

1996: School board layoffs, old fire hall up for sale

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had Fourth Line residents worried that their water quality and quantity would be affected adversely. The proposal was approved by Council in April.

TRUSTEE OPPOSED TO SCHOOL BUS ADS: Ward 1 and 2 trustee Ethel Gardiner voted against the use of advertising on Halton school buses, but was in the minority. Gardiner was concerned the ads might distract children to the point where they forget their bus safety rules.

LIBRARY REWARDED FOR WEB SITE: The Halton Hills Public Libraries received the annual award for "information innovation"

from the Ontario Library Information Technology Association for its World Wide Web site. Deputy chief librarian Walter Lewis said he believed Halton Hills Library to be one of the first three public libraries in Canada to be on the World Wide Web.

COUPLE CONVICTED OF ARSON: Former Acton residents Ken and Joan Thomson were each convicted of arson threatening safety and arson with intent to defraud an insurance company in a trial relating to the burning of their Young Street home in 1992.

The Crown said the Thomsons had an "obsession" with their dream home, which turned into a money

pit for the deeply in debt couple. Both were sentenced to three months in jail.

March

SCHOOL BOARD LAID-OFF 1,573: Halton public school employees were handed layoff notices in a move that Board of Education chair called "frustrating and demoralizing." Those given notices included 192 elementary and 380 secondary school teachers.

BUSINESSES AWARDED: At the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce business achievement awards ceremony, Acton's Red Dog Café was named Entrepreneur of the Year. Acton IGA deli manager Connie Bath

was chosen as Employee of the Year.

YELLOW PAGES OMITTED ACTON: Acton business owners were angry when finding "Georgetown" as the community listed at the top of each Yellow Page listing for 1996. The year previous had stated "Georgetown, Acton" on each page.

FIRE HALL PUT UP FOR SALE: The former Acton Fire Hall was put on the market by Town Council at a \$160,000 list price. The building was declared redundant in 1994 and high renovation costs convinced the Town to abandon plans for further municipal use of the building.

April

FINANCES AND "DUST" CLOSED HOOPS: Hoops, Pockets & More ended its final day of business with some patrons kicking holes in walls and doing other damage to the arcade. Manager Gord Labombard said he originally planned to close ahead of the publicized date, but owner Dave Manes decided to stay open to make a little more money for the failing business.

ORGANIST RETIRED AFTER 53 YEARS: Knox Presbyterian Church's organist Ted Hansen retired to the choir after serving as organist and choir director for 53 years. "I thought it was about time to let somebody else do it because you don't get any keener at things like that as you get older," he said.

BOWLERRACKED UP POINTS: Acton's Kylie Kruk, 10, competed at the

Four Steps to Stardom provincial five-pin bowling championships held in Ottawa and finished an impressive second out of 5,944 Bantam bowlers.

HENDERSON NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: Letter carrier, Scout leader, church elder, coach and Agricultural Society member George Henderson became Acton's Citizen of the Year for 1996.

May

EXCELLENT STUDENTS HONOURED: Sarah Austin, an O.A.C. student at Acton High, Eileen Banks, a Grade 8 student at McKenzie-Smith Bennett and Katherine Hopkins, a Grade 5 student at Robert Little school were each awarded at the Halton Board of Education's annual Celebration of Student Excellence. As well, St. Joseph's Grade 8 student Krystle Thompson was honoured by the Halton Roman Catholic School Board at a Sharing the Spirit student excellence award ceremony.

AUCTION RAISED \$8,000: The annual Rotary Club of Acton's Gala Auction and Dinner raised about \$8,000 for Rotary projects, with 95 per cent of that money staying in Acton.

F.A.D. GROUP FORMS: Families Against Deadbeats (FAD), a 200-member group formed in Brampton, started up in Acton, to help parents collect court-ordered child support payments by "deadbeat" parents. Town councillors endorsed the group's efforts to

convince the province to strengthen and enforce child support payment programs.

June

20 YEARS OF SERVICE: Acton Support Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) celebrated its 20th anniversary of providing help and information to the community. The celebration included a retirement party for executive director Peggy Balkind and a welcome for her replacement, Rosslyn Dowell.

ARENA ARCHITECT CHOSEN: Town councillors unanimously chose PBK Architects and Engineers to design the new \$5.1 million Acton Arena and Community Centre. Arena steering committee chair Norm Elliott said he and his fellow Acton councillors had looked forward to the hiring of an architect for the arena for a good 10 years, at least.

CABLE SALE BROUGHT MORE CHANNELS: The sale of Halton Cablesystems Inc. to Western Co-Axial Limited brought CBC's Newsworld to Acton and Rockwood subscribers, with the promise of an additional 25 channels in the future.

ACTONITE WON BIG WITH LOTTERY TICKET! Kevin Archibald, 34, said he officially retired the day he picked up his \$1.1 million Lottario prize. Archibald said he was going to put his winnings into a G.I.C. while making plans.

Watch next week's *Tanner* for the second half of our look back at 1996!

NOTICE TO HALTON WATER AND WASTEWATER RATEPAYERS

1997 Water and Wastewater Rates

Halton Region has approved the introduction of a special water rate (the "Watermain Charge") effective January 1, 1997, to be applied to all water consumed on or after that date. The principal features of this charge include the following:

- The "Watermain Charge" has been introduced to finance the cost of replacing seriously corroded watermains in Halton. These deteriorating watermains are resulting in safety concerns (restricted water flows for fire fighting) as well as health problems (water colour, taste and odour).
- To address these problems a decision was taken by Regional Council to accelerate an existing cast iron watermain replacement program. The actual replacement of deteriorated watermains is considered to be the most effective and safe solution to address the health and safety concerns. Under the approved program watermains will be replaced within a 7-year time frame, with the total cost (\$111 million) financed over 10 years.
- Regional Council reviewed options for dealing with these health and safety issues, including a lower cost option of adding chemicals to all municipal water; an approach that would mask the taste, colour and odour problems. This option was rejected because it would fail to address safety concerns resulting from restricted water flows for fire protection - corroded watermains actually restrict water flowing through them.

It was Regional Council's decision that the safest and most complete solution to the problems with Halton's cast iron watermains was to approve the replacement option.

- This initiative will be funded from revenue derived directly from the "Watermain Charge" applied at the rate of 13.96¢ per cubic metre for all metered water consumption. This charge will appear as a separate line item on your utility bill and will be in place for a period of 10 years, after which time it will be removed. **For the average residential ratepayer with annual water consumption of 300 cubic metres, this charge will amount to approximately \$42 per annum.**
- The "Watermain Charge" represents the only increase in water and wastewater rates in 1997. All other components of the program have been financed at 1996 levels.

For further information concerning water and wastewater rate structure and policy, including the "Watermain Charge," contact the Region by telephoning 825-6000 (878-8113 for enquiries from Halton Hills) and asking for "Water and Wastewater Enquiries."



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



DANIEL VARANELLI CGA