

# New highway to cut through Halton Hills

By Oksana Buhel

Two Ontario-based consortia have already indicated interest in the "largest road project in North America with such a short time frame," which is to run through Halton Hills.

At last Wednesday's Halton Region planning and public works committee meeting, regional and Halton Hills municipal councillor Marilyn Serjeantson presented a report of a Sept. 24 meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation David Guscott, regarding the current status of Hwy. 407.

The highway, which would give to motorists an alternative to Hwy. 401, is to extend from Hwy. 403 in the south west, to Hwy. 401 (west of Ninth Line), to Hwy. 48 in the east. The project is to start April 1, at a cost of \$1.2 billion and be completed by the year 2000.

The highway is to be a toll road, the first of its kind in Ontario. (Only the Burlington Skyway had toll booths installed to pay for construction costs, but they were removed once sufficient funds were gathered.)



Marilyn Serjeantson

"This way we'll be able to have a quality road for the least amount of money and as quickly as possible," Serjeantson explained.

Whether construction will be completed as early as possible will depend on a "viability of tolls" report, which was to be completed by mid-October. The report is to address various methods of collecting tolls without hindering traffic. One method discussed was the use of cameras which would record automobile license plates and charge registered owners accordingly.

Municipal engineer Bob Austin said the financial feasibility of the venture had to

be carefully examined before any decisions are made. Decisions, however, have already been made. Intersection construction has begun between Hwy. 427 and Hwy. 400, and the stretch of roadway is to be completed by 1996.

Complications may arise if the stretch cannot be connected to the remainder of the proposed highway, for which all of the land has not yet been purchased. In her report, Serjeantson stated outstanding land to be acquired, all of it privately owned, is mostly

in Halton Hills. She was confident the land would be sold, referring the proposed completion date as rationalism, but admitted "heavens only knows" what will happen if current landowners choose not to sell.

Serjeantson added that at the Sept. 24 meeting, the province indicated its commitment to the project regardless of private support. She was not, however, too optimistic the project would be undertaken under these conditions. "Intentions can change," she said vaguely.

## Volunteers needed for food drive

Volunteers are desperately needed at Georgetown's Love in Christ Food Bank to sort, package and unload donations from this Saturday's food drive.

Scouts and Guides will participate in a door-to-door food drive between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., and the donations will be brought to Elliott Custom Brokers and Storage Ltd. on Armstrong Ave., where they will be sorted and packaged. The donations will then be brought to Love in Christ Food Bank, located in the basement of the Mountainview Baptist Church, to be unloaded.

Rud Whiting, director of the food bank, said he anticipates more donations will be dropped off individually at

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Members of Acton Branch 197 Royal Canadian Legion designed this window setting at the Acton Halton Regional Police station on Mill St. in honor of their fallen comrades. Remembrance Day parades are scheduled for Sunday in Acton and Georgetown.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Halton Hills

# THIS WEEK

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## Random acts of vandalism no joke on 'Devil's Night'

By Oksana Buhel

Despite Halton Regional Police Service Detective Sergeant Mike Kingston's assurances that this year's Devils' Night (last Saturday, the night before Halloween) was "relatively quiet," nine instances of willful damage were reported, three of them isolated to one residential street.

Residents on Faludon Dr. in Georgetown received the brunt of the pranks. A "pumpkin man" - a Halloween prop sitting on a bale of hay in front of the house, was set on fire, causing \$400 damage to the bricks, eaves and front area of the home. Neighbors unsuccessfully searched the area for those responsible.

Two other residents on the street discovered their tires slashed.

The Halton Region Police Services station on Mill St. in Acton was pelted with eggs, as were several police cruisers. The fine for throwing eggs is \$103, but police do not have any suspects.

A van parked in the lot of Mold Masters on Armstrong Ave. was spray painted brown, causing \$1,000 damage.

More damage was caused at the Georgeview restaurant on Guelph St. in Georgetown. An officer patrolling the area noticed a smashed window, but since no projectile was found, police believe the window was kicked or punched. A police report described the episode as "random Devils' Night vandalism."

A 1988 Jeep was scratched on both sides, the antenna broken and the bra

ripped, while the vehicle was parked at a Churchill Rd. S. residence in Acton. Damage was estimated at \$650.

Another car was vandalized in Georgetown while it was in the driveway of a Mill St. home. Culprits forced the auto shifter into drive, causing the car to roll downhill into a fence. The victim insisted the car was locked but there were no signs of forced entry.

"Willful damage was definitely higher than on a standard Friday or Saturday night," Kingston admitted, "but it was way down than from previous years." Kingston attributed the decrease in crime to the cold weather and the number of police officers patrolling the streets.



## Lest we forget

Members of the Georgetown Branch 120 Royal Canadian Legion and Branch 120 Ladies Auxiliary Color Party paraded the Colors at Georgetown Marketplace Monday in recognition of Poppy Week. A booth will be manned all week at Georgetown Marketplace for the sale of poppies. Remembrance Day will be recognized this Sunday at the Glen Williams Cenotaph and Remembrance Park in Georgetown.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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