

# Slimy looking snow blamed on shortage of salt

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

It won't be pretty. A snowier winter than expected has road salt at a rationed premium and that means more "brown, slimy" stuff on our roadsides. The Goderich salt mines that supply Ontario municipalities used 78 per cent of their winter stockpile last month and are rationing municipalities to one load per day. "We'll be using a lot more sand on our

roads, and so will everybody else...that's a bad thing because salt is the thing that makes your highway bare," Halton Hills senior public works supervisor Keith Smiley said on Friday.

The sand provides grit, but doesn't bare the road surface as quickly and it leaves "that brown, slimy-looking - it's still a safe road surface - but, aesthetically it's not very pleasing," Smiley said.

The Town's is using a 50/50 mix of sand and salt, instead of straight salt, on 340 kilo-

metres of roads and almost 40 kilometres of sidewalks, (9.3 kilometres in Acton).

Blowing snow and slushy conditions made it tough going for pedestrians from one end of Mill Street to the other most of last week.

Smiley said when the wind died down, crews would begin ploughing, salting and sanding the sidewalks, but there was no point doing it when it was snowing. Budget constraints also play a role in determining when and how many times roads and sidewalks are cleared, but Smiley the decision is, "...not just

because of budget - we don't want somebody killed - some kid to be walking on the street instead of the sidewalk," Smiley said.

"We still have a lot more snow removal to do, but we need a break. We only have a limited amount of men (25)."

The Town forecasts 16 big storms a season - we had twice as much snow as usual last month) - and while the final figures aren't in Smiley expected snow clearing costs to be within the budgeted \$470,000.

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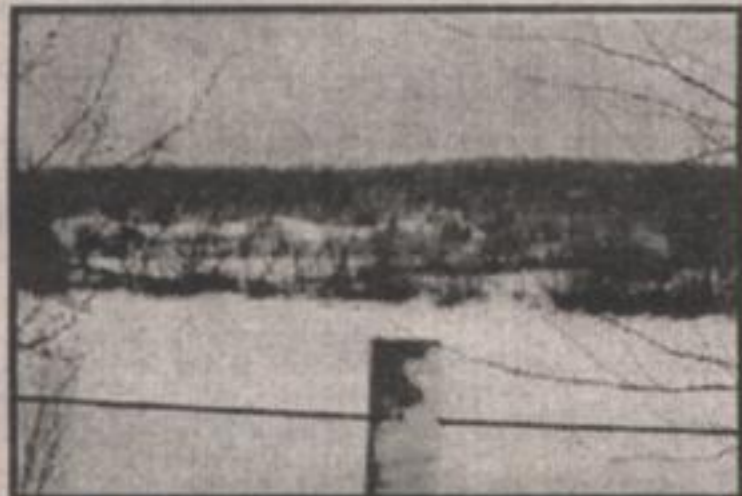
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## What's Inside



Councillor Clark Somerville wants to see November 11 (Remembrance Day) declared a holiday. See story Page 3.



Province launches review of the Niagara Escarpment Plan. See stories on Pages 6 and 7.



Environmentalist Rita Landry has won her five year court battle with a quarry company. See Page 7.



Rockwood Conservation Parks wants to look into municipal services. See Rockwood stories by Maggie Petrushevsky on Page 11.

# Fire Chief hangs up his helmet

After 18 years in the post

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham says it's time to hang up his helmet and will end his 31-year fire-fighting career, 18 as chief, next month.

Cunningham's letter of resignation took many - including Mayor Kathy Gastle - by surprise at Monday's general committee meeting, and when asked why he was leaving, the Chief, 55, said, "It's just long enough - it's enough time."

Cunningham's plans call for him to "not do very much" for the next little while.

"I'm just going to regroup and take it easy. I won't have my pager on my belt, so I won't have my constant companion anymore, so it's going to be a new lease on life," Cunningham said, adding his options could include part-time work.

In his retirement letter, Cunningham said the highlight of his career was it was the "absolute privilege" of serving as fire chief of his home town, and the confidence awarded him by past council as he "lived out my lifetime dream."

Cunningham joined what is now the Halton Police Service in 1966 and served until 1982, most of that spent in Georgetown and Acton. In 1968, Cunningham became a volunteer firefighter and worked his way up the pole, taking over as chief from Acton's Mick Holmes.

