

**Chief explains "dramatic" increase in fire calls**

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

In a briefing to Halton Hills Council last night (Monday) Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham said his department has a "fair handle" on the fire situation in town.

Acton councillor Rick Bonnette had asked Cunningham to look into the increase in fire calls and fire damage. Cunningham told Council that a study of the past six months of fire stats shows the increase in calls is now decreasing.

"To the end of May calls were

up 41 per cent over last year," Cunningham explained.

"At the end of June that number had dropped to a 21 per cent increase. The majority of the increased calls were for grass and rubbish fires. We also had incidents where both the Acton and Georgetown stations were called to the same fire and that inflated the numbers. We also have had an increase in the number of serious motor vehicle accidents that we've responded to," Cunningham said.



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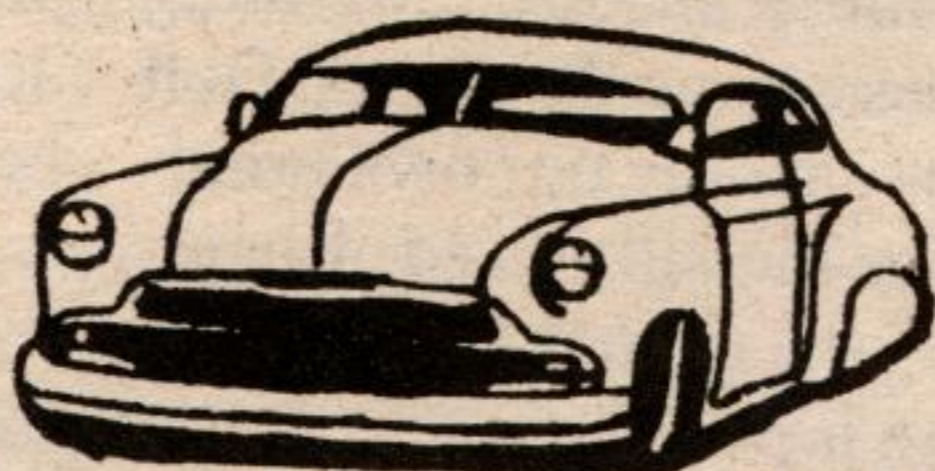
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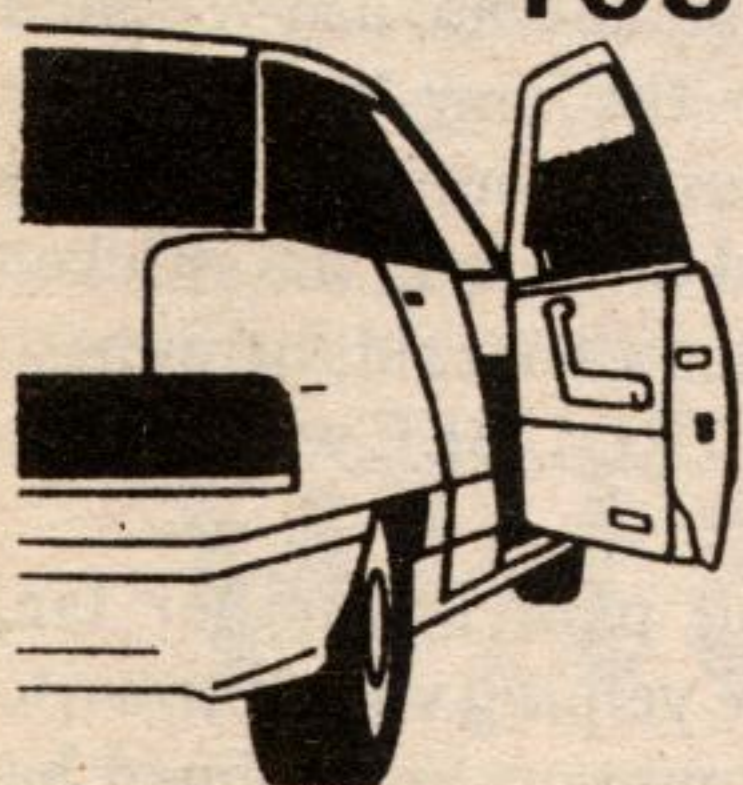
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Some of the 125 children who attended V.B.S. Thursday at the Christian Reformed Church join in a sing-song (top) and try their hands at arts and crafts. (Photos by Frances Niblock.)

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