

# Future of our tap water studied

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

Halton hopes it can protect the water that comes out of Acton's household taps with an aquifer management plan — a plan that Regional Councillors were briefed on last week.

Since all of Acton's water supply comes from seven or eight wells, this study has major implications for Acton and surrounding rural areas.

The Region's aquifer management plan originated several years ago, as Council grappled with increasing numbers of contaminated wells in rural areas. Council also began questioning the wisdom of allowing more rural development on wells and septic systems.

Councillor Rick Bonnette, a member of the Region's planning and public works committee, said the aquifer management plan will

determine how much water can be taken without causing environmental problems.

"All of us in Acton know how valuable well water is," Bonnette said in a recent interview.

"This is a very proactive study that will point out groundwater concerns and possible solutions for the future."

Twenty-five per cent of Halton's population, 85,000 people, use groundwater for daily needs. Groundwater also provides a significant component to the baseflow of Halton's creeks and tributaries.

This is especially evident in Acton, where all development was halted until recently, when the Town and Region convinced provincial and federal officials that pumping additional water from the Prospect Park well and Fairy Lake would not harm the aquatic habitats of the lake or Black Creek.

"After spending a lot of time and money we finally got our permit to take more water for growth," Bonnette said.

Phase 1 of the study identifies areas of hydrogeological sensitivity, where aquifers are located at, or just below, the ground surface.

One of the areas of extreme sensitivity is around Fairy Lake where there is coarser sand and gravel soil.

The report warns that contamination in the aquifer could move to the Prospect Park well or the bedrock and cause problems with Acton's municipal water supply.

Hydrologist Steve Holysh said any human activity could easily impact on Acton's groundwater.

"Things like septic systems, road salt runoff or leaking gas station tanks can end up in the ground water," Holysh explained.

"In the States they've done things like banning gas stations and the use of pesticides, fertilizers and road salt in sensitive areas, so the water supply is protected.

"That would sort of be the way that I would encourage Halton to go, but I know there are all sorts of politics involved in this, so I've got to be really careful what I say," Holysh added.

The potential of aquifer and groundwater contamination has prompted Halton staff to recommend that the next step in the aquifer management plan should be to develop and implement a wellhead protection program.

Staff also recommended that a water budget should be developed for the Region to estimate the total amount of groundwater available.

Another component of the study will be a public education program to let people know that the oil they might dump on the ground will end up in the water they drink.

