

Council makes donation to new association

Halton Hills Council Monday made a donation to the newly formed Halton Hills Anti-Drinking and Driving Association of \$500 to be used towards the group's start-up costs.

Special week

At the request of the Ontario

Building Officials Association, Halton Hills Council Monday declared the week of April 7 to 13 as Building Regulations Awareness Week in town. The proclamation is timed to correspond with the beginning of the construction season, according to an association letter that appeared before Council Monday.

Special day

Town Council Monday declared March 21 as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination within the Town of Halton Hills, at the request of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

the Provincial government for funding to assist in the replacement of the Georgetown Cultural Centre roof.

New bid permitted

Acton-based development company Bain-Smart was permitted by council Monday to re-submit a development application calling for three townhouses instead of four townhouses on a Church Street property in Acton, as originally proposed.

Roof needs replacing

Town councillors Monday directed Recreation and Parks Director Tom Shepard to apply to

1991 budget approved

By BENDUMMETT
The Herald

It's official. The average Halton Hills urban resident will have a 1991 tax bill of \$569.78, representing \$28 more or a 5.2 per cent increase over what they paid last year.

Town Council's approval Monday of the 1991 operating budget also means rural area residents will see their tax bill increase from \$411.67 in 1990 to \$433.27 this year. Rural residents pay less tax because they don't have to pay for Regional services such as garbage disposal.

Council also approved Monday, the 1991 Capital Budget and 1992-2000 Capital Budget nine-year forecast.

Town Budget Committee Chairman Pam Johnston said of the budget process "reasonableness prevailed" over several contentious issues.

Commending staff and especially Town Treasurer Ray King for his efforts on the budget, Coun. Johnston warned however this is no time for council to rest on its laurels.

There will be tough decisions next year, predicted Coun. Johnston, especially if there is no recovery from the current recession. Additional provincial and federal government downloading, in which the municipality is forced to take over a higher level of government service could also make budget decisions for next year very difficult, she said. For example, the Federal government's increase in unemployment insurance premiums paid by employers will cost the Town \$40,000 this year, said Coun. Johnston.

Council's support for the 1991 Operating Budget was

unanimous. However, members of the Halton Hills Library Board were less than satisfied. In a last ditch attempt Monday, Library Board Chairman Jay Jackson said Council's earlier decision this year to cut the board's budget by \$50,000 could result in the Georgetown and Acton Libraries having to close down every Saturday during the summer. Mr. Jackson said a \$30,000 budget reduction would mean no decrease in library hours. However, Council refused to budge on the issue. Council was no more responsive to Acton Coun. Norm Elliott's suggestion the budget be cut by only \$40,000.

To bring in a 5.2 per cent operating budget increase, the library board budget was cut by \$50,000.

This wasn't the only time Coun. Elliott found himself in the minority over the Town budgets. He, along with Acton Coun. Rick Bonnette voted against the Town capital budget forecast as a symbolic gesture in opposition to a new Acton arena not getting the go-ahead this year.

But Georgetown and Acton seniors are probably a little more supportive of the budget now, than they were earlier this year.

Council decided Monday to include a total allocation of \$500,000 for senior centres in Acton and Georgetown to be divided between 1994 and 1996. The seniors requested the money, said Coun. Johnston, to help the seniors in their fund-raising efforts.

When trying to raise funds, seniors can show people Council supports the idea of centres in both communities, she explained.

Initially, no money was allocated for senior centres in the capital forecast budget.

