



**HOUSE RAZED:** Piles of flagstone, a small shed and some rubble are all that's left after the recent demolition of an Acton landmark, the former Mann house on the north side of Highway 7, east of the arena. A New Year's eve blaze of undetermined origin caused \$75,000 damage to the old stone house, built in 1859, that was being renovated by its Milton owners. — Frances Niblock photo

# Halton not affected by MDS Lab's water testing

Ontario has put stronger, more comprehensive testing rules in place following the Walkerton water tragedy two years ago and the commitment to meeting these requirements continues in Halton, a release from Halton Region maintains.

Since last Wednesday, there have been extensive media reports that MDS Laboratory Services in London, which provides testing services to 60 municipalities in Ontario, has not met the testing procedures established by the Ministry of Environment. Halton Region is not one of the municipalities affected.

Halton Region operates its own accredited laboratory with qualified staff to undertake water quality tests in accordance with the Ministry of Environment requirements and does not employ the services of MDS Laboratory Services. Water results are also tested at Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care laboratories in Hamilton.

Brent Marshall, Halton's Chief Administrative Officer says "Our water supplies for municipally serviced residents continues to meet and in many cases exceed the Ministry of Environment standards."

In addition to reporting

the results of its tests to the Ministry of the Environment as required under Provincial regulation, Halton Region makes this information directly available to the public through quarterly reports on the Region's Web site [www.region.halton.on.ca](http://www.region.halton.on.ca).

Halton Chairman Joyce Savoline stressed, "Halton Region takes very seriously its responsibility to provide clean safe water. To meet this objective Halton has and continues to make significant investments in water treatment and distribution systems. We employ the latest technologies, with the objec-

*Continued on Page 23*

## TOWN DIGEST

### School budget

If approved, busing policy exemptions debated at last night's (Wednesday) Halton District School Board budget meeting could have added approximately \$100,000 to the operating budget for next year — a budget trustees are attempting to make up to \$4-million dollars cuts to a budget with \$285.5-million in provincial revenues.

Trustees have until July 1 to submit a balanced budget to the province for approval. Initially, trustees considered but then rejected the idea, cutting busing for several programs and now three trustees, including Halton Hills trustee Ethel Gardiner, want specific routes to be exempted from proposed cuts.

### Hydro 'sound'

Halton Hills Hydro customers pay the lowest energy rates of any surrounding utility. That's the bottom line of the mid-sized utility's second annual report after the provincial deregulation of the energy industry.

Halton Hill Hydro Inc. chair Bryan Boyce told Town Council last week the company, and its four subsidiaries, exhibit a "steady growth rate, well structured rate base and efficient reliable service," and are "sound and producing revenues."

He said the company could meet its obligations to the Town, as the major shareholder, and customers with a net income of \$792,432 and over \$1.8-million in capital works last year.

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville asked what the actual cost to consumers has been and Boyce said that the average per kilowatt cost of power has been 3.8 cents, but it has been as low as 3.63 cents, a \$50 reduction in electricity costs since the market opened May 1.

### Dufferin expansion okayed

Halton Hills Council has okayed — with conditions — Dufferin Aggregate's plans to expand its quarry, which includes 116 acres located in Halton Hills on the boundary with Milton, north of Campbellville Road.

Several environmental groups and area residents are opposed to the expansion, which still needs a Niagara Escarpment Plan amendment, along with approval by Halton Region and an aggregate licence from the province.



### Beach Resorts, Floating Resorts or Great Savings?

No need to choose! With Carnival's new SunWaves programme, combine a Carnival Cruise with a holiday in Florida, California or the Caribbean. And add a flight from one of our many available Canadian gateways. Book on a Carnival floating resort and you will enjoy great savings, great service, and Canada's kind of fun. Fly/Cruise holidays in Canadian Dollars.

**Twice the fun... plus two more satisfied clients.**



**SUNWAVES**  
7 DAY FLY/CRUISE HOLIDAY

from CAD\$ **1279\***

Port Charges, taxes and fees included.

Includes Air from Toronto

Additional Air add-ons available from other Canadian Cities

**TED TYLER TRAVEL SERVICE LTD.**  
"Best Price, Best Service Since 1972"  
**853-1553 • 888-833-8953**  
FAX: 519-853-1559

\*Prices are per person, twin basis, Cat 4A, in Canadian Dollars. Includes port and air charges, taxes, and fees. Transfers are additional. Based on SunWaves Programme and valid for Canadian residents only. Packaged sailings available from now through April 30, 2003 and must be booked by July 31, 2002. Fly/Cruise program offered and operated by Americanada, Intair and Fun Sun. Rates based on availability and capacity controlled. Ship's Registry: Panama & The Bahamas