

In east Acton

Site found for new ambulance station

Acton could be one step closer to having a new ambulance station.

Jim King, Halton's director of land ambulance services, said Halton has a conditional offer on a piece of land in Acton's urban area where a new station could be built.

"By the end of October we hope to have secured a property," said King.

Wards 1/2 councillor Rick Bonnette said the property is in the east end of Acton and very close to the old station.

"I'm extremely pleased with the location," said Bonnette.

King said existing buildings in Acton aren't suitable for the station.

A recent staff report to the region's Health and Social Services Committee said the most common deficiencies in the buildings consid-

ered included inadequate space for crew and vehicles, limited washing and drainage capabilities, limited vehicle clearance, poor access and egress, limited parking for staff, the potential for traffic congestion in residential areas and the need for major renovations.

The report also said there were few building sites in Acton and asking prices are as high as \$299,000 for a 3/4 acre lot.

At the Health and Social Services Committee meeting recently region staff received the go-ahead to use funds from the 2000 capital budget allotted for station renovations to buy property to build a new one.

The ambulance service is temporarily being housed in Acton's fire station after mould was found in the old station and because of the continued drainage problems, the costs to renovate and its general inadequacy.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Teachers, board to meet again tomorrow

Continued from pg. 1

Federation District 20 (Halton). "We never give up hope."

He also hopes other secondary teachers' contracts will be settled around the province.

"Other deals could assist us in moving things along," said Chud. "This district is not as close to a settlement."

The contract for Halton's 1,000-plus public secondary teachers expired Aug. 31.

Earlier this summer, union members voted 92 per cent in favour of striking.

There have been no formal job actions so far, but fewer teachers have volunteered for extracurriculars like sports, clubs and after school help. About 20 per cent fewer teams are

being fielded by Halton high schools this fall.

Chud has noted stricter provincial regulations requiring teachers to handle an extra half-class are making it harder for teacher to handle extracurriculars.

Another key issue is salaries. The teachers earn \$34,000-\$65,000 and haven't had a raise in 7-8 years. However, their contract has four salary categories and a 12-year salary increase grid.

A provincial official has noted the current 6.5 classes teaching requirement is bringing Ontario up to the national standard.

Halton's Catholic high schools have an agreement to teach six classes for one more year.

—By Dennis Smith, special



Getting on board

Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson was all smiles Tuesday night as Georgetown Lions Club presented the Town of Halton Hills with a cheque for \$75,000 for the Localmotion campaign, in building a new recreation centre and twinning Alcott Arena. On hand from the Lions Club were (from left) president Jim Levy, Jim Harris, Pat Shannon and Al Watt, all members of the golf tournament committee responsible for fund-raising.

Photo by Ted Brown

Aquifer plan 'a landmark'

Halton regional council made history Wednesday when it approved an Aquifer Management Plan that will protect groundwater across the region.

Halton Hills Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette, vice-chair of the region's planning and public works committee, calls it "a landmark report" and the first in the province to deal comprehensively with the preservation of groundwater quality.

"We're quite excited," said Bonnette. "Halton is taking a leadership role (in the protection of water)."

"It's perfect timing," he said, as the result of the heightened awareness among residents about water safety due to the Walkerton crisis.

The groundwater management strategy contains recommendations for new policies, guidelines and practices that will ensure water protection in a multitude of areas such as drinking water quality, water taking permits, conservation, well construction and abandonment, contaminated sites, and monitoring. For example, one section, the Drinking Water Quality Protection, addresses the protection around the municipal wells by zoning to prevent high-risk uses such as a gasoline station.

Through a network of 21 wells, Halton Region supplies groundwater to about 60,000 residents in the urban centres of Acton, Georgetown and Milton. In the rural areas,

an additional 20,000 residents rely on groundwater from private wells.

The farm community expressed concern the Plan may restrict or alter their current practices, but Bonnette said the region will be working closely to ensure their issues are resolved.

