

# Hydro Commissioner all wired-up for election

Life-time Acton resident Roger Haggett, 39, is the first Halton Hills Hydro Commissioner to declare his candidacy for the upcoming Nov. 12 municipal election.

The four current commissioners include Murt Allison, Bill Smith, Jim Fisher and Town Mayor Russ Miller. The Halton Hills Mayor is appointed to the commission automatically.

Vying for a commissioner position in Acton's Ward 1, Mr. Haggett says if elected he would be prepared to take on the position of Commission Chairperson. This position is rotated between commissioners once a year. For 1992 the chairperson position will be held by the Ward 1 representative.

"I feel the position requires someone with the dedication and experience to see the commission through what will certainly be very trying times with Ontario Hydro's announced 10 per cent increase to its 1992 electricity

rates. The commission buys power from Ontario Hydro.

Mr. Haggett predicts the total increase to Halton Hills residents 1992 hydro bills will total 15 per cent when the commission accounts for increases to its expenses other than electricity.

Mr. Haggett, who is married and a father of three teenage daughters, says the role of the commission chairperson is "to steer the commission in a way that is beneficial to local taxpayers."

He believes the commission should lobby Ontario Hydro to reduce its price for electricity, as well as continue commission efforts to promote energy conservation in Town.

The commission came under public scrutiny last year when the Herald revealed the five commissioners spent approximately the same amount on conventions in 1989 as 55 elected municipal politicians and school trustees in Halton Region did during the



Roger Haggett

same year. Joining the commission halfway through 1989, Mr. Hag-

gett attended one conference that year, spending \$765 of Commission funds. Comparatively, his counterpart Murt Allison spent almost \$14,000 of Commission funds over 12 months in 1989.

The commissioners spent a total of just over \$33,000 to attend conventions and conferences during 1989. Mr. Allison was the big spender followed by Bill Smith who spent \$7,014; Russ Miller, who spent \$6,144; Jim Fisher who spent \$3,600 and Mr. Haggett.

Mr. Haggett said he acted responsibly at the time and continues to do so. At the end of July, 1991, Mr. Haggett had spent \$1,204 to attend two conferences. As a commissioner he receives a monthly stipend of \$251.15, according to commission records.

Following the Herald's expose on the commissioner's 1989 spending habits, the utility's convention policy was changed disallowing commissioners to take their wives to conventions at the expense of the commission.

Mr. Haggett said he favored that policy when he arrived on the commission and he supports it now.

The public shouldn't be required to cover expenses of any elected official's spouse incurred as a result of attending a convention or conference, he said.

Asked if a cap should be imposed on commissioners concerning how much they can spend on conventions per year, Mr. Haggett replied no. "Each commissioner should be responsible for himself," he said.

Ironically, when interviewed in 1989 Mr. Haggett said he favored a ceiling being applied to the number of conferences each commissioner could attend yearly.

The other four commissioners have spent the following amounts to attend conferences during the past seven months: Murt Allison \$2,793, Jim Fisher \$2,544.32, Bill Smith \$2,010.10 and Russ Miller \$2,960.

## ACTON SOCIAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION CENTRE



### Tax rebate deadline

Municipal property tax rebate application deadline is September 1st, 1991.

Just a reminder - anyone who received this rebate in 1990 should have received an application form in their Tax bill. If this is your first time to claim or you didn't receive the application, you can call 873-2600 ext. 244 or if you have any questions, or need help completing it, please drop into the Acton Social Services at 19 Willow Street North, Acton or call us at 853-3310. Our office hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30.

Big Brothers of Halton have free tickets, which have been donated by local individuals and businesses, available for needy families to attend their upcoming Fundtastic event. Date - Saturday, September 7th. Time - 4:00 p.m. Location - Georgetown District High School.

This show features magicians, comedians, jugglers and more. Please call Acton Social Services at 853-3310 for more information and to place your ticket requests.

### Disabled services approved

A recommendation to complete a strategic plan for services for people with physical disabilities in Halton Region was passed by Halton Regional Council.

