

# Budget talks cause frustrations

Last week's department-by-department review of the proposed operating budget left several councillors frustrated.

At the first meeting councillors went through staff's overview and at the second meeting last week they were asked to review the cuts that staff proposed to bring the budget in at a 2 per cent mill rate increase - about \$9.75 more than last year for Town purposes for the average homeowner.

After about an hour of discussion, with no decisions made, Acton Councilor Norm Elliott had enough.

"We're at 1.72 (for a mill rate increase)," Elliott said, arguing that councillors had

## Neilson's downsizing leaves 135 jobless

From Front Page ago, to close the plant.

Burch said the decision to cease production in Georgetown came as Neilson decided to establish "strategic business alliances" with other dairies to process some of their milk.

"We have found that because of the amount of excess capacity in the market place we are able to purchase milk, through strategic partnerships, below the cost of production," Burch said, adding that the Ottawa production plant and warehouse distribution systems are unaffected by the closure, so the "transition would be seamless to our customers."

In a letter to employees on Monday, Burch said the company would be negotiating with their union to discuss the possibility of enhanced severance payments, but that the outcome of those talks depend on their ability to continue to process quality milk products. Asked what the mood on the plant floor was like Burch said, "It was shocking news - employees took the news hard but they went right back to work and we had a full production day on Monday."

Burch said it was too soon to know what would happen to the Georgetown plant. The warehouse facility is currently leased to Cadbury.

Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, who described the news as "devastating to the Georgetown economy" said company officials told her that approximately 40 of the workers to be laid off live in Halton Hills.

—Niblock

to decide if they could live with that increase.

"I'm frustrated totally. We've spent an hour and haven't seen a single recommendation for a cut or an increase. Let's talk about real things."

During a break in the debate Councillors Ron Chatten complained that up until this point they had not had any input into the budget proc-

ess. "I think we should be involved in the preparing of the budgets by the departments beginning in the fall, beginning with priorities that we have," Chatten said.

"And when the budgets come, they need to be put in a simple form that elected officials can understand. We're not accountants," Chatten said, noting that af-

ter this year's budget debates he would suggest a different format for next year.

Town Administrator Ray King admitted it may be frustrating but added that somewhere in the process councillors had to examine the cuts suggested by staff to get to a 2 per cent increase so they understood what was being recommended by staff.

—Niblock



**LION IN WINTER:** Members of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Georgetown Lions Club came together Tuesday to honour the work done by the Lions in raising funds and awareness on behalf of the CNIB. From left, Roger Beck (CNIB member), Josie Quinn (coordinator of volunteers, CNIB), Tom Fletcher (Chair of Lions' Grey Cup Committee — CNIB fund-raiser), and Vic Bristow (Chair of Sight and Hearing Committee). (Jamie Harrison photo)

## YOUNG'S PHARMACY & HOMECARE AND MEDICAL CENTRE PHARMACY

present their Healthcare Clinic on:

**Angina Understanding and Management**  
**Thursday, March 6, 1997**  
**Young's Pharmacy and Homecare Seminar Room**

This is the ninth in a series of free health care clinics presented by Young's Pharmacy & Homecare and Medical Centre Pharmacy pharmacists.

- Evening format: - Program 7:30 - 9:30 PM  
 - Lecture information session  
 - Refreshments  
 - Question and answer period

Call 877-2711 for information and registration.  
 Please register early to confirm your seat.

Next Clinics: Hypertension (high blood pressure) - April 3, 1997  
 Palliative Care - May 7, 1997



## More Ways to *save* at HALTON HILLS IGA

Shop With Confidence

LOCALLY GROWN  
**McINTOSH APPLES** **1.49**  
3 L.B. BAG  
 APPLE CRISP FOR SUNDAY DESSERT

FRESH - PRODUCT OF USA  
**BROCCOLI** **99¢**  
EA.  
 GREAT WITH CHEESE

FRESH  
**MUSHROOMS** **1.99**  
LB. 4.39 KG.  
 HOMEMADE MUSHROOM SOUP

**SAVE 50¢** on purchase of **COKE, SPRITE AND CANADA DRY** Reg. or Diet. 2 Lt. Bottle  
**99¢** + tax with coupon  
 \$1.49 + tax without coupon

**SAVE 50¢** on purchase of **COKE, SPRITE AND CANADA DRY** Reg. or Diet. 2 Lt. Bottle  
**99¢** + tax with coupon  
 \$1.49 + tax without coupon

**SAVE 50¢** on purchase of **DEMPSTER'S MULTI-GRAIN BREADS - Ass't. Varieties** 675 gr. loaf  
**99¢** with coupon  
 \$1.49 without coupon

**SAVE 50¢** on purchase of **DEMPSTER'S MULTI-GRAIN BREADS - Ass't. Varieties** 675 gr. loaf  
**99¢** with coupon  
 \$1.49 without coupon

**SAVE 50¢** on purchase of **MEADOWGOLD ICE CREAM - Ass't. Varieties** 2 Lt. Carton  
**1.49** with coupon  
 \$1.99 without coupon

**SAVE 50¢** on purchase of **MEADOWGOLD ICE CREAM - Ass't. Varieties** 2 Lt. Carton  
**1.49** with coupon  
 \$1.99 without coupon

**SAVE 50¢ ANY OUR COMPLIMENTS ITEM**  
 WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS  
 COMPLIMENTS OF... HALTON HILLS IGA Hometown Proud!

Map showing location at 158 Guelph St. Georgetown. Includes store hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 9 pm Sat. 8 am - 7 pm Sun. 9 am - 6 pm. Thank You For Shopping IGA.