

## Milton Council Briefs

by Cindy Pearson Lunau

(Continued from page 2)

Council's policy is to hold funds for the year and allocate the revenues plus interest earned in the following year's budget. The 2002 budget includes just over \$5 million from slots revenue for capital projects, \$500,000 for the Milton Community Fund and \$225,000 for additional rural policing in Nassagaweya.

**GRANT APPLICATIONS:** The Region of Halton is accepting applications for the 2002 Healthy Community Fund until March 18. Milton Community Fund application guidelines for 2002 are being considered at the January 28 Council meeting. Proposed deadlines are April 22 and October 7. Details and forms for programs are available through Joy Anderson, Community Services, [joy.anderson@town.milton.on.ca](mailto:joy.anderson@town.milton.on.ca).

**ROAD NEEDS STUDY:** This detailed report, just completed, provides a detailed inventory of the Town road system, identifying roads that are or will become deficient in the next 10 years and improvements required to bring these roads to today's accepted standards. Of the 340 km of Town roads, approximately 40 per cent are deficient within the "now" time period, requiring an estimated \$60 million in improvements. Another \$20 million in roads will become deficient by 2006. Not surprisingly, a good portion of these roads is within our rural area. This study

will help the Town identify priorities for future capital budgets. If you are curious how your favourite road rates, information is available through each of us, as well as Peter Linn (Community Services) at Town Hall.

**2002 BUDGET:** Council approved a Capital Budget of just over \$23 million and an Operating Budget of just under \$10 million. The Capital Budget is \$23.3 million (an increase of \$10 over 2001), with approximately half of the projects related to growth. The major capital projects in Nassagaweya are a new Fire Hall on Reid Sideroad, Campbellville (\$1,447,400) and an Auto Extrication Tool (\$43,900) for this location. The Region will provide Ambulance response from this facility and negotiations continue with Halton Police to include a Community Police presence. Other local projects include reconstruction designs for Twiss Road, Steeles to Derry (\$60,000), design for reconstruction of the 20 Sideroad/First Line Nassagaweya intersection (\$20,000) and improvements to the Nassagaweya Tennis Club facility (\$30,000.) The Net Operating Budget for 2002 is \$9,602,923. (\$24,447,552 offset by \$14,844,629 in revenues.) One of this year's new programs includes a second community cleanup/drop off program in the fall.

Growth! The facts are astounding. **Building Permits:** 145 in 1999, but

more than 1720 in 2001, and an additional 1200 forecasted for 2002.

**Tax Comparisons:** Milton fares particularly well compared to other municipalities. Net Levy per capita: Milton \$653; Halton Hills \$675; Burlington \$853; Oakville \$954; survey average of \$804. Taxes per assessment of \$200,000: Milton \$538.40 (rural rate of \$485.97); Mississauga \$573.53; Caledon \$609.32; Halton Hills \$692.94; Oakville \$695.09; Burlington \$726.92; Brampton, \$878.57.

The Town Budget is only part of your total tax bill. The zero percent increase from the Town's portion is possible through a 7 per cent growth in assessment, significant industrial and commercial growth, slots revenue for capital projects, increased revenue sources (including user fees and development charges,) and diligent efforts and devoted service from staff.

**REPRESENTATIVES:** Your questions, comments and concerns are important. Please call us. Barry Lee 519-824-0679 or 1-888-317-2292, Ken Keates 519-856-2432 or 1-888-645-8669, [kkeates@sentex.net](mailto:kkeates@sentex.net), or Cindy Lunau 519-853-3772 (local call from Milton) [cindy@in.on.ca](mailto:cindy@in.on.ca). Town Hall 905-878-7211 or 1-800-418-5494 [www.town.milton.on.ca](http://www.town.milton.on.ca). Region of Halton 905-825-6000 or 1-866-442-5866.

## COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE GILLIAN HIGSON

by Deborah Quail

One of the busy workers who assists at Squire's Lodge in Rockwood is Gillian Higson, who creates delicious lunches for the seniors every Tuesday. And it's not just the people who reside in the building, but seniors from all around the township.

Through the East Wellington Advisory Group, or EWAG, for \$6 seniors can purchase a complete meal freshly prepared by Ms. Higson, or once a month can enjoy soup, sandwich and dessert for \$4.

As if the taste and aroma of the meals aren't enough, it's Ms. Higson's attitude that really add a boost to people's days. She's bright and cheerful with her own devil-may-care attitude and a ready smile.

"I like to schmooze," she admits, grinning, as she's serving up luncheon buffet style and humming along to the jazz CDs she's brought. "Last week I played Blossom Dearie for everyone and they were all singing along. They'll probably be singing along today too," she adds, with a nod to the stereo.

At Rockwood Centennial Public School, Gillian Higson is also a familiar face. She had worked with the Nutrition Program, which provides morning snacks to all children in the school.

