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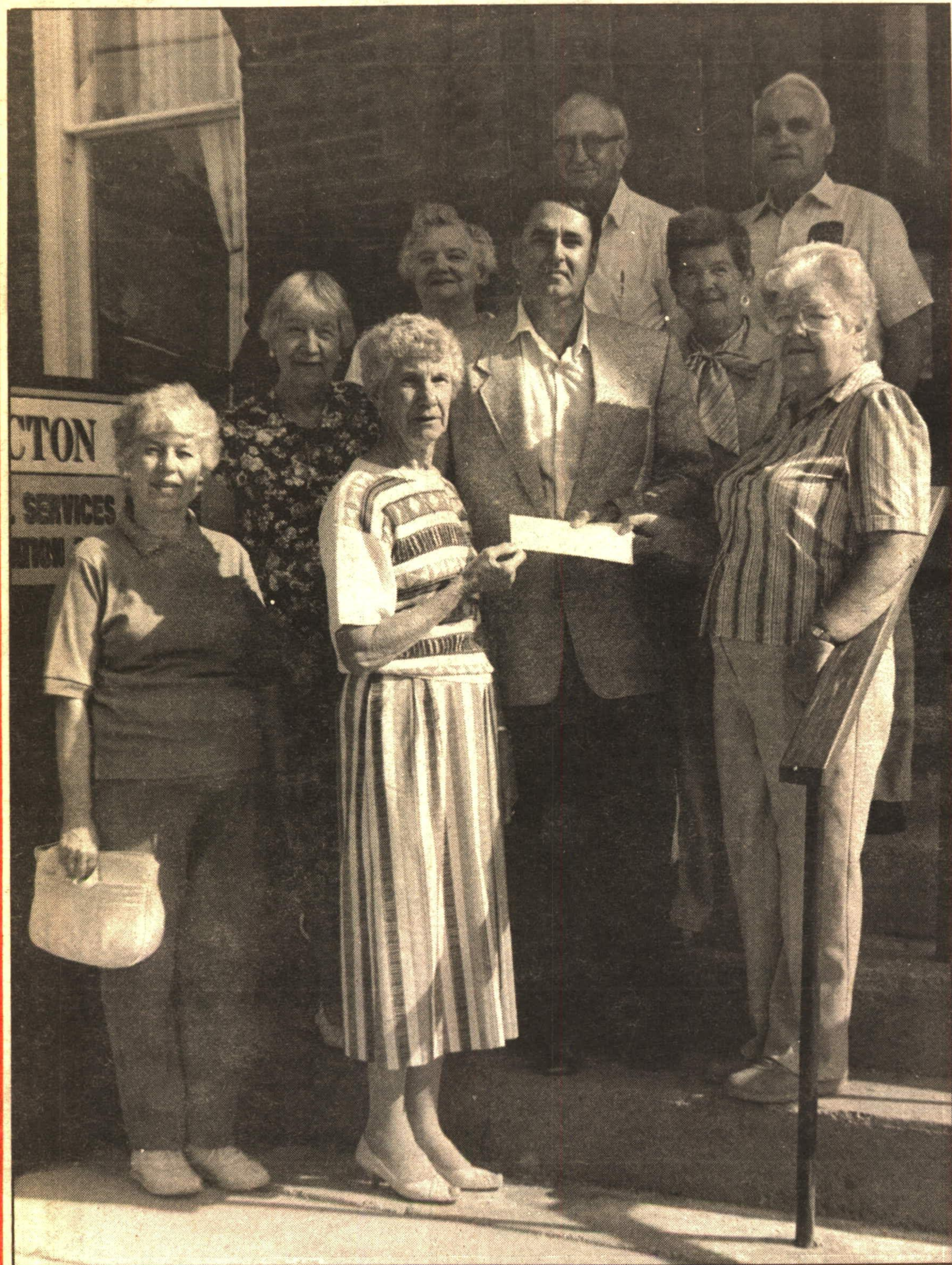
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PASSING THE BUCKS

Acton seniors had plenty to smile about on Wednesday as the building fund for a new Seniors Centre got a \$1,240 boost thanks to the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and Acton Golden Agers and friends. The Acton seniors manned the Halton Hills Tourist Information Centre on Highway 25 at Speyside half of the summer. In return Acting Chamber Executive Director Doug Penrice (centre) said 'thanks' with a cheque for \$1,240. Local co-ordinator Isabel McDonald (right) accepted the money and immediately turned it over to Seniors Centre treasurer Pat Giguere (left). Watching the cheques change hands are, clockwise from bottom left, Elsie Dewhurst, Ina Peterson, Chris Robertson, Bob MacArthur, Margaret Helliwell and Illo Marzo. The Chamber also presented a cheque to Georgetown Seniors for the same amount.

Police warn women of purse thieves

A purse snatching incident in Georgetown last Saturday was the fifth such attack in Halton Region in a four month period.

Halton Regional Police are reminding women "to reduce the opportunity" for this type of crime.

According to police spokesman Sgt. Carey Smith, "we don't want to generate panic but these types of incidents are increasing."

Last Saturday at about 9:55 a.m., a 45-year-old woman was walking in the area of Edith St. and Charles street when she was approached by a lone male.

The man demanded the woman's purse and when she refused to turn it over, the suspect grabbed the shoulder strap and pulled the purse from the victim.

"It happens in the blink of an eye," Smith said. "This is becoming

more common."

Similar incidents in Milton and Oakville have led to the arrest of at least two Mississauga youths, he added.

Police suggest women carry their cash — a small amount — in a pocket and leave all unnecessary credit cards at home.

The purse should be carried close to the body but without the strap around the neck.

While the strap around the neck may deter some individuals it can lead to injuries if an attempt to steal it is made.

Finally and according to Smith most importantly if someone tries to steal a purse, "do not resist."

"Your purse is not worth the injuries you might suffer during a struggle to hold onto it," Smith said.

Safety concern lingers

Horses and carriages free to use forests

By PAUL DORSEY

The possibility that hikers might have to dive into the bush or a swamp to get out of the way of horse-drawn carriages may have had something to do with Region officials restricting riding activities Wednesday.

Full, immediate access to the Region's agreement forests for horse and carriage drivers — at least until a Master Forests Plan is completed — had been recommended, but councillors held back this week.

At Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson's suggestion, the Region won't open the forests until Jan. 1, and then only two of the 13 tracts it maintains for the Province — the adjoining Britton and Robertson forests in Milton.

If there are no problems in those areas in the interim period, Serjeantson said, other tracts can be opened too for the estimated 50 horse and carriage drivers in Halton.

Delaying the date, she added, gives the Region a chance to prepare, including posting warning signs, and accommodates the four-day deer hunt returning in November.

The rider's association praised the lifting of restrictions and cited the support of an Ontario man who recently won the world title in horse and carriage driving abroad, a first for Canada.

Until now, special occasion permits were required, so most horse and carriage rigs rambled along public roads.

A horse and buggy enthusiast himself, Nassagaweya resident Niels Hansen wrote council expressing concern about the questionable skills of "a majority" of drivers.

"Knowing the area, I'm very well aware that in many parts of the tract, there is literally nowhere to go except into the trees, swamp or rocks in a crisis. For the pedestrian, this leaves no room for safety."

Hansen said he'd love to take his horse and buggy into the forests but doesn't feel it's appropriate until changes are made to the trails.

Regional Planning Commissioner Rash Mohammed told council he has not yet considered levels of activity in the forests for snow-mobiles and other motorized vehicles.

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