

911 marks fifth birthday



Police dispatcher Leanne Ball at work in the Communications Centre at Halton Regional Police Headquarters. Ball and her fellow dispatchers can all answer 9-1-1 calls from their work stations. Only about 5 per cent of the 1,200 calls per day are emergency calls.

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operator takes the information.
"It is important that the caller let the operator take control of the call," police dispatcher Caralee Roberts said.
All dispatchers have a series of questions that they ask the caller to determine the nature and severity of the emergency.
"People in an emergency situation get very upset when we ask them to repeat information, but it is important that the information is accurate," she said.
Despite the problems the system has experienced, Halton Region Chairman Peter Pomeroy, said the implementation of 9-1-1 "was a wise decision and continues to be."

In brief

Trunk sewer
Following local developer Al Pilutti's suggestion last week, Councillor Joe Hewitt asked that the Region explore the possibility of using a 900 mm sewer pipe for the Silver Creek Valley project. The Region has suggested using only a 600 mm pipe for the new trunk sewer. Town Council supported Hewitt's resolution Monday night. In addition, Hewitt asked that the Region also investigate the costs of running the larger pipe down the Eighth Line, as opposed to going through the valley lands.

Railway crossing
Town Administration is reviewing a recommendation by the Railway Safety Inspector to install short arm gates on the railway crossing on Hwy. 7 near the olde Hide House. The cost of the project is estimated at \$198,300, of which the Ministry of Transportation will pay 80 per cent. The Town of Halton Hills is asked to pay 12.5 per cent, and 50 per cent of the cost of future maintenance.

Food drive Saturday
Canadian Legion Halton Hurricane Minor Novice Hockey team is having a door-to-door Christmas Food Drive for the Salvation Army on Saturday, Nov. 17, 1990. Non-perishable goods please.

Guys and Dolls
Globe's musical Guys and Dolls will be performed at John Elliott Theatre, Georgetown on Nov. 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 and Dec. 1 with matinees Nov. 18 and Nov. 25. Tickets for all performances are available for \$11 each at Royal LePage Real Estate on Guelph St.

chase money will be allocated from the Ontario Heritage Foundation's Niagara Escarpment acquisition fund.

Stephen refused to give even a ballpark estimate on the land's value. Both Lac and the HRCA will submit appraisals to an independent arbitrator.

No plans have been made for the property. Stephen said since it's adjacent to Kelso, it will be opened for public use.

"We should know where everything stands" a week before a Provincial hearing on Lac's quarry expansion proposal resumes Dec. 11, Stephen said.

With the proposal withdrawn, the hearing was adjourned to give Lac and the HRCA time to work out a deal.

Norman Nelson is a reporter with the Milton Champion, sister newspaper to this publication.

Once slated for quarry, land will expand Kelso

By NORMAN NELSON
A 390-acre tract of Milton land once slated for strip mining is instead well on its way to becoming part of Kelso Conservation Area.

Lac Minerals' proposal to expand its existing quarry (about 175 acres on the east side of Bell School Line) onto the adjacent property on the west side sparked a bitter, two-year fight with area residents.

Their group, KEEP (Keep the Escarpment Environment Protected) wanted to head Lac off at the pass by having tighter land use controls imposed in the area.

Lac made the surprise announcement in August that it was willing to drop expansion plans and sell the land to the Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA).

HRCA general manager Murray Stephen confirmed this month an agreement to sell has been inked and said he's "optimistic" the pur-

School board accused of 'double talk'

By JANET BAINE
The Halton Board of Education was chastised last week for "alarming and obvious" trends in dealing with the public.

Maryanne Hawthorne of Oakville said the board is closing lines of communication with the people it represents.

School board bylaws involve staff too far in making decisions as to who can address trustees at meetings, she said.

Questions posed to the board must be in written form, and then Education Director Bob Williams replies in writing instead of allowing the question to be asked and answered orally, Hawthorne complained.

"The public is presenting you with argument to open the doors," she said. "You are using interpreters, roadblocks, double talk and demanding blood samples."

Hawthorne said the bylaws contradict the recommendations of a

1988 public relations and communications audit.

"On page 11, the Halton trustees identified as their Number One priority communications. They were concerned about misleading headlines in papers, information on radio talk shows and the myths that abound about the school district programs curriculum and costs," she said.

"I couldn't disagree with you more if I tried," Halton Hills Trustee Dick Howitt told Hawthorne when it came time to discuss the bylaws. "As far as accessibility, I find it rather strange and ironic that the delegation tonight is complaining about inability of getting to the table when they are here tonight."

Chairperson Pat Hillhouse explained the criteria upon which she bases her decisions about delegations. She said people can discuss a topic only if the board has not yet arrived at a decision.

"When the board has reached a

decision on a matter, I will not allow a delegation to come and ask that we rescind or reconsider that decision," but they can get involved at the next stage of the process, she said.

Trustees discussed several amendments but finally chose to accept only two, making the chairperson alone responsible for the decision on which delegations can appear and when. As well, the board must now be informed of any delegations which are turned down.

Howitt said he thinks it's important that the board can block some delegations, since some problems with a school or teacher should be solved in the school, not at board meetings.

A new addition to the bylaw allows trustees to hold closed, informal "caucus" meetings. Any decisions made there, however, come before the board for a public vote.



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