



Outgoing campaign chair Robin Elliott, left, passes a pair of running shoes to incoming chair Elly Tuitman, in preparation of a busy and fast-pace year ahead.

## Tuitman to lead United Way campaign in Acton

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

After three successful years as chair of the United Way of Halton Hills' Acton campaign, Robin Elliott has handed over the fundraising reins to Acton's Elly Tuitman.

At the United Way's annual general meeting and volunteer appreciation night on Monday night, volunteers assessed last year's campaign and planned for this year.

"We did pretty well with the campaign," Elliott explained Friday.

"The problem is that with

government there is more need but some people are feeling the pinch and don't have as much money to donate."

Last year's campaign raised \$192,736, short for the second year in a row of the \$210,000 goal.

Elliott said she joined the United Way after some "gentle persuasion" from president Jim Lindsay of Acton.

"My first year was the first time that the Acton and Georgetown campaigns were split, and the second year I stayed on because I felt there was more that I could do. The third year just happened,"

Elliott said.

Elly Tuitman, the newly-named Campaign West chair, said she "really likes the United Way because it is such an efficient way to give to so many worthwhile organizations."

Tuitman said she hopes to increase the profile and raise awareness by setting up an information booth at events like the Leathertown Festival in Acton in August.

Tuitman also said she was pleased that last year's residential campaign chair in Acton, Debbie Lindsay, had signed on for another year.

## Sears fundraiser a success \$3,700 raised for accident victim

Saturday's fundraiser for Sean Sears, injured in a motorbike accident, was a great success with approximately \$3,700 being added to an account in Sears's name at the Bank of Nova Scotia following the June 8 accident, which killed Ryan Morgan, 22, of Rockwood and injured Jason Luedde of Acton.

Sears has been in a coma in Sunnybrook Hospital since

the accident, which is still under investigation as police wait for the coroner's report.

The fundraiser, featuring live bands and a barbeque, drew at least 300 people to a farm on Hwy. 7 east of Acton.

Police were happy to report there were no problems and party-goers were "very responsible."

"We had an officer at the

gate asking people to remind themselves why they were there - that it was to help someone who was hurt following a similar party," Halton Sergeant Larry Mason explained Sunday.

"Well, they were partying out at the drag strip before the fatal accident - that's what the problem was, but on Saturday night there were no problems."

## Workfare coming this fall

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
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Welfare recipients in Acton will be forced to work for their benefits as Halton Region is included as one of 20 pilot projects for the Province's long-awaited workfare program, called Ontario Works.

Phase 1 of the program will only include able-bodied people who are under 60 years of age and do not have dependents - there are about 1,300 in that category in the Region.

Approximately 50 welfare recipients in Acton will not be part of workfare because they are disabled or sole-support parents. About 40 per cent of the regional caseload will not be part of the program because they come on and then off welfare before the mandatory workfare requirements kick in after four months of assistance payments.

Eligible welfare recipients will have to work as many as 17 hours a week on community projects. If they refuse, their benefits will end.

Critics claim workfare will make "slaves" out of welfare recipients and displace paid workers but Halton's Commissioner of Social Services, Bonnie Ewart, said they will try to match recipients with jobs that fit their background and experience - jobs that would not normally get done.

"We're developing an implementation plan and service model over the summer and will look for community service placements like non-profit organizations that need people to do extra things," Ewart explained last Thursday.

Ewart said people could find themselves working in social service settings like child-care centres or on beautification projects.

"There is no limit to the type of job opportunities that are out there - it is only related to who in Halton is interested in developing these opportunities and provide the training and supervision," Ewart explained.

In 1995 Halton paid \$22 million in welfare and had an average monthly caseload of

2,000. Ewart said the Region asked to be part of the pilot project so it could develop a service model that would fit Halton, and not have one imposed on them by the Province.

Ewart said that the cost of designing and implementing a workfare program in Halton is not known yet.

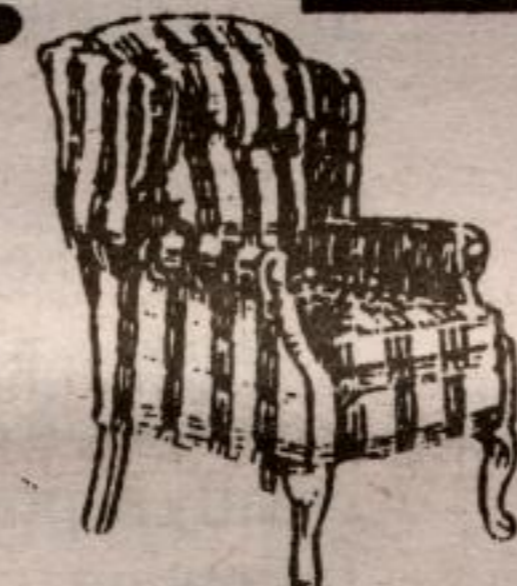

## Fair fee forgiven

Town councillors will continue a long-standing tradition and waive a \$250 per day midway licensing fee for the Acton Fall Fair September 20, 21 and 22.

The Acton Agricultural Society asked for the waiver based on a section of the Town by-law that allows Council to forgive the fee if profits are used for religious, charitable or philanthropic purposes.

Council also agreed to waive the same fee for the Georgetown Fall Fair.

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The program runs Monday August 12th to Friday August 16th from 9:00 - 11:45 a.m., with a very special Family Fun Fair Friday night. Space is limited so register early. Registration is \$5.00 per child and forms are available at the Church and Public Library. For more information, call June Spencer at 853-3769.



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