

Snow big job for works crew

Continued from page 1

those forecasts, the Town adjusts the level of staffing to meet winter control standards set by Town Council.

Before ploughing, rock salt is laid down on 10 major routes in Acton and Georgetown and nine rural routes, to melt the snow as it falls. That leaves a layer of brine, or salt, on the road and prevents the snow from packing and becoming ice. Once it turns to

slush, the road is ploughed.

On heavily travelled class one roads – like the former Highway 25 – the minimum standard calls for a bare road surface within two hours of the end of the storm. A residential street – like Acton Boulevard – is a class two road that must be cleared within four hours.

Class three roads – hard-top rural roads and urban side streets – must be ploughed with six hours and sanded

within 18 hours.

“Whether it’s eight centimetres or 28 centimetres, the only difference is when the roads will be cleared. The crews work 12-hour shifts, but nobody ever goes home until every road in Halton Hills is done,” Smiley said.

While some people complain when the ploughs aren’t out when it starts to snow, Smiley said the department gets more praise than flack, but admitted the crews do get the “blues” sometimes.

“It’s such a negative environment – when you’re driving down a street you know you’re ploughing in driveway after driveway and it wears on the operators. We’ve had people sworn at and we’ve had people accosted by homeowners who just got the end of the driveway clear when we come along.”

Snow removed from the downtown shopping areas, municipal parking lots and

school bus loading zones is disposed of at a new two-acre snow dump facility at the main works yard and occasionally at the satellite works yard on Commerce Crescent in Acton.

The Town overspent last year’s \$453,944 snow clearing budget by approximately \$100,000. The winter control budget for this year is \$440,540.

Brochures to be delivered

Tired of all this snow? Shovel off the February blues by planning your spring activities. Watch or the Town of Halton Hills 2000 Spring & Summer Community Activity and Service Guide to be delivered to residents beginning Feb. 25. If you don’t receive a guide at your door, one can be picked up at any town fa-

cility. The Spring Lottery date is Wednesday, March 8 at noon. Please ensure we receive program registrations by this deadline. Registrations received after the deadline will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. For more registration information, please call 873-2601, ext. 2268.

Rest homes plus

Continued from page 1 cured. For others, the medications may be a permanent feature of their lives like insulin is to a diabetic. So long as they stay with their prescribed medications, their illness is controlled and they can live fairly normal lives, Quinn says.

“We put a lot of money into this town,” says Quinn.

“Our staffers live here. We buy all our groceries and prescriptions here. Our residents use local variety stores for their cigarettes, pop, newspapers and assorted items. Even our nurses and psychiatrist are local. The only businesses that won’t benefit from us are the liquor and beer stores and the local hotels. Our residents can’t have alcohol so they won’t be patronizing the bars. But we use all the other stores and services.”

Nor will rest home residents give the town a bad reputation by hanging around on street corners or at social services, Quinn says. They may be seen on the streets but when they are out, they’ll be going somewhere, like to work or to a store.

“I can’t understand why the town’s businessmen are worried about our people,” she says. “If they have concerns about the way these people are fed or treated or cared for all they have to do is knock on our door and come in and see. We’ve got nothing to hide.”

Quinn has been an Acton

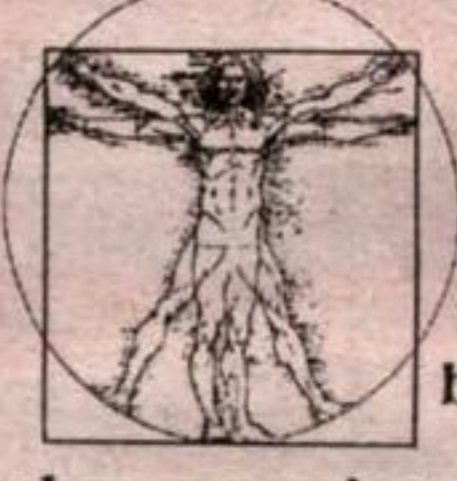
resident for 21 years. She has worked at Mill House on Mill Street West for 11 of its 15 years as a rest home. It is a co-ed establishment for 12 residents.

