

Assessments up...

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their assessment – based on current market value as of June 1999. Assessment increases of up to 10 per cent will apply to 17 per cent of homeowners in Halton Hills and, for 16 per cent, their assessment will increase over 20 per cent. The values of commercial properties have increased an average five per cent since 1996 and industrial assessments have increased, on average, 22 per cent.

The assessment is based on a property's estimated selling price, its location and market conditions. The amount of the tax bill is determined using the assessment and the town's residential tax rate, to be set in April or May after upcoming budget debates.

DeSousa said the phones have been very busy at the Town tax office as people began to receive their assessment notice from the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation (OPAC) last week. Town staff referred the calls to the Halton-Peel branch of OPAC, which also reported double the usual 400 calls a day last week from people questioning their assessment notices.

Along with a toll-free number – 905-813-6722 – for inquiries to the Halton-Peel OPAC office, Acton residents are invited to a public information night on December 12, at the Acton arena and community centre from 7:30 to 9 p.m. A general information session will be held covering the new assessment values, but staff won't deal with individual complaints and concerns.

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New brunch bunch takes over

There's a new brunch bunch in Acton and they're promising more of the same things – great food and community spirit – that have made the Acton Community Brunches a huge success.

The Acton Kinettes and Acton Kinsmen Clubs have joined forces to take over running the monthly brunches from the group that started the popular community event as a millennium project.

With each of the seven brunches so far, local groups have helped cook, serve and clean up – in exchange for any profits. The Kinettes asked to run one and then found out the organizers were ready to hand the reins to a new group.

"It's a good way to help the community – the whole atmosphere is great and it gives other groups the chance to make some money for coming here to work," Kinette president Heather Sampson said on Sunday as Kinettes and Kinsmen checked out how the brunches operate and enjoyed the all-you-can-eat buffet.

Acton Kinsmen Club president Claude Nadon said



NEW BRUNCH BUNCH: Acton Community Brunch organizer Mary Ann Austin (centre) handed over the ceremonial whisk and responsibility for running the popular brunch to Acton Kinette president Heather Sampson (left) and Kinsmen president Claude Nadon (right) at Sunday's brunch. Also on hand were, from left: Kinette Andrea Lavallee, Kinsmen Tom Cooper, Kinsmen Gary Casarin, Hessel Faber, Bernie Buttivant, Kinette Paula Paul and brunch organizers Scott Lee and Lloyd McIntyre. - Frances Niblock photo

the brunches will be a great way to raise money for the community.

"We want to get out in the

community and help raise money. The idea of smaller groups being able to run a brunch and raise some funds is terrific," Nadon said.

Organizer Mary Ann Austin, who first suggested the brunches would go over well in Acton, said the happy, hungry crowd of over 450 at Sunday's brunch was a "nice way to finish" for the committee which ran seven brunches to give Acton a place to munch, mix and mingle.

"The focus never really was making money- making money is the bonus. The brunches were a community service – a place for people to get together," Austin said, adding she hopes the "standards" of homemade jam and home baking will continue.

The retiring brunch committee was a very thrifty group and has a tidy sum of profits it wants to put to good use in the community. Community groups are invited to apply for funding by sending a letter, before December 15, outlining their community project, to the Acton Brunch Committee, c/o 37 Division Street, Acton, L7J 2R2.


The first Kinette and Kinsmen brunch is the last Sunday in January – Super Bowl Sunday – and the original brunch organizers will be on hand to help make a smooth transition.

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Christmas shopping tips
 Continuing with the Christmas shopping theme this week I will talk about personal safety.

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

1. Ladies, do not carry large amounts of cash in your purse, a wallet in an inside pocket is safer or a fanny pack under your coat works very well to deter purse snatchers. And do not leave your purse unattended in a shopping cart.
2. It is a good idea to split up the money you carry into several pockets.
3. Men carrying a bulgin wallet in a back pants pocket is an open target for the pick-pocket who will accidentally bump into you and steal the wallet. A pocket inside a jacket is more difficult for the pickpocket but is still vulnerable. Here again it is better to keep valuables split up in different pockets.
4. Watch around you when taking out your wallet or credit cards. Who is paying undue attention? If someone is watching be extra careful of that person
5. Ladies if your purse is grabbed from you, scream as loud as you can, attract as much attention as possible. The thief does not want the attention and may stop what he is doing. But if you feel that you may be injured let the purse go. It can be replaced. Remember to split up your valuables such as cash and credit cards and identification so the thief only gets one and not all.
6. If credit cards are stolen, notify the banks right away. Keep a list with emergency numbers separate from the cards. And do not leave your debit card and P.I.N. together.

Next Week: Home Security.



LONG-TIME LIBERAL: Halton MP Julian Reed and long-time – 54 years - Liberal supporter Kay Lawson watch the early returns at Reed's campaign office in Milton on election night. - Frances Niblock photo

Reed 'Threpeats'...

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be back at work on his favourite project – renewable energy.

"The air quality in this part of the world is getting worse. The Ontario Medical Association tells us that nearly 2,000 people a year die prematurely from bad air and we have a golden opportunity with re-

newable energy to attack the pollution destroying our air."

Unofficial results
 Julian Reed, Liberal - 27,087
 Tim Dobson, Canadian Alliance - 14,934
 Tom Kilmer, PC - 11,665
 Brenda Dolling, NDP - 2,530
 Tom Adams, Green Party - 987
 Voter turnout - 62 per cent

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