As well, since the Walkerton crisis, the region is also including a rural water quality program as part of the plan. A similar program is under way in Waterloo Region and it involves an effort to control agricultural contaminants from degrading rural water sources. The Halton plan includes funding—about \$25,000 annually—to assist rural landowners in taking steps, such as sealed manure containers or keeping livestock away from waterways to minimize contamination to private wells.

The overall cost of the Aquifer Management Plan is about \$900,000 over the next 10 years, but Bonnette says it's money well spent because it's protecting the water system. He also hopes the region can tap into some provincial funding.

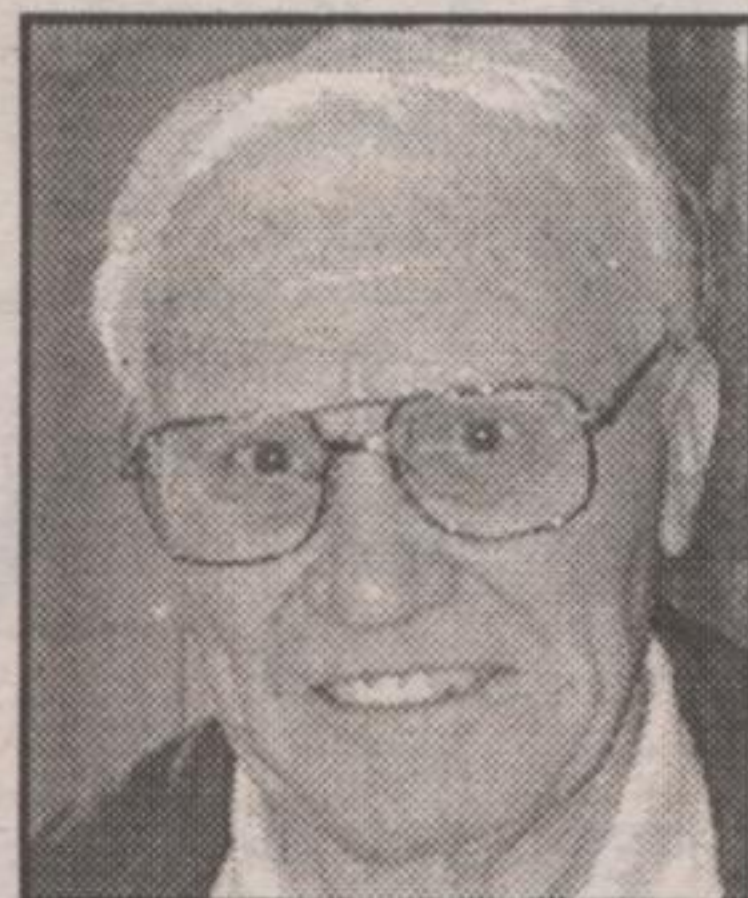
The Ministry of Environment, in a response to regional staff, called the Plan "comprehensive and a pleasure to read".

Halton Hills council recently confirmed its support for the Plan.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

