



IN MEMORIAM: Acton High School Principal Greg MacPherson and Mark Chumley, right, addressed the families and students of the school at a memorial service for the three students killed in a tragic car/train accident on the Fourth Line in late October of last year. Three red oak trees were planted in their memory in the school's Memorial Gardens and dedicated to Rory Dick, Travis Toth and Mark Everson, formerly AHS students. Mark Chumley read an address he prepared in their memory.

Acton Councillor fears Province to download Hwy # 7 on Region

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Regional and Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette is waiting for "the other shoe to drop," as he anticipates transfer of ownership and responsibility for Highway 7 to Halton Region from the province.

"We had (Highways) 25 and 5 handed down, and we're waiting for the province to finish the role and function study of Highway 7," Bonnette said on Monday, adding the costs to upgrade Regional Road 5 will be "incredible."

"The first year we took over 5 and 25, it was over half-a-million dollars for policing, and there are very strong indications that Highway 7 is going to be downloaded to us," Bonnette said on Monday, adding "here it comes again."

"The downloading is serious, but Halton has a Triple A credit rating and reserves to handle some of the cost, but we don't know what else is coming," Bonnette said.

The transfer of both Highways 5 and 25 increased the Halton road network by 26 per



Rick Bonnette

cent to 733 kilometres of lanes and added 15 traffic signals to the regional system - a 22 per cent increase. Halton staff estimated the cost to look after the additional kilometres

would increase the maintenance budget by 41 per cent

At the time of the transfer (Jan. 1, '98) Halton received a one-time unconditional grant of \$10.6-million and additional grant of \$1.4 from the province.

Ho Wong, Halton's manager of planning and development services, said the estimated cost of bringing the roads up to a good state of repair will cost \$80-million over the next 20 years.

"That \$12-million from the province will last, maybe, only three years which is \$4-million per year. Some of the cost we can recover through development charges," Wong said.

An initial Regional report on the provincial transfer of

the former Highways 5 and 25 said the fiscal implications are "quite staggering" it also identified significant benefits, including the region gaining control over the improvements, timing, assess requirement and locating of servicing along the rights-of-ways.

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Volunteer Open House

The Mayor and Members of Council will be hosting an open house to celebrate the contributions volunteers make to the quality of life in Halton Hills on Thursday, June 7th. They welcome all members of the community who volunteer in Halton Hills. They are very pleased that the Minister of Citizenship, Cam Jackson, will be attending. The guest speaker is David Warner, Past President of the United Nations Association, Toronto Chapter and also a former speaker of the provincial legislature.

Volunteers are being asked to please car pool as parking is very limited and attendance has been confirmed at over 450 guests.

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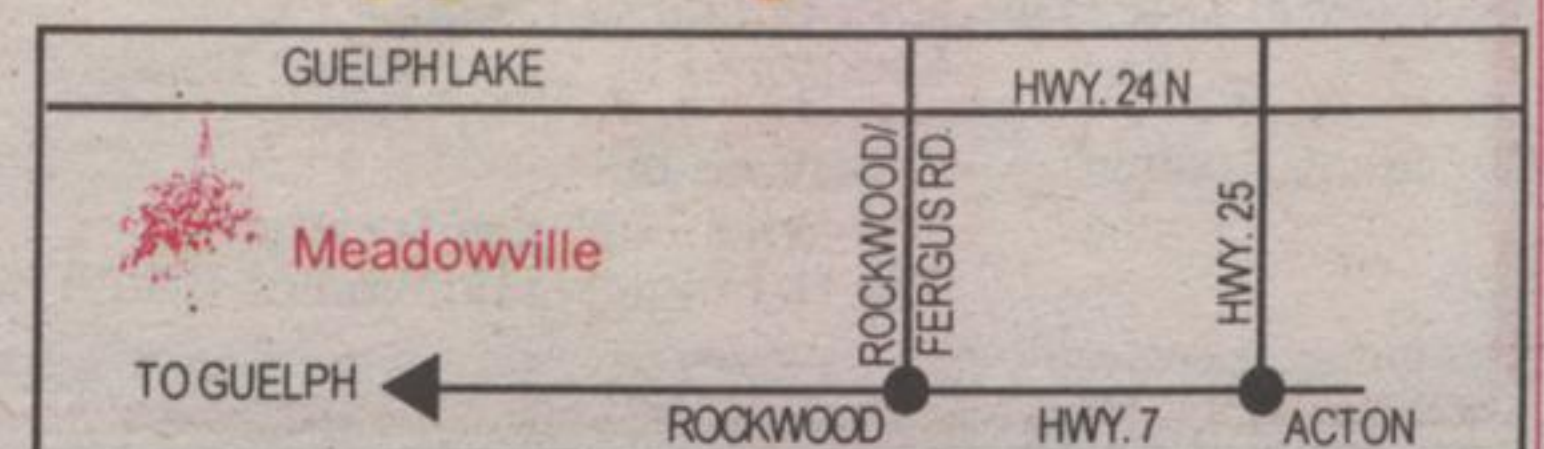
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