

Dorothy Allen Halton's Woman of the Year



DOROTHY ALLEN

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

A retired Acton teacher, long-time volunteer and foster parent has been named one of four winners of the Halton Woman of the Year Awards for 1999.

Dorothy Allen grew up on a farm on the Third Line of Erin Township and spent her teaching years in Acton schools. The mother of twin sons, two adopted sons and foster mother to yet a fifth boy, she and husband Ken now

have eight grandchildren.

Allen attended the May 4 award ceremony at Oakville's Glen Abbey Golf Club with her husband and several other Acton volunteers completely unaware she was one of the award winners. The award is sponsored by the Women's Information and Support Centre of Halton.

The 20 nominees from across Halton were presented to Ontario Lieutenant Governor Hilary M. Weston, then the four winners were called up and received their awards.

"I didn't realize there was more than one winner," Allen says. "I thought everyone was getting a plaque so I didn't realize until afterwards that I had won."

Modest to the point of embarrassment, Allen says she wouldn't have let her name be put forward if she'd ever thought she'd win.

"I told them I didn't want to be nominated," she says. "Then I got to thinking how I'd feel if I wanted to nominate someone and they wouldn't let me. It wouldn't be fair. So I figured I should

agree to it since I'd never win anyway."

Allen has been a volunteer driver for the Children's Aid Society for 14 years, and with her husband, has organized and coordinated a five-step Tough Talk program to help families turn their problem children around. They have also coordinated a seven-step program for adult males based on the five-step program.

About 13 years ago she became a part-time child care worker with the

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What's Inside



Acton High School is the recipient of a new Ford van thanks to the efforts of local representatives. See Page 11.



Pastor Emeritus of St. Joseph's, Rev. A. Valeriote celebrated 50 years in the priesthood Sunday. See Page 15.



Mary Beth Robertson is going to Malawi on a mission for the Presbyterian Church. See Page 15.

STRIDE vocational support worker Colin Price tells how his organization is helping disabled people on Page 3.

\$17 hike in Acton taxes



MOTHER'S DAY means family gatherings and for Rockwood's eldest senior that means up to five generations can gather under her roof. Seen above with Elizabeth O'Rourke, 97, are Acton family members great-granddaughter Tammy Bickers, great-great-grandsons David Bickers, 4 and Dylan Bickers, 5, granddaughter Judy Scott, Tianna Bickers, 2, and eldest son Hugh O'Rourke. Mrs. O'Rourke has six children, 15 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Hwy 7 resurfacing slated

Highway 7 from Silvercreek into Acton will be resurfaced this summer. The Ministry of Transportation will tender the section of the highway from Silvercreek to Acton, and then again from Acton to Rockwood, as one major project.

The Town has included \$43,000 in its 1999 capital budget to remove and replace the asphalt and do some curb replacement work from Acton's eastern boundary at the arena along Queen Street/ Young Street and Mill Street to

the railway tracks. The Ministry will pay the balance of \$392,000.

Town engineer Bob Austin said they attempted to get a better price by being part of the Province's tender, but were refused.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson asked if there was an update on Ministry plans to widen Highway 7 to four lanes from Silvercreek to Georgetown's eastern limit, but Austin said there's been no confirmation for that major project.

Increase moderated by Region decrease

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

The figures aren't final, but it appears the total property tax bill will jump \$17 for an Acton property worth \$185,000. That's a 0.64 per cent increase for Town, region and education purposes for a total of \$2,676.

Halton Hills Council approved its operating and capital budgets on Monday night resulting in an 8.18 per cent increase for municipal purposes. That increase - almost all of it due to a \$781,000 provincial funding shortfall - was partially offset by a 3.1 per cent decrease in Halton's budget.

A surprise contribution of \$247,000 from the Ministry of Northern Development, money the Town hadn't applied for, will be earmarked for the new recreational facility in Georgetown, a move treasurer Ed DeSousa said was "prudent" and would help reduce future debt load.

Capital budget

DeSousa characterized the \$7.4 million capital budget as "aggressive and doable," adding it includes 90 projects with particular attention to upgrading and improving roads, parks improvements and pre-engineering for a new recreation centre in Georgetown.

Some of the Acton and area capital projects include:

- \$120,000 for the second of a three-phase project to upgrade the Sixth Line between Highway 7 and the Erin boundary
- \$31,128 for a new library bridge
- \$4,500 for library improvements
- \$42,000 for the Town's share of a new \$60,000 ice resurfacer at Acton arena
- \$16,371 for a landscaped entrance to Rotary Park off Main street North
- \$43,000 for the Town's share to resurface Highway 7 from the Acton arena easterly to the railway tracks. The province pays \$387,000
- \$15,000, Town's share to replace a culvert on Main Street North, the province pays the \$135,000 balance

Town staff agreed to come back to council on Monday with more information about that proposed culvert after area resident, Theo Ancker, argued the who culvert should be replaced with a larger one.

Operating budget

The operating budget, \$12.1 million to be raised through taxes, includes six new full-time staff that DeSousa said are essential to keep pace with increased demands for service.

"The operating budget maintains existing service levels and starts to plan for the service levels to come in the future," DeSousa said.

It's time again for our annual

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