The newly re-opened Parkside on Main Street North can accommodate 15 or 16 residents but only has about nine at present. Both buildings are owned by an Oakville businessman. Like any rest home they must meet provincial regulations to obtain their licence and are inspected to ensure they maintain the required standards.

York House on Church Street is under different ownership, Quinn says, but caters to the same sort of clientele.

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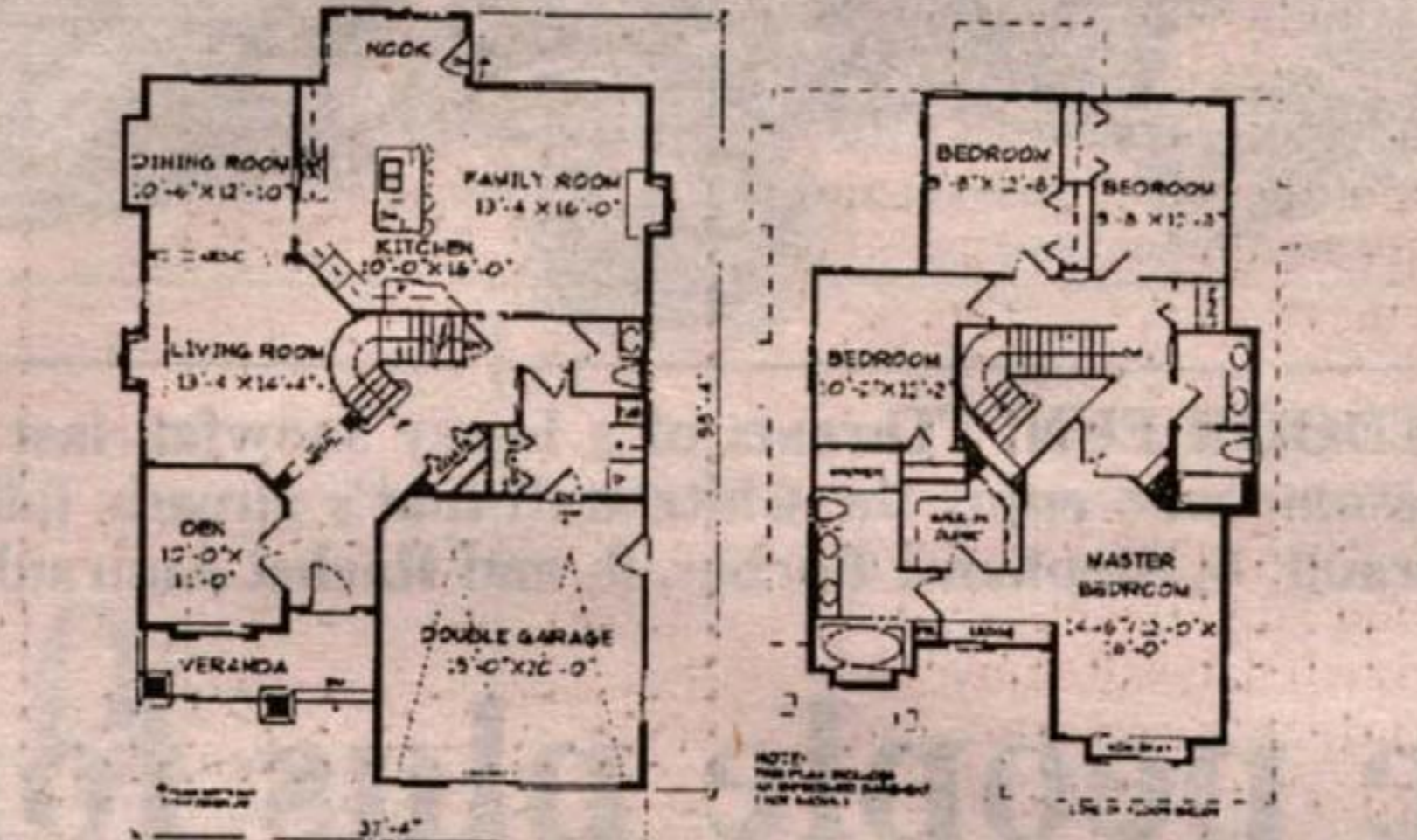
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