



PIRATES

Drama on the
high seas at
E. C. Drury
—10



AT HOME

Youths will
no longer
be homeless
—LS1

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Hwy. 401 will be wider, sooner

By NORMAN NELSON

The province is promising to help ease Halton's growing pains.

And the cure, unveiled at a press conference at Halton Region headquarters on Monday, is in two forms — a promise to speed up transportation projects involving Highways 401 and 403, and a promise to help finance a major Halton planning initiative in which the main component is the so called 'big pipe' from Lake Ontario to Milton.

Transportation Minister Bill Wrye announced that the widening of Hwy. 401 to six lanes from Milton to Cambridge will be pushed ahead two years, with construction beginning in 1992 and a completion date of 1996. The total price tag for this project is about \$173 million.

The Hwy. 403 network expansion benefitted from two announcements.

First, an extension from the intersection of Hwy. 403 and the QEW near Hamilton (called the Freeman Interchange) to the intersection of Highway 5 and Highway 25, just south of Milton, will be completed two years ahead of schedule, in 1996.

Second, the province has promised to complete, by 1998, the so called 'missing link', which is the continuation of Hwy. 403 through Oakville to Trafalgar Road.

"Environmental and property approvals will be sought as soon as possible," said Mr. Wrye.

• see HIGHWAY on page 2

Maplehurst escapee had outside help, says police official

A 19-year-old Stratford man who escaped from Maplehurst Correctional Centre Monday night was aided by an outside accomplice, believe Halton Regional Police.

Police say the accomplice apparently cut the wire fence surrounding the property and then used a jack to pry open the bars on a window of the facility.

Deputy superintendent Deborah Newman said Mark Andrew Johnston is a non-violent offender serving time for a number of theft convictions.

He was scheduled to be released in January. She said escape attempts are uncommon at the facility, which holds 432 inmates, because the male offenders are all serving sentences of less than two years.

The last escape, she said, occurred about a year ago, and in that case an accomplice also helped by cutting the fence.

She said a thorough investigation will be conducted and any necessary measures implemented.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Sparky talks safety

Sparky the fire prevention dog says a lot more than bow wow when he's encouraged to speak as these youngsters discovered on Saturday. The robotic dog, operated by fire prevention officer David Krantz, was at McDonald's Restaurant for a cheque presentation ceremony. The Optimist Club pitched in the \$11,000 to purchase the dog, McDonald's sponsored a promotional flyer and Fitzgerald Insurance donated \$200 to the fire safety program.

Group home opens doors to youth

By KAREN SMITH

A Milton group home for youths, which in the past has been the subject of much controversy in the community, officially opened its doors Thursday.

The \$653,296 facility on Commercial Street, operated by Halton Adolescent Support Services (H.A.S.S.), will provide a refuge for homeless youths.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Halton North

MPP Walt Elliot, H.A.S.S. Executive Director Ugo Filice said the 10-bed home is one to be proud of.

"There have been a lot of people who put their heart and soul into this project," he added.

Until now, affordable housing in Milton has been non-existent for young people who need to escape unhealthy family situations or are trying their hands at independent living.

During the initial stages of the project, a group of residents opposed to the home being

built in their community approached Milton council with their concerns.

When it became evident the facility would get the green light with or without their approval, several residents sold their homes and moved out of the area. In an effort to make the group home welcome, HASS organized an advisory committee comprising neighbours and members of its staff.

□ For more on the group home, see story on page LS1.