

TOWN DIGEST

Tax meeting postponed

Queen's Park has given municipalities a one-month extension of the April 30 deadline to set their tax rates. As a result, Halton Region has postponed a scheduled public meeting on Current Value Assessment (CVA) from next Wednesday to the May 23 council meeting.

The new tax rate deadline gives municipalities time to adjust to new tax regulations, including a standardized format for tax bills, which could cause delays in sending out tax bills, causing a cash flow problem.

Under the CVA system property taxes are calculated by multiplying the local tax rate by the property's market value, which is reviewed on a regular basis. That review resulted in a 16 per cent increase in the value of the average Halton house this year. In Halton Hills, the increase is 14.4 per cent.

Both the Region and the Town will ask the province to adjust the preliminary education tax rates from the province because they have a negative impact on taxpayers.

In a briefing to Halton Hills

councillors last week, Town treasurer Ed DeSousa said while the province cut education tax rates for residential properties by 8.2 per cent, the impact in Halton is a significant increase in the amount of total residential education taxes that are collected.

Because the value of residential properties in Halton increased at a greater rate in relation to the province average, Halton will be paying a proportionately higher share of education - \$7.5-million more this year than in past years.

Gave at the office?

There were a few sheepish looks in the Halton Hills council chambers recently when, during an update on the highly successful campaign to raise money for two recreation facilities in Georgetown, the donations records of several groups were mentioned.

While 100 per cent of fund raising committee cabinet members, and 80 per cent of volunteers, had donated to the projects, Town Council and staff participation was just 10 per cent.

That local motion fundraising committee needs just \$164,000 to reach its \$2-million goal.



SUN GAZERS: Acton astronomy buffs Faan Kuypers (left) and Norm Elliott will set up their telescopes at the Acton library on Saturday to mark Astronomy Day. With special filters and good weather, people should be able to see solar flares on the sun. - Frances Niblock photo

ACTON SENIORS' RECREATION CENTRE

Our Spring Fling, games and dance night was a great success. Lots of happy people waiting for the next one.

Are there any canasta players out there? We could do with a few more people. It is a relaxed setting every Thursday morning at 10 a.m.

Don't forget Doug Anderson's Older and Wiser Program on Monday, April 30, at 1:30 p.m. Come out and hear about Fire Safety for Seniors with a talk and question and answer session to follow.

Our evening euchre is Wednesday May 2 at 7:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, May 8, we go to the Stratford theatre to see *Sound of Music*. We have lunch at E.J.'s of Baden with soup or salad, grilled chicken breast with mushrooms, roast potatoes, vegetables, apple pie and coffee. We leave at 9:45 a.m. and return about 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$74 and includes your lunch all taxes, gratuities and driver's tip.

On Thursday, May 10, we have a trip to the Niagara area. We go to Magnotta Wines for a mini tour and tasting session. Then to Niagara-on-the-Lake where you can browse, shop and have your lunch on your own. Then on to see *Oh! Canada, Eh?* You will hear "When I'm calling you" to "Rose Marie" then on to a dinner of Canadian foods and beverages. Cost is \$70 and includes wine tour, show, dinner and GST.

Mothers this week were Mary Papillon and Mae Milton.

We are still looking for more choir members. Practice is every Friday at 10:30. Come and have some fun.

Benefit for Cancer research on Saturday

With songs, laughter and some tears, family and friends of Emma Hunter will help raise money for childhood cancer research at a dinner/concert on Saturday at the Ballinafad Community Hall.

Emma, who would have been seven this year, died when she was almost three, and her Acton family has staged benefits - called Songs for Hope - to raise money for the Hospital for Sick Children. Two previous events have raised \$2,000.

Emma's mom, Wendi Hunter, said they decided to try to reach a wider audience this year by having a dinner and concert, featuring well-known folk-style entertainer Danny Bakan. Several other musicians will also be featured during the dinner and prior to the main act.

Hunter is a folk musician and said although music played a large part in their lives, Emma didn't like anyone else singing along with a tape and would yell, "No singing!" if you tried. Hunter said they spent a lot of time listening to music in the car on their trips

back and forth to Sick Kids.

Children are very welcome and each performer will include music for kids in their performance. Tickets are available for the dinner and show or just the show.

Hunter said while the event is in Emma's memory, it's not sad or maudlin.

"We don't actually talk about Emma a lot. I wrote a song for her and it's a tradition we play it every year, but we don't dwell on her death," Hunter said, adding afterwards, with the family, there are tears as they tell Emma stories.

Dinner tickets are sold out. Show tickets are still available from the Hunters at 853-1383 or hhunter@stn.net or at the door.

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Honouring
Janis Fread

Friday May 4th 6:30 pm
At Blue Springs Golf Club
Tickets \$30 per person

Available at

HALTON HILLS FURNITURE, ACTON
OR BY CALLING 853-1653

Ticket sales end April 27
No tickets will be sold at the door



Thanks Acton...

Dear editor,
On behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society, I would like to thank the community of Acton for supporting our recent daffodil sale. Proceeds from the sale of daffodils helps to support research projects, services for patients and health promotion.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who visited the local businesses to take orders for daffodils, packed orders and sold daffodils to the public. Without their dedica-

tion we could not have a successful sale.

