

Immunization against measles not always

BY KAREN WETMORE
The Acton Tanner

Acton students will be lining up to get shot next month. They'll receive a second measles immunization as part of the Ontario Ministry of Health's goal to eliminate the disease by the year 2000.

But Laurie Lima's two daughters will be among those who don't receive the immunization. Both her daughters had reactions to immunization shots when they were very young.

"They stopped gaining weight. There was a lot of crying. One of my daughters was throwing up for a week following her DPT (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis) immunization at 18 months," Lima said.

Discovering a fatal reaction to an immunization, which had occurred in her family years ago prompted Lima to research the pros and cons of immunization. She decided her daughters Lindsay and Ashley didn't need it.

"I feel their health is more important," she said. "I'd rather have them cope with the disease."

Lima's opinion is shared by Acton chiropractor Dr. Tom Thompson. Thompson advises parents to make the decision to immunize their children based on facts, not fear.

"Measles is a virus, and once a virus comes in contact with the body, the body is immune to that

virus forever," Thompson said.

Enduring measles means experiencing a high fever, cough, runny nose and red, sensitive eyes. Itchy pink spots break out on the face and spread to the body. The disease may lead to ear infections or pneumonia, said Mary Anne Carson, manager of the Communicable Disease program at the Halton Region Health Department. In one case per 1,000 encephalitis, or brain damage, may occur. For those immunized, this figure becomes one case for every million who get the disease.

The Health Department recommends all eligible students get immunized from measles, said Carson. Students can be exempted from immunization for medical reasons, religious reasons or reasons of conscience.

"But you don't want to possibly have someone at risk for brain damage if you can avoid it."

But for Lima, the negative aspects of immunization outweighed the positive ones.

"It makes you really wonder, 'Are you doing the right thing?'" she said. "But if your child has a reaction to immunization, it could be too late."

Halton Region has a measles immunization information line which can be reached at 878-8113, ext. 6190, or call the Health Department at (905) 825-6060.



CAR CRASH: This Jeep Cherokee was heading northbound on Hwy. 25 when it veered off the highway, struck a hydro pole, slammed into a snow bank and flipped on its roof near 15 Sideroad. The driver, a 28-year-old Ayr resident, was charged with impaired driving. (Doug Harrison photo)

Sidewalks are a "difficult issue"

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

If your neighbourhood sidewalk isn't clear enough to walk safely, there isn't much one can do legally, especially if it's part of the Town Council approved sidewalk snow clearing list.

Some might be unaware, but there isn't a by-law in Halton Hills requiring residents to keep their sidewalks cleared.

The Town cleans most of the downtown and surrounding areas, and increased its workload over the year, but never shaved the list.

"I took a look at the roads last week and whatever needed to be done I assumed was done. I haven't

received any calls, but it is costly work," says Ted Drewlo, manager of public works, who adds the budget for sidewalk and snow plowing sits at \$8,900.

The Town's sidewalk list includes both sides of Mill Street from Main Street to the railroad tracks, both sides of Main north to the tracks and around the corner of Hwy. 7, the west side of Mill to Kingham Road, the north side of Young and Queen Streets only, Acton Boulevard from Queen to McKenzie-Smith Bennett and a section along Elizabeth Drive.

Elmore Drive resident Hartley Coles is concerned about the current state of Acton sidewalks.

"You have to walk on the road most of the time. Some of the older people I know are not able to get out and I think that's criminal," says Coles.

Coles points out an area beside the municipal parking lot at Wil- low and Church Streets.

"That's Town property, so it should be cleaned up," he argued. "It's going to save someone from breaking their hip."

Councillor Norm Elliott says it's frustrating when someone plows their sidewalk and the snowplow puts more snow on it.

"I don't know what the answer is," he went on. "It's a difficult issue to deal with every winter."

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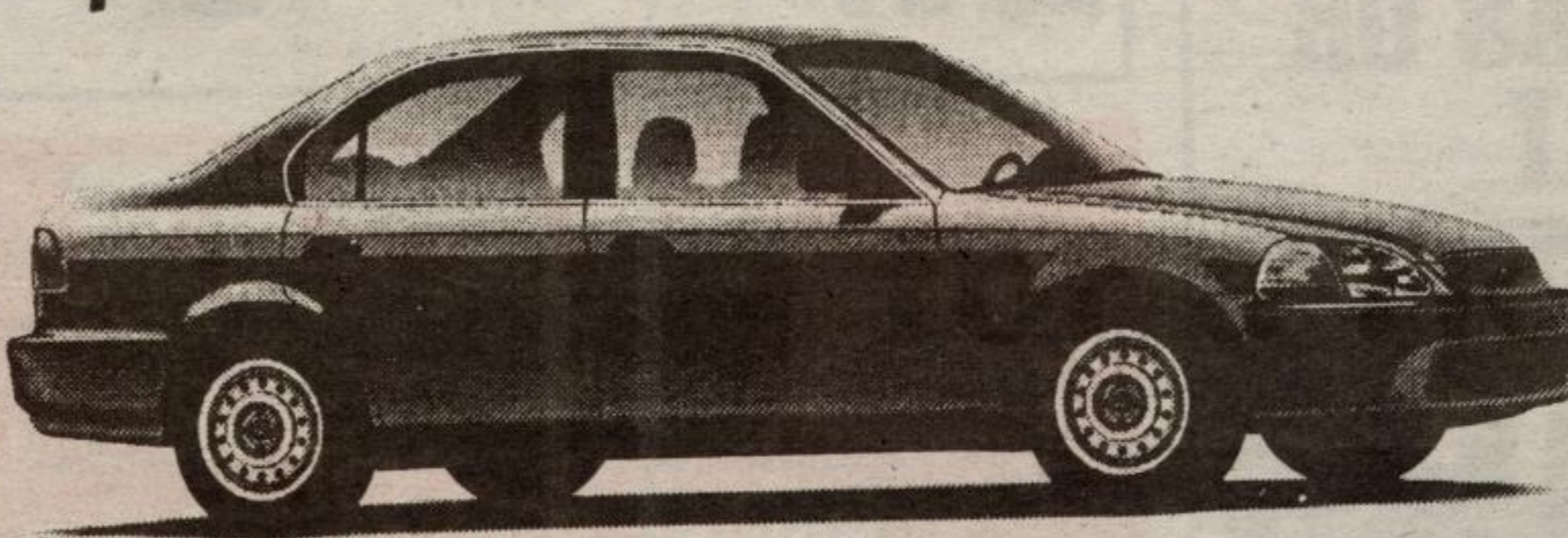
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