



POSTER PROUD: Acton Beaver Kyle Bowman's artwork earned him first place in a Scouting poster contest. Kyle, 7, received a gift certificate from North Halton District president George Henderson (right) and secretary Steve Norman at the Acton Scout House last Wednesday. — Frances Niblock photo

TOWN DIGEST

Tax hike

Halton ratepayers face the first regional tax increase in eight years with Halton Council's approval last week of an operating budget with a 2.7 per cent increase. That's an extra \$30 for the average property valued at \$185,000 and must be added to an already approved \$28 per cent increase in water and sewer charges.

The total tax bill increase won't be known until the school board — with provincial instructions to hold the line — and the Town — which began budget debates last (Wednesday) finalize their spending plans.

Water help

Rural Acton residents whose private well water has tested positive for bacterial contamination are eligible for discounts with local private companies selling water treatment devices, including ultraviolet light of chlorination systems.

Halton has put together a list of companies offering 10 to 20 per cent discounts on water treatment equipment. As well, Halton maintains water bottle depots where residents can sample their own water supply and has health inspectors who will inspect wells found to be contaminated and provide advice and information to the homeowners.

Halton has approximately 7,500 private wells. Recent surveys of private wells in Halton found approximately half of them were contaminated with bacteria.

Bureaucracy fails parkers?

An Acton apartment dweller's frustration at having to drive monthly to the Civic Centre in Georgetown to apply for a permit to park overnight in municipal lots in town prompted a request for a staff

report.

"There's got to be a better way," Councillor Rick Bonnette said, adding he thought "something fails bureaucracy," because the Mill Street resident in question, a regular permit holder, recently didn't get a permit because she was away on holiday, and they were all issued when she got back.

"It's hard to believe there are that many permits in Acton," Bonnette said, asking for a staff report.

Tech talk

Pointing to the parking permit situation, Georgetown Councillor Jane Fogal suggested it was an area where "e-government," like the Town's Internet site, will make dealing with the municipality faster and easier.

Recently, the Town relaunched a revamped Internet site, offering a wealth of municipal information, including maps, minutes of past meetings, contacts, links, budgets, capital projects and all things municipal. The site is www.town.halton-hill.on.ca

Density and water concerns

The proposed large number of homes on relatively small lots and provision of adequate water should be of "major concern" to Halton Hills as it comments on plans to expand Crewson Corners with a 70-lot subdivision over the border in Erin Township, on the north side of Highway 7 at Town Line.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette passed along the concerns, voiced to him by several area rural residents, worried about the proposed density, 70 units on 37-foot lots, and that there are provisions for phase two, another 50 lots. There are also concerns about adequate fire and police services.

Local businessman fined, suspended from racing by Ontario Jockey Club

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Limehouse Standardbred horse owner and car dealer, Walt Dixon, is expected to ask for a full hearing into allegations of a hidden ownership — shadow training cover-up when he, and three others, appear before the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) March 23.

Dixon, co-owner of Punky T Stables (PTS) of Limehouse, and owner of Park Motor Sales, was suspended for ten years and fined \$350,000 last Thursday by the ORC, an independent quasi-judicial body whose mandate is to protect the integrity of horse racing and breeding. Following a one-year investigation, resulting in more than 7,000 pages of supporting

documents, the ORC suspended and fined owner Dixon, trainer Doug Berkeley of Moffatt, his wife Leslie and Freelton trainer Matthew Moeykens.

ORC executive director Jean Major said the fines and suspensions resulted from alleged regulatory, not criminal, fraud.

"The allegations are that he (Dixon) employed the serv-

ices of individuals that were suspended at the time, and did so complicatedly, knowing that they were suspended at the time," Major said on Tuesday.

Bettors handicap races on a number of factors including the pedigree and history of the horse, track conditions and the trainer and driver and Major said false information is harmful to the betting public.

"One of the cornerstones of this industry is that the races must be conducted with the utmost integrity, because the betting public relies on the information in the racing program to make their decisions on their wagers. If knowingly false information is provided, then it constitutes a very serious offence to the rules of racing."

The fines — \$350,000 for both Dixon and Berkeley, \$100,000 for Moeykens and \$50,000 for Leslie Berkeley — are the largest in ORC history and are designed to neutralize any profits made from the alleged violations.

The ORC has also issued notices to suspend the licences of another 10 people who participated in the alleged scheme and fined them between \$500 and \$250,000. Total fines in the case to date are \$2.35 million.

Dixon did not return New Tanner phone calls.

Rev. Jean Stairs appointed first woman college principal

Former Acton minister, the Rev. Dr. Jean Stairs, has been appointed Principal of Queen's Theological College in Kingston. She is the first woman to serve as principal since the college opened in 1912. She is a former minister at Acton Baptist Church.

A professor, theologian, ordained minister and author, Rev. Stairs succeeds Hallett Hewellyn, a former Georgetown minister, as principal of the college. He left the church post last year to take over the ministry of Trinity - St. Paul's United Church in Toronto.

Rev. Stairs joined the Theological College in 1991 as an assistant professor of Practice of Ministry and Field Education. She was appointed head of Theological

Studies in 1996 and was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 1998. Stairs' areas of teaching include field education, preaching, the relationship between pastoral care and spiritual direction, and feminist theology.

During her time with the university, Stairs has served on numerous committees and projects, and served as president of the Association for Theological Field Education, chairman of the Cana-

dian Affairs Committee, The Association of Theological Schools.

Her most recent publication is titled, *Listening to the Soul: Pastoral Care and Spiritual Direction*. Dr. Stairs has Bachelor of Music degree from McMaster University, a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the University of Toronto and the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto School of Theology.

Citizen of the year...

Continued from Page 1.
man Dave Manes was nominated five years ago.

"We decided it (the selection process) should be conflict-free, so that's the

process we've followed since then.

The Citizen of the Year award will be presented to Janis Fread at a dinner next month.

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Prices listed are per person based on double occupancy and are lead in prices for April 2001 departures. Transportation Related Fees & Cuban Tourist Card Fees are not included. For full information on the hotels and the Terms and Conditions of sale, refer to the Hola Sun Fall/Winter 2000/2001 brochure. Ontario Registration #04062527

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