



TURKEY ROLL!

Phyllis Dawe collects the dice during the Turkey Roll at the Legion on Saturday, while Mike Nicholls looks on. Winners, like Nicholls, received a \$25 IGA food voucher. Money raised from the 40 rolls went toward organizing special events such as the seniors' Christmas dinner and kids' Christmas party. (Lori Frechette photo)

Town ready to tackle icy roads

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

September — a time when kids are envisioning what the new school year will bring while others are anticipating the arrival of beautiful fall colours.

However at the Town of Halton Hills, public works employees are wondering how much snow will fall on area roads and learning at what rate sand and salt should be applied.

It all begins with scheduling the night-shift workers and weekend stand-by people to drive the two Acton snow plow routes and single salt path.

From there, the 29 Halton Hills staffers (five for Acton) attend a winter control session to make sure emergency phone numbers are up-to-date and watch how-to videos on salt and sand operation and snow plow hook-up.

In addition, routes are reviewed, equipment (including the trucks) are checked. Employees also learn how to use the computers in the trucks that determine how much sand and salt should be used.

"Everyone here starts to get winter on their mind by the end of October," Ted Drewlo, manager of public works for the Town, said on Thursday.

Drewlo was already preparing his men on Thursday for a storm on Friday that actually hit Saturday. However, Drewlo and Co. were caught off guard by this year's inaugural snowfall two weeks ago.

"It was all over in two hours. We had two guys out before the

rush hour," Drewlo pointed out. "We couldn't get the rest out to fight the storm as quickly as we would have wanted for the first storm of the year."

Drewlo, 40, stated that the snow plowers try to get salt down before the snow accumulates on the road. Then, he went on, the roads are salted after the snow to produce a salt sandwich, so the salt is working from top to bottom in the melting process.

The Town uses seven per cent salt in their pickled sand and has done so for at least the last 20 years. While Drewlo said a lot of communities will use 10 per cent, Halton Hills stood pat for good reason.

"People are environmentally friendly today and we're trying our best. We use just enough sand to keep the roads from freezing and have been successful at that rate," said Drewlo, who's been with the Town for eight years.

"We can't not put any salt down, because it's too expensive to get

away from it."

Drewlo said the Town used 5,100 tons of sand and 2,100 tons of salt to cover the 320 kilometres (183 rural, 137 urban) of road in Halton Hills last year. As a result, public works exceeded their \$377,000 budget for sanding, salting and plowing by \$8,000.

"At \$385,000 there are other areas where we were under, so we can compensate for exceeding the budget. It would be a different story if we were \$50,000 over."

Two years ago, Halton Hills council suggested that public works budget for 16 snow storms.

"It was a very warm November for us. Snowfalls are like snowflakes — no two are the same. We're due for a snow storm. We'll see what happens on Friday."



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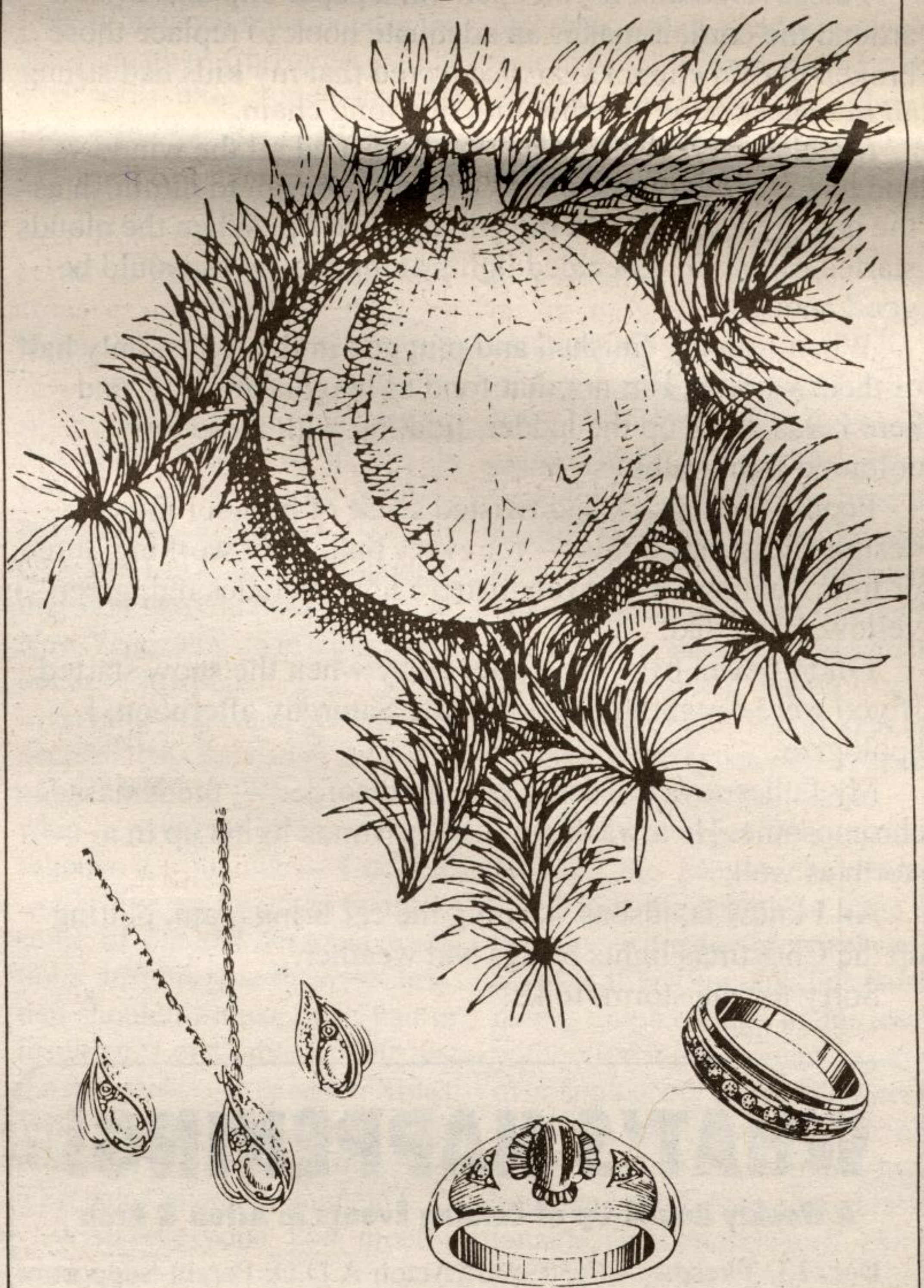
Rural home break-in

A Sixth Line home was burglarized sometime overnight Friday.

Police say that someone entered the rural residence while its occupants were sleeping, between midnight and 7 am. The suspect removed a black nylon briefcase containing various documents, but the case was later recovered on the front lawn of the home.

Halton Police say that footprints in the snow lead them to believe that the culprit was lurking around several other area homes Friday night. There were no other reported break-ins.

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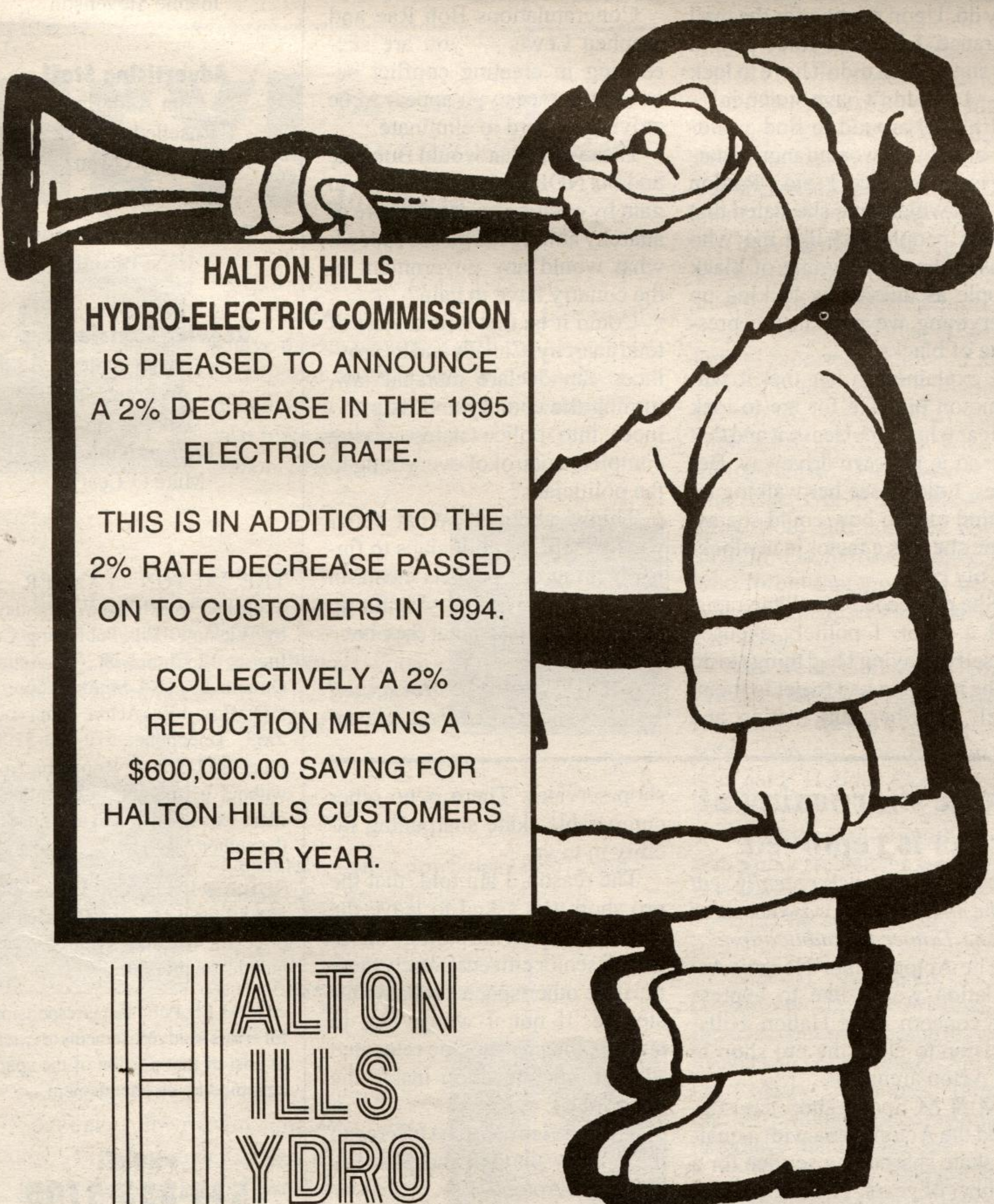
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