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Disabled resident testing Town

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

A Georgetown man has filed a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission claiming the Town of Halton Hills snow removal policies discriminate against the handicapped.

Neil Brookbanks, who relies on an electrical wheelchair for mobility, states in his complaint, "I believe the respondents (the Town) have refrained from adapting a by-law for snow clearing as they don't consider a handicapped (person) in use of a wheelchair as important as a motorist."

Mr. Brookbanks suffers from chronic osteoarthritis and chronic fibrositis. Both ailments result in the inflammation of the soft tissues of the joints.

"I'm not doing this, (filing the complaint), for myself, I'm doing it for all handicapped in Town," said Mr. Brookbanks during an interview Thursday.

Mr. Brookbanks said he won't let the issue rest until the Town adopts a snow removal bylaw that better the Town snow removal practices and forces local businesses and residents to clear the sidewalk areas bordering their respective properties.

Mr. Brookbanks filed his complaint with the commission May 6. The Town received the complaint from the commission last week and has until June 4 to respond to Mr. Brookbanks' allegations against the Town. Town officials receiving the complaint include Town Engineer Bob Austin, Operations Engineer Ted Drewlow and Administrator-Clerk Dan Costea. Each of them must respond to the allegations separately.

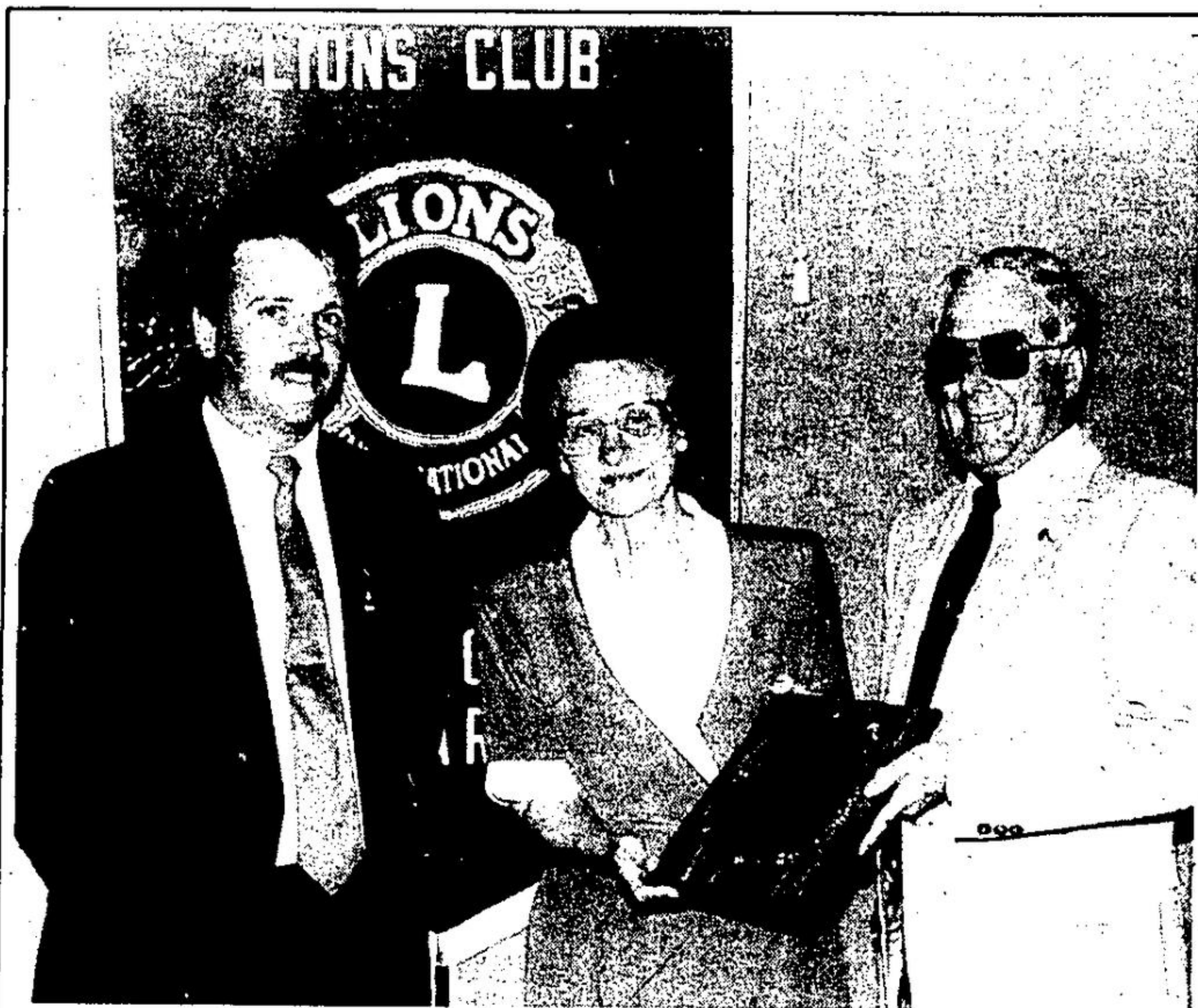
The Herald was able to contact Mr. Drewlow and Mr. Costea but neither would comment on the complaint.

