



NASTY NATIVES: The Summer Recreation Camps held their summer carnival Tuesday. Here, Sara Macneill, left, and Nicole Lee were busy scaring up customers. - Angela Tyler photo

Region warns of rabies

Halton Region is warning residents about the danger of rabies following the report of a rabid bat in Burlington, the first animal reported with rabies in Halton since 1996.

Rabies is caused by a virus that is usually spread by the bite of an infected animal. The virus enters damaged nerves in the wound and travels towards the brain.

Some facts:
Rabies is a common, fatal disease of wildlife in Ontario. Often, it can spread to domestic animals, including cats and dogs.

Foxes, skunks, raccoons, and bats are the most common carriers of rabies. Rabbits, squirrels, and other rodents rarely get the disease. Keep away from wild

animals and unfamiliar pets. Vaccinate cats and dogs, and keep pets under control at all times.

If you see a wild or stray animal behaving strangely, report it to your local Humane Society or Animal Shelter.

If you are bitten by an animal:

Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and apply an antiseptic.

Report the incident to the Health Department and to your doctor.

For more information, please contact Halton

Regional Health Department at 825-66060, ext. 7814. TTY (905) 827-9833. (Local inquiries from Acton (519) 853-0501/Georgetown (905) 878-8113.

THE NEW TANNER
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Councillor berates his colleagues

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

Halton Hills councillors want to "broaden their horizons" by attending more conventions and conferences and want any money left over from this year's \$3,000 conference budget to be carried forward to help pay for any conferences that councillors want to attend next year.

Debate on the merits of attending conferences and conventions was sparked by Councillor Jane Fogal's request for permission to attend the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in Toronto next month.

During discussion on the issue, Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette said over the past eight or nine years, council has been "almost frugal" when it comes to educational opportunities for councillors.

After noting the benefits that he and the mayor received from attending the recent Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference, Bonnette said the Town had never spent conference money "foolishly" and the conferences are a way for councillors to broaden their horizons.

"Next year the FCM conference is in London, Ontario, so it won't be as expensive as flying councillors to Halifax...and I think staff should be directed to start putting some money in the budget (for conferences)," Bonnette said, adding it's almost an embarrassment that the Town doesn't send anyone to the available conferences.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott echoed Bonnette's comments noting conferences and seminars are "good learning experiences."

"We have really been probably so conscious of the public not approving these expenditures - this goes back seven or eight years ago when the cost-cutting and budget belt-tightening started," Elliott said, adding that he hadn't been to an AMO conference in 10 years.

Town CAO Steve Andrews said any surplus from this year could be put into a special account for next year but cautioned that next year will be a "very difficult budget year."

Councillor Fogal, who received approval to attend the AMO conference, said she was "astonished" that no one was going to the available conferences.

"It looks to me that we're

really backwards or some place. We don't get out of Town much and part of it may be our compensation policies," Fogal said.

Councillors may attend conferences with Council approval and are required to file a report on the event after they return. Members of committees of council may attend conventions if their committee approves the trip and there are funds available in the committee's budget.

With receipts, conference delegates are eligible for a transportation allowance - no more than the economy air fare - plus \$30 for taxis. Delegates who drive to a conference, as long as the total is less than the airfare, can claim the Town's mileage

rate. Hotel accommodations and the conference registration fee are also paid along with a daily allowance of \$50.

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