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HERE COMES THE BRIDE: Leanne Wilkinson models the latest in bridal fashions at GDHS, Sunday. Wilkinson was a model at Elizabeth's Fashions annual Bridal Show. Over 300 people, many future brides, attended. (Jamie Harrison photo)

Halton spared Board of Education cut

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lower taxes because some services currently paid for by the Province will be shifted to municipalities.

Trustee Ethel Gardiner said although she is taking a wait and see attitude until details of the announced changes are released, she is pleased that, "the Minister is focusing on teaching and learning and meeting the needs of students - who can argue with that?" Gardiner said Tuesday.

Gardiner said the size of the Halton Board - currently 18 trustees - could be reduced to between six and nine based on the proposed representation based on electoral population.

"I suspect that north Halton will go from our current four trustees to just one or two and that will be a tremendous responsibility, but

I think we will still attract people who are honestly interested in quality education for children as the trustee's role moves from a political one to one of advocacy," Gardiner said.

At Monday night's Town Council meeting Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson said they'll have a much clearer perspective of what the changes will mean at the end of the week, and that she is looking forward to the changes that will be announced by Queen's Park this week.

"I believe positive changes happen and as long as we have a fair, accessible, accountable and cost-effective government, then we

shouldn't complain," Serjeantson said.

On Tuesday sweeping changes to the General Welfare Assistance and family benefits programs were announced. Today (Wednesday) several announcements are expected about programs that will be transferred to the municipalities, including the cost of operating Go Transit and the cost of capital and operating costs for provincial highways, water and sewer systems and police and fire services.

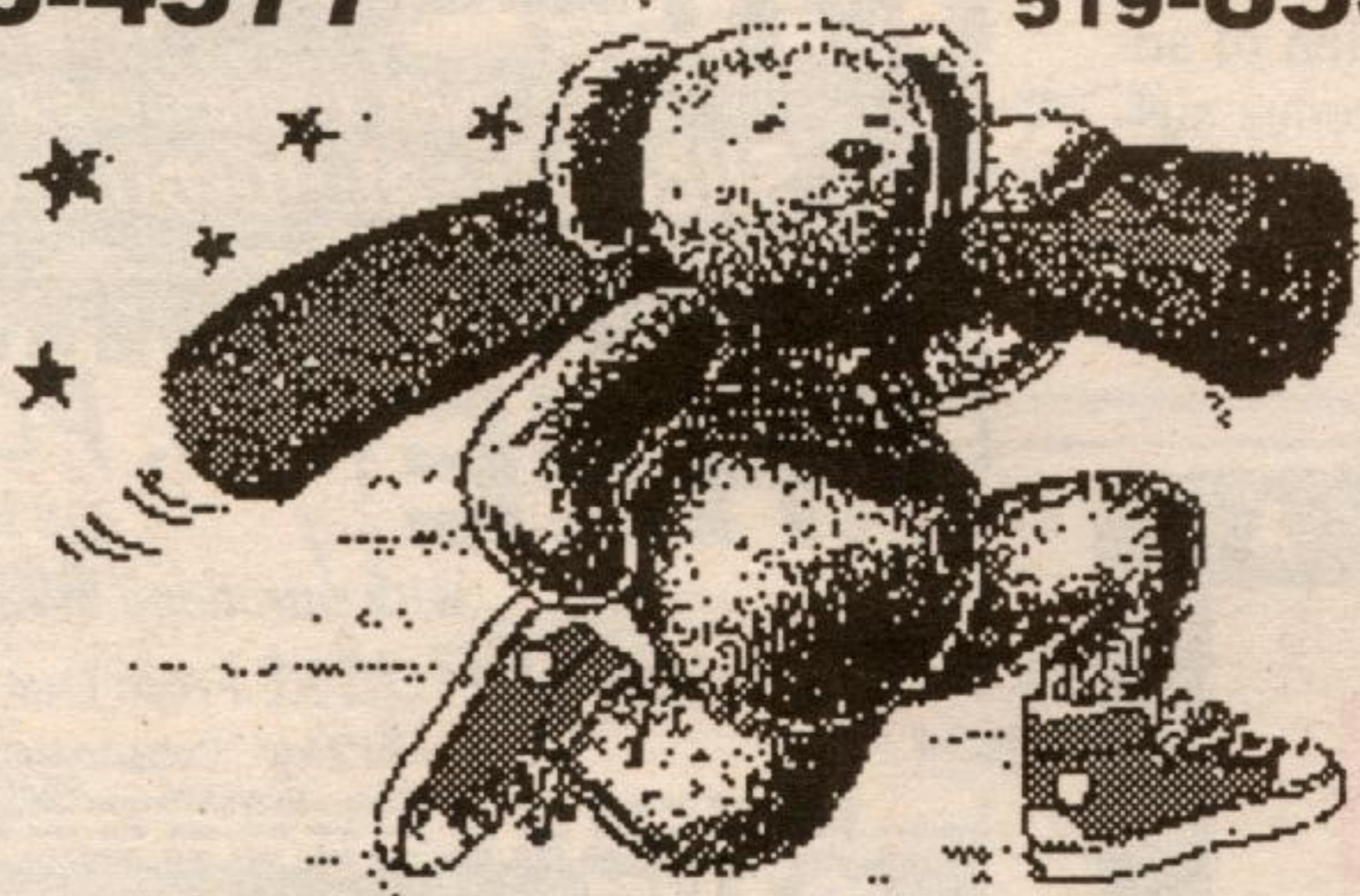
On Thursday there will be a major statement on property tax reform and on Friday expect a summary of the changes and the rationale for them.

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