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News

Digest

Acton blood donor clinic

Acton is hosting its quarterly Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic on Thursday, March 23 at the Acton Legion Hall, 5-8:30 p.m. Babysitting available. Bring your donor card or your photo ID. Eligible donors are between the ages of 17 and 70. Please take a few moments to give the gift of life, the Red Cross is still short on blood supplies.



Feed the Food Bank

Each time you come to the Halton Hills Libraries, Children's Services during the month of March, bring a non-perishable item to donate to the food bank.



Window broken

Someone threw an unknown object through a Main St. S. Acton variety store window at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, police said. Damage was about \$500.

Business blaze

About \$10,000 in damage was done to a McDonald Blvd. business in Acton Tuesday morning. Firefighters were called to the scene at 4:29 a.m. by an alarm company.

The business is Eagle Ottawa, formerly Blackhawk Leather.

The fire was caused by an electrical problem in a milling drum and then spread to the roof. Nine firefighters were on the scene until 7 a.m.

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Spring runs eternal



With the recent cold nights and warm sunny days, local farmers like Bob Merry have found the sap is starting to flow, kicking off the annual maple syrup harvest in Halton Hills. Making maple syrup is a long and tedious process, as it takes about 40 gallons of sap to boil down to one gallon of syrup.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Trustees consider tentative tax hike

The Halton Board of Education is currently looking at a \$286-million operating budget in 1996 — an increase of 1.38 per cent over last year's actual budget.

The \$286-million budget was presented to the board's finance committee March 4, one day before it issued layoff notice to 1,503 board employees.

However, the board notes \$286-million budget is merely a starting point and that it incorporates the impact of the board's exit from the Social Contract as well as a major initiative in the areas of administrative and instructional technology.

Since the board's provincial grants have not been announced this year, it cannot predict how much the proposed spending increase would affect the mill rate.

In September, the finance committee received a budget forecast for 1996 which projected a mill rate increase of 4.5 per cent.

In January, the board passed a motion directing administration to prepare a report detailing the impact a 0 per cent mill rate increase.

Integral to this report is the 'provincial tool kit for education' which was released by the province last week. Administration will be reviewing the information in the kit in conjunction with the 1996 grants, once they are released, to prepare a report detailing proposed reductions.

The public is being invited to the board's finance committee deliberations, scheduled for March 25-27, 7:30 p.m. nightly, at the J. W. Singleton Education Centre on Guelph Line.

Anyone wishing to make a presentation can contact Helen McLeod at 878-8451.

BLUE SPRINGS

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1996

SEASON PACKAGES

A limited number of corporate and individual Green Fee Packages are now available for the 'Turtle Lake' 18-hole Championship Course.

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Season Passes for the 'Trillium' Par-3 Course.

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