



FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING: Branch 197 of the Royal Canadian Legion recently presented a cheque for \$4,000 to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation. Foundation officials K.C. Carruthers (left) and Laurent Thibault accepted the cheque from Legion 1st Vice Peggy Graham, Finance Chair Cathy Munday and President John Wagg. – Sharon Graham photo



SALADS & BERRIES: A refreshing summer treat of salads and strawberries was served up recently at Knox Presbyterian Church held its annual salad and strawberry social, much to the delight of, from left: Irma Coles, Fran Marcoux, Jean Marcoux and Cathy Coles. – Frances Learment photo

POLICE/FIRE

FALSE ALARM

Acton firefighters found no sign of a fire or smoke, and found no one home when they answered a residential fire alarm on Rachlin Drive at 3:36 on Sunday afternoon. Crews left a phone message for the homeowner.

ACCIDENT HELP

Acton firefighters extracted one patient, helped with patient care and disabled vehicles at the scene of a two-vehicle accident in the intersection of Fourth Line and 22 Sideroad at 2:18 on Friday afternoon. No other details were released.

PATIENT CARE

Acton firefighters helped with patient care and checked for leaking fluids from vehicles following a two-vehicle accident in the Fifth Line/ 17 Sideroad intersection just after one o'clock last Thursday.

NO PERMIT

Even though an Elgin Street homeowner did not have a required Burn Permit, Acton firefighters allowed a branch fire in an Elgin Street outdoor fireplace to burn itself out because extinguishing the fire with water may have damaged the bricked fireplace.

Firefighters responded to a burn complaint at 10:27 on Saturday night and found the homeowner burning branches in the fireplace.

An hour earlier, firefighters responded to a burn complaint on neighbouring John Street, where they found a tenant with a small fire burning at the back of the property. The fire was extinguished with a garden hose, and firefighters explained the burn permit process.

Patient offload delays up 28 percent

12,000-hours of paramedic time lost

With over 36,000 calls for help last year, paramedic call demand in Halton jumped a seven per cent and there was also a "significant" increase in hospital offload delays of 28 per cent, according to Greg Sage, Halton's Chief/Director of Paramedic Services in a report to Halton Health and Social Services committee last Tuesday.

He said the 28 per cent increase in offload delays – time spent by crews at hospitals with no beds for incoming patients – equalled 12,000-hours of lost paramedic time last year and had a significant impact on their operations, including a lack of paramedic and ambulances available for emergency calls.

"It also presents an increased workload, time on task for the paramedics, and quite frequently impacts on other services like missed meal breaks," Sage said, adding a dedicated offload nurse program has provided some relief, but it's a stopgap measure.

Last year, there were 13 occurrences totalling 3 hours and 21 minutes when there were no ambulances available in Halton to answer calls, and there were 271 occurrences where four or fewer ambulances were available in emergencies totalling 282 hours and five minutes.

Halton Chair Gary Carr questioned if a direct approach to the Minister of Health several months about problems with the call

centre had made a difference. The Region's two-minute 54-second call handling time with the provinces Central Ambulance Communications Centre continues to remain above the provincial standard of two minutes. Sage said the improved numbers may be due to less staff reporting, but he's "cautiously optimistic" times will continue to improve.

For this calendar year, Halton is required to

report on the percentage of ambulance calls within six minutes of less to patients with sudden cardiac arrest and eight minutes to patients who are most ill. Until this year, Halton was required to meet its 1996 response time standard of 10-minutes and 32-seconds, which it did, except in 2009 when the 90th percentile response time was 10-minutes and 33-seconds.

While cardiac arrest and most ill patients

response times met the standard response time, targets for less ill patients were exceeded, mainly because 74 per cent of calls were dispatched as life-threatening (lights and sirens) but only 14 per cent of the patients needed to be taken to hospital.

As of June 17, Halton hired new paramedics to staff two ambulances, 12-hours per day, seven days per week – new resources that staff said will improve response times.

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and Town of Halton Hills By-law 2003-0032 regarding the following temporary road closure for the purpose of the following community event:

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE DUE TO EVENT

Acton Farmers' Market	Willow St. S from Mill to Church
Thursdays from June 13 th until October 10 th 1:00PM - 8:00PM	
Organized by: Acton BIA	

If you require any additional information regarding this road closure, please contact the Recreation and Parks Department 905-873-2601 ext. 2269.

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