

CORPORATE AUTOMOTIVE INC.
TRAFALGAR RD. & MAPLE AVE.
 • Fleet Maintenance Specialists
 • Tune-Up Specialists
 • Pickup & Delivery • Towing
- FAST, FRIENDLY SERVICE -
RICK STAITE
 R.R. 1
 Georgetown,
 Ont. L7G 4B4
873-6014

The Halton Hills
HERALD
 WEEKEND
Outlook
 EDITION

Fendley Florists
 TAKE HOME
 THE LUCK OF THE IRISH
 ST. PATRICK'S BAY
SHAMROCKS
2.99
 211 GUELPH ST. GEORGETOWN
 NORTHWEST CORNER 877-6901

14,500 DISTRIBUTION — 32 PAGES
 FRIDAY, MARCH 15th, 1991
 Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866
 IN STORES 25¢
 23¢ + 2¢ GST

Fire damage and fire calls drop drastically

By BEN DUMMETT
 The Herald

Property damage caused by fire in Halton Hills last year experienced a drop for the first time since 1985, while fire calls in 1990 were lower than they have been for the past three years. The local fire department's fire prevention programs are being touted as the reason for the decreases.

According to Halton Hills Fire Department's 1990 Annual Report, Fire Department Chief Bill Cunningham writes, "alarms and damage resulting from fire are down significantly. This is an encouraging sign because it is the first decrease in damage loss in five years. It is my opinion that the ongoing efforts of our Fire Prevention Division is bearing results."

1990 also marked the third consecutive year there have been no fire-related deaths in Town, said Chief Cunningham.

Fire last year caused approximately \$1.2 million in property damage which is down from 1989's peak of \$3 million, states the report. Chief Cunningham notes the decrease is even that more significant in light of the continued rise in inflation.

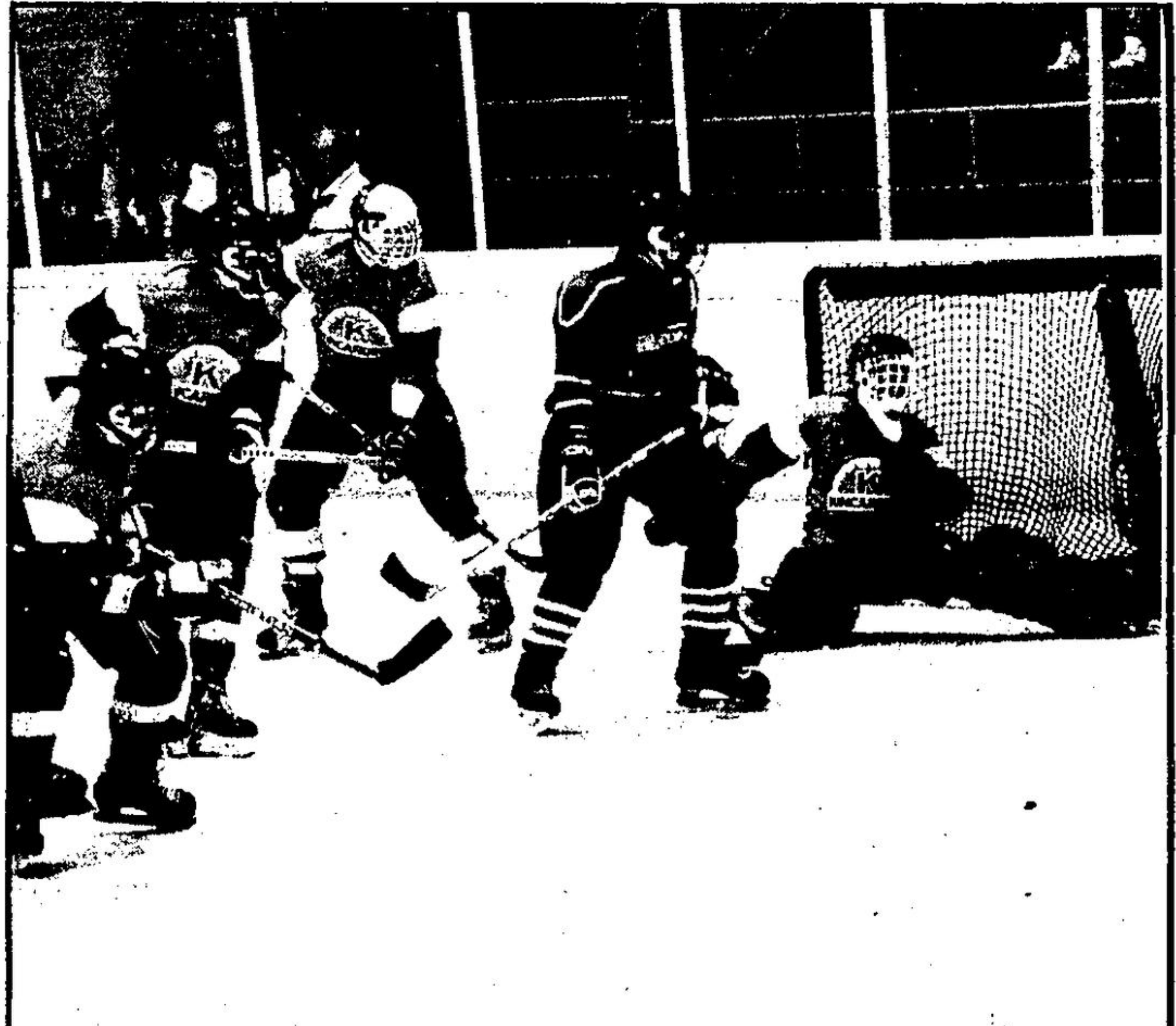
Firefighters answered approximately 425 fire alarms last year representing a drop of 100 calls over the previous year, and Chief Cunningham is hopeful the trend continues during the next decade.

