

Greenbelt topic Wednesday at Region public works

Greenbelt?

Twenty-five people told Halton's planning and public works committee members exactly what they think of proposed plans to add 4,000-plus acres at the south end of Halton Hills to a proposed provincial greenbelt at yesterday's (Wednesday) Halton planning and public works committee meeting.

Many of the delegates – farmers and small landowners affected by the inclusion – were expected to repeat arguments made at Town Council that adding the prime agricultural land to protected countryside would unfairly cut land prices in half, and deprive them of the pensions they planned for from the sale of their land for development.

Town Councillors Mike Davis and Bryan Lewis also spoke to the committee whose decision goes before Halton Council next month.

At the request of Halton Hills, Regional Council agreed to ask the province to include the additional land, but when Town Council changed its mind last month and asked Halton to rescind its support, this prompted yesterday's meeting.

Politician pay

Halton's politician payroll last year was \$1.06-million – up \$32,396 from the previous year. Most of the cost – \$984,569 – is for council salaries, benefits, conference expenses and other expenses.

An annual summary of Council/committee/board remuneration and expenses includes changes recommended by a citizens advisory committee. It amended the salary adjustment formula, cut

Town Digest

the one-third tax-free salary allowance and gave salary-related benefits to Regional Council members.

Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline received \$173,382 in salaries, benefits, conference expenses, car mileage and other expenses.

At \$43,281, Wards 3/4 Regional Councillor Jane Fogal was the second on Halton's payroll, followed by Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette at \$42,930 (\$39,206 for salaries and benefits) \$2,139 for conference expenses and \$1,585 for mileage and other expenses.

The report was before Halton's administration and

finances committee yesterday (Wednesday) for information.

By the numbers

Talk about busy – the Town's latest building, zoning and enforcement services activity report shows the building department received a record \$1.8-million in building permit fees in the last quarter.

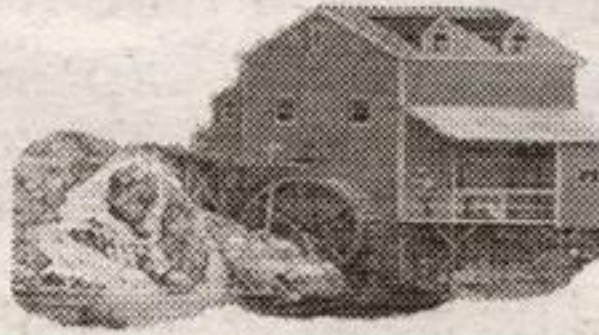
Staff processed 64 per cent more applications than during the same period in 2003, and there are 178 building permit applications in the pipe.

The dog-licensing program processed 2,190 dog licenses, collecting 95 per cent of projected revenues.

Enforcement services received 1,250 new complaints in 2004, and currently have 415 active complaint files. There are 248 cases under investigation, 74 are before the courts and 93 are waiting for investigation.

Ring Around

ROCKWOOD



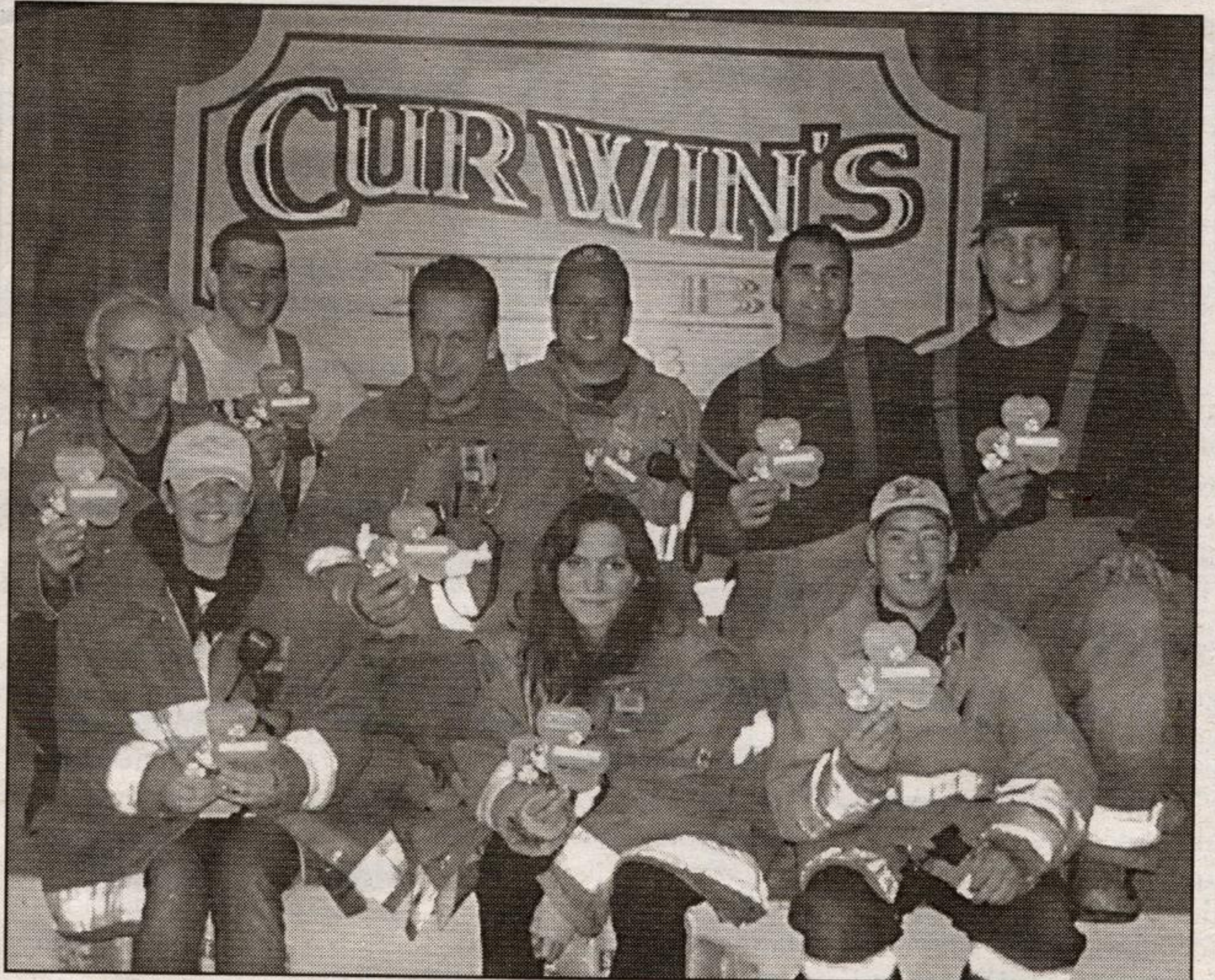
St. John's Anglican Church Welcomes New Rector