Continued on Page 2

## POLICE BEAT

### Mill B&E

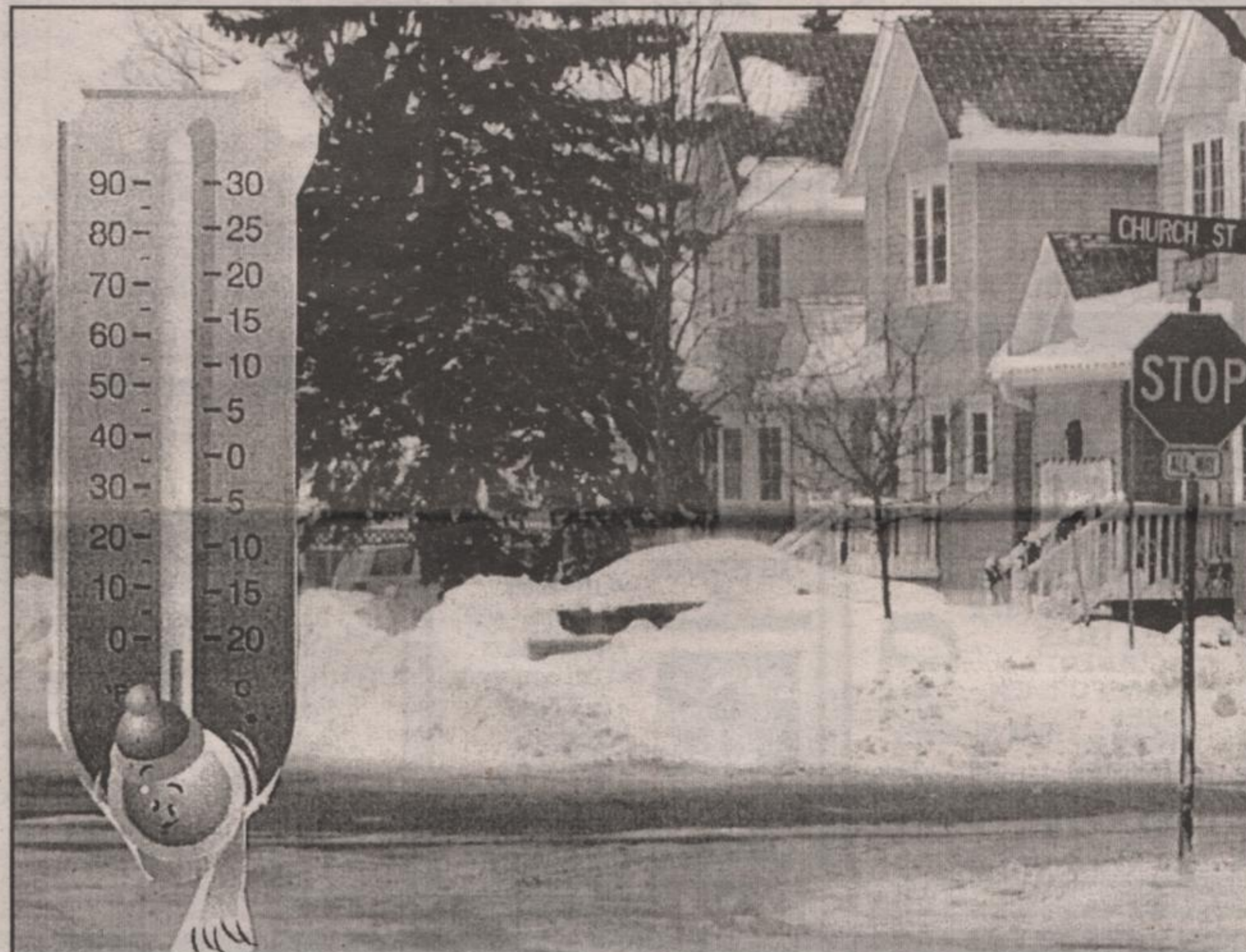
A satellite receiver, tools and scales valued at \$600 were taken during a break-and-enter at Halton Flour Milling on Mill Street over the New Year.

The thieves entered the plant through a locked door. Police don't have a suspect.

### Careless smoking

Alert neighbours saw smoke coming from a 200 Churchill Rd. South apartment and called 911 at 11:32 on Saturday night.

The occupants of the apartment fell asleep while smoking and the heat from their burning cigarettes shattered the ashtray and set off the smoke alarm. There was no damage and minimal smoke that was cleared by opening the door and windows.



## Br-r-r-r it's been cold!!!

**BONE CHILLING** cold weather of the last few days is gradually ameliorating and town employees have been busy cleaning up the downtown and side streets which have been clogged with snow, making walking and parking difficult. The weatherman says it looks clear for a few days and Old Sol will likely make an appearance to brighten up the dead of winter.

# Public has a say on Magna

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

Magna International's plans to rezone an Acton site for a 450,000-square-foot, 700-job plant will be fleshed out at a public meeting at the Civic Centre on Monday.

Car parts giant Magna has a conditional offer to purchase a 70-acre site, north of the rail tracks on Main St. North, and the meeting will deal with its application to change the zoning to industrial

from rural. The land is designated industrial in the Town's Official Plan.

Halton Hills economic development officer Allan O'Neill said he's hearing nothing but good things about Magna's plans.

"There's been a very positive response from the community about it (the proposed plant), I've talked to a number of business people and they're in favour of it, and the local councillors say people are telling them 'let's get on with it,'" O'Neil said on Monday, adding he

"doesn't see any major obstacles."

Any delaying objection would be a deal breaker as Magna has firm timelines to have the plant in operation by 2003 to build frames for DaimlerChrysler AG Durango sport utility and Dakota pickup trucks.

Magna wants building permits by March so construction can be substantially complete by fall of next year with full production by the summer of 2002.

Acton is one of several sites, in Ontario and the USA, under consideration.

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