Human Rights Commission spokesperson Mauren Brown said Friday at this stage of the complaint, she was not at liberty to discuss the Brookbanks case.

General procedure requires the respondents of a complaint, when contacted by the commission, to provide the commission with a written response concerning the complaint filed against them, said Ms. Brown.

According to Mr. Drewlow, the 1990/91 snow removal policy calls for the Town to clear snow off designated sidewalks and roadways after a three inch snow fall.

Continued on Page 4



Acton Citizen Award

Joan Walde got what she deserved at the Acton Legion on Friday ... the Citizen of the Year award from the Acton Lions Club. Here, Joe Donoghue, president of the club (left), and David Pyke, chair-

man of the award committee, presented Walde with her award just before the evening's event got underway. (Herald photo)

Hachey convicted

Ron Hachey, the Georgetown man charged with impaired driving and impaired driving causing death in connection with the death of Gary McDonald of Georgetown, has been found guilty of impaired driving and acquitted on all other charges.

Mr. Hachey, 42, was in Milton provincial court May 17 for the trial. He will be sentenced in Milton Court, provincial division, June 28.

Charges were laid against Mr. Hachey in March 1990 after 19-year-old Gary Russell McDonald was struck by a car on Guelph Street at 12:35 a.m. March 9 and pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

Recession hits Die-Mold Tool

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

Since the beginning of this year, Georgetown-based Die-Mold Tool Ltd. on Todd Rd. has laid off four employees, due to the recession.

However, if the company had to rely on its Canadian customers to survive the current recession, it would have been forced to lay off a lot more than four of its 25 employees, said company president Dennis Cartwright Thursday.

Die-Mold, which manufactures molds to create plumbing fittings, does 75 per cent of its business in the United States and 25 per cent of its business in Canada. "The Canadian business is dead and it's not likely to pick-up soon," said Mr. Cartwright.

According to Mr. Cartwright, the recession, as it has affected his business, seems to have been less severe in the United States than in Canada. Mr. Cartwright blames Canada's recession woes primarily on the federal government.

The prime reason for the recession in Canada has been the Federal government's insistence on keeping interest rates high to keep inflation down. The government blew the potential inflation problem out of proportion by saying it was a Canada-wide problem when really it only existed

in southern Ontario, said Mr. Cartwright.

Aside from the more serious effect the recession has on Die Mold's customers in Canada, the way Canadians do business is another reason for the near death of the company's Canadian business.

Comparatively, the Americans are terrific people to deal with, and much fairer, said Mr. Cartwright. He is quick to point out this criticism doesn't apply to all of his Canadian customers but it does apply to some.

For example, Mr. Cartwright said, American companies more readily offer interim financing than Canadian companies. Interim financing means periodic payments for a production order are made instead of just one payment when the entire order is finished.

Mr. Cartwright said interim financing permits companies such as his to accept larger orders than would normally be possible. With interim financing, the company is not forced to take out large and therefore risky bank loans in order to handle large orders, explained Mr. Cartwright.



Food bank low on supplies

Food donations and lots of them is what the Love and Christ Foodbank in Georgetown needs. (Left to right) Foodbank directors Arlene Geerts and Laura Ellison stand in front of the empty shelf that is meant to be for vegetables. Aside from vegetables, the foodbank is also short of baby food, pasta, pork 'n beans, bread and potatoes. People wanting to

make donations can drop off food at A and P in Georgetown between June 3-8, and anytime at Georgetown Mountainview Baptist Church and the Georgetown Post Office. The foodbank also needs clothes and any type of household supplies. To arrange the pick-up of goods call Ms. Geerts at 877-6521 or Ms. Ellison at 873-1328. (Herald photo)

Get active

PARTICIPATION CHALLENGE DAY

Today (Wednesday) the Town of Halton Hills has been challenged by the City of Brampton for the "Fittest Community in Canada."

Plan to participate in a physical activity like walking, gardening, or cleaning for 15 minutes and phone the Civic Centre at 873-2600 before 9:00 p.m. this evening, to register your activity. Get involved and have fun.

Do it today ... and dial 873-2600.

An Inside Look

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