When it's time to raise funds for the Nutrition Program, she's there in the kindergarten yard flipping burgers on the bar-bee and joking with the parents and teachers.

Last year she engineered the entire Grade 5 Greek Feast and Grade 4 Medieval Feast, and will be creating the Greek Feast again this year (with a little consultation on the Medieval one too).

If one of her two sons, Tom or Sam, is going on a school trip, she is usually a parent volunteer who assists with a group of students.

Ms. Higson has all the best qualities of a great volunteer, with



Gillian Higson

an active record of community service.

For the past six-and-a-half years she has been studying stained glass, and has been working in her home studio making jewellery, window hangings, sun catchers, lamps, boxes, and Christmas decorations such as angels and snowflakes.

Along with producing pieces for her business, she crafts wonderful items for good causes. Each year she makes a glass piece with a duck theme to be offered as one of the raffle prizes for Rockwood's Pioneer Day Rubber Duck Race in June.

Also for Pioneer Day, she creates and donates prizes for the penny table, a local fundraiser. If asked, Ms. Higson donates stained glass panels or figures to various fundraisers.

For all her good spirits and devotion to the Rockwood and area community, the residents of Squire's Lodge especially admire Ms. Higson. Heads poke in the doorway and murmur, "That smells lovely," or simply wave a good morning to her familiar face.

"They're my defenders, these ladies," she says affectionately. "From what, I don't know, but they're on my side."

It's obvious they just want her to know how highly she is valued.

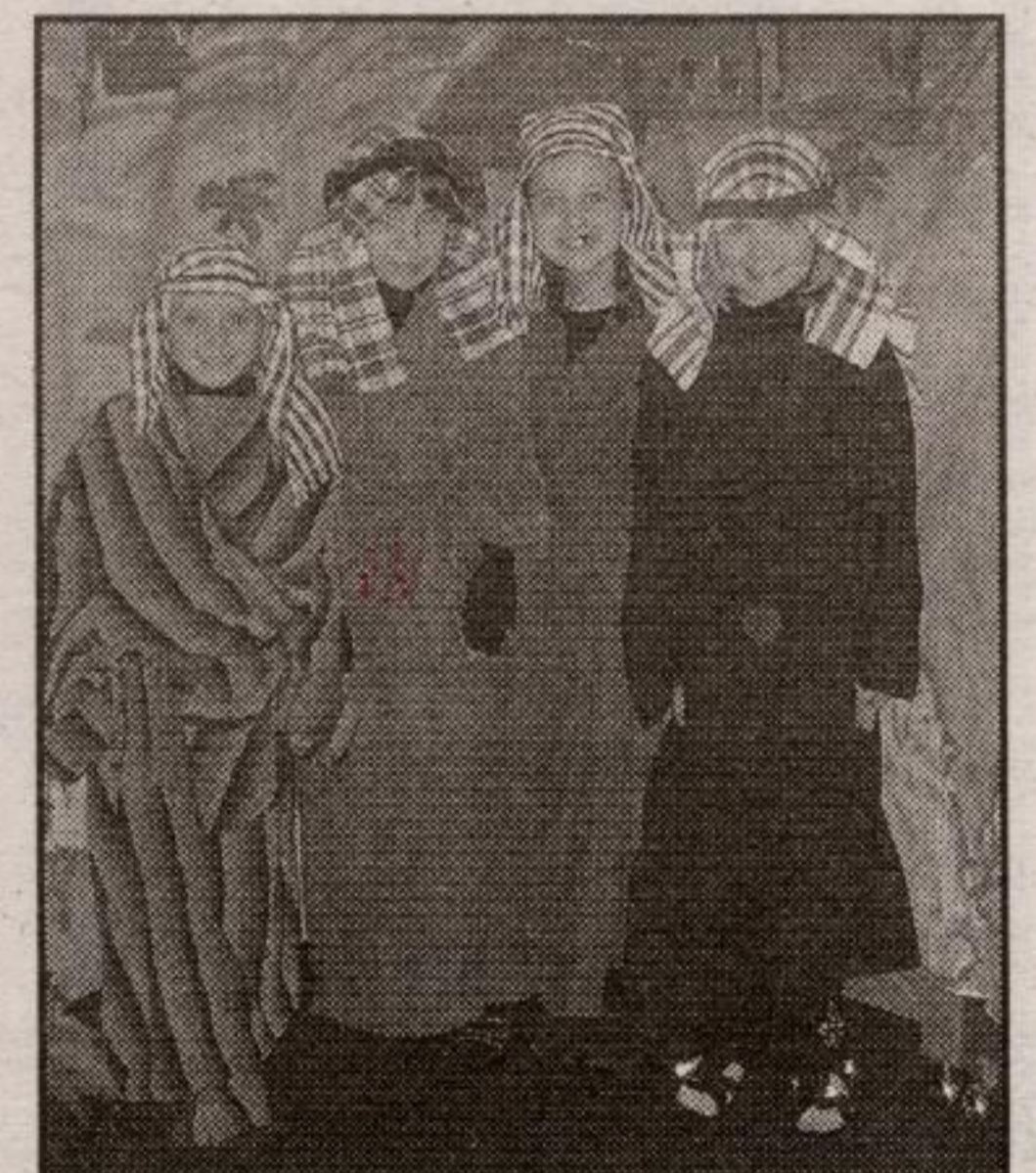
## Of Kith and Kin



Robyn Spiers, Kristen Salt, Kayla Salt, Laura Manes and Rachel Manes.

