## -Community-

## Nurses agreement makes profession more attractive

A 29.3 per cent average increase over the next two years in salaries for Ontario's nurses with nine or more years experience makes the profession more attractive, says Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital nurse Anne Ciliis.

Ms. Cillis, who is the Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) local 135 President, which includes Georgetown hospital nurses, said Friday that before the collective agreement was signed April 1, 1991, nursing looked like a deadend profession.

The agreement, which was signed between the nurse's representative, the ONA and the representative for Ontario's hospitals, the Ontario Hospital Association, calls for senior

nurses' salary to increase from \$40,200 to \$46,000 in the first year and to \$52,000 in the second.

This agreement means, "you (senior nurses) can see yourself going places whereas before you weren't going anywhere," said Ms. Cillis.

Nurses graduating from nursing school, who start at \$32,786, only looked forward to earning a maximum salary of \$40,200, before the new collective agreement.

Georgetown Hospital Executive Director John Oliver said Thursday he agrees the pay hike will make nursing more attractive. However, he warned, "there is no question it will be difficult for the hospital to meet the salary increase."

Mr. Oliver predicts the hospital

will ends its current fiscal year this March 31 with a surplus of funds. "But it will be difficult for the hospital to maintain a surplus next year," he said. Mr. Oliver qualified his prediction, saying the effect of the salary increase won't be known until the hospital completes its budget. The budget is expected to be submitted to the province for final approval sometime later this spring.

Since Georgetown Hospital's nursing staff is comprised of a little less than the average number of senior nurses working in hospitals across the province, the impact of the contract on Georgetown hospital will be slightly reduced as compared to the average hospital, explained Mr. Oliver.

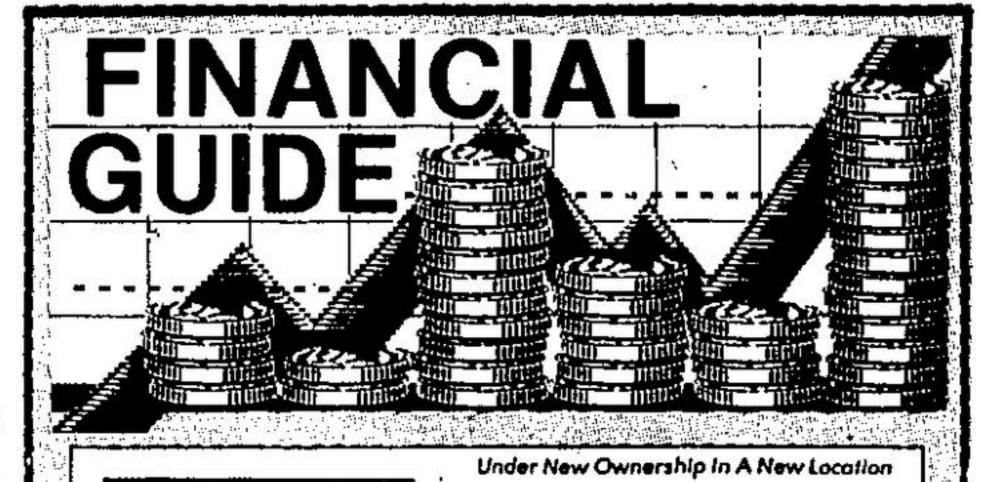
According to the terms of the

collective agreement the starting rate for nurses remains at \$32,786.

The agreement also calls for shift and weekend premiums to increase by 45 cents an hour. This means an afternoon premium increases to \$1 per hour, a night shift premium jumps to \$1.25 per

hour, while the weekend premium climbs to \$1.35 per

Although starting nurses don't receive a pay increase, Ms. Cillis said they will make considerably more than they are making now due to the shift premium increases.



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### TAX TALK

Q. My wife and I made some charitable donations during the year amounting to \$200 each. is it better for us to claim all the donations on one taxreturn, or for each of us to claim our own donations?

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A. Generally, it is more advantageous to pool the donations and make one claim. In cases where a husband and wife have made charitable donations and the combined receipts are in excess of \$250, the donations should all be claimed on the return of one spouse or the other in order to take advantage of the higher tax credit rate of 29% for donations over 250.

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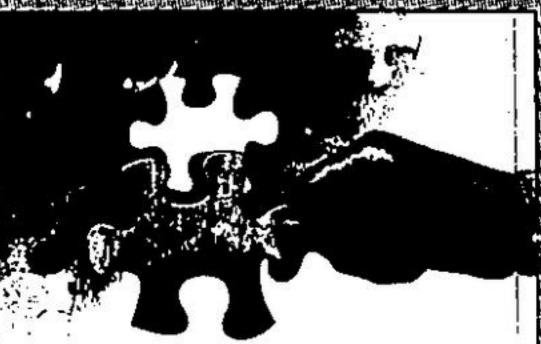
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**Public Relations Halton CAS** 

77th Annual General Meeting of the Halton Children's Aid Society will be held on Wednesday (today) at 7:30 p.m. at the Society offices at 465 Morden Road, Oakville.

Guest speaker will be Mary McConville, Executive Director of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. McConville was previously Director of Covenant House, an organization assisting street kids, and sat on the committee to prepare the report, Children First, recently released by the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Of that report, McConville says: "We recognized that many of the children on the street had at one time been involved with other children's services, and that most of the kids were runn-"ing away from something."

The committee's original mandate was to examine the available services for children in the province, but it quickly became clear that this would not provide the answers that were needed.

Instead, McConville says "we did a lot of listening. We heard from people in the educational field, in the health professions, as well as people dealing with all aspects of children's services. We were most impressed by two factors: the need for specialized services for children is so great that we will probably never have enough, and that the profile of the family is changing rapidly and having tremendous impact on children."

The committee developed strategies to promote a "wellbeing model" of services which would promote healthy development of all children so that fewer would require the safety net of ..

child welfare services. McConville will present these strategies at the CAS Meeting, and will discuss the challenges facing child welfare in the 1990's.

At this meeting, the Society's Annual Report of the previous year's activities will be made available and presented to the membership. New members of the Board of Directors will also be elected at this time.

#### Impaired driving

Police report a Georgetown man has been charged with impaired driving after he was involved in a two-car collision on Victoria Street March 29. Police say the man, driving a 1980 Chevrolet Malibu, was travelling north on Victoria Street when he collided with an unattended 1986 Ford parked on the street and pushed it forward into a telephone pole. The parked car was moderately damaged while the Chev was severely damaged. There were no injuries.



### Cleaning Hornby Park

Members of the Grace Baptist Church of Hornby decided to do their bit to make Halton Hills a cleaner place. Equipped with garbage bags and gloves they met last Saturday to clean up Hornby Park, located just off Steeles Avenue near Trafalgar Road. Two of those participating in the clean up were (left to right) Jeff Tam and Gerry Asmus, both of Mississauga. Organizers hope to visit area parks throughout the summer to do the same thing and they are hoping members of the general public will participate. (Herald photo)

# Associate Tax Consultants

### **INCOME TAX RETURNS DONE**

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