



Janis Fread

# Janis Fread, Acton's Citizen of the Year

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

For her tireless promotion of Acton and essential involvement in many community activities, Janis Fread has been chosen as the Acton Citizen of the Year.

Fread, the former co-ordinator general manager of the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) and Acton Agricultural Society member, was selected by a committee of three former Citizens of the Year, at the Rotary Club of Acton's meeting on Tuesday night.

"I'm a little bit in shock," Fread said after she learned of her selection, "I'm basically speechless."

"It's a great honour - it caught me completely out in left field - it's quite a group to be part of when you think of the people who've been chosen."

In selecting Fread for this year's honour, the committee of former Citizens of the Year - Harold Townsley, George Henderson and May Hoare - said Fread's "enthusiasm and dedication inspired many others to participate eagerly in numerous special events she co-ordinated and supported."

While the Rotary Club of Acton oversees the nomination process - collecting nominations and presenting them to the selection committee - Rotary member Doug Fread said they have a hands-off approach to the actual selection.

"The decision is totally out of Rotary's hands and it is the decision of the three former Citizens of the Year that sit on the selection committee - Rotary has no influence into it whatsoever," Fread said, adding they went to a hands-off approach after Rotary member and local business-

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## What's Inside



Acton Minor Bantams roared back to tie Caledon, Major and Minor Novices are both in the OMHA finals. See sports on Page 12 and 13.



Premier Mike Harris appoints Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh to a Parliamentary Assistant post. See Page 2.



Barb Smith cooks up pancakes at St. Alban's and school kids at St. Joseph school also helped make Shrove Tuesday and event. See photo on Page 4.



Monday's blinding snowstorm built up snow drifts again but the weatherman claims we'll have a nice sunny weekend.

## Development gets 'Go'

# Region can upgrade sewage plant

### Danger near waterways

Conservation Halton wants watershed residents, especially children to be aware of the dangers that exist near creeks, ponds and lakes this time of the year.

Spring is quickly approaching and all look forward to warmer weather and being outdoors. Spring weather also brings melting snow, rain and the break-up of ice in rivers and lakes. Creeks have higher water levels and flow much faster during Spring. Banks and shorelines are often unstable and slippery and water temperatures are extremely cold, creating very hazardous conditions close to any water area.

Caution should be exercised around any water at this time of year.

Much of the snow received this winter still remains on the ground, increasing the threat of flooding when heavy rain combines with mild temperatures. Conservation Halton continues to monitor creek conditions and will issue flood messages when needed.



**PRAYER DAY:** Dressed in Samoan costume, women of St. Alban's Church, hosted the World Day of Prayer service at the church on Friday. Left to right, Gloria Vermuelen, Marion Storey, Shirley Broostad, Pauline Switzer and Cindy Blades with the drum that sounded like ocean waves. See story inside.

### Region, DFO settle their differences

Halton CAO Brent Marshall confirmed Tuesday that Halton Region has been given the green light to proceed with plans to upgrade the Acton wastewater treatment plant.

Concerns that pumping from Fairy Lake would drop lake levels were voiced by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and resulted in meetings between Region officials and the DFO.

Mr. Marshall said all concerns have been satisfied and plans for Acton development can go ahead. The Region recently agreed to accelerate \$7.2 million upgrades at the Acton plant on the Third Line to accommodate development plans.

The upgrades in the wastewater treatment plant will allow Acton to grow to 10,000 people.

Acton developer Fred Dawkins was concerned that the DFO would hold up approvals that would push back building of homes to the year 2003. He hopes construction can start next year. Builders have already been committed to the Acton east site, on the south side of Hwy 7, east of Churchill Rd.

Draft approval for 309 housing units in Acton east have already been received.

## Halton Region approves \$30 tax hike

Halton Region Council approved the 2001 Tax Supported Budget that raises average tax rates by 2.7 per cent. For the average homeowner (with property assessed at \$185,000) this is an increase of approximately \$30 on their property tax bill.

This is the Region's first tax increase in seven years and is 0.3 per cent below the current inflation rate.

"The decision to increase taxes this

year has been difficult. This tax increase is not a popular thing to do, but a responsible thing to do. It's an investment to protect our investment - our infrastructure, services to the needy, the aged, our police and ambulance services. This is a responsible budget," said Halton Region Chairman Joyce Savoline.

The tax increase results from a need to address identified service deficiencies and

new service opportunities that have arisen over the last year. This year's budget provides enhancements to Ambulance Service, which includes new stations and staffing, the construction of two long-term care facilities, and costs associated with improved transportation. The Halton Regional Police Services Budget includes an additional 15 officers for the Region.

Continued on Page 2.

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