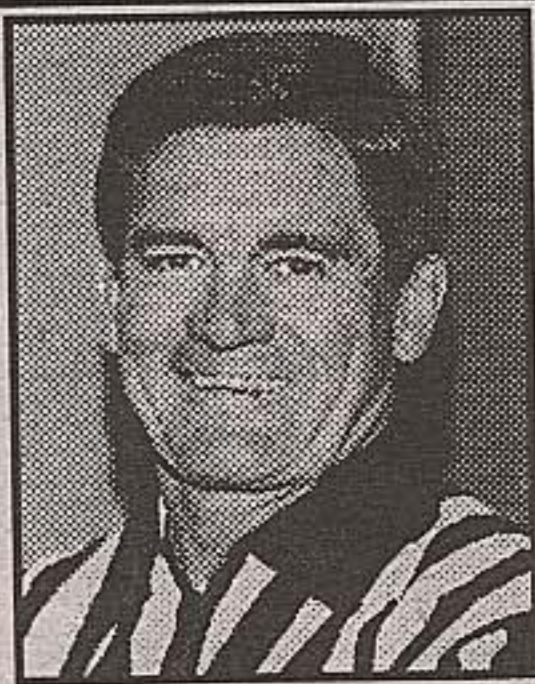


# Travel

with *Bruce Hood*



## SHORT AND LONG TERM PLANNING NOW!

LESS THAN A YEAR TO GO FOR THE SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPICS, so if you want to go, you'd better start planning now. An estimated 25,000 tickets, worth approximately \$3 million, are now available to Canadians who want to attend the Games. You can have a selection of travel packages complete with a corresponding event ticket program, but plan early because the most popular events get taken pretty fast. Travel programs include air and ground transportation, selected meals and choice of executive or economy accommodation. Prices start at \$7,100. See your travel professional for information and to get your booking completed.



**HOW ABOUT A CHRISTMAS PARTY AT DEERHURST RESORT** - Groups of 10 or more are charged \$49 per person for the "Sing '99" musical revue and a four-course meal. Office party groups wanting to stay over can get a room, the show and dinner for \$105 per person, double occupancy. Each additional night is \$56 per person. Another idea!



**AIR CANADA VACATIONS HAS EXPANDED ITS ORLANDO PROGRAM** beginning October 31 using the direct service of AIR CANADA into the popular resort area. They offer a selection of hotels in Orlando, including Walt Disney World Resorts. Aeroplan members booking an Air Canada Vacations package can earn 2,500 Aeroplan miles.

???

**DID YOU KNOW:** How many people from Canada travelled to Mexico last year? - would you believe 1,250,000 - (that included this writer a few times) with hefty increases predicted for this year with additional new vacation resorts to offer, plus more folks going for long-stay.

\* \* \*

**TRAVEL TIP OF THE WEEK:** Something a little different for the fall colour change days - a relaxing drive into the Niagara Peninsula down old Highway 8 - see the many wineries dotting the landscape, and drop in, including THIRTY BENCH WINES in Beamsville - test the product!

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## \$1.5M to go to reserve fund Town books show \$1.6M surplus

The Town of Halton Hills had a good financial year in 1998—there is a \$1.6 million surplus. Halton Hills council learned at a recent council meeting that the year end surplus for 1998 was \$1,642,242. According to council policy, \$100,000 will be allocated to the 1999 operating budget and the remaining amount, \$1.5 million, will go into the Capital Financing Reserve Fund to assist with future capital projects.

The town earned more money than anticipated in supplementary taxes (\$70,000 more), administration fees (\$320,016), building permits (\$171,350), development applications (\$59,000) and

other revenues for a total of \$748,311. Add to that, the town was under budget by \$893,931 on its expenditures. The town spent \$123,249 on legal fees, \$201,801 on tax write-offs, and \$201,660 on Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings. The town spent less than expected in the engineering and public works, fire department and recreation and cultural services departments.

The town has \$11 million set aside in its various reserve and trust funds, including almost \$5 million in its development charges fund. The interest rate paid on the reserve funds is based on the rate earned on the town's investments—an average 4.71 per cent.

## Staff asked to get tough with weeds

Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette has requested staff come up with an enforcement policy on weed-filled lots in urban areas.

Bonnette said several lots in the Acton area, for example, have become havens for weeds, and a bylaw is needed to give some teeth behind a town phone call to lot owners to deal with the problem.

The current bylaw deals only with limited kinds of weeds, and the bylaw needs to be strengthened to include more weeds and to deal with absentee owners.

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