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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1992



**PURRRFECTLY PERCHED:** Spookie, the ruling feline at Acton Veterinary Clinic and McKenzie-Smith student Michelle Withers became very close when Michelle and two other students spent the day at the Clinic as part of a "job shadowing" program last week. (Frances Niblock photo)

## Here comes Santa Claus — better dress warm!

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The route is planned, the floats are under construction and Santa is preparing for his visit to Acton this Saturday for the annual Acton Fire Fighters Santa Claus parade.

The theme this year is All Wrapped Up and there's \$250 in prize money available for the best four floats.

Parade chairman Bill Spielvogel outlined this year's line-up in an interview Thursday.

"We have seven bands including the Acton Citizen Band, the Streetsville and the Milton Pipe and Drum bands and Arthur High School Band.

The Mayor and local dignitaries will ride in cars supplied by Achilles Motors and at least 15 floats have registered. It will be a great parade and I suggest everyone dress warmly.

"The Acton Citizen Band will lead the parade from McKenzie-Smith School at 1 pm for a one and

a half hour parade that ends on River Street and for the first time local postal workers will act as Santa's helpers by collecting Christmas lists from children along the parade route.

Spielvogel said the idea for postal workers to collect letters to Santa came up during last year's parade. "I got a letter from a lady this year who suggested it would be nice if the postal workers could take the letters," Spielvogel said. "This woman told me she had seen a little girl with a letter at last year's parade but there was no one to take it from her. The postal union got right into the Christmas spirit and will have a vehicle in this year's parade."

A hand-picked panel of Acton judges will name the overall winning float, the best school float, the best service club float and the most unique float.

Spielvogel has one wish for Saturday — "Sunshine!"

## School Board delays tax reform debate

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Halton Board of Education has sent a strong message to Halton Region to take another look at the controversial market value assessment issue.

At Thursday's Board meeting trustees delayed passing tax equalization grants and asked Halton to use 1992 as the year for assessing property taxes, not 1988 as now proposed.

Acton trustee Dave Whiting explained that by deferring the grants timing decision the Board is telling Halton Council to reconsider market value assessment.

"By waiting to deal with the important grant issue until the item comes up again at Regional Council meeting Wednesday, Dec. 2 we are sending the message that it's not a great time to

bring this in. Personally, market value assessment is a more fair way of taxing but the timing stinks. That's the message some of the guys at the Region want to hear before they take another at convincing Council to re-open the issue," Whiting said.

"The clear message would have been to reject the grant timing but this way we can support the Regional politicians who are trying to get enough support to reconsider the plan.

Whiting also explained that if the 1988 assessment figures are used to rework property taxes, a majority of homeowners in Halton Hills and Oakville will pay more and those in Milton and Burlington, on average, will pay less. If the 1992 figure wanted by the Board is used there is only one loser —

Oakville. Oakville gets it in the ear no matter how you look at it.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette is leading the campaign to have the tax reform package looked at again by Halton Council. In an interview Sunday Bonnette said the School Board's decision was wonderful news.

"The Board had shown more common sense than the pro-market value people. The trustees realize that this is not the time to pass market value reassessment, especially at '88 figures. The school board vote is definitely a help and a shot in the arm for my campaign to get the Region to listen."

Bonnette said as the issue picks up more interest he is getting calls from business and industry owners

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## United Way campaign in full swing

It's too soon to predict if this year's United Way campaign will hit its \$200,000 goal but organizers are encouraged with donations to date.

The residential campaigns in both Acton and Georgetown have been extended as there are still areas in both towns that have not been canvassed. Acton Lions stepped in to run the local door-to-door canvass after a campaign chairman for Acton could not be found.

Lion's campaign chairman Dave Pyke said the Acton campaign is going very slowly with just a very small percentage of donation kits turned in. "I would

have liked to have seen the door-to-door campaign wrapped up by now in Acton but you can't be critical. The campaign was late getting going. I expect most of the kits will be in next week and people will just be doing call-backs after the 18th."

Anyone who still has a kit can now drop it off at Young and Company at 21 Mill Street West. The kits will be taken to the Georgetown headquarters.

United Way executive director Kathleen Hayward said with so much money outstanding she couldn't guess how the campaign will go.

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