Town Fire Prevention Officer Dave Ford said in an interview Wednesday, there is no one program that has resulted in people being apparently more fire cautious.

It's the combined effort of all programs that has encouraged more people to have a better respect for what a fire can do, and therefore to be less careless, explained Mr. Ford.

The department has three fire prevention officers and their focus has been on getting out into the community to educate the public about fire prevention, said Mr. Ford. The officers use the local media through advertisements, visit schools and other community groups and participate in high profile events such as the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce B.I.G. show, he said.

Mr. Ford highlighted the department's ongoing Portable



Bantam Hockey Tournament

The Kincardine goaltender kicks out a shot while a Georgetown forward waits for the rebound during their game at Alcott Arena on Wednesday evening. Georgetown lost their game 4-2 and needed a win against Nepean on Thursday to have a chance of advancing to the playoffs of their 31st Annual Bantam Tournament. Organizers of the event are encouraging the public to come out to the playoffs today and Saturday, especially with two other local teams, Acton and Halton, in the running for the championship. (Herald photo)

An Inside Look

Police Beat	2	Opinion	11
Fire Calls	2	Environment	12
Features	3	Sports	13-15
Seniors	6	Sprint Car	
Town Gardener	7	Care	17-21
Editorial	10	Youth Page	22
Weir's World	10	Entertainment	23
Poet's Corner	10	Religion	24
People's Forum	11	Classified	25-32



Mystery Madness activities

Can you recognize the faces behind the masks? Behind the mustaches, beards and glasses are Georgetown students (left to right) Michael Adams, Jillian McDougall, Katherine McDougall, Joanne Taberer and Amy McDougall, who disguised themselves as detectives at the Georgetown Public Library Wednesday as part of the libraries' March Break Mystery Madness activities. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

Town needs new Deputy Clerk

By BEN DUMMETT
 The Herald

While Halton Hills Council refuses to fill four vacant staff positions in 1991 as an austerity measure, the same practice won't apply to the Town position of Deputy Clerk when its long-time employee, Delmar French, retires at the end of July.

During an in-camera session Monday, in which members of the public and press are banned, Council directed staff to start searching for Mr. French's replacement with the intention to hire someone by July 2.

Town Administrator-Clerk, Dan Costea, said Tuesday the position's salary will be determined during the interviewing process.

The four vacant staff positions to remain unfilled for at least this year include Records Manager, Development Engineer, Adult Recreation Supervisor and Building Inspector.

Asked if council considered not filling the Deputy Clerk's position during Monday's meeting, Mr. Costea said no. The decision not to fill the four vacant positions was based on "economic grounds" while the decision to replace Mr. French's job was based on its specific duties, said Mr. Costea.

The Deputy Clerk is responsible for all council and committee agendas and the minutes arising from those meetings, signing Oaths of Commission and running municipal elections, said Mr.

Costea.

An example of an Oath of Commission would be a document certifying that a person is a resident of Halton Hills, he said.

Town 1991 Budget Chairman Pam Johnston pointed to the upcoming election as a reason why the Deputy Clerk's position must be filled. There wouldn't be enough staff in the administrative department to carry out Mr. French's duties, plus the additional work of running a municipal election, scheduled for November, she said.

Contrary to Mr. Costea, Councillor Johnston said Council did have some discussion not to fill the position. "But personally, I believe we can't afford not to fill the position," she said.

The existing administrative staff is already overworked, said the councillor. She pointed out the new person will be a Clerk instead of a Deputy Clerk.

Since Mr. French is a Deputy Clerk, Mr. Costea will now be responsible for some duties that could be done by a full-fledged Clerk, such as signing bylaws.

The hiring of a Clerk will free up Mr. Costea to target all his time at administrating the Town - a full time job in itself, said Coun. Johnston.

Mayor Miller said it would be ridiculous not to replace Mr. French. Every municipality must have a Clerk to liaison between the council, staff and the public. "It's an important position," said Mayor Miller.