

# the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

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## Adapting to change

A school board study shows that students are more adaptable to change than their parents.

The Halton Board of Education recently completed a survey to see how students were adjusting to school closings. Students transferred from Speyside and Howard Wrigglesworth Public Schools to other schools were interviewed.

According to the survey, 96 per cent of parents and children affected by the school closings are happy with their new school. The results also show that, of Grade 4 and Grade 5 students, 94 per cent like their new principal.

This makes us wonder what the consolidation fight was all about.

Parents argued about the special nature of their schools, the excellent teacher-student relationships, busing concerns and a perceived loss of property values.

The protest was an adult protest, arguing in the best interests of children. However, no one asked the students what they felt about their school closing.

By the time children graduate from high school, they've attended many different schools - they're used to adapting to new environments, finding it easier than adults.

But there is also the other side to consider. We've had one parent phone The Herald to dispute these figures from a study carried out by the Board. He's right. It's hardly an independent study.

As well, the answers about busing reveal that not all children in Grades 1-3 like riding a bus to school. Only 61 per cent were happy about the bus ride.

But the transition was handled fairly and efficiently. Even consolidation opponent Tom Politi admits the school board treated the transferred children with care and consideration.

At the very least, by taking the effort to interview the displaced children, the school board shows it cares about its students.

## YES is working

After more than a year in operation, the jury is out, the verdict is known: YES is working.

YES is an acronym for Youth Employment Service, initiated by the YMCA in north Halton to provide job opportunities for teens and youth adults.

By all measurable methods, the youth service is helping our young residents find permanent, meaningful work. Those who aspire to loftier careers are counselled to go back to school.

There's been an increase of clients, totalling 161 for the period June to November, 1986. That is a 20 per cent increase compared to the same period in 1985.

The figure for those able to find employment increased by 53 per cent. A total of 99 of YES clients found jobs.

There was a 100 per cent increase in the number of clients who returned to school. This is encouraging news; it shows many of our youth are discovering that to attain some of their career goals, education is the key.

Since YES in north Halton has been affiliated with the provincial government's Futures program, there's been a double-barrelled offensive leveled at combating youth unemployment.

Futures offers counselling and on-the-job training for young people, with the government footing the bill. The YES program offers job search skills training, job placement and follow-up support.

The two programs give youth, who are sometimes looking for their first job, a fighting chance. More support from businesses and the community would make the program even more effective.

YES receives some funding on a matched basis. This means the more volunteer dollars it raises, the more our government will contribute on a 50-50 basis.

If you believe in our youth; if you believe in the YES program, consider supporting the youth service with a financial donation.

## Not all wine, roses



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

Not everything came up wine and roses in Halton Hills during 1986. We certainly experienced enough high points that made us proud to call ourselves citizens of the 'Hills'.

Nevertheless, there are sober remembrances of a year that packed into it hard times for some families, businesses, service clubs, artists, and many, many others.

If you were in need of a home in Halton Hills, costs escalated at a greater rate than in other parts of Ontario outside of Toronto. The vacancy rate was low and rents were expensive - they still are.

Studies continue to show there is a need in Halton Hills for an emergency shelter and more low cost housing. It's reaching crisis proportions.

Let's hope bank robberies are not a growing trend, but rather an isolated series of events. Last year, several banks were victimized by robbers, even a bakery thief was caught trying to steal some "dough".

In Acton, there have been gloomy days, but also cause to look forward to the future with optimism. The town lost the Beardmore tannery, and with it, more than 300 jobs. But many workers have found new jobs and Acton hasn't turned into a "ghost" town.

Some improvements have been made in helping Acton work towards more development, more water and a VIA stop. It's a slow process, but the town isn't being ignored by local politicians who are doing their best

to lobby at town council, the Region and Otto Jelinek's office.

From a heritage standpoint, Norval citizens will probably lose their one-lane bridge after it was decided it would cost too much to restore the old structure.

