. The CVCA, however, extended the deadline to the end of May, 1991.

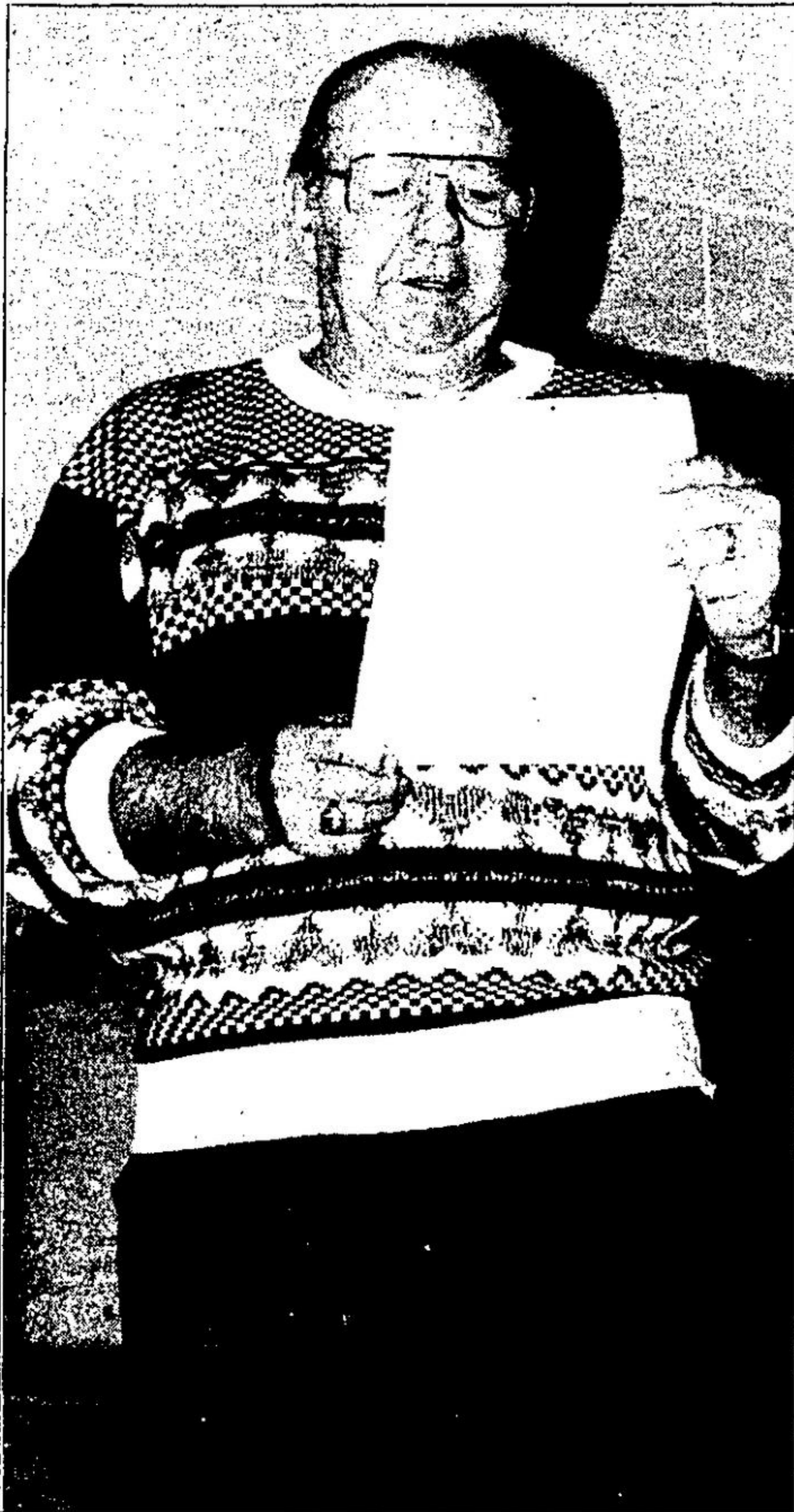
The deadline was extended said Mr. Owens, until the residents found out if they could move to Nor-Halton Park south of Acton. Despite approval from Halton Hills Council, the Ontario Municipal Board ruled late last month the Nor-Halton Park pro-

perty could not be rezoned to accommodate the mobile homes.

Town council's decision to support the rezoning was appealed to the OMB by several residents surrounding the Acton site. According to the OMB written decision, the rezoning was denied because the proposed buffering measures that would separate the neighboring residents from the park "would not overcome the very real planning concerns which have been identified by the neighbors."

Mr. Owen said the authority's board members will make the final decision on whether or not the deadline will be extended. He said, however, CVCA would recommend the deadline not be extended. "It might seem hard-hearted, but a decision must be made," he said.

Heather Croft, Chairperson of the Willow Park Community Association Management Committee, said Wednesday; "I think we will be requesting (an extension from the CVCA.)" But "we are waiting to confirm this with our lawyer," she continued.



Hospital proclamation

Just prior to ringing in the New Year at the Civic Centre on New Year's Eve, Town of Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller took time to read a proclamation officially recognizing 1991 as the 30th Anniversary of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. The proclamation read: "I hereby officially proclaim 1991 to be the 30th Anniversary year of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. Whereas the hospital opened for service in 1961, we recognize all those individuals who have contributed to this accomplishment. The Town of Halton Hills is proud to offer its support for the occasion." (Herald photo)

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