

Fire calls up 79 per cent

Fire Department calls are up 79 per cent over this time last year, but there is "no plausible reason" for the dramatic increase, according to Fire Chief Bill Cunningham.

In his monthly report to town council Monday, Cunningham noted that his department has responded to 145 calls so far this year, compared to only 81 during the same time in 1991.

Last month, firefighters were called out 63 times, but only 22 times in March last year.

In terms of the amount of damage so far, this year's totals are sitting at \$679,950 — but it was only \$81,300 this time last year.

"There has been a drastic increase in

almost every type of call," Cunningham said. "And there is no plausible reason why that is... Other communities are experiencing increases, but nowhere near the kind we have. We're 79 per cent over last year, and our damages are way up, but we've no handle on specific reasons why that is. We've had a few arsons, but that's not a contributing factor."

Councillor Rick Bonnette expressed concern that the dramatic increases may wear out the volunteer firefighters if the trend continues.

"I hope the volunteers are not physically and emotionally drained from all of this," he said.



Local woman injured in single vehicle crash

A Georgetown woman is in critical condition with neck injuries at Sunnybrook Hospital after a serious accident Sunday morning.

Dianne Smith, 40, of Guelph St., was the only occupant of a car. Smith was taken to Georgetown Hospital, then transferred by ambulance to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto where she is in the surgical intensive care unit.

Smith was driving her 1989 Honda Civic south on Trafalgar Rd. near Fifteen Sideroad on Sunday at 6:30 a.m., Halton Regional Police said.

The car left the road and entered the east ditch, striking a culvert. There was a heavy fog at the time of the accident.

The Traffic Bureau of the Halton Regional Police continue to investigate the accident.

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News

Digest

Top speakers

The winner of the Halton Roman Catholic public speaking competition in the north (Acton, Georgetown and Milton) is Alicia Kelly, a Grade 6 student at Holy Cross School. Her topic was living the life of a dog.

Alicia and winners in from other areas will present their speeches to trustees at the April 28 regular board meeting. The annual public speaking competitions provide students with the opportunity to further develop and enhance their oral skills and self-confidence.

Positive parenting

A presentation on positive parenting will be held at Acton High School Thursday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. Barbara Burrows will talk about discipline that leaves everybody feeling happy. The presentation is aimed at all age levels with particular emphasis on adolescents. A self-disciplined child or teen feels in control. Tickets are \$5 each and profits will go to Wheels for Matthew. For more information, call 853-2920.

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Watch for our flyers!



TED BROWN /Halton Hills Weekend

Building our future

They could be building roads tomorrow, but today, Kenny Baker (left) and Jordan Thompson, both 3, of Maple Co-op Nursery School took advantage of the recent sunny weather to do a little digging in the sandbox in Cedarvale.

Messy break-in

Two thousand gallons of chocolate liquor overflowed onto the floor at Ambrosia Chocolates on Ontario St. in Georgetown after a break-in Wednesday night.

A similar sized oil tank containing cooking oil was also tampered with, and another tank was opened, police said.

The incident occurred between 11 p.m. Wednesday and 1:20 a.m. Thursday. A pump on the chocolate tank had continued operating after the tank was tampered with, and it ended up overflowing.

The plant manager's office, which had been left locked, was opened and a box of chocolates and papers was removed, police said. This was left on a nearby shipping dock, police said.

"We've been left with a big mess," plant manager Paul Bailey said. He added that the operation is expected to be closed for three days while the mess is cleaned up.

Ambrosia Chocolates employs about 35 people, making baking chocolate, chocolate chips and artificially-flavored chocolate.

Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

Child care cuts reinstated by Region

By ROB KELLY
Special to the Halton Hills Weekend

In March Halton Region slashed \$35,000 in subsidized child care from its budget, which meant cutting 75 children out of the program. But Wednesday regional council overturned that decision, after the man who originally proposed the cut spoke in favor of reinstating the funds.

Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy, who in March said he wanted to use the controversial child-care subsidy cutback to make a point with the provincial government, said Wednesday Queen's Park has acknowledged his anger, and that it is time to back off.

Pomeroy said he had pushed for the cutback in what are known as child care 'spaces' initially "to impress on the Province of Ontario that we are fed up" at being told to cost share programs without funding increases from Queen's Park.

"We did it to make a point and the point is well made," Pomeroy continued.

Many regional councillors weren't happy with the turn of events, however, since it meant in effect re-opening the regional budget for discussion and possibly having to scramble around for the extra \$35,000. There was an hour of verbal fencing on the issue. But in the end councillors voted 13-7 to fund the 75 spaces again.

Pomeroy and those in his camp stressed that

various cost-cutting measures built into Halton's operations were bound to generate at least the requisite \$35,000 over the course of a year.

Regional chief administrative officer John Fleming, who runs Halton's day-to-day operations, said he had "every confidence" the necessary \$35,000 surplus will be generated over the course of 1992.

The decision to trim child care spending and the move to overturn it was so short, nobody qualifying for a child care subsidy was cut from the 1,200 space regional program, Pomeroy said.

Halton Hills reps Rick Bonnette, Bill Robson and Marilyn Serjeantson voted in favor of reinstating the child care subsidy.

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