Disappointment was certainly etched in the faces of Stewarttown Public School students in 1986 after they found out their trip to Washington was cancelled. Ronald Reagan had just ordered the bombing of strategic areas in Libya.

Parents, teachers and school officials felt some concern for the safety of Canadian visitors in the U.S. capital.

Last year was a bad year for anyone who dislikes the rain. Usually rain is a blessing for farmers, but the fall downpours prevented many from harvesting what could have been a bumper crop.

In the spring, the Optimists service club lost around \$4,000 in potential revenue from its annual Victoria Day celebration called Bang-O-Rama. All the events were cancelled, except the fireworks, which were postponed.

Residents in Halton Hills survived the Doctors' strike in Ontario with little inconvenience. Doctors here were perhaps more vocal, but less militant than in the Toronto area.

Two local MDs went to the effort to hold a public forum to air their views and let others speak out and ask questions. The crisis of health care and government administration of doctors, health plans and prescription drugs is an issue that's sure to linger on in 1987.

There were moments in 1986 we might have wanted to forget. But each incident was a learning experience. We survived the pain and were stronger for it. After all, you can't see any rainbows until you've seen the rain.

## Focus on a blatant patronage job

Steven Walter, who resigned as citizenship court judge after making some highly inappropriate comments to people appearing before him, deserves credit for one thing. He has focused attention on one of the most blatant patronage pools in the country.

Who knows, it might conceivably lead to the elimination of these judges.

Even Prime Minister Mulroney, not a sworn enemy of patronage, says the present concept of citizenship court judges "has been a bit of a boondoggle." There is no doubt that many of the judges, by a curious coincidence, seem to lean toward the political philosophy of the government which appointed them.

Over the years, certain judges of dubious qualification have been known to make some rather peculiar comments to citizenship applicants appearing before them. And since many of these applicants are probably nervous and concerned about their status, it's likely that some of the inappropriate comments go unreported.

That was not true in the case of Stephen Walter. Among other things, he was alleged to have refer-

red to India's Ghandi family as a bunch of "Communist bastards". He also apparently took some unkind cuts at the Liberals and New Democrats. He reportedly said the Canadian Human Rights Commission was made up of a "bunch of left wingers".

All in all, not the remarks new Canadians might expect from a citizenship judge.



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

The problem is not new. Under Liberal governments, certain judges were known to expose their bias toward their job creators. Others were known to have made it somewhat difficult for applicants to become Canadians. Among other things, the applicants are quizzed about their knowledge of Canada - often with questions that would stump native-born Canadians.

"Who is the Liberal leader in Alberta," was one question asked during an Ontario hearing.

The judges draw salaries of between \$42,000 and \$50,500 a year for a job that has no discernible stress factor. And providing the government that appoints them does not change, there is reasonable security.

There are usually about 36 judges at any given time.

And because they have considerable power over those who are in a rather vulnerable position, it's not difficult to see how abuses could occur. Neither is it difficult to understand why most applicants would want to avoid the hassle of complaining.

REVIEW OVERDUE

Now, finally, Secretary of State David Crombie is going to review the whole process. And it might well be that he will decide the system should be scrapped.

