



### Toys for Christmas

Holy Cross School of Georgetown teachers and students delivered \$1,400 worth of toys to the Love in Christ Foodbank last Thursday. They purchased the toys by collecting Canadian Tire coupons. The Georgetown Canadian Tire store was very supportive in making the toy drive a huge success. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

## Road paved for integrated transportation system

By Oksana Buhel

The transportation amalgamation wheel between both Halton Region school boards has begun to turn.

Halton Board of Education (HBE) trustees voted Thursday to accept, as information, the report of past chair Dave Coons, in which he recommended approval be given to establishing a single transportation service for the Boards to be operational by September 1995.

Coons' recommendation stemmed from a Nov. 23 meeting of the Joint Committee, during which time committee members recommended specifications for an integrated system be determined; including servicing and reporting procedures, location and structure of the Halton School Transportation Services. They also recommended the implementation of partially-integrated services in select

areas during the 1994-1995 school year.

The Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board (HRCSSB) approved the amalgamation of both boards' transportation systems Nov. 30. To prepare for the merger, HRCSSB decided to cut its own transportation service next fall, which will affect 558 students. The decision will save the HRCSSB \$97,000 and will mainly affect students who are bused outside set limits for safety reasons.

Jerry Jenkins, HBE superintendent of business ser-

vices, said transportation services will not be cut for public school students next year. "The details still have to be worked out," Jenkins said. "We had to take 1,700 students off the transportation system this year so it doesn't look like we'll need any changes next year."

HRCSSB currently spends almost \$5 million annually on busing, while HBE spends approximately \$7 million. The merger will result in a shared saving for both boards of almost \$500,000.

### Reed opens office

Halton Hills residents will now have somewhere to go to vent anger, sing praises or just ask questions about the newly-elected federal Liberal government and its policies

The constituency office of Halton-Peel Member of Parliament Julian Reed is now open at 360 Guelph St., unit 38A, Georgetown. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Friday and closed Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Reed can also be reached by calling 877-2900

Tough wins soccer award - see page 18

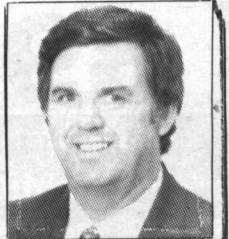
Halton Hills

# THIS WEEK

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## Arenas user fees hiked by town council

By Oksana Buhel

Town of Halton Hills councillors voted Monday that only those who can afford to use municipal arenas should do so.

At the Dec. 6 general committee meeting, council accepted a proposal to increase 1994 municipal rates and service charges, which included a 15 per cent increase in ice rental rates, with the amendment that the increase would not be effective until the new season beginning in July.

For the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association, this translates into a \$16,000

annual increase, and for the Acton Minor Hockey Association - \$6,000. Other hockey groups and figure skating associations face a similar increase.

Gord Chapman, treasurer of the Acton Minor Hockey Association, told councillors Monday the impact of the proposed changes will be "dispropor-



Al Cook

tionately heavy on ice users.

"This will mean a \$45 increase per child, or between \$5,000 - \$5,500 per team," Chapman said.

"The problem in Halton Hills is we provide inadequate subsidy for kids," Chapman said.

He suggested a distinction be made between adults' and children's rates.

Chapman listed various municipalities - Cambridge, Burlington, Brampton and Guelph, whose subsidies, between 40-50 per cent, exceed Halton Hills' 15 per cent subsidy.

Chapman was worried that council's approval of the rates "could price kids out of skating."

Councillor Norm Elliott pointed out a decision to defer costs for the Acton Minor Hockey Association,

which has approximately 140 members, would require a similar decision for the Georgetown association (approximately 200 members) and the figure skaters (another 200 members).

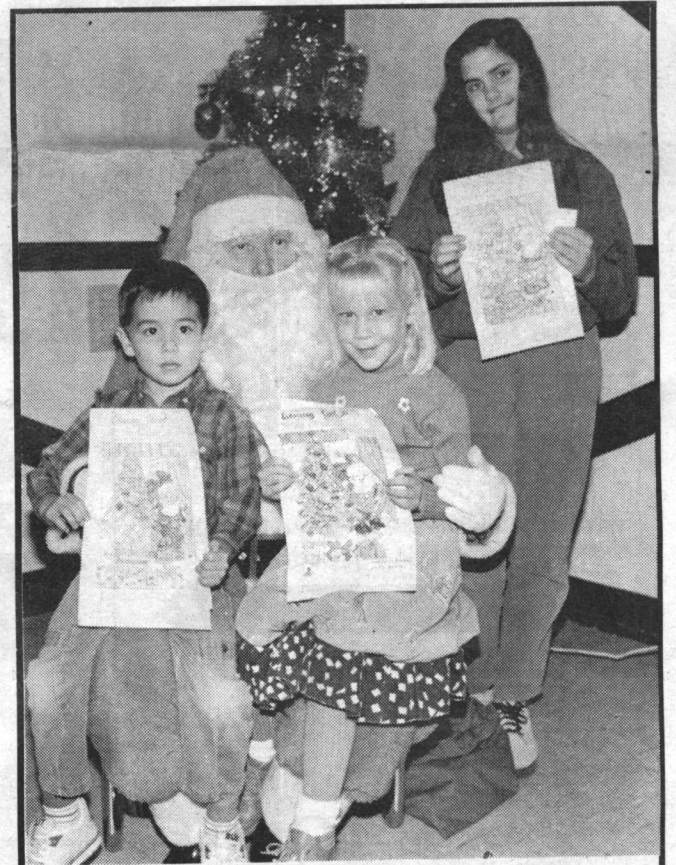
"There's no way we can defer such an amount," Elliott insisted.

Councillor Gail Rutherford agreed. "We can't wrap certain groups in cotton wool," she said. "Few people have the money to enjoy the same things they did five years ago. This (user fee system) is a fair and equitable way to deal with this."

Councillor Al Cook recognized the benefit of the \$36,000 increase in revenue over 1993, but recommended staff be instructed to further investigate a funding formula which would retain the increase without affecting children as significantly.

His amendment was defeated and councillors voted to accept the proposed user fee system.

Cook promised to reintroduce the item at the Jan. 10 council meeting.



### Visiting Santa

Last Saturday at the Georgetown Central Business Improvement Area's Breakfast with Santa at the McGibbon Hotel banquet hall, the Coloring Contest winners were announced. Pictured with Santa from left, is Mid-Kids (5-to-8 year-old) winner Jeffrey Takahashi, Tiny Tots (2-to-4 year-old) winner Laura Konyndyk and Big Kids (9-to-12 year-old) winner Nadia Shah. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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