

Outlook on Halton Hills



Despite a gloriously sunny and mild Saturday, turnout at the Georgetown District High School centennial reunion snow day at Terra Cotta wasn't as high as organizers had hoped. Among those



Above, being presented is a \$600 cheque, representing proceeds of the bridal and fashion show held Feb. 1 by Elizabeth Fashions to the OptiMrs. Club. From left to right are Margaret Vint, promotional coordinator of the show, Heather



M.P.P. Report

by Don Knight

Good news from Treasurer Robert Nixon this week in his third quarter report on Ontario's finances. The estimated revenue for the province is up by \$99 million from the budget plan. Of this \$99 million in new revenues, \$73 million will be spent on new programs. This money will go to health, education, social services as well as transportation commitments. One hundred and ninety-five million dollars will be used to reduce the provincial deficit. Personal income tax, strong consumer spending and the continued strength of the housing market, have contributed to the increase in revenue for Ontario. As well, strong growth in Lotto 6-49 sales has boosted lottery profits, offsetting the reduced profits of the LTB and a \$17 million reduction in the estimate of gasoline tax revenue.

Environment Minister Jim Bradley has signed a four party declaration of intent to clean up the Niagara River. Representatives of Canada, the United States, New York state and Ontario signed the agreement. This agreement ends an era of neglect, and opens a long, no doubt arduous, but I believe ultimately successful campaign to

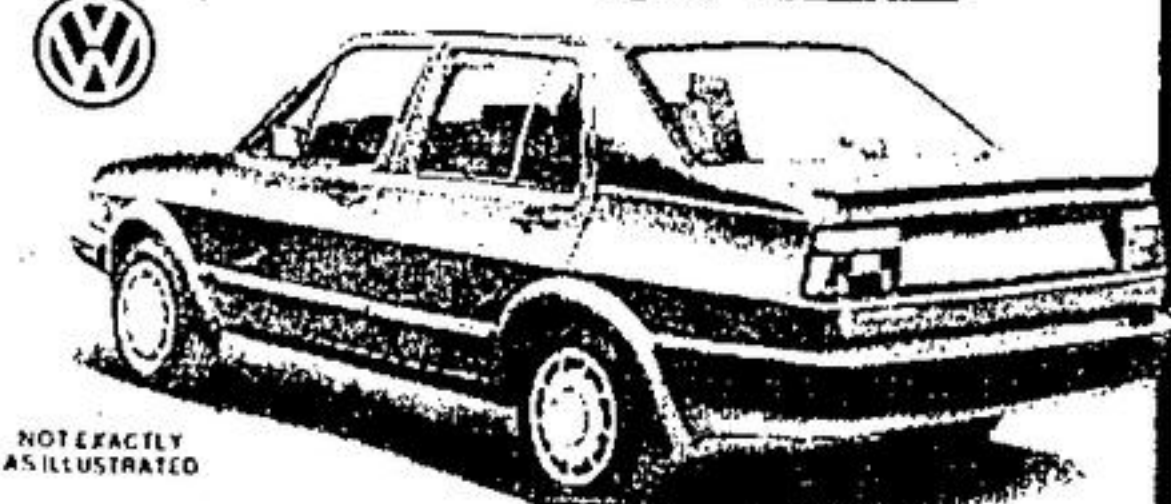
clean up the Niagara River and safeguard Lake Ontario and its vast supply of drinking water.

Education Minister Sean Conway recently announced a \$20,000,000 increase in capital funding for school boards for 1986-1987. This increase, which will bring the total to \$127,000,000 will address the needs of high growth areas across Ontario. This increase in capital funding is in keeping with the Ontario government's commitment to address the serious underfunding of our education system that had existed for much of the past decade.

I was pleased to attend the recent opening of Halton Hills' newest high school, Bishop Reding. The new facility is a welcome addition to the fine educational institutions in the Halton-Burlington area.

The Select Committee on the Environment, of which I am Chairman, will meet during the spring break of the legislature with hearings commencing February 21. The committee will initially deal with the problem of acid rain and subsequently will be holding hearings on Niagara River toxics management, toxic rain and Great Lakes water quality.

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