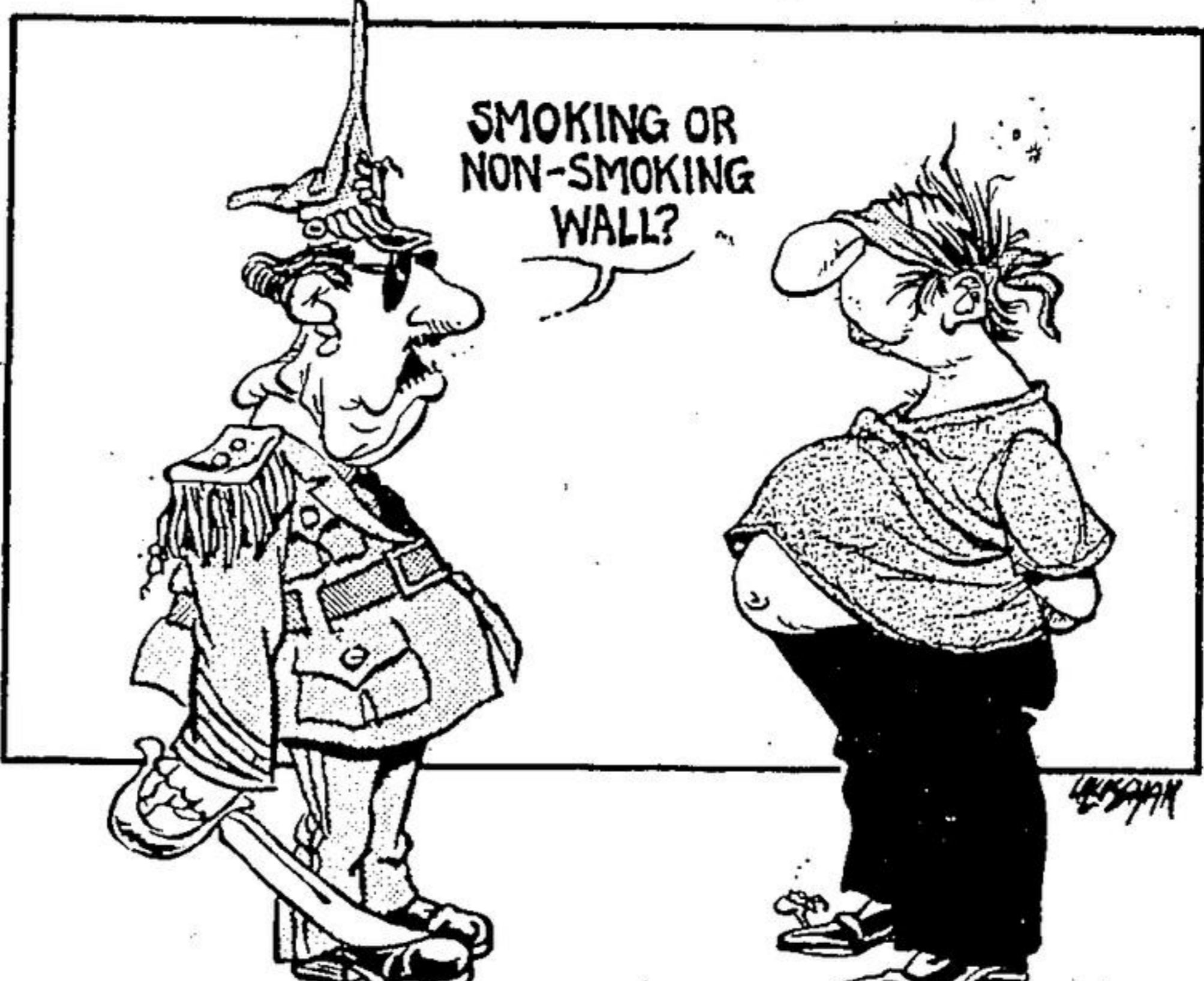
Offhand, apart from the government having another outlet for patronage appointments, there are few compelling reasons to have such "courts". Certainly, the routine chore of questioning applicants could easily be handled by public servants. The hearings last only a

couple of minutes in most cases and very little is learned about applicants that hasn't been revealed through the immigration department.

And because the political leanings of these so-called "judges" seems to be the main criteria in their selection, it's probable there will always be a few who are better suited to other occupations. In the case of Mr. Walter, the prime minister referred to him as "a courageous Hungarian patriot who did an enormous amount to instill pride in his country..."

But once someone came forward with complaints about his comments - and the fact he sold books to applicants - several others were quick to add further allegations against him. It's clear he wasn't the right person for the job, and Mr. Mulroney readily acknowledged that his resignation was "appropriate".

