

Strike causes traffic woes

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NEWS AT A GLANCE

Homes entered

Halton Police are investigating two break and enters that occurred at homes on 22 Sideroad Tuesday.

About \$5,000 worth of property was taken during a break-in at one home. Entry was gained into a sun room by breaking glass in a rear door. Jewelry, and sterling silver flatware were taken.

At a second home a side door was kicked in and some jewelry was taken. An alarm went off during that break-in. Damage and the value of missing property from that entry was \$800.

Car hits home

Halton Police are looking for the driver of a vehicle that struck the side of a Storey Dr. Acton home at about 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Someone drove onto the front lawn of the house and damaged bricks and a window. Anyone who has any information about the incident should call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Golf clubs taken

Police are investigating the theft of several sets of golf clubs from the Granite Ridge golf course pro shop early Tuesday. Entry was gained by smashing the glass front door.

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Bearing gifts

Local seamstresses Shirley Lyons and Sally Plackett have been approaching the various crafts groups to donate teddy bears to the upcoming Teddy Bear Silent Auction, set for May 2 at Georgetown Marketplace Mall with all proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society. In addition, there will be a Teddy Bear Picnic display of the donated bears from April 24 in the window of Young's Pharmacy on Main St. To date, nearly 40 bears have been donated. The donation deadline is tomorrow (Monday), and anyone wishing to donate can contact Shirley Lyons at 877-5485.

Photo by Ted Brown

Strike may cause delays in garbage pickup

Delays in region-wide garbage collection can be expected as more than 100 Halton utility workers continue strike action.

Picketing by members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Union Local 2620 has caused some delays at the landfill on Highway 25 in southern Milton.

If your waste has not been collected by

the end of the usual pick-up day, Halton advises you to leave it by the curb and it will be collected as soon as possible.

In order to avoid delays at the landfill, residents may go to other facilities, including Halton Hills' Leferink Transfer Station at 57 Armstrong Avenue in Georgetown.

For more on the strike see page 7.

Numbers change again

Homeowners now facing possible \$159 property tax hike

Halton Hills property owners' taxes are going up 6.3 per cent or \$159. These are the latest figures now being touted in the ever-changing world of municipal finance since the provincial government announced the Who Does What changes a year ago.

According to Halton's commissioner of corporate services, Joe Rinaldo, the numbers are expected to be adjusted at least one more time.

As they stand now, a Halton Hills property owner, with a home assessed at \$185,000, will pay a total of \$2,665 in taxes in 1998. That break downs to \$625 for the town, \$851 for the school board and \$1,189 for the region.

This information was provided to the Halton Region committees last week. It will be reviewed at a special budget committee meeting this Tuesday (April 21) at 9:30 a.m. at the Halton administration building on Hwy. 25 in Oakville.

While the province promised the shifts would be "revenue neutral", local government representatives say they are not.

According to Robert Rossini, Halton's senior policy co-ordinator for budgets, the increase is all due to the provincial changes.

The province, he said, cut the education tax in half, but at the same time gave a whole host of new services to the region and area municipalities to pay for. These include downloaded provincial Highways 5 and 25, assessment services, more costs for welfare, pooling costs for social housing and social assistance in Toronto, GO Transit, as well as cutting municipal grants.

"In this whole trading of services what's happening is, the province is giving Halton municipalities \$24 million of extra services, more than what they're cutting into terms of education tax. The net difference of that is going to cause property tax increases in Halton Hills of \$159," Rossini said.

According to Halton officials, reducing the total expected tax increase by 1 per cent means a cut of \$4.5 million to the budget. Most of the budget is the result of the cost of programs ordered by the province. Other regional services, such as water and waste water treatment, are financed by user fees.

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