The youth of Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church presented their Christmas Sunday School Concert on December 23, 2001. Photos by Reid Kennedy

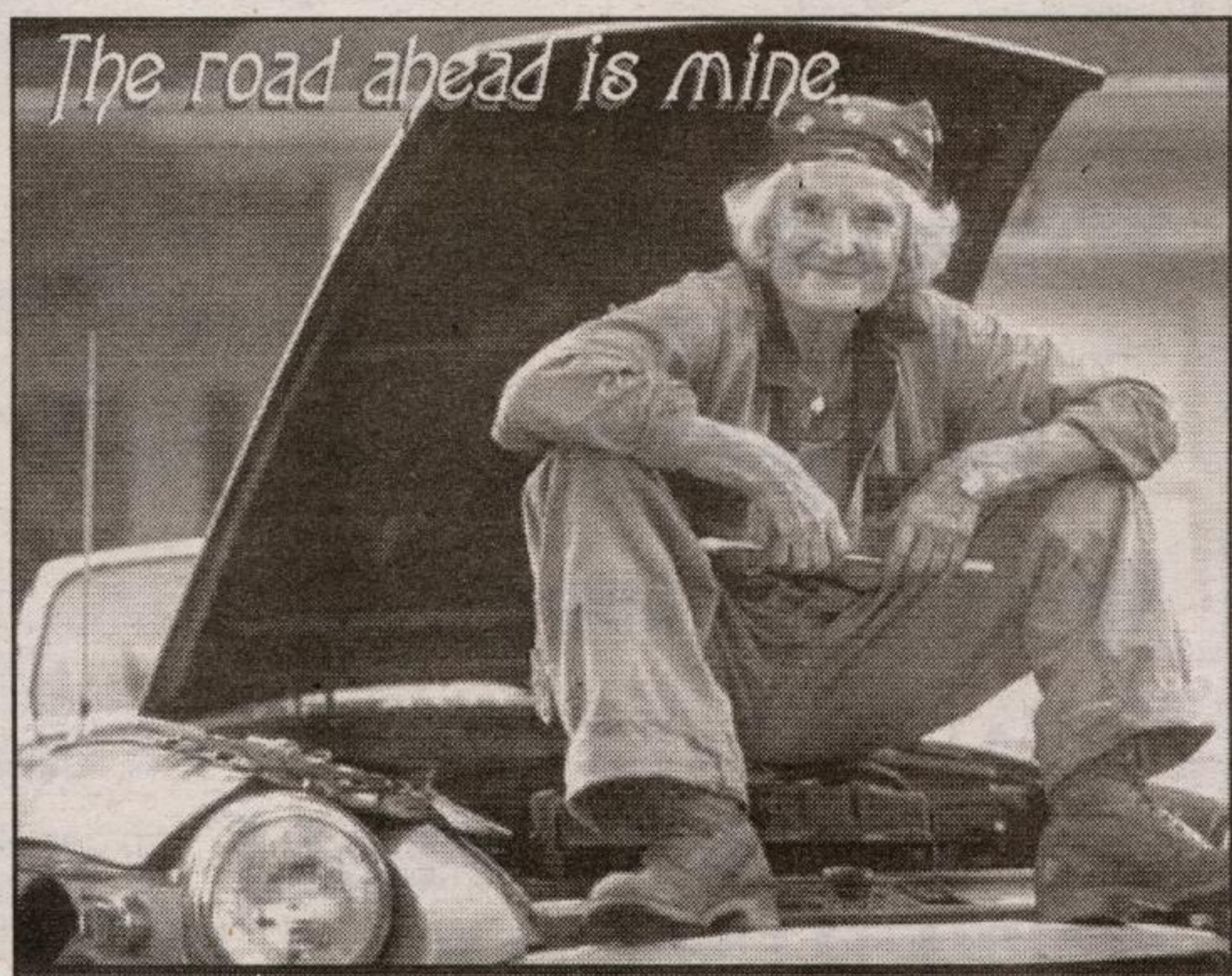
Right: Ronnie Allen and Kathleen Dennie as Joseph and Mary.



Brittany Schrader, Melissa Livesay, Alison Zuccato and Keely Duke as the Shepherds.



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