If the job of interviewing prospective Canadians were given to a public servant we would eliminate this unnecessary "court" atmosphere, probably make everyone concerned far more comfortable, and not tarnish the image of legitimate judges. It would be cheaper, too.



## Citizens' forum

### Rural people want service

Dear Sir,

The Report of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Government Operations in regard to the Canada Post Corporation's five-year plan for 1986-87 to 1990-91 called for the closure, amalgamation and franchising of rural post offices.

The Committee Report, which was presented to the House on Dec. 15, 1986, recommended a few changes and emphasized some aspects of the Plan. One point that the Committee enlarged upon was the privatization of certain rural post offices. While the Committee's observations about the human resource issues are appreciated, I must stress that I consider the privatization of these operations to be most illogical.

If, by suggesting the post offices in certain rural communities be turned over to private operators, the Corporation is saying that a profit can be made from them, why then is the Corporation, which needs money, giving them up? If they are not profitable, what guarantee do the citizens of these communities have that their postal service will continue in the future?

What will happen to the Government representation in these communities, to its ability to assist citizens with the completion of Government forms such as U.I.C., gasoline tax rebate, income tax, birth certificates, access to information, etc.?

The post offices in the rural areas are the perfect example of what the motto of Canada Post means, "Service to the People". Service is exactly what the people in rural Canada want, and that is what the Government should ensure they get.

The Rural Operations Group of Canada Post Corporation is supported by individuals mailing in smaller communities, and through a variety of services such as general delivery, lock box and rural route delivery. Canada Post recognizes that the Rural Operations Group is a service-oriented body, in stating

that they do not generate sufficient revenue. It is our view that the quality of service to rural residents should be maintained even at a net cost to Canada Post.

To this end we solicit your support in writing to your Federal member stating that your Post Office be saved, therefore ensuring that postal service to your community remain as it is today.

R.W. Starkey  
Prescott,  
Ontario, K0E 1E0

Cotton on behalf of the staff and students at Georgetown District High School. They collected a generous amount of money and purchased many new toys and items suitable especially for the teenagers on our Christmas list. Many thanks to them and to all the other groups and individuals who donated money or toys. A special thank you as well goes to our drop-off centres (for toys), Arthur F. Johnson and Associates (Finn Paulstrup), The Herald and the Post Office.

Joanne Stiles,  
Kinette Club of Georgetown

### A need for day of rest

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was filed with The Herald for publication.

Premier of Ontario,  
Dear Sir,  
Thousands of stores in Ontario are open 7 days a week.

How come?  
Aren't these people in need of a pause day, a day of rest, as publicly advocated by your government?

Promulgate immediately that no store in Ontario shall be open 7 days a week.

Yours truly,  
Joe Hurst

### Toy drive successful

Dear Sir,

The Kinette Club of Georgetown has completed another successful Toy Drive thanks to the generosity of local citizens and businesses. The Kinettes, working in conjunction with the Good Neighbor Service fill-ed bags with toys, books, games, etc. for 122 area children and teenagers. Special thanks must go to Mr. Neil

### New beginning for readers

Dear Sir,

The end of another year and the beginning of a new one is a time of remembering past years - the joys, disappointments and sorrows - but it is also a time of looking ahead because if the past year has been difficult, you wonder if the year ahead will be the same.

The Living Bible tells us when we become a Christian we become a brand new person inside (2 Cor. 5:17). We are not the same any more. A new life has begun within our being, so we can look forward to the new year knowing that there is a big God to help us.

Born-again Christians believe the promises of the Bible of divine love and care in every circumstance of life. If we ask Jesus to help us, we can make a new beginning and become a new person on the inside, regardless of our age.

The year ahead is bright knowing Jesus is at the beginning of the new year and at the end of it. We need never be alone.

Yours truly,  
Christine Williamson,  
Brampton



### 30 years ago

Fred Baker married Albert Snippe at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Brampton. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Snippe of Geleen, Netherlands, and the bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baker of Glen Williams.