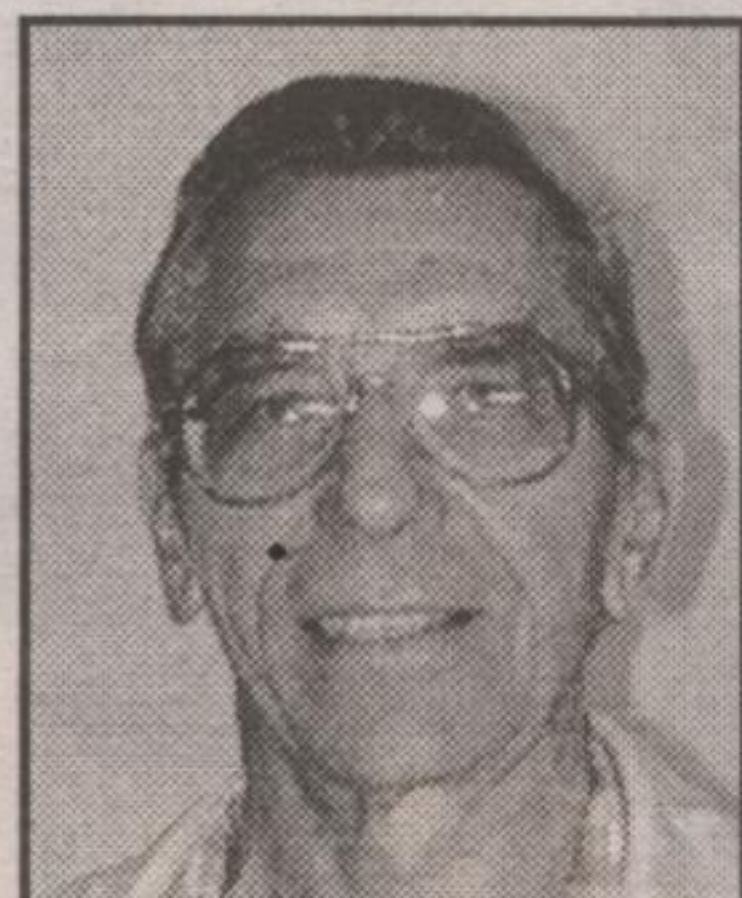
What You Said

'Should parking be permitted on Mountainview Rd. S.?'



Harold Kirkwood
Georgetown
retired

"No I don't think parking should be permitted. I come along there quite frequently and if there are any vehicles parked you have to pull out and invariably someone wants to come out of a driveway."



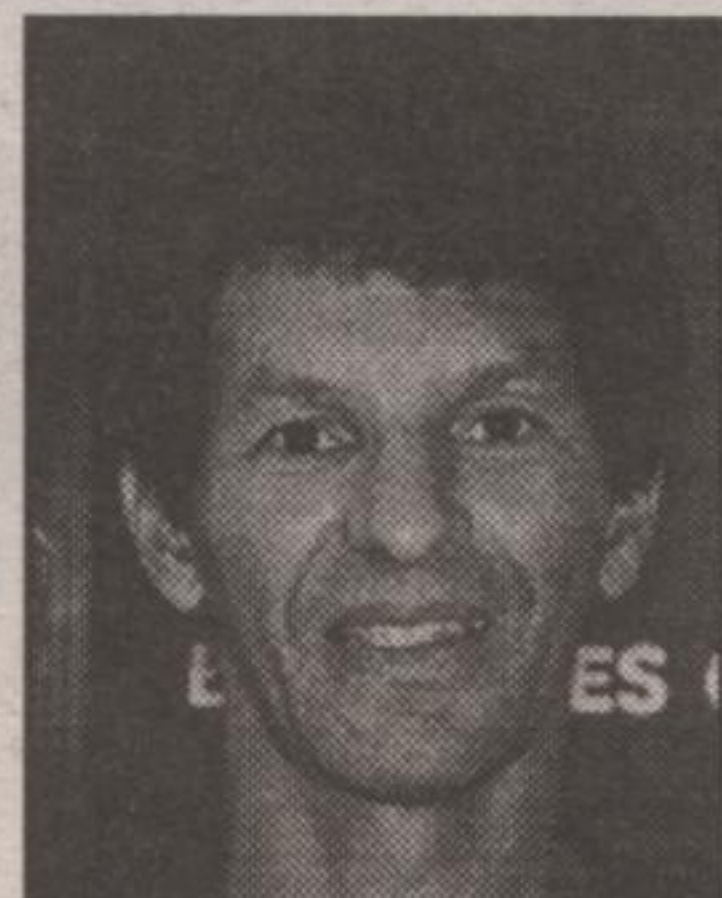
Gerald Rennie
Acton
retired

"They shouldn't park in a driving lane but if the road width allows it, parking on one side of the road would be fair to the residents in the area."



Myrna Brayley
Georgetown
retired

"No, parking shouldn't be permitted because there's a lot of seniors there. I don't think they'd be able to cross with cars parked on the road. They have a hard enough time getting across the road now."



Morty Ogden
Georgetown
cashier

"No I don't think there should be because there's enough traffic there already. It makes it worse for safety reasons. You get a lot of people walking in that area, too."



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