

## Halton Hills firefighters achieve Tanker Shuttle Accreditation

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

As of July 31, the fire department of Halton Hills has joined Milton in achieving the Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation. This means that the fire department has demonstrated to the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) an acceptable level of fire suppression service in rural areas. Three tankers are now available to pump a minimum of 900 litres of water a minute for two hours. As a result, some rural property owners may be eligible for insurance premium reductions.

In March 2003 the Halton Hills fire department received a new tanker and, since then, both full and part-time staff have trained and conducted test runs for the accreditation evaluation. On July 31, FUS personnel monitored a demonstration on the Sixth Line, and informed firefighters that they had passed the test.

"The investment made by council in enhancing the operational capabilities of the Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services has created the opportunity for a significant economic benefit for rural property owners," states Larry Brassard, Chief of Operations, in a report to council.

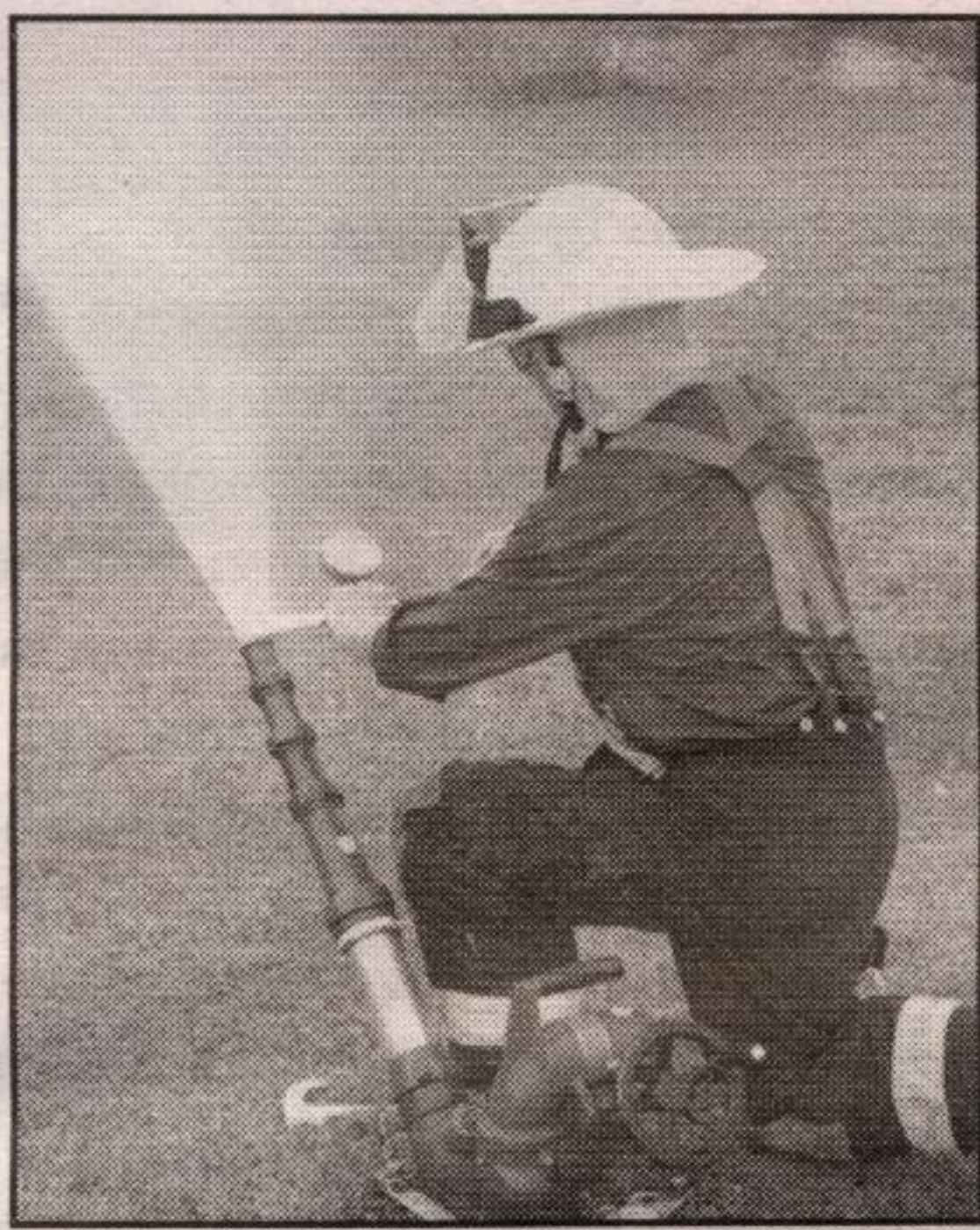
Both Mr. Brassard and Milton's Fire Chief, Harold Penson, suggest that rural property owners contact their insurance brokers or agents about possible premium reductions. Insurance savings depend on many factors and may not be available to all rural

