



The inaugural meeting of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce took place on Jan. 28 at the Acton Legion with former Acton chairman Mike Manes (left) and ex-Georgetown chairman Murray Lawton ushering in the amalgama-

tion with an official proclamation. Mr. Lawton will serve as Chamber president with Mr. Manes, vice-president as the new combined Chamber will serve all the six urban areas of Halton Hills - (Herald photo)

A need for blood increases

Local Red Cross blood clinics are feeling the pinch of a Metro-wide blood shortage, said Georgetown co-chair of Blood Clinics last week.

Flo Street said the local Red Cross Society has called at least 1,000 people on their donor list to persuade them to come out to the Feb. 13 clinic at Holy Cross Church on Maple Avenue. "We would like to get about 350 to 400 donors," said Mrs. Street. "If everybody on our list came twice a year, we would more than hit our quota," she said.

The Red Cross quota is generally 800 units of slightly less than a pint of blood daily. But with the average tallying in at only 710 units daily, the Red Cross headquarters

have asked blood donor clinics from Oshawa to Halton to increase the daily total to 1,000 units a day.

"They are very, very short of blood," said Mrs. Street. She explained that areas like Hamilton, where there is a surplus must compensate for Metro's shortage.

Halton Hills has increased its advertising to attract donors. Posters were put up around town and banners advertising the next blood donor clinic were provided by the local Ontario Hydro, said Mrs. Street.

The local Red Cross holds a total of seven clinics per year. The four public clinics are held at Holy Cross Church. The other three are

held at the local high school and two large companies in town.

The blood shortage hits Georgetown at a time of change in the system. The Red Cross Society has prepared a new questionnaire and will increase nursing staff to ensure the safety of both donors and recipients, said Mrs. Street.

The new safety methods not only safeguard against AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) but also will guard against "whatever a patient might have had," said Mrs. Street.

Some donors will be rejected on the basis of their own health. "If you have (for example) high blood

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32 PAGES



Slip-slidin' away

Halton Hills roads were treacherous on Thursday following a night of freezing rain. All sorts of vehicles could be found in various positions in ditches throughout the town. Sanders were out in the night attempting to make driving safer, but some unlucky motorists, like the driver of this car, still slid off the road. Shortly

after this picture was taken, the car was towed out of the ditch with no significant damage. Weather across Southern Ontario has been unseasonably balmy all week but the chill should be back by the end of the week, courtesy of a blazing storm now gripping the west. (Herald photo)

\$35 tax hike expected

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

Halton taxpayers are facing a \$35 increase in their tax bill in 1989.

If the proposed tax-supported budget containing a 7.16 per cent increase is approved, taxpayers in Halton will pay just under \$535 for all Regional Services this year.

The Regional tax bill is made up of three components; water and sewer rates, a tax-supported budget for Regional services (such as police, health, public works, etc.), and the solid waste disposal budget. The water and sewer rates containing a 2.5 per cent increase were approved in the fall.

The solid waste disposal budget is expected to increase by 43 per cent, to just over \$44 per household. The Region is now considering the tax-supported budget, which contains \$15.54 increase to about \$233.

When all three components are

combined, Halton taxpayers should pay \$35 more, for an increase of just over seven per cent.

That compares very favorable to other Toronto area Regions, many of which are facing increases of up to 20 per cent, said Halton's Chief Administrative Officer John Fleming.

It will cost about \$137 million to run Halton Region in 1989. That includes everything except education.

The tax-supported budget now under consideration represents about 51 per cent of Halton's total budget.

