

## Business of the month

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month is Ruffin's Pet Store, located at 140 Guelph St. Chamber general manager Terry Jackson (left) presented the new Business of the Month sign to owner Linda Patton, (centre) as they were joined by a loyal Ruffin's customer Kim Penna and her pet "Chloe." TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

## Council defers grant to Acton Citizens' Band

Only the Glen Williams Town Hall Board actually received what it requested of budget committee Tuesday night during the grant for groups portion of 1995 budget deliberations.

In the end the committee approved a total of \$2,960 in grants to community groups.

The Glen Williams Town Hall Board received \$750 as requested, Arts Alive received \$560 of its \$600 request, Georgetown Agricultural Society was granted \$500 of its \$1,000 request, Georgetown Globe Productions was granted \$600 and requested \$2,400, Halton Hills Festival of Music was granted \$50 of its \$500 request, Open Door Youth Centre was granted \$500 and requested \$1,700. A request for \$1,000 from the Halton Hills Children's Chorus was denied and a

grant request of \$10,000 by the Acton Citizens' Band was deferred.

The Acton Citizens' Band request was \$6,000 more than the band had received in the past.

Carine Pelka, of the band, explained the band needed the increase because they had received their first tax bill, \$4,600, on the band hall property.

Koopmans said the town discovered last year the hall was incorrectly assessed as owned by the town. That was corrected, and the bill was sent out.

Councillors deferred a decision on the Acton Citizens' Band request until a meeting is held with the band members, Acton councillors, the mayor and director of recreation to determine what can be done, if anything, about the tax situ-

## Funding woes at Allendale

By ANGELA BLACKBURN Special to The Independent/Free Press

It'll be March before Halton Region makes public a contingency plan should the Province pull \$1.7 million in funding to Allendale, the Region's home for the aged in

Milton.

The arrival of long term care reform in July 1993, saw new provincial funding rates for long term care homes. Allendale's per diem rate was set at \$82.66 despite the fact Allendale was operating at \$113.26 per day. The Province continues to pick up the shortfall of \$1.7 million. However, it has said it may cut off the extra funding this March, and will provide 60 days' notice.

Regional social services commissioner Bonnie Ewart described the Region's position as "vulnera-

"We can't operate at the rate of \$81.17," said Ewart. The Region would have to either come up with an additional \$1.7 million in annual funding or face cutbacks.

The contingency plan would involve paring the 300 beds to 200 beds. Two hundred Allendale beds are in the newly renovated main complex while another 100 beds are in Martin House.

"We would have to cut out a lot of things and basically we'd be warehousing the elderly," said Allendale administrator Margaret Strecker.

Halton Region has a shortage of long term care beds and has had for almost 20 years. It ranks last in Ontario for its long term care bed inventory. Halton is 500 to 600 beds short compared to the provincial average, at 111.9 beds (per 1,000 people over aged 75) compared to the Ontario average of 149.8.

The Region is attempting to reduce its costs by nearly half a million dollars over two years. Last year, Allendale reduced costs through scaling back part-time

10.00%

hours, not layoffs.

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