This recommendation resulted from a request by Bonnie Ewart, Commissioner of Halton Social Services Department, and M.D. Robert Nosal, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health for Halton, to set up a contract with Ernst and Young Management Consultants of Toronto, to look into an overall plan to provide physically disabled residents of Halton with adequate services.

Approval was given to apply for funding (100 per cent) from the Provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), Community Health and Support Services Division, to undertake a joint study with the Halton District Health Council (HDHC).

In April 1991, Zanana Akande, Provincial Minister of Community and Social Services, announced Halton District Health Council and Halton Regional Council would receive \$50,000 to develop a strategic plan for persons with physical disabilities.

Subsequent to that announcement, ministry staff informed Dr. Nosal and Ms. Ewart an additional \$20,000 would be available and would be flowed through Ontario March of Dimes.

Ernst and Young Management Consultants was chosen for their understanding of the proposal requirements, experience and qualifications, emphasis on community consultation, and innovation and creativity of their proposal, according to the report. Ernst and Young is a consulting firm specializing in serving health and social service organizations in Ontario. The upset limit for the project is \$65,400.

### Graduate



Lois and Tony Walker are pleased to announce the graduation of their son James Anthony Walker at the University of Toronto, receiving his Master of Arts in Anthropology. He is presently working as research assistant to a professor of African Linguistics at the University of Toronto.

## Area food banks need support

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

The economy may be on the upswing but local food banks are serving more people than ever.

Laura Ellison, Executive Director for Georgetown's food bank Love and Christ, says more than 600 people or approximately 300 families are currently using the food bank at least once a month, with an average of five new people applying weekly to use the food bank.

The number of people relying on the Georgetown food bank has doubled over the last year, and Ms. Ellison attributes the increase to the recession and its continued impact.

Most of the people using the foodbank during the last 12 months, said Ms. Ellison, are those who have been laid off because of slow economic times.

"They are not the poor who are used to being poor - those who come from a history of poverty," she said.

"I'm glad the experts are saying the economy is turning around but we don't see it," she said.

Acton Foodshare Executive

Director Joan Waldie also said the supposed ending of the recession hasn't been reflected in a significant decrease in the number of people using her foodbank.

Approximately 80 families, it is estimated, will have used the foodbank by the end of the month which is slightly less than the average number of 120 families that normally use the foodbank, said Ms. Waldie.

Ms. Waldie explains the current number using the foodbank is lower than normal because it's the summer and not as many people are in town. However, she expects the number to equal or surpass the 120 figure starting in September.

Both Ms. Waldie and Ms. Ellison agree the majority of people now using their food banks are people in desperation.

"We had 10 people today (Aug. 20) and these people had no hope, they were desperate," said Ms. Waldie.

Ms. Ellison said most of the people using the foodbank these days have run out of unemployment insurance and are now on welfare. "They are finding the

welfare benefits don't cover the bills they incurred when they were working," she explained.

Compounding the problem, said Ms. Ellison, is the lack of donations Love and Christ Foodbank is receiving, said Ms. Ellison.

The lack of donations shows a lot of people are still feeling the effects of the recession. "People have to get their house in order before they can think about donating food," she said.

Ms. Waldie said she has sufficient donations to meet the current demand, but her fear is that a lot of people using the foodbank may never stop relying on it even when full economic recovery happens.

A lot of people using Acton Foodshare don't have the training to qualify for the type of jobs that are now becoming available, and if they don't get it chances for a job will always be minimal, explained Ms. Waldie.

Ms. Waldie and Ms. Ellison agree the number of people using their foodbanks will decrease as the economy improves, but Ms. Ellison predicts she won't see any significant decrease for another six months at least.



### New business welcomed

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller (centre) drove while Spiderman flew to Legends and Superheros, a new sports card collectibles and comic stores at 116 Mill Street in Georgetown to participate in the business' official opening. Store co-owners

Garry Spurvey, (far left) and his wife Sheila (far right) also participated in the official opening ceremonies. The store has been open for business almost a month and business has been very good, says Mr. Spurvey. (Herald photo)