Ernest Forgrave, a Georgetown representative on the north Halton high school district board, was named chairman of the school board. He succeeds Ross Carbert of Nassawaveya.

Jack Harlow of 19 Union St. is Georgetown's new fire chief. He succeeds William Hyde, fire chief for the last five years. The new deputy chief is Andy Ritchie.

The Georgetown Raiders took first place with a victory over the Orillia Pontiacs in Senior "B" play. Dave Irons had the winning goal.

### 15 years ago

Adriana Ricciuto was the first baby born at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital this year. She was born at 3:03 p.m., Jan. 1 and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Ricciuto of 86 Marilyn Cres.

A surprise party was held for Mr. and Mrs. Doug Sargent, who celebrated their 25th anniversary. The party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. "Pud" Walker.

Bruce Nixon was elected president of the Halton-Peel Jersey Club. Elections were at Master Feed Research Farm in Georgetown.

### 10 years ago

Halton Hills' first baby for 1977 is Michael Ryan Sarson, born at 7:40 a.m. Jan. 3. He is the son of Ray and Andrea Sarson of Bard Lane in Georgetown and was born at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hewitt of 6 John St. in Acton greeted the new baby in Guelph's General Hospital. Dale Douglas was born Jan. 1 at 1:05 a.m.

Dick Howitt became one of 99 Ontario lawyers appointed to the Queen's Council. There are 10,700 lawyers in Ontario, of which less than one per cent have qualified for this honor, he said.

The Georgetown Memorial Arena was officially re-opened. Ernie Sykes, chairman of the arena Winterario grant fundraising committee, was the master of ceremonies for the evening.

### 5 years ago

The first baby born in Halton Hills this year is Ashleigh Louise Gault, who arrived Jan. 2 at 10:45 a.m. She is the daughter of Vicky Gault. She and her husband now live in Mississauga.

A poor Canadian economy is one of the reasons one of the area's oldest farm equipment dealerships folded, said Murt Allison. Mr. Allison is the head of Murt Allison Equipment Company Ltd. on Highway 7.

Wrestling brothers Mike and Bob Sweezie received medals of recognition from the town for excellence in their sport. Presenting the medals were their coaches Bob McKay and Ray Smith.

"Acton's Country Gentleman" - "Your Complete Propane Centre" - opened. The store is located where Highway 7 meets Wellington County's Sixth Line.

## POETS CORNER

Dear Sir,  
One thing about poetry (December 23), no one knows from a perusal of content if poem be worthy...

Because nobody (hardly anyone) can dig its meaning.

Was Bard engaged in pretense, reciditiveness, intent to sound exotic, foreign?

Was piece poet extended, his exaltation, magnum opus, a belated swan song to swell no more?

-Joe Hurst

## UW expects to attain goal

Halton Hills' first United Way campaign seems to have been successful, but organizers aren't quite sure.

President Jim Kinnear said the group has done "an awful lot of learning" since they began the campaign. Among the things they learned was the fact the money raised doesn't necessarily end up in their hands because a lot of it is done by payroll deductions.

Because of that, organizers may not even know yet that the money has been committed to the local campaign.

Mr. Kinnear said at this point the

local committee knows more than \$60,000 has been committed. That makes him confident the goal of \$87,500 will be reached. However, they are still so inexperienced he can't be sure.

"There's quite an art to forecasting in this business," he said. "I think we've done extremely well considering we've never done it before. We know about \$80,000 has been promised and I think we could do a lot better yet. But we're all so green we don't really know."

Mr. Kinnear said a lot of residents work outside the municipality and have their contributions taken off by payroll deductions. Those deduc-

tions can come straight to the local United Way or they may go to another community United Way, and then be funnelled back to Halton Hills.

While more established United Ways have a cut-off date, Halton Hills is going to extend its collection deadline into January this time. For actual allocation of money it will be using what is available as of Dec. 31 as its 1986 campaign, but members really feel it will be the end of January before they have found out what is really coming in.

-Courtesy Guelph Mercury