property owners. The new accreditation is valid for residents within eight kilometres by road of a fire station, and within five kilometres for commercial properties.

Insurance companies set their own ratings and may treat this accreditation differently. Some companies offer a discount to a maximum amount. If this is the case, and owners already have the advantage of full discounts, then no further discount would be allowed for the increased fire protection. However, other companies acknowledge the accreditation by changing the territory of the property, as if it were in an urban area, and give reductions if all conditions are met. Other companies don't give clear consideration to the Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation.

Rural property owners are advised to contact their insurance companies with their distance in kilometres from the responding fire hall. To determine which hall this is, Halton Hills residents should call the fire department's business line at 905-877-1133 with their address and municipal number. They will be told which fire hall is their primary response station, the one in Georgetown on Maple Avenue or the one in Acton at Churchhill Road. They should then drive to the station to note the distance in kilometres.

Although perhaps inconvenient, following this advice from insurance professionals could result in significant reductions in insurance premiums.



## Regional councillor Barry Lee running again

BY KAREN BOOTHROYD

Barry Lee has been a Regional councillor for Wards 1 and 3 in Milton for 12 years. Why is he running again? His answer: "I am not finished yet. I still have a lot to offer." And what he has to offer is plenty of experience and a commitment to maintaining the rural character of Milton.

Mr. Lee has been a resident of the area since 1961. He lives and works on a farm with his wife, Jane, north of Moffat and combines cabinet making with his farming business. As a long-time resident, he has a great deal of affection for the area and, with his strong agricultural background, Mr. Lee is driven to protecting the rural way of life while balancing this with the needs of his urban constituents. He doesn't see this as a conflict. "New residents like the fact that it hasn't changed over the years. Old residents remain for what it has to offer."

Mr. Lee cares about conservation and environmentally sensitive areas. He points out that our Region is home to a split watershed and that the Blue Springs Creek is considered to be one of the most pristine creeks in the area. Development is occurring, but most of this development, according to Mr. Lee, was approved years ago. He chuckles about the rocky topography of the area, saying, "Developers like a nice easy route, and rocks are a pain in the neck for developers."

As well as his commitment to conservation, Mr. Lee is also interested in maintaining a reasonable tax base and proudly states, "We have the lowest tax rates in the GTA."

Mr. Lee believes that being part of the fabric of the community is critical to his success as a councillor since he has "to deal with the public head on." He explains: "You

don't do this job alone. We are fortunate in Halton. We have a large participant rate from citizens." He points to the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee, a group of local residents who meet once a month to discuss Regional and municipal issues including everything from zoning problems to policing concerns. He is very impressed with the many new constituents who "bite

into an issue and get involved."

Councillor Lee explains that his reason for getting involved with politics in the first place is the reason why he continues to be involved. He cherishes and values the spirit of the community, and wants to ensure that continues. Furthermore, he notes, "I feel that the area is somewhat unique, and I'd like to keep it that way."