St. John's Anglican church will be holding an induction service for their new priest, Rev. Dr. Pauline Head, on Sunday February 27 at 4pm. Various dignitaries will be present, including Archdeacon Thomas Greene from St. George's Church in Guelph, and the Regional Dean, Canon David Howells, who is a former rector of St. John's. Everyone is welcome to this special celebration, followed by a reception afterwards in the Fellowship Room.

The Rock Presents a Dinner Theatre

The Rock Drop-in-Centre for Youth in Rockwood is presenting a dinner theatre production, *Jesus Christ Morningstar*, the brainchild of Andrew Hodgkins of Waterdown. There are 8 people in the cast, ranging in age from 13 to 15. The play, written and directed by Greg Watson, from Rockwood United Church, was inspired by the gospel music of *Apologetix*. Members of all the churches in the area have donated costumes, set and props. The gourmet dinner of penne pasta, salad, and home made rolls and pies, will be prepared by members of the churches, and served by the cast between acts. The play takes place March 5 at St. John's Church Hall in Rockwood. There will be only 70 tickets

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BUCK FOR LUCK: The Rockwood Eramosa Fire Fighter's Association visited Rockwood businesses Friday night to kick off their "Buck-for-Luck" campaign. Participating businesses have containers where you can deposit a loony. In return, your name can be printed on a clover and hung up at the business. All the proceeds go to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. Pictured from left to right, beginning with the front, are Curwin's staff Christine Bucik and Amanda Curran, volunteer Kyle Dawe, pub owner Jay Baldwin, volunteers Matt Thacher, Kevin Davey, Scott Hossie, Gilles Alarie, and Bernie Liebig. - Rebecca Ring photo

Guelph/ Eramosa

Council Chips

by Rebecca Ring

Municipal Electoral Term to Become Four Years?

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is reviewing the municipal election term. A survey was developed by the AMO Advisory Committee, of which Councillor Chris White is a member. Currently, municipal elections in Ontario are held every three years on the second Monday in November. Council agreed that each member independently fill out the survey and submit it by March 1, 2005.

Councillor White supported the idea of changing the term of office from three years to four. He said it should be the same as provincial or federal terms. He added that a four-year term would be more effective in terms of costs, experience and long-term planning. Mayor Clint Martin had no objections to the

idea but added that financial costs should not be a factor in the electoral term because a greater cost in the loss of lives was incurred in fighting for democracy.

Two Councillors Will Not Be Appointed to Eden Mills Traffic Safety Group

Council previously resolved to establish a working group, which would have consisted of two appointed council members and the manager of public works, to work closely with Eden Mills community groups to achieve traffic safety. Councillor Teresa Gibson-Smye said there is no need for the appointment of two councillors to this special interest group and raised concerns about the expense. Larry Van Wyck, Manager of Public Works, said it would be better to hold open-house meetings rather than the working group meetings. Councillor David McCrae agreed and added these meetings should be open to everybody. Councillor Les Foote added that council must ensure they are open to everybody. Councillors White and McCrae said there should be a stipulation that the meeting notices are posted. Councillor Gibson-Smye suggested posting them

on the township's website and on the three community bulletin boards in Eden Mills. The agreement regarding the working group was changed to inviting council members and the manager of public works to attend these open-house meetings. Larry Van Wyck will be the communication liaison between the community group and township council. Councillor Chris White opposed the changes, as he preferred appointing rather than inviting council members.

Annual Statement of Remuneration and Expenses Paid to Council

An itemized statement of the remuneration and expenses paid to council in 2004 was published. The following details were provided:

Mayor Martin: remuneration of \$13,274.02 and mileage allowance of \$500.

Councillor Foote: remuneration of \$10,674.34.

Councillor McCrae: remuneration of \$9,849.34 and expenses of \$749.16.

Councillor White: remuneration of \$14,349.34 and expenses of \$1,227.15.

Councillor Gibson-Smye: remuneration of \$10,999.34 and expenses of \$534.94.

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