

**SUNNY STROLL!** St. Joe's students Rosamaria Umbrello, left, and Jessica Young joined hands for a friendly stroll down Mill Street Friday. Actually, the 6-year-olds were in a school walk-athon for a Drug Awareness Resistance. (Doug Harrison photo)

# Rural estates fight may be over

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

The fight against controversial plans for a rural estate lot subdivision south of Acton may not be over.

"We're getting legal advice and determining if we will appeal Council's approval of the Williams subdivision," said Ross Pezzack, a neighbour of the proposed development, on Thursday.

Town Council approved the 20-lot subdivision on Town Line between 17 and 22 Sideroads, by a one-vote margin last Tuesday.

In over five hours of debate on two nights, Councillors heard 17 area people speak against the proposal and 13 speak in favour of it.

Council also had a 143-page staff report recommending approval of the subdivision because the Town's current Official Plan allows such development, and because the applicant had "satisfactorily addressed concerns regarding hydrogeology and preservation of natural areas."

The staff report said that residents' concerns about improvements to the Town Line, storm

water drainage and grading, traffic, street lighting and other matters would be dealt with during the development process.

Neighbour Pezzack is skeptical. "Council approved this subdivision from an urban perspective, not a rural one," Pezzack said.

The Williams' lawyer, Bill Manderson, urged Council to approve the plan, noting it conformed to the Regional and local Plans.

"Every government, government agency, study, report and test has cast a positive light on this project," Manderson said.

During debate Council grappled with the issue that the Region's Official Plan, which has not received Provincial approval, will ban rural estate subdivisions.

Town planner Bruce McLean

reminded Council that the current Official plans are the yardstick that the application must be judged by and that Council would have a chance to comment on the Region's stand on rural development when the Town reviewed and commented on the plan.

Georgetown Councillor Anne Currie cast the deciding vote in favour of the plan. She had been absent from the previous meeting when a tie-vote had occurred.

All three urban Acton Councillors voted in favour.

"The positives include removal of a knoll and other improvements to Town Line, which will mean fewer accidents," said Councillor Gerald Rennie. "There will also be some local business generated and some increased assessment.

## Food drive here Nov. 5

On Saturday, Nov. 5, Acton residents and businesses, along with those in Rockwood and Eden Mills, will be asked to help feed the hungry by donating food in the annual Scout and Guide food drive.

Scouts, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Sparks, Calvinist Cadets and their leaders will knock on all doors between 9:30 am and 2 to collect the food.

Call 853-0457 for more info.

## United Way to go!

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
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If results from Acton's residential United Way campaign are any indication, organizers of the Halton Hills United Way campaign should have no trouble reaching their goal.

"Already this year in Acton we are ahead of where we were last year," said Campaign West chair Robin Elliott on Monday.

Last year, with only 38 per cent of all Acton homes canvassed, the residential campaign brought in almost \$2,800. With 40 to 45 per cent of the Acton canvasser's kits still to be counted this year, the dollar amount so far has exceeded last year's total.

"It's wonderful. It's fantastic. I'm delighted," Elliott said, praising the 150 people who worked on

the Acton door-to-door campaign.

"Acton is a very generous town. Any time anyone needs something, the people of Acton dig deep and make it happen."

Elliott said she would like to stress that people who have their employer make a payroll deduction for the United Way must sign a designation form every year if they want their money to be returned to this community.

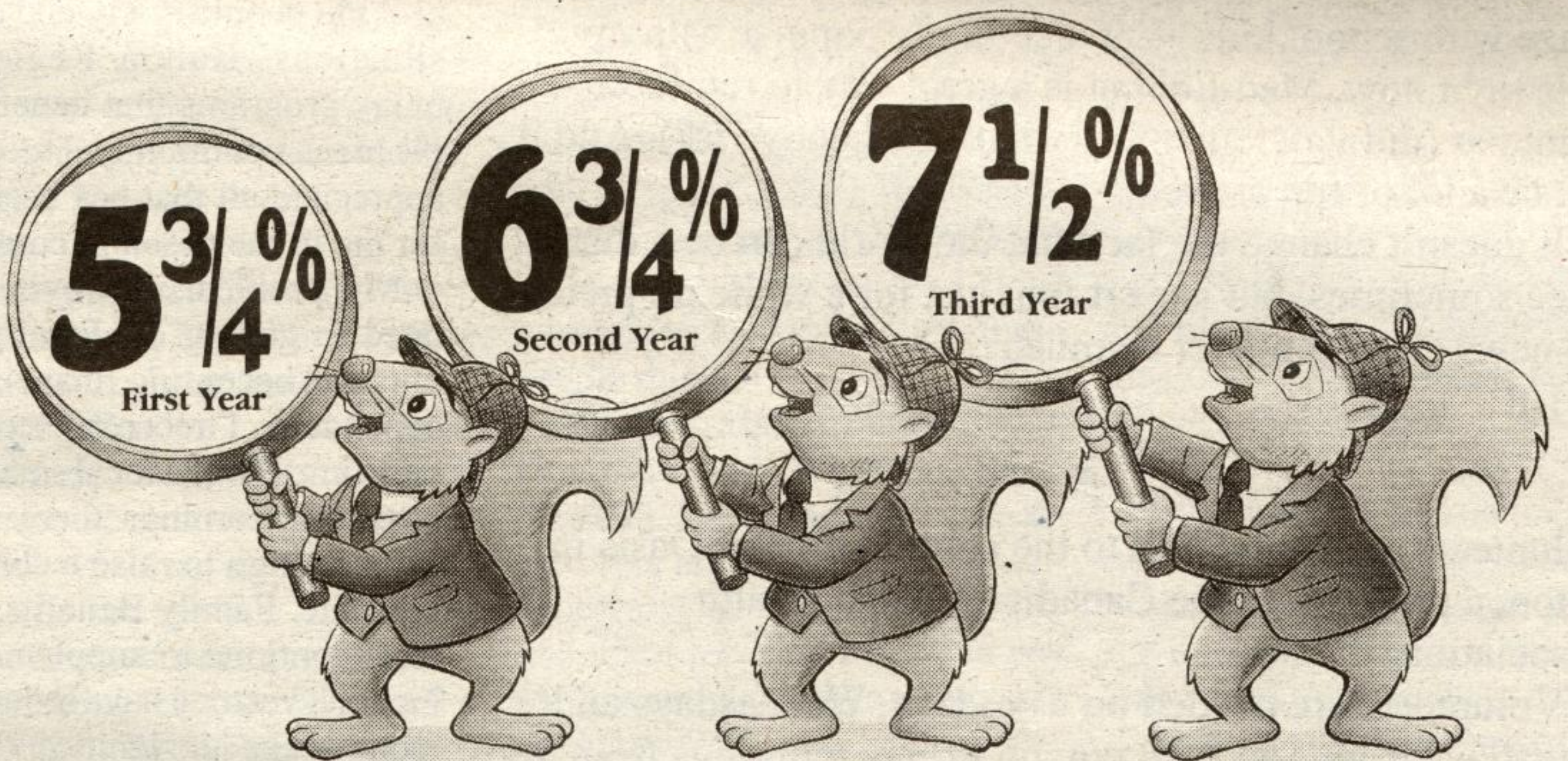
With the other components of the campaign kicking into gear, including the professional, retail and commercial sectors, Elliott said people will be able to watch the campaign's growth with a dollar thermometer that will be set up at the east end of Acton this week.

This year's goal is \$210,000, up from \$180,000 last year.

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