

FOOD & FRIENDSHIP: Organizers of the first Acton Community Brunch on Sunday at the Acton arena community centre hope 53 dozens eggs and a desire to connect with the community will be a recipe for success for the monthly brunches. Brunch volunteers Scott (left) and Mary Jane Lee and Ron Birrell contemplated cooking for 300 as they made final preparations last week. - Frances Niblock photo

Flamborough wants to join Halton Region

The taxes on an average Acton home - and all others in Halton with a current market value of \$185,000 - could increase 0.2 per cent, or \$6, under one of several complicated scenarios, if Halton accepts east Flamborough into the Region as an addition to Burlington.

A cost impact report on the Waterdown area joining Halton, instead of the Hamilton megacity, was presented to Town councillors on Monday night by top Region

Waterdown taxpayers would face a 16 to 27 per cent property tax increase, mostly for water and sewers, to become Halton residents.

After a long, detailed briefing. Councillor Jane Fogal asked the question on everyone's mind - was there any benefit to Halton Hills, because she didn't see any - a "fair" assumption and initial opinion according to Halton CEO, Brent Marshall of Acton.

Halton Council has several meetings scheduled in the next few days to deal with the issue. Flamborough voted on Monday night to opt out of the megacity and pursue joining with neighbouring municipalities, including Halton. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has the final say on what happens.

Election hints

Like the first robin that heralds spring, the first campaign signs signal it's municipal election time in Ontario. Acton's Steve Grasby is the first, and so far only, candidate to file nomination papers for November's municipal election. Grasby, running for the Acton Ward one seat. put out some campaign signs this week. The only other incumbent politicians to signal their intentions are Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, who said she would seek reelection, and Ward 4 Councillor Ron Chatten.

Ward 3 & 4 local and regional councillor John Day.

Regional Digest

said he'll run again, but wouldn't say for what office. All other councillors said they were undecided, or that it was too soon to declare.

Butt out target

Halton's Medical Officer of Health wants the Burlington, Oakville and Milton to follow the Halton Hills lead and set a target date to become 100 per cent smoke

Only Halton Hills has a target of 2003 although all four municipalities have smoking control bylaws.

The Town's new smoking bylaw, which takes effect next month, covers both public and workplaces. It's a watered-down version from one draft that would have totally banned smoking in bars and



that people read!

restaurants to protect workers from secondhand smoke.

A successful lobby by Acton and Georgetown bar and restaurant owners convinced Council to allow unrestricted smoking in bars after 10 p.m., and increased smoking-from 25 to 50 per cent of total floor space - in restaurants after 10 p.m.



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Information meeting set to reduce phone scams

The Federated Women's Institute of Ontario (FWIO) and the OPP are holding a couple of seminars in April to educate the public on dealing with telephone scams and marketing fraud.

Staff Sgt. Barry Elliott of North Bay, coordinator of the OPP's PHONEBUSTERS program, will speak at Rockmosa Community Centre in Rockwood on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. and again at Acton's Knox Presbyterian Church at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12.

The free seminar begins with a video presentation followed by a discussion on the frauds and their victims and an opportunity to ask questions about stopping telephone scams.

FWIO representative Margaret Aitken says the seminars are open to everyone but seniors in particular are being encouraged to come and hear the speaker since they are often targeted by telephone con artists.

Halton Regional Police Const. Rick Earle says North Halton residents are "not in-

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undated with telemarketing" problems.

"Every so often it rears its ugly head," he says of phone scams, but generally Halton police only receive requests for information about specific businesses or calls.

"Maybe we're lucky or maybe we are too far from a major urban centre to attract this sort of call," he says. "My usual advice to anyone is 'buyer beware'. Unless you know the caller personally, do your homework."



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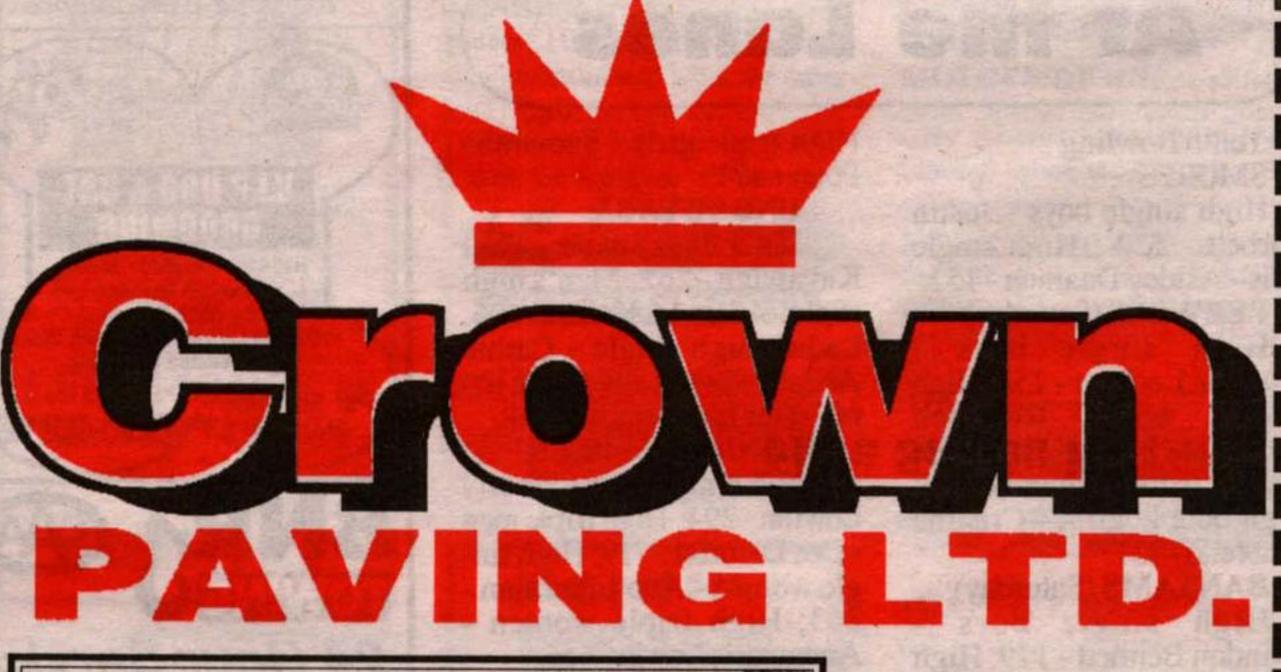
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