



LOOK WHAT I GOT!

"See what Santa gave me." Four-year-old Elaine Warbeck, holds up a Santa puppet she received as a present at the Montessori School Christmas party last week.

CAS funds approved

Regional council has approved a \$124,772 supplementary Children's Aid Society budget despite a call by one member for tighter budget control.

"It bothers me, if they've got a budget, how can they come to us with a request for an additional \$125,000 at the end of the year," Halton Hills Coun. Ric Morrow said.

"It's a waste of our time setting budgets in the spring," he said. "We don't have good control over this budget."

Approval has been given to the budget addition by the ministry of community and social services which will absorb 80 per cent leaving the region to pay only \$23,350.

Oakville Coun. Carl Eriksen said the society can't turn away a child under the Child Welfare Act and maintained that the budget for the CAS is not really under control of either the region or the ministry.

Executive director Ron Coupland said the increased budget is reflected by the "social phenomenon" of more teen-aged children between 11 and 15 years of age being taken in by the society, and by more children in institutional care.

"We have had difficulty keeping foster homes," he said adding that Halton CAS had planned to have only three children in institutional care at the beginning of the year. "We now have 15 at a cost of between \$28 and \$40 a day."

A judge may charge the cost of child's care to the municipality which must then pay 100 per cent, but under the care of the CAS the municipality would only pay 20 per cent with a ministry budget approval.

Mr. Eriksen said the additional funds also reflect the hiring of an additional staff

Two area men appointed

Georgetown lawyer Dick Howitt and Acton school principal Gary Dawkins were among a number of persons appointed by the Halton board of education to positions Thursday.

Mr. Howitt who has resigned his seat as a regional councillor, was appointed to a three year term as an unpaid member of the Halton Hills Library board.

Mr. Dawkins was moved from principal of M. Z. Bennett school to principal of Acton middle school which will open the next school year in conjunction with Acton's new high school, currently under construction.

Wintario grant

The Halton-Peel Highland Games Association has received a Wintario grant of \$1,294 to defray the cost of transportation and professional fees for judges and to help defray the cost of transporting of bands to the event.

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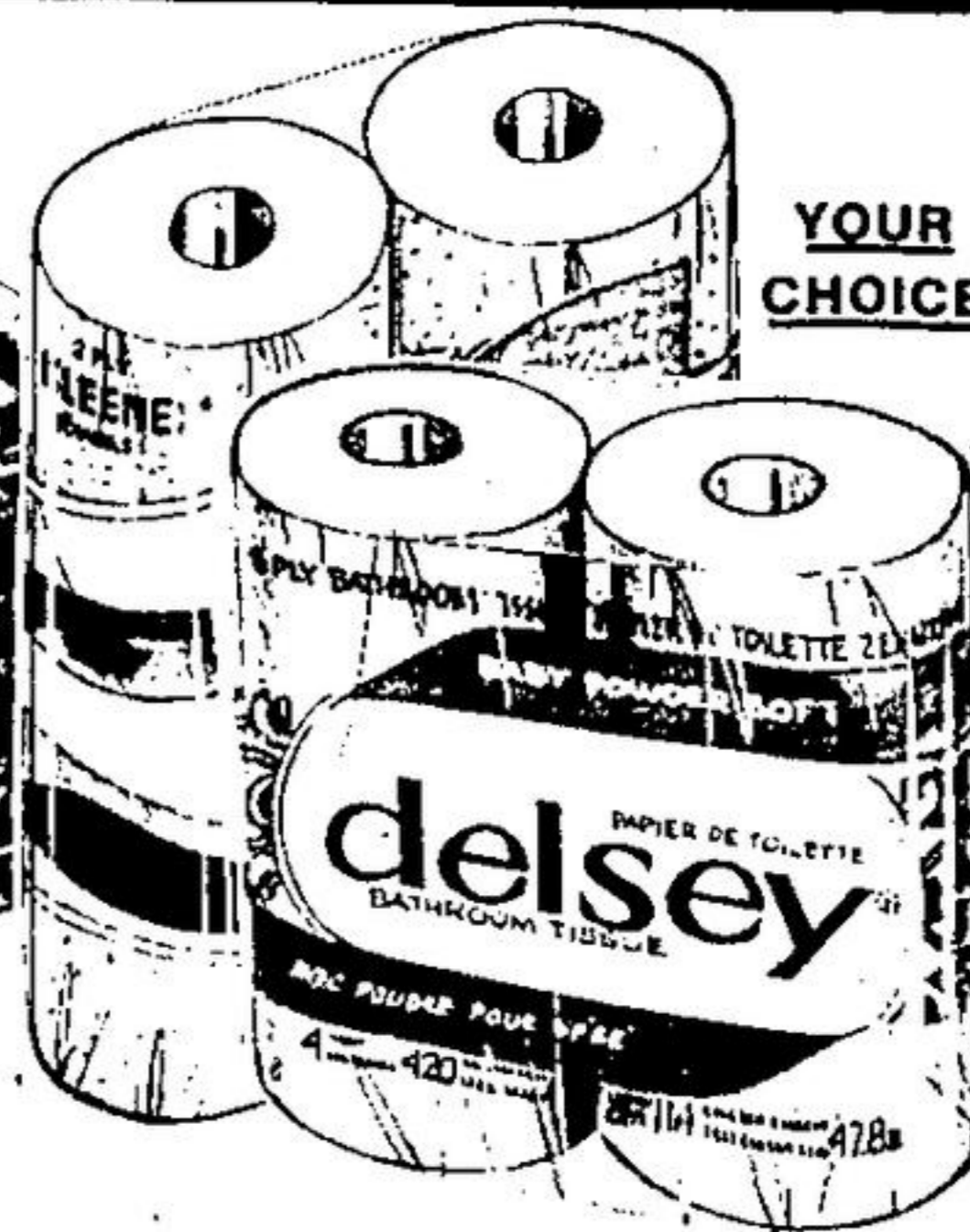
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