

Welfare budget up \$6 million for 1992

Halton Region dealt with almost 30,000 welfare cases in 1991. Taken as a ratio, it's as if one in 10 area residents were at some point forced to collect social assistance just to get by.

In reality only one in about 100 people so far is actually on welfare in Halton, but the sum of all the monthly claims — from 2,136 in January of 1991 through to 3,081 in December — comes to 29,983 cases. That's up 72 per cent from 1990's 17,396.

The December case load, released last week, doesn't bode well for what still appear to be rapidly escalating welfare expenses. Regional social services director Bonnie Ewart acknowledged that the increase "went higher than we had planned, higher than the forecasts. It means we might run out of money sooner rather than later."

In 1991 Halton had to come up with \$740,000 in extra funding for welfare when it became clear that the original budget estimate was going to fall short of actual expenditures. That may well happen again in 1992, Ms Ewart was suggesting, and sooner than anticipated.

"Halton has also included provisions for hiring 10 new social services workers in the 1992 budget. At present regional case workers oversee 170 claimants each. That is "an unmanageable workload," Ms Ewart said. The provincial standard is 90 cases and she believes as many as 115 per person "would be realistic."

Ms Ewart has budgeted for a 25 per cent increase in claim numbers overall in 1992 from 1991. That will bring the cost of the program up from the \$20 million expended in 1991 to roughly \$26 million. Halton's share of that is expected to be about \$3.5 million.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Gone a hikin'

Crawford Lake has its Winter Experience program this Sunday that features snowshoe hikes (snow permitting), native legends in the longhouse and folk singers. Elizabeth Kurucz, historical interpreter at the local conservation area, puts down some tracks.

Man goes to jail for buying booze for minors

A Milton man was sentenced to 14 days in jail after buying liquor for a group of high school students who were later involved in a fatal car crash. Jeffrey VanZuylen, 20, of Coulson Avenue pleaded guilty in January to supplying liquor to a minor.

He was asked last June by teenagers to purchase beer and other alcoholic beverages for them from a Millside Drive store, said Halton Regional Police constable Scott Mason.

Hours later, the youths were involved in a single-vehicle crash on No. 5 Sideroad, which killed 16-year-old Carly MacNeil of Milton.

The judge also sentenced Mr. VanZuylen with one year's probation following his prison term.

Two teens plead guilty

• from CO-DRIVERS on page 1
Emerald Lake — a popular Flam-borough swimming and picnic area, she said.

Court heard the youths, before leaving on their excursion, had asked a Milton man to buy liquor for them, which he did. The teens, accompanied by a 12-pack of beer and six pre-mixed alcoholic beverages, drove to Emerald Lake at about 1 p.m.

But when it was time to come home, Ms Jago said, the youth who had borrowed her parents' car for the day, informed her friends she had too much to drink and couldn't drive.

Instead, she operated the standard transmission vehicle's clutch, gas, brake, and stick shift from the front passenger seat of the car while a sober youth, who only had her learner's permit, steered. The four other passengers, including Carly, sat in the back seat.

The teens had been driving for about 15 minutes when the passenger sharing control of the vehicle decided to pass a car full of friends travelling ahead of them on No. 5 Sideroad, east of First Line, in Milton.

Ms Jago told the court the impaired youth grabbed the wheel and pressed the gas. Immediately, the car went out of control and rolled over.

Dave Page, the driver's lawyer,

said he suspects the crown attorney will seek prison terms for the girls, a sentence he hopes his client can avoid.

"I'll be pitching to keep her out of jail," he commented. "She's already paid a high price."

Ms Jago, who said she doesn't speak to the press, would not comment.

Daycare . . .

• from PARENTS on page 1
Mr. Baird said private day care should operate like private schools — without government assistance.

In an interview after the meeting, Ms Preston argued that there's a larger percentage of "for-profit" centres trying to stay in business than there are private schools.

North Halton MPP Noel Duignan sat silent throughout throughout most of the hour-long question and answer period, but later expressed support for private daycare operators. Opposing his party's stance, he said in fairness, private daycare operators should also be granted funding to increase their employees' salaries.

Mr. Duignan also said while the legislation opposed at the meeting has already received the green light, future procedures on the issue are currently being reviewed.

Hertz

CAR & TRUCK RENTAL

SAVE
\$10⁰⁰
OFF



OUR LOWEST RATE

• DAILY • WEEKEND • WEEKLY • MONTHLY

Offer is Valid Only at Our Milton Location

Please present this coupon at time of rental (Expires May 11th/92)

LARGE SELECTION OF CARS & TRUCKS

• Including Mini Vans, Panel Trucks and Cube Trucks •

For reservations call:

878-2373

500 Steeles Ave. E.

Hertz

We go farther for you.

Hertz rents Fords and other fine cars.

Sweetheart Sale

FREE FLOATING HEART

14K Italian Gold
Sweetheart
Bracelets
\$39⁰⁰

Diamond
Stud
Earrings
from
\$59⁹⁵ to
\$99⁹⁵

Promise Rings
\$79⁰⁰ assorted

Heart
Pendants
with
Diamonds
\$99⁰⁰ &
\$199⁰⁰

THE GENUINE
GOLD
CONNECTION

44 Main St. E. (Second Floor)
(Above The Halton Credit Union)

875-2999

QUALITY FOR LESS

• Expert Jewellery Repairs

• Custom Work

• Appraisals • Sizings

HOURS:

Mon. - Wed. 9:30-6

Thurs. - Fri. 9:30-8

Sat. 9:30-3



CHEQUES
WE BUY OLD GOLD
& JEWELLERY