Thanks also to the Royal Canadian Legion who allowed us the use of their facility to store our daffodils and to pack our orders and to the Acton IGA, LCBO, Halton Credit Union and Café Francesco for letting us sell daffodils at their businesses.

Thanks Acton for making our daffodil sale a success!

Sincerely, Cathy Gerrow
Daffodil Convenor,
Acton Branch

Sinkholes swallow Acton

Town officials hope Halton Region will help pay for repairs to Queen Street (Highway 7) just west of Acton Boulevard, where the pavement has caved in.

Three times in the past three weeks, sinkholes have opened up in the westbound lane Highway 7, probably caused by erosion after a regional watermain valve broke under the intersection several

months ago.

Town staff suspect water from that break travelled along the sanitary sewer trench, washing away the gravel and fill and caused the cave-ins.

A work crew thought they'd fixed the problem, but another hole developed overnight Monday. No word how much the final repair bill will be.

Halton Region would like to thank the following volunteers for their support and commitment to affordable housing issues as members of the Halton Housing Advisory Committee.

Melinda Brown, Tony DeAngelis, Helen Ferguson, Mary Garbes, Lloyd Gesner, Jerry Kowalchuk, Carol McPetrie, Michael Minkowski, Lang Moffat, Paul Mondell, Arun Pathak, Dale Perrin, Scott Sutherland.

Contact: Gwen Maloney, Director Halton Non-Profit Housing Division (905) 825-6262

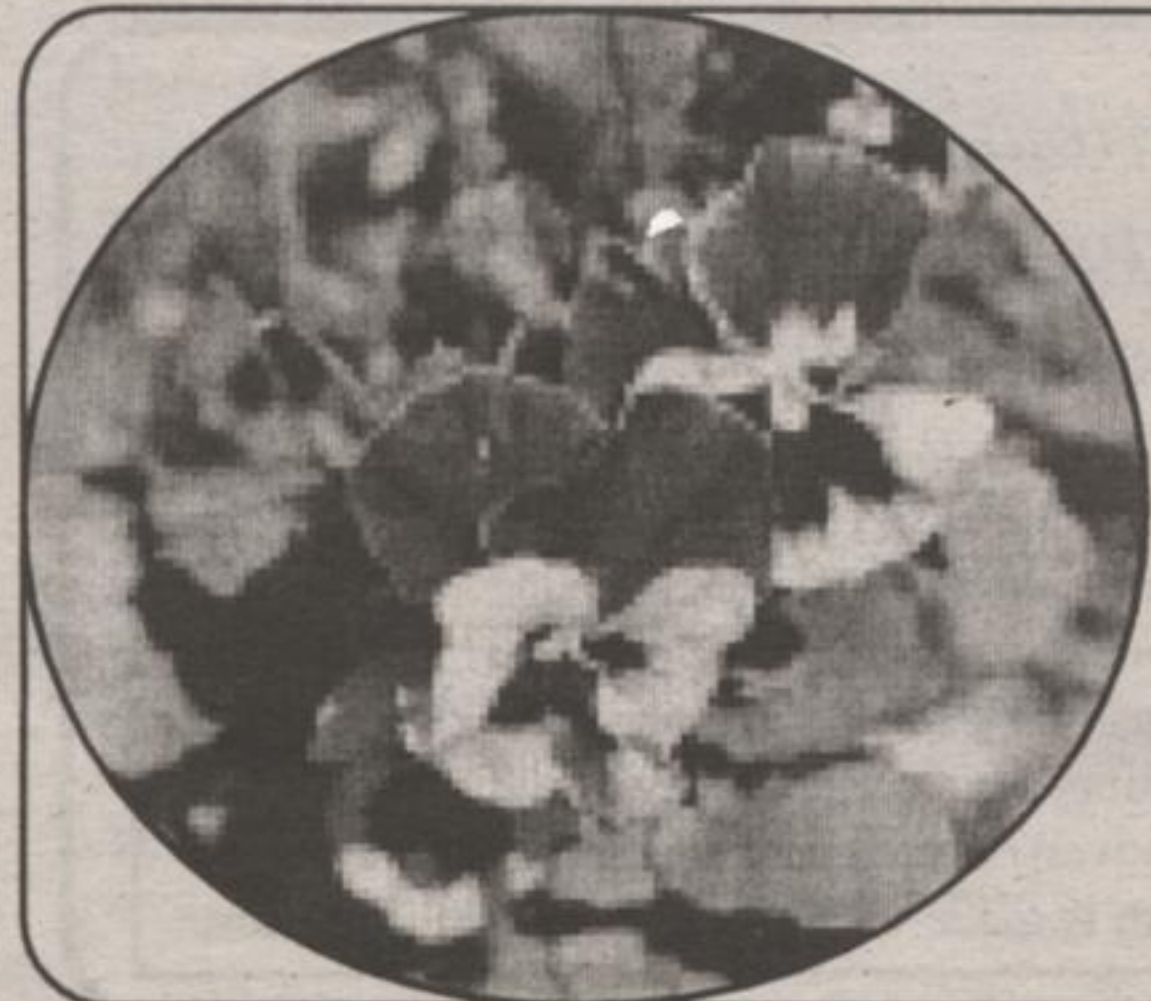


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