

## Sewer surcharge to continue

Halton's controversial sewer surcharge system will likely continue following only token opposition expressed recently.

Burlington Councillor Walter Mulkeewich raised the only note of dissent when members of the administration and finance committee approved a package of recommendations laying out future policies for the Region's water and sewer systems.

The surcharge system allows the Region to bill homeowners directly for water and sewer services, rather than paying for the systems through the regular mill rate.

When a recommendation to continue that system was presented to committee members, Mulkeewich raised the only note of opposition to it, suggesting the costs of water and sewer plants should be collected through property taxes, but the costs of operating the system should be collected through the "user pay" method.

"The average resident would be very much in favor of something like that," he told committee members.

Burlington Councillor Joan Little, however, argued against the suggestion.

"We've made a

commitment to this system and I'd hate to get back to the system where we were hiding things in the mill rate," she said.

"Our charges for this have to be right up front," she added.

Later, Mulkeewich unsuccessfully urged

that a study into the rates charged industrial, commercial and residential customers, planned for 1984, be done in 1983.

"The homeowner has been paying an unfair share of this cost for too long now," he said.

Regional staff replied that the study could not be done in time for the 1983 rate setting deadline because of the depth required to make a balanced decision.

Committee members also voted to continue the declining rate charged commercial customers through to the end of 1983, as planned, to undertake a costing study into charges for other services performed by the water and sewer systems, to study increasing the rental rate municipalities pay for fire hydrants and to install water meters in all homes where they are possible.



### Meanderings

by Mabel Barkman

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Now that the peach season is here, this is an easy and tasty marmalade to make.

First, slice thinly and quarter one orange and a half a lemon. Barely cover with water and simmer until tender (it will look transparent). Add five cups of peach pulp and boil a few minutes. Add three-quarters of a cup of sugar for each cup of peaches. Boil until fairly thick and stir frequently so that it won't stick. Add cut up maraschino cherries and boil another two minutes.

Put in sterilized jars and add two thin layers of wax or do not completely fill the containers, cover and freeze.

### Election...

(Continued from page B2)

on October 30 advising people where they vote and their poll number.

Advance polls for those unable to vote on November 8 will run from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Trinity United Church

in Acton; the Halton Hills treasury building in downtown Georgetown; and at the Halton Hills offices on Trafalgar Rd.

Polls on election day will be open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Region may require 1983 mill rate increases

By Steve Arnold

If Halton Region does not expand its programs and services in 1983, it will still need a mill rate increase of more than 10 per cent.

Anything less than that, administration and finance committee members were told, would mean a cut in the Region's total budget.

Those grim facts were laid out in a report prepared by Dennis Perlin, chief administrative officer, and former Regional

treasurer Gerry Lawson, dealing with future directions for Halton's budgeting process.

In 1982, the Region raised \$20.1 million in taxes as part of a total operating budget of \$50.5 million. If those programs are to continue in 1983, then \$22.8 million (an increase of 10.5 per cent in the mill rate) will have to be raised through taxes.

The report also noted that if the mill rate increase was kept to six per cent, then \$227,000

would have to be trimmed from the total budget. If the increase was held to eight per cent, then only \$513,000 would have to be cut.

Perlin noted all of those figures were based on assumptions about the growth of the Region's assessment base, increases in Provincial grants and other forms of revenue, and on being able to control increases in some parts of the budget, such as staff salaries.

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