

Chudleigh says Tories hit most of their goals

Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh expressed satisfaction with the work of his Progressive Conservative colleagues during the last three and a half years. The Ontario Legislature does not reconvene until the end of March, 1999, taking a winter break.

"We said what we were going to do and we did it," he said. "With this govern-

ment a promise made is a promise kept. Thanks to our policies Ontario has reemerged as the economic engine of Canada."

Ontario leads Canada in job creation with more than 460,000 new jobs since June of 1995, about half of the national total.

More than 357,000 people have left the welfare system and are contributing to soci-

ety since the Tories were elected, the government boasts. More than 468,000 people have participated in Ontario Works, a social assistance program focused on getting people back into productive employment rather than simply cutting them a cheque.

"The number of people off welfare in Ontario is about the same as the entire popu-

lation of Halton," said Mr. Chudleigh. This is a huge number of people who are now working, have hope in their future, are paying taxes and are contributing to society."

The government claims adjustments to the health care system are beginning to pay dividends. More money is available for priority services, emergency rooms and

long term care. Thanks to restructuring efforts in health care, and additional funding, the government is able to redirect health care dollars where they are needed.

The government says education reforms are beginning to take hold with parents and students. New text books, understandable report cards, an updated curriculum, a refocus on achievement and

standardized testing are all helping Ontario produce students better equipped to handle their next learning experience be it in the classroom, on the job or in their lives.

"To improve community safety the Harris government announced \$30 million to help local police forces across Ontario hire an additional 1,000 officers. Halton will gain 42 additional police."

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What's Inside



The Petty family of Rockwood welcomed the area's first New Year's baby shortly after midnight on Friday, Jan 1. See page 7 for story and photo.



Downtown Acton was a morass of snow banks Monday after the big snowstorm. See more photos inside.



Police provided the escort for this little guy who was born on Christmas day at Georgetown hospital. See the story on Page 3.



The Christmas hockey tournament at the new Acton arena was a big success. See details on Sports



NOVICE CHAMPS: The Acton Denny's Bus Lines Major Novice Tanners captured the championship at the annual rep hockey league's Christmas tournament in Acton last Monday. The proud team includes, front, left to right: John Traversa, Spencer Veness, Anthony Kri, Matt Angell, Jordan Kuenzig and Darren Pezzack. Middle: Abby Lyons, Geoff Malcolm, Daniel Kearns, Braeden Halls, David Moore, Andrew Bruce, David Garvie and Riley Graydon. Back: Sue Angell (manager), Scott Malcolm (coach), Tony Traversa (trainer) and Gary Halls (ass. coach). - Frances Niblock photo

Acton digs out of big storm

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Weary crews of Town public works employees worked around the clock on the weekend to clean up after the first snow storm of the winter which dropped as much as 25 centimetres of snow on Acton.

Forty-eight hours after the storm some of the side streets still had only had one pass of the plough and many sidewalks in the core were virtually impassable on foot.

At the height of the storm early Sunday morning the Town moved to emergency

operations and threw everything it had - 25 staff, 16 ploughs, two graders and 16 trucks - at the storm and was just able to keep up.

"In some cases once the plough had finished a route it had to go back and start again because it was still snowing so hard that the road was covered again," explained Halton Hills manager of public works Ted Drewlo in an interview on Monday.

In Acton the first streets ploughed included Main Street, Mill Street, Cobblehill Road, Bower Avenue, Church Street and Kingham

Road. By 8 p.m. on Sunday the ploughs had made at least one pass on all of the side streets and on Monday crews, back on regular shifts, began pushing the snow back to the curb line and opening up catch basins and drains.

"We've had a few calls from people asking why the sidewalks weren't cleared faster and we just told them about our guideline of getting the designated sidewalks cleared within 48 hours of the end of a storm," Drewlo said.

Last year the Town cleared 32 kilometres of sidewalks including six kilo-

metres in Acton. Several sections of sidewalk on Kingham Road were added to the sidewalk clearing route this winter in Acton because of traffic congestion problems, along with several sections of sidewalk on Cobblehill Road. The Town clears 324 kilometres of Town Roads and 72 kilometres of Regional roads.

By late Monday night crews had cleared the school bus loading zones in both Acton and Georgetown and on Tuesday night they cleared the piled up snow from the downtown core of Acton.

Looking back at 1998

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Looking back over the past year's issues of The New Tanner several issues dominated the headlines, coffee shop chats and political debates - the Acton arenas.

First the stories focused on the grand opening of the spanking brand new Acton Arena and Community Centre. Later in the year the arena talk focused on the eventually unsuccessful plans to try to save the old Prospect Park arena from the wrecker's ball.

Here's a look at the people and the stories that captured headlines last year.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette: "A lot of people probably thought that we'd never have this facility, but here we are. As a long-time Acton resident I'm proud that we were all able to work together to build something as nice as this. It was a team effort and a lot of people deserve a lot of thanks for hours and hours of hard work that brought us here today."

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott: "This took over 10 years of hard work on the part of council and particularly the Acton councillors Rick (Bonnette), Gerald (Rennie) and myself. As the builder's representative said today, this was team work."

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville:

"I'm absolutely thrilled to

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