



SCOTT MITCHELL, 71 BOWER AVENUE, caught his first "fish" of the year on April 26, in School Creek. Scott's catch is a 15 1/4-inch long sucker which he caught near the hydro building. With Scott, who is holding his catch, are his younger brother Steven on the right and friend Brent Larsen, of Mill Street East, on the left. The sucker was only out of the water for this picture. Scott raced to the creek to plop the catch back. Scott has been fishing since the first week of April. He used a rod, hook and worm.

## Budget still up by 10 per cent

Faced with large tax increases in some parts of the region, Halton Region's Administration Committee agonized for more than six hours Wednesday and chopped the budget by \$958,000.

But even if those reductions are approved by Council today, the budget will still be up over last year by 20.2 per cent. If the cuts are approved the budget will stand at \$32,519,409.

Halton Regional Chairman Ric Morrow told the committee the budget was pared as far as it could be, without reducing service and urged committee members to bite the bullet and approve the budget as it stood.

But the chairman's "bite the bullet" proposition proved unpalatable for Oakville and Burlington representatives. Burlington Mayor Mary Munro searched desperately for ways to reduce the impact of the budget on her community.

Burlington will be the hardest hit in the regional budget this year. If the cuts proposed last week are not approved, Burlington ratepayers face increases for regional purposes of 44 per cent in the urban area and 23.1 per cent in the rural part of the city.

Oakville ratepayers find themselves in the healthiest position with increases of 6.9 to 16.6 per cent in the rural and urban parts of the town respectively.

Unless the proposed cuts are supported by council, Halton Hills and Milton ratepayers will face wide-ranging increases in both towns.

In Halton Hills there are six different rates. They are rural Acton, 21 per cent; rural Esqueping 38.4 per cent; rural Georgetown 22.1 per cent; rural Oakville 20.1 per cent; urban Georgetown at one per cent and urban Acton at 3.2 per cent.

In Milton there are also six rates: rural Milton, one per cent; rural Nassagaweya 2.7

per cent; rural Esqueping 34.2 per cent; rural Burlington 4.8 per cent and urban Milton 4.7 per cent.

If the budget is approved without the recommended cuts Burlington will face a 5.21 mill increase, Halton Hills 2.86 increase, Milton 2.63 and Oakville .84 per cent.

If the cuts are approved it would lower the mill rates by about a mill and a half across the region.

The committee recommended taking \$400,000 from the reserve for working capital and another \$200,000 earmarked for that fund this year, using it to reduce the mill rate.

Chairman Morrow was harsh in his criticism of this recommendation, terming it "the most narrow-minded thing I have seen in years of municipal government."

Morrow said it is wrong to use those funds to offset the mill rate and argued it was

that very kind of thing that led New York City down the path to bankruptcy.

Treasurer Don Farmer said it would cost the region another \$10,000 in short term borrowing if it did not allow for a reserve.

He warned against taking the \$400,000 out, but felt it wise to use the \$200,000 to lower the mill rate.

Cuts saw \$30,000 lopped off the employee pension fund, \$118,000 deleted from planning and public works studies and \$180,000 that will be offset by a contribution from Burlington capital levies.

A further \$30,000 was deleted from the estimates when the committee recommended that no new staff be allowed in the public works department.

The staff cuts were made in spite of protests from Director of Public Works Bob Moore. He said the four extra people were essential

## Semi approved at Knox—Park

A semi-detached house on a lot at Park and Knox Avenues, Acton, was approved by Halton Hills planning board, but owner Fred Bennett will have to go to committee of adjustment for a minor variance.

Donald Seebach, solicitor representing Mr. Bennett, said the semi-detached house would face on Park Street. He said the houses on Knox Avenue are single family homes, but there are semi-detached on Main Street. He pointed out the zoning permits semi-detached or triplexes.

He said if the house fronted on Knox it would comply with

the setbacks required, but since this is a corner lot he felt the rear yard requirements should be applied to the side yard.

Councillor Les Dudy said the people in the area do not object, and said the entrance to the house on Park Avenue was preferable to being on Knox since it would be close to the park entrance. He pointed out this lot has been vacant and overgrown with weeds for some time.

Mr. Bennett said one area resident was happy to have the house turned facing on Park Avenue, since her view of the park would not be obstructed.

## Police Week invites

Citizens can learn to help police by going to a precinct during police week, May 15-21, according to Halton police commission.

Topping off the week's activities will be the presentation of civilian citations on May 17 at 8 p.m. in Halton Hills town hall on Trafalgar Road. Presentations are open to the public.

Police are inviting citizens

to accompany them during patrols in the ride-along program. A release form must be signed by anyone taking this ride. The ride-along program is week long, in all three shifts.

Souvenir thumb printing cards will be given at displays in the following police offices: Acton, May 16 from 1:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; Georgetown May 17 and 18 between 1:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.;



KATHY MCGILLIVRAY takes money from wee Bernadette Rowsell at the Cancer Society's rummage sale Saturday afternoon. Items sold very quickly. The event was held in St. Joseph's hall.

## Two fires on weekend

Acton fire chief Mick Holmes blames children for the two grass fires on the weekend.

The first fire was on Saturday at 29 Church St. by the feed mill, the chief says. The second fire was on Poplar Ave. just over the Crescent

bridge. Mr. Holmes said there was no damage in either fire, and both were minor.

The chief noted that grass fire season is, basically over now that all the foliage has turned green and not as dry as during the past few weeks.

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## 326 enumerators . . .

(Continued from Page 1) will be made from May 23 to May 28 and offices will be located in all sections of the riding. The headquarters is at Milton Curling Club at 65 Millside Dr., Milton.

All three candidates are required to present lists of 100 people who are on the voting list and are supporting them by 11 a.m. May 26.

A special training session for poll clerks will be held to ensure smooth operation on election day.

Advance polls will be held June 4 and June 6. The advance polls will be at places to be named later.

Mr. Coulter said there will be some changes in the polling place locations this year.

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## Bite bullet

Halton Regional Council will be asked to pass a \$32,519,000 operating budget, but if statements and debates to date are any indication the budget is in for a rough ride.

Regional Chairman Ric Morrow was upset after the Administration Committee chopped \$600,000 from the reserve for working capital to help offset the mill rate. He argued the reserve fund should not be lowered. He claimed the move was poor financial planning and if continued would put into question the financial viability of the region.

Morrow told the committee that the action could be disastrous for the region. He said it was the same sort of thing that led New York City and other American cities toward bankruptcy and economic chaos.

The impact on the budget is heavier on Burlington than anywhere else because of the cost of expanding sewage and water canalization projects in Burlington.

Some rural areas in north Halton also face big increases.