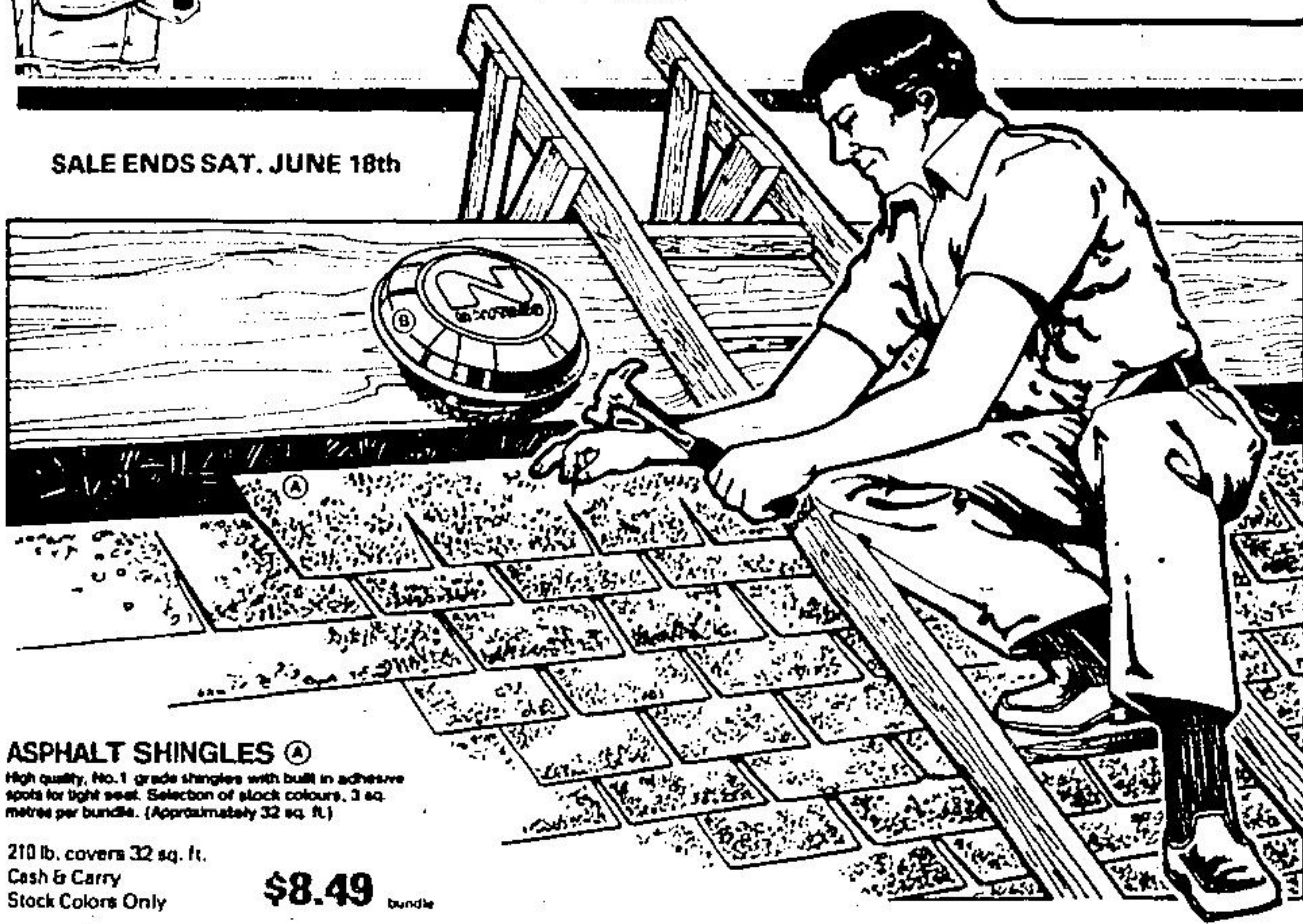




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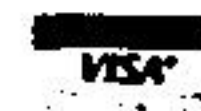
Available in some transparent and solid colours. Olympic Stain penetrates to give wood lasting protection against cracking, peeling or blistering.

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## Improvements at ski area are postponed

By LINDA KIRBY  
Staff Writer

There will be no major capital improvements at Glen Eden Ski Area this year, the result of a revised budget for the coming 1983/84 season.

The new figures, described as a "no frills" budget by Murray Stephen, general manager of the Halton Region Conservation Authority was presented to the entire Authority last Wednesday.

The revised revenue projections are now set at \$702,000, a reduction of \$111,500 over a previous budget submitted last month.

A disastrous ski season that saw only 67 days of skiing at the local hills, and resulted in an operating deficit, is blamed for the elimination of several planned improvements, as well as a number of maintenance projects.

Crossed off the list of planned projects are \$7,200 worth of chalet furniture, \$8,200 worth of work on the twister chairlift, and expansion of the downhill racing facilities (\$6,000).

Approximately \$10,000 worth of maintenance projects have also been trimmed from the original budget submission. This included work on various lifts.

Members of the Conservation Areas-Community Relations Advisory Board have agreed to proceed with repairs to the chalet building and foundation estimated at \$20,000.

### First Loss

Earlier, there had been some discussion as to whether or not the repairs could be delayed for another year, owing to the large deficit the Authority incurred over the past season.

For the first time in several years, Glen Eden failed to produce a profit and instead, recorded a \$4,000 operating deficit.

Major expenditures for capital projects and maintenance add up to approximately \$163,600 (which includes a \$37,000 deficit from last year), so the final deficit is more than \$167,600.

The chalet repairs, however, are necessary according to Sandy Bell, manager of the Conservation Areas Division and if delayed further, would only cost the Authority more money later.

The new budget is based upon an estimated 80 skiing days as opposed to 90 days in the original budget.

Expenditures for staff expenses, training and marketing efforts have also been reduced.

"The budget includes everything I feel is necessary," said Mr. Bell.

"Some of those items cut from the budget would have improved the appearance and made working conditions easier for staff," he said, adding only absolutely necessary items have been kept.

Burlington member George White voiced concern over the maintenance costs and worry over the current large debt.

"When are we going to make up the \$167,000," he questioned.

According to Murray Stephen, general manager for the Authority, a bit of luck and two good seasons might see the deficit wiped.

"We have invested over \$400,000 in improvements in the last few years and spent a minimum of \$50,000 on capital improvements every year and been able to break even.

"What you have before you is what we required to prepare the hill for the coming season. There are no frills. It is as good as we can realistically present," he said.

"Two good seasons from this point onwards and we can pay off the \$167,000."