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Digest

\$10,000 truck fire

A truck, which had been reported stolen from St. Catharines, was found on fire Dec. 25 at 2:42 p.m. on 22 Sideroad west of Fourth Line. It was fully involved when the Halton Hills Fire Department arrived and damage was estimated at \$10,000. suspected cause was arson.

Computers stolen

About \$6,000-worth computers were stolen from Pineview School Tuesday morning. An alarm was set off at 6:45 a.m. and a caretaker went to the school to find a classroom window had been pried open. A search revealed four Apple computers were stolen, along with a printer.

Chimney fire

Firefighters were called to a chimney fire on Fifth Line south of Hwy. 7 New Years Day at 6:24 p.m. It was out when they arrived and no damage was reported.

Cruiser hit by car

A Milton man was charged with impaired driving, driving with over the legal limit of alcohol in his blood, failing to stop for police and failing to share the road after an incident Wednesday just before midnight. A Halton Regional Police cruiser was heading north on Sixth Line, Milton when its mirror was broken off by the mirror of an oncoming pickup. The officer was able to turn his vehicle around and stop the pickup about 2 km from where the collision took place, police said.

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Halton Hills' New Year's baby for 1996 is little Jessica Lynn Oreskovic, who was born New Year's Day at 1:34 p.m. weighing in at 7 lbs., 12 oz. Although wee Jessica didn't really care about all the hoopla of being the first baby born at Georgetown District and Memorial Hospital in 1996, mom and dad, Jane and Mike and big sister, 18-month-old Mandi, were all delighted to pose for a photo. TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Power outage darkens Georgetown South

Several Georgetown South residents were without power Tuesday night for about six-and-ahalf hours.

Dave Collie, general manager of Halton Hills Hydro, said the outage which affected about one third of the homes in Georgetown South was due to an underground cable

Collie said the residents lost their power at



p.m. and it was back on for some just before 11 p.m., and shortly after 11 p.m. for others.

Collie said the power was

out for so long because the problem was difficult to isolate.

The power for that area has been rerouted and hydro staff will be back to make the necessary repairs

"I apologize to anyone who couldn't get through to us," said Collie adding the phone lines were very busy.

Agency to lay off 13.5 staff

By JANET BAINE Staff writer

Dramatic cuts by the province to Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) means that 13.5 people, or a third of the staff will be laid off effective January 12, said information officer Robert Peace.

He's one of the lucky ones who still has a job, for the time being. Interpretive programming, in-cluding programs for school children, will no longer exist, aside from some special events like an annual ice fishing

Terra Cotta will still be open for cross country skiing, but trails won't be groomed anymore.

"If you go for a picnic, the picnic tables will still be there, you can use the hiking trails, your garbage will still be taken away and the washrooms will be open, but there won't be programs," Peace said. Entrance fees will remain the same this summer, but the organization hasn't yet decided if someone will be there to take your money at the gate.

The provincial cut reduced the operations budget from \$3.5 million in 1995 to \$2 million in 1996 and a projected \$1.5 million in 1997.

CVC's primary role is to provide governments with information to make wise decisions to protect the waterways, Peace said.

"Lots of people rely on the groundwater for drinking," he said. "That's our main goal. We'd love to continue programs for kids, but there isn't money for us to do that."

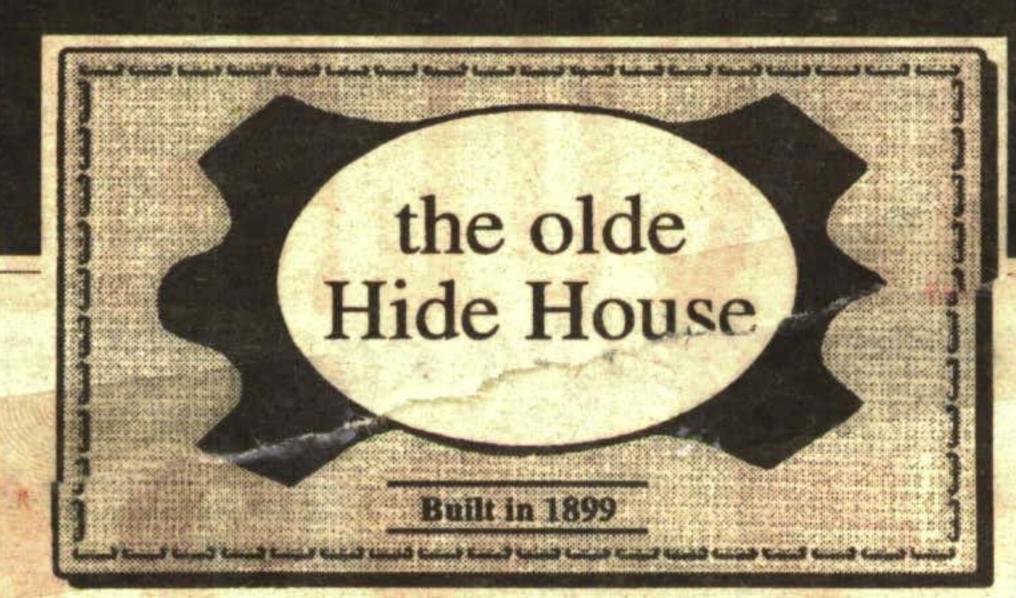
CVC will also no longer offer property specific conservation plans, a tree planting program or the remedial flood and erosion control program.

"We've had cuts over the last years, like everybody else. We had already cut ourselves to the bone, with only one manager and the rest are doers," Peace said.

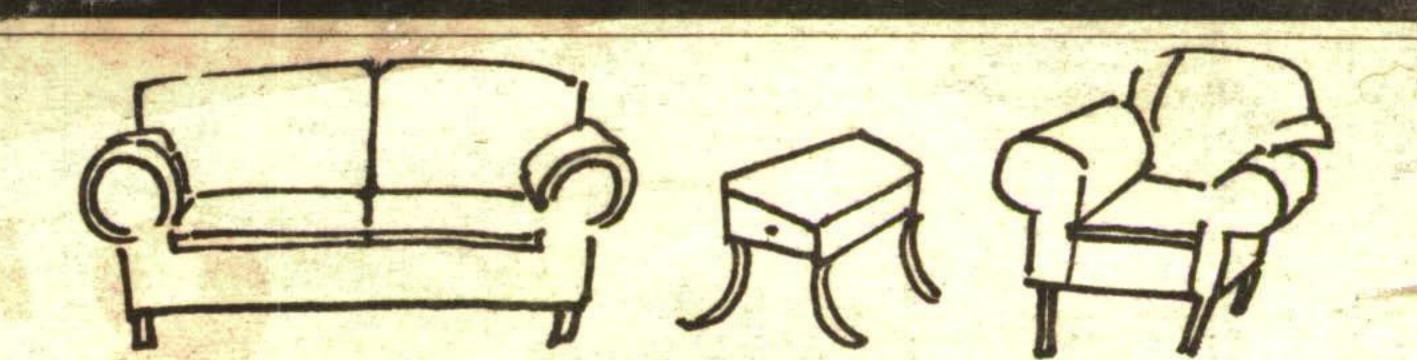
Instead of going to government for more money, CVC is considering setting up partnerships with businesses.

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