

Head-on crash on 25 takes Acton man's life

A head-on collision on Wellington Road 125 (Hwy. 25) near Country Road. 50 (5 Sideroad), just north of Acton on Sunday, August 15 at 12:23 a.m. resulted in the death of a 35-year-old Acton resident.

Wellington OPP said the collision occurred when a 1992 Honda travelling south on 125 crossed the centre line and collided head-on with a 1995 Chevrolet

Wellington OPP called to three head-ons

CTV van travelling north on the highway. The driver of the Honda, 35-year-old Darin Kettlewell of Acton, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the van, Earl Caine, 53, of Amaranth Township, was taken to Guelph General hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Police called a Technical Traffic Collision Investigator to the scene to assist in the investigation. The highway was closed between County Rd. 50 and the Town Line just north of Acton for several hours while police conducted an investigation. Funeral services for Mr. Kettlewell are

being held at St. Louis Catholic Church, 53 Allan St., Waterloo at 10 a.m. on Friday, August 20.

Another head-on crash Wellington OPP responded to another head-on crash on Country Rd. 44 (Guelph Line), south of Highway 7, in Eramosa Township, on Friday, August 13 at 10:10
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Town tries to help Seniors stay in homes with assessment freeze

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

In a compassionate move to help seniors deal with property tax increases resulting from rising property assessments, Town Council will ask MPAC – the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – to freeze property tax assessments on homes owned by people over 70 years, who have lived in the home for more than 20 years.

Ward Two Councillor Joan Robson said she'd been approached by a number of seniors who asked for help in keeping up with their taxes.

"One senior mentioned to me that his home was a converted garage – when they were younger that was all they could afford – and they've kept it up and converted it into a little bungalow," Robson said adding a house that cost \$20,000 30 or 40 years ago, today is assessed at \$270,000.

Robson said many people lived frugally, paid off their mortgages and thought they'd be okay in their old age and now can't afford their taxes.

Robson underlined the

important role seniors play in the community, volunteering their time and talents, not asking for handouts and duly paying their education taxes even though they haven't had children in the education system for 30 years.

"For an additional contribution of approximately \$5 per year from the rest of our community, we could reach out to these people and help these valued members of our community live on a scale that is not grand, but that at least allows them not to go into debt," Robson said.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said the assessment freeze would be a great opportunity to keep seniors in their own homes until all levels

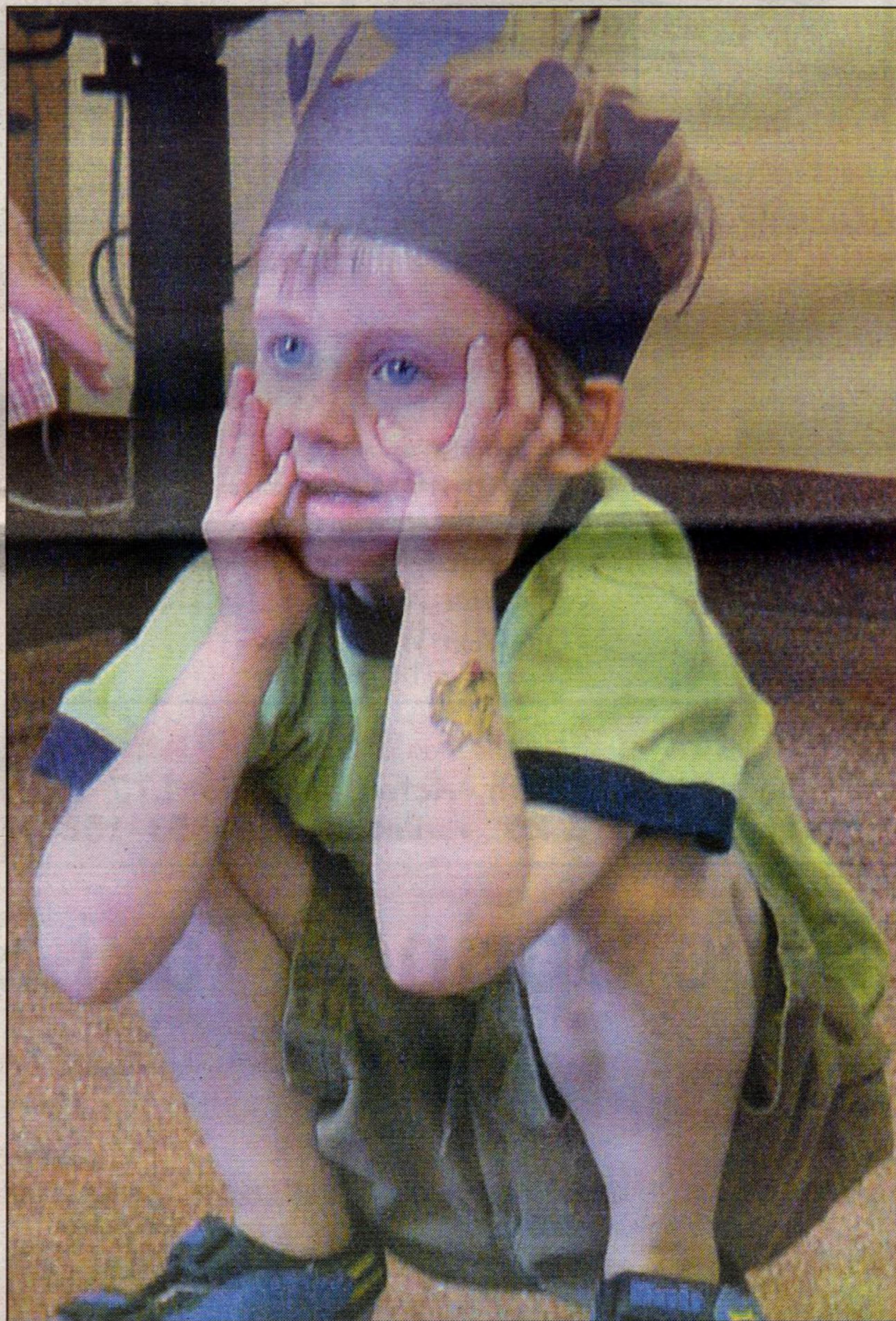
of government develop incentive programs so developers will build affordable housing for seniors.

Town staff said there are approximately 2,000 households in Halton Hills where the owner is over 70, and staff assumes that 15 per cent, or 300 owners, have lived in their homes for more than 20 years.

Assuming that a home is valued at \$250,000 and a reassessment would mean a 10 per cent increase in value, the potential savings if the freeze were approved would be \$270 for each eligible homeowner.

That would mean a total cost of \$80,000, or about \$5 more for each of the remaining 16,000 residential property owners.

There are no Halton Hills seniors registered in a Regional program that allows homeowners over 65, with a combined family income of less than \$23,000, to defer tax increases. The amount of the deferral is registered on title and is payable when the property is sold.



ENTRANCED: Four-year old Nicholas Firth was mesmerized with the medieval stories told at the Damsels and Dragons pre-school party at the Acton library on Thursday. Being the only Prince in attendance, Nicholas had to protect the Damsels from the stuffed animal dragon. - Angela Tyler photo

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