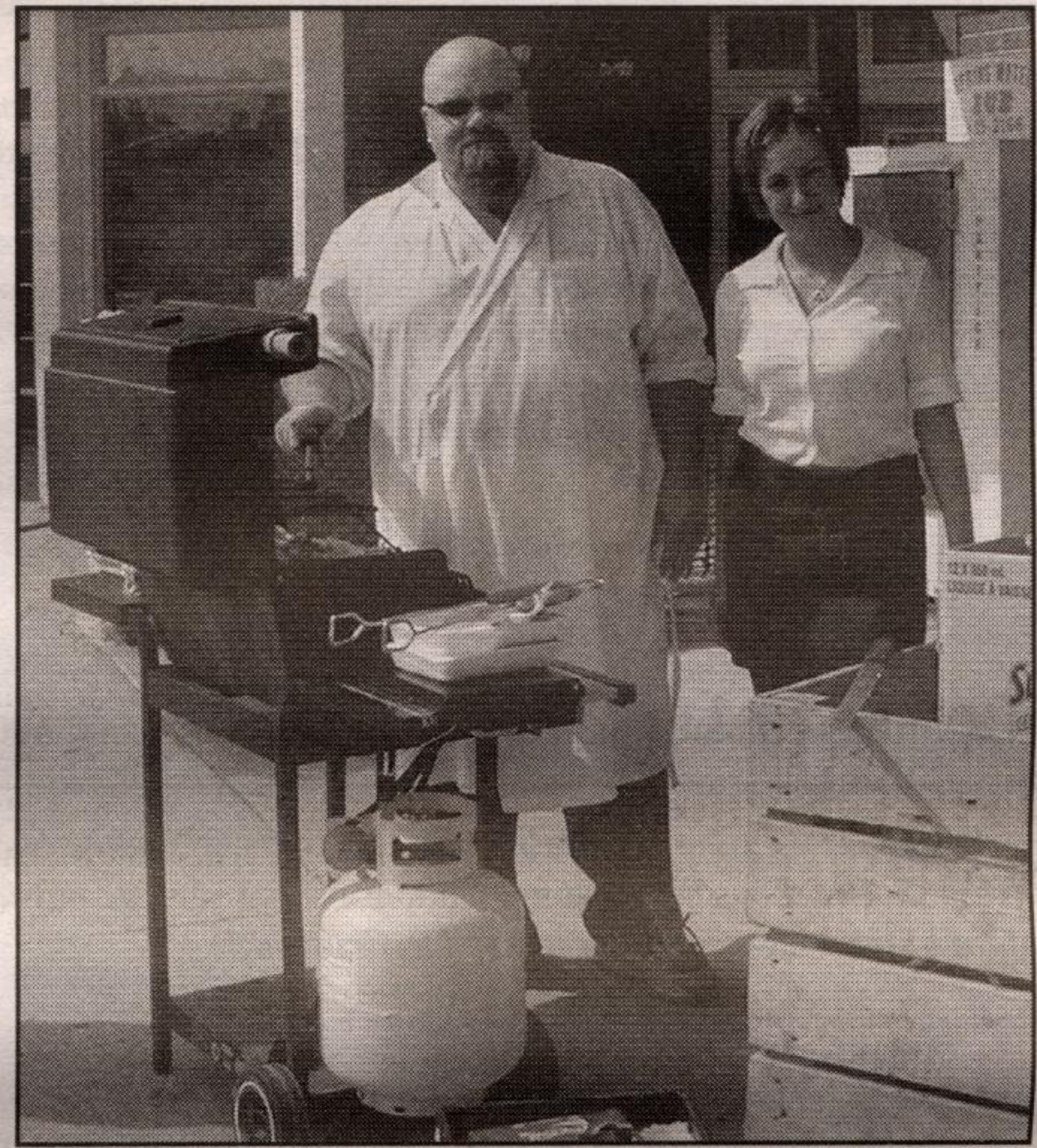


PHOTO BY REID KENNEDY

### Blackout barbecue

On the second day of the blackout, August 15, Steve Currie and Renae Cristello served barbecued foods to hungry customers in Campbellville.



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### Leathertown Festival alive with the sound of music

Led by Dr. George Elliot, the Acton Citizens Band performed for the crowd at the Acton Leather Festival held in August.

PHOTO BY KAREN BOOTHROYD



### Best of Luck

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