## -Features

## Halton Recovery House welcomes public

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT The Herald

To let the public get to know about Halton Recovery House, a three month residential treatment program for male alcoholics, house staff are hosting an open house on June 25 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

"We want the public to be aware there is a recovery program for male alcoholics and give them a chance to look around the house," said Ted Watson, an addiction counsellor at the treatment centre.

Halton Recovery House, situated north of Steeles Avenue

on Trafalgar Road, has been operating for approximately eight years helping male alcoholics and those crossaddicted to drugs between the ages of 25 and 60 take responsibility for their own lives.

Mr. Watson said the house can hold up to 20 men and there are currently 15 men staying at the

"There's a very caring, sharing and loving attitude between the men here who are helping each other recover", he said.

During the 13-week program, clients receive education on

alcoholism, are educated about life skills, given a lot of therapy and deal closely with Alcoholics Anonymous.

"There's a lot of discussion about life and how to deal with it," said Mr. Watson. "We talk about how alcoholics can be blind to the feelings of others, we talk about selfishness, discipline, maturity and gratitude, among other things."

A Halton Recovery House pamphlet states the centre holds structured group sessions which are designed to bring out the feelings and emotions that every

alcoholic experiences. "Having done this, our clients can begin, with help and encouragement, to take responsibility for their own lives," states the pamphlet.

After treatment, some clients exercise the option of residing at the centre's after-care facility for a further six months while employed. Other clients continue to return to Halton Recovery House for weekly Alumni meetings where they receive encouragement and also assist new clients. A family support group is also offered on a weekly basis.

The house is staffed by a director, administrator, certified addiction counsellors and a property manager/life skills coach.

"Since we adhere to the principle that the recovering alcoholic is the best person to reach out and help the alcoholic, the majority of our staff are recovering alcoholics," the pamphlet states.

Halton Recovery House is a non-profit organization registered under the Charitable Donations Act. For more information, call 878-1120 or 878-5454.

## NDP Sunday Shopping proposals "cosmetic"

By BEN DUMMETT The Herald

The province's proposed changes to the Retail Business Holidays Act, (RHBA), appear to be primarily cosmetic rather than real, said Brent Kearse, Halton Region Business Development Coordinator, Wednesday.

He agreed the changes to the RHBA, if passed by the provincial legislature, will do little in clarifying the confusion that has surrounded the Sunday Shopping issue.

Solicitor General Mike Farnan announced Tuesday the provincial government is proposing to amend the RBHA to permit municipalities to allow "tourist dependent businesses or areas" to open on Sundays. That means a business will be forced to close Sundays unless it can prove to be a "tourist-dependent business".

Mr. Kearse said the existing RBHA permits municipalities to grant Sunday shopping closure exemptions to tourist-oriented businesses.

For example, Acton's Old Hide House is permitted to open Sundays because the Region recognizes it as a tourist-oriented business. The same holds true for Acton businesses Flight-Line Leathers and Leathertown West Wearhouse.

Mr. Kearse points out if the proposed changes are approved then instead of municipalities establishing the criteria, a business must meet to qualify for a tourist exemption, the responsibility would rest with the province.

In the case of Halton, its tourist exemption criteria is similar if special event attractions. not more restrictive than that supported by the New Democratic Party Government, he said.

According to a provincial press release, retailers applying to their municipality for an exemption must fall into at least two of the following categories:

·Historical or natural attrac-

 Cultural or ethnic attractions. A concentration of hospitality

services. Shopping with a unified concept or theme that caters to visitors - people not living in close proximity to the store.

· Access to hiking, boating, camping, fishing or other outdoor recreational activities.

• Fairs, festivals or other

Contacted Wednesday, North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan explained this criteria is meant to create uniformity across the province concerning what stores will be permitted to remain open Sun-

Mr. Kearse said the provincialwide criteria will fail to create this uniformity because each individual municipality in Ontario is required to interpret the provincial tourist exemption criteria.

There is apt to be various interpretations of the criteria, especially since municipalities compete against each other for tourist dollars, he explained.

Mr. Duignan agreed the changes, as they exist, may not create the uniformity the province wants. He predicted amendments will be made to the changes by the time the bill reaches third reading in the legislature. Mr. Duignan couldn't predict what the final bill will be comprised of or when it will be passed into law.

The MPP did say the proposed changes are reasonable. "They represent a compromise between those who support wide-open Sunday Shopping and those who support a complete ban."

Mr. Duignan said he is no longer certain where he stands on the Sunday shopping issue. "I used to be adamantly opposed to Sunday Shopping, but after the calls I've received in favor of it (since being elected last September), I'm not sure anymore what position is correct," he said.

Mr. Kearse said those Halton Hills businesses that have been granted a tourist exemption will have to re-apply for the exemption once the proposed changes become law.

Despite describing the proposed changes, as being "onerous" on the municipality, Mr. Kearse said, 'there are some positive aspects to the proposed legisla-

He supports that position the municipality will be reimbursed by the province for any costs it incurs to consider tourist exemption applications.

As well, Mr. Kearse favors the idea that exemptions won't be granted to a tourist dependent business unless the company has support of at least a chamber of commerce, or a convention and visitors' bureau.

"It is important for touristoriented businesses to have the support of the local community," said Mr. Kearse.



## Lions Club executive

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The Georgetown Lions Club has elected its 1991/92 executive with Tom Colton taking on the position of President. Pictured above, front row, left to right; Mark Rush (3rd Vice President), Don Coghlan (2nd Vice President), Dennis Borotsik (1st Vice President), Tom Colton (President), Derek Ezekiel (Past President), and Fred Zorge (Treasurer). Back row,

left to right; Jim Harris (Lion Tamer), Al Watt (Tail Twister), Albert Potts (Junior Director), Pat Shannon (Senior Director), Larry Tennant (Senior Director), Carl Hansen (Membership Director)

Absent when picture taken, Bill Mason (Secretary). (Herald photo)



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