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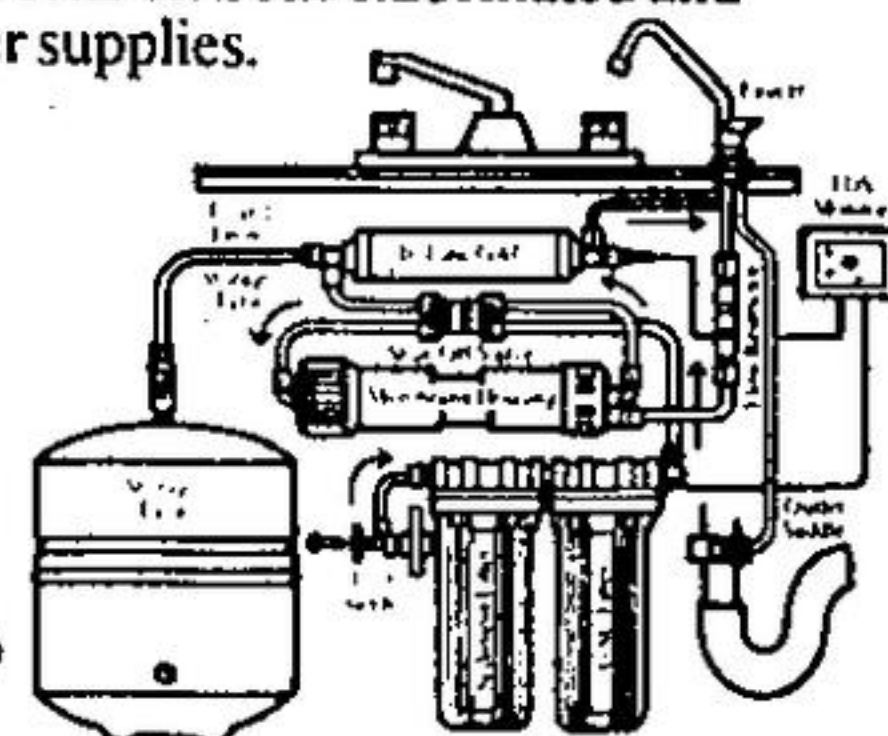
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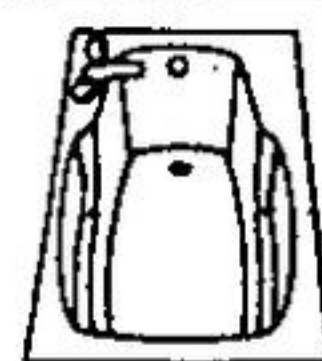
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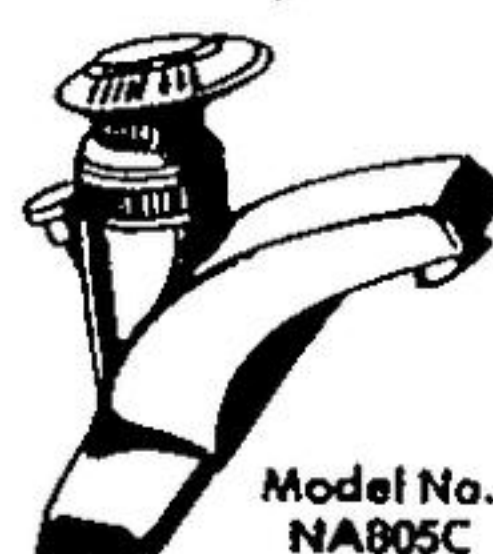
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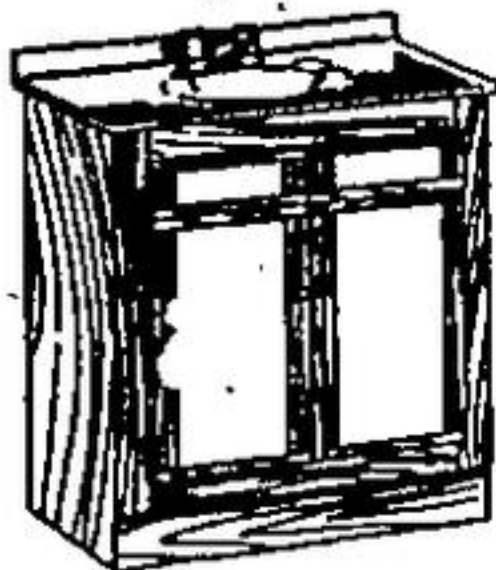
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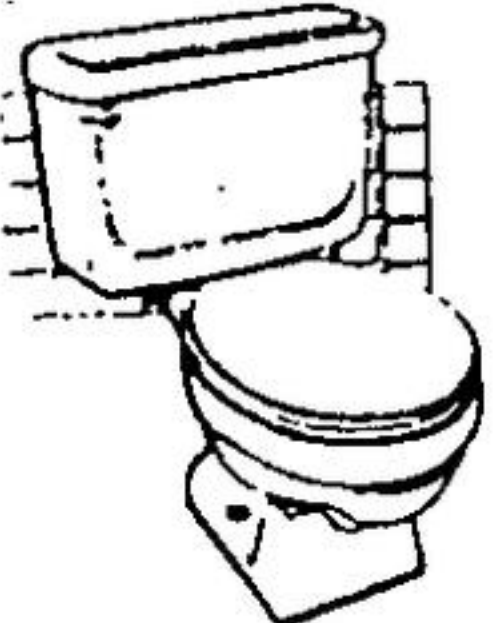
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