aid Town disabled

By FRANCES NIBLOCK The New Tanner

While the Town has come a long way in identifying, removing and preventing barriers that hurt or detract from the quality of life of disabled persons, there is "more to be done" according to Councillor Moya Johnson.

As chair of the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee, Johnson recently presented Council with the annual municipal accessibility plan, an update on what has been done and what must be done - it is a provincially mandated program – to improve the quality of life for the disabled. As well, many seniors face the same issues that disabled people do including problems with transportation, access to buildings and loss of hearing or sight.

Johnson said an audit of Town buildings and facilities showed they are not accessible to all, as they thought, and while some items will be big budget items to fix, some can be a lot more accessible with "very slight adjustments."

Johnson said the first of 11 action items in the committee report is to complete an audit of Town facilities to develop a five-year plan

to identify barriers, get cost estimates for retrofitting and list all barrier-free facilities and programs.

The 2006 accessibility plan comes with an \$80,000 price tag - \$50,000 in the proposed capital budget and \$30,000 in the operating

One of the major costs is \$45,000 to look at improving sidewalk safety, and

Johnson said a sub-committee would be formed to identify those sidewalk and intersection locations that are hazardous to disabled persons, and also to ask other disabled persons to identify problem spots.

"The committee is also looking at supporting piassist seniors and disabled

lot projects such as traffic signal retrofits designed to

municipal accessibility plan include:

•more staff training on accessibility issues

persons with audio com-

ponents... and timers that

will tell how much time

they have left before the

traffic light will change...

One of the major changes

the Town is proud of is

its decision to voluntarily

provide closed-captioning

of its Council meetings,

beginning in March, at a

Other items in the 2006

,"Johnson said.

cost of \$16,000.

•accessibility training opportunities for local businesses to meet licensing requirements

- •a special event in honour of National Access Awareness Week
- •an annual award ceremony and community open house to recognize acces-
- sibility achievements •Awards of Merit for making accessibility improvements to local businesses

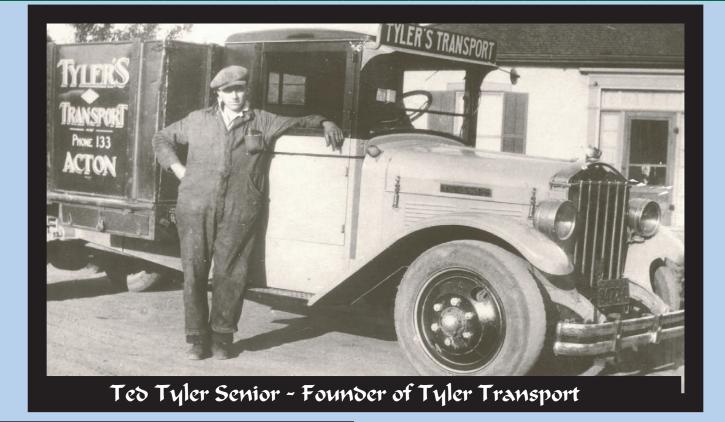
Johnson said the work of the committee would help them achieve a "better Halton Hills, that's more accessible to all."

Acton Councillor Jon Hurst said he was glad to see that there were some workshops and training planned for small businesses.

Collision at Mill/Main

No details were available at press time regarding an alleged hit and run collision between two vehicles at the corner of Mill and Main Sts. Tuesday evening about 7:15p.m.

Police and firefighters blocked off Mill St. from Willow to Main Sts. and part of Main as police investigated. One disabled vehicle was in the middle of the intersection.









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