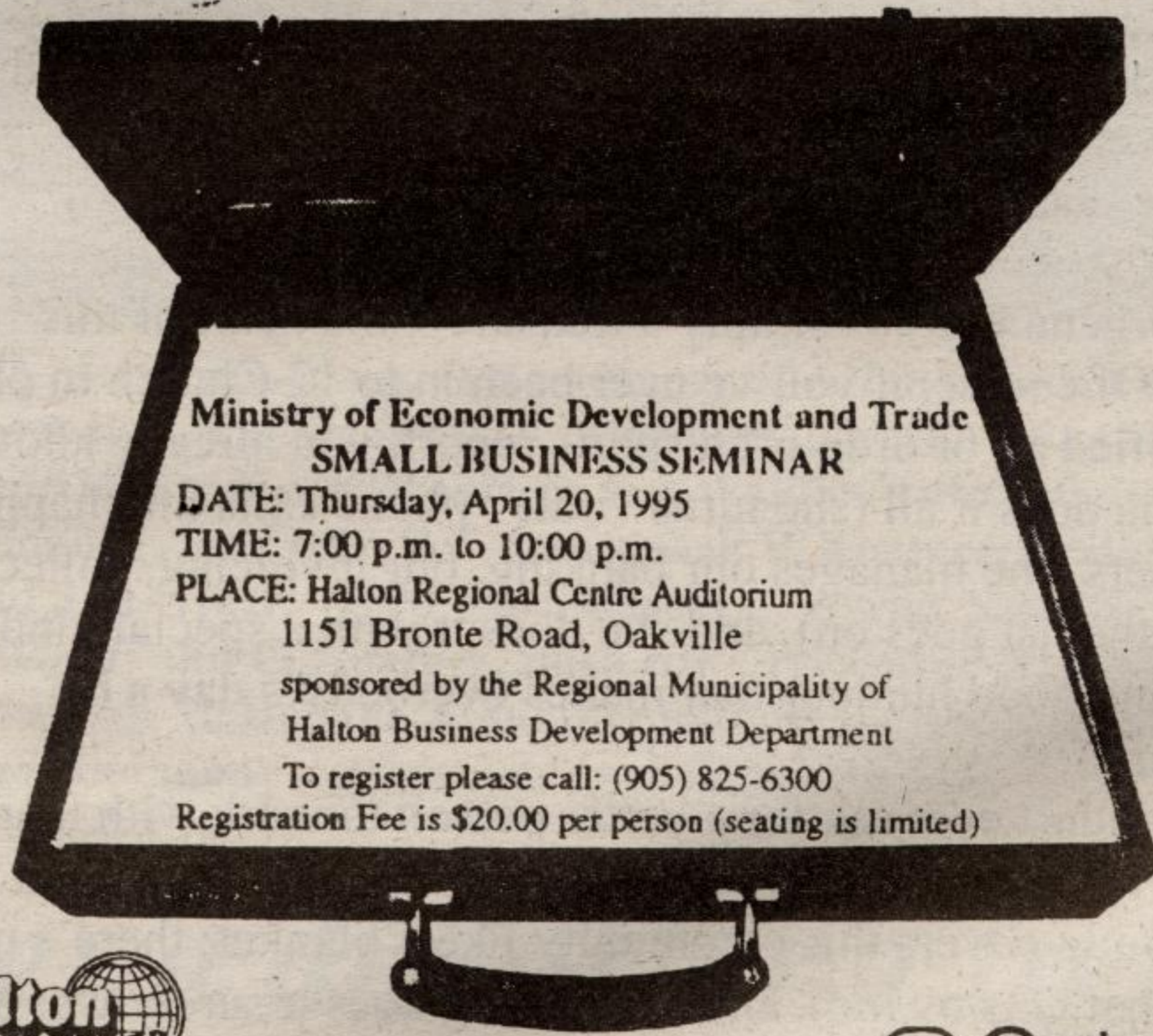
## Summer road repairs

Looks like several Acton streets will get much-needed repairs this summer.

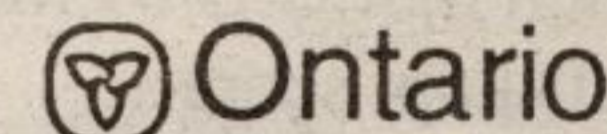
In response to questions from Acton Councillor Norm Elliott, the Town engineer said drawings for Park Avenue, Lake Street and Knox Street repairs have been sent to the Region, which is expected to issue a tender call for sanitary sewer and water main replacement and road works in the near future.

That's good news for Councillor Elliott. "The road surface of Park Avenue is terrible. The surface is eroded terribly and in some places there is not a lot of road surface left," Elliott said on Monday.

### STARTING A SMALL BUSINESS



Ministry of Economic Development and Trade  
SMALL BUSINESS SEMINAR  
DATE: Thursday, April 20, 1995  
TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Halton Regional Centre Auditorium  
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville  
sponsored by the Regional Municipality of  
Halton Business Development Department  
To register please call: (905) 825-6300  
Registration Fee is \$20.00 per person (seating is limited)



**MORE HELP FROM ROTARY!** Town Rec and Parks employee Joy Thompson accepted a \$500 contribution from the Acton Rotary Club's Doug Fread on Thursday. Rotary's cheque, which will be matched by the municipality, will be used to fund a program to send local youngsters to summer camp. (Paul Nolan photo)

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#### GEORGETOWN & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL and ACTON SUPPORT SERVICE & INFORMATION CENTRE

are introducing a cooperative program to deliver support services to existing seniors' buildings in Georgetown and Acton.

As part of new hospital programming which delivers support services to seniors' buildings in Georgetown, Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital has the following full-time positions available:

##### SUPPORT SERVICE COORDINATOR

Responsible for planning, coordination, development and provision of supportive housing services for seniors at four non-profit housing sites in Georgetown. Post secondary education in Human Services. Minimum of 2 years related experience. Must have experience and/or education in volunteer recruitment and management, and in the gerontological field.

##### LIFE ENRICHMENT COORDINATOR

Responsible for development and delivery of motivational, recreational and preventative programming to improve health status and promote a healthy lifestyle. Post secondary education in Recreation or Gerontology. Minimum of 2 years experience with the elderly and disabled essential.

##### TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR

Responsible for scheduling transportation and providing secretarial/receptionist support. Computer skills essential. Experience in working with the elderly an asset.

In addition to its regular services to seniors in Acton, ASSIC has the following part-time positions available:

##### SUPPORT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Requirements are as described above.

##### VAN DRIVER

Responsible for operation of a vehicle for transporting elderly/disabled people and for providing support and assistance when needed. Must have experience in working with the elderly and a valid drivers licence.

GEORGETOWN & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IS A 143-BED PRIMARY, ACUTE CARE, CHRONIC CARE AND LONG TERM CARE FACILITY. AS A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, THE HOSPITAL IS COMMITTED TO IDENTIFYING HEALTH CARE NEEDS FOR HALTON HILLS AND IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER HEALTH AGENCIES, DEVELOPING PROGRAMS TO MEET THESE NEEDS.

Interested applicants, please submit resume in confidence by April 24, 1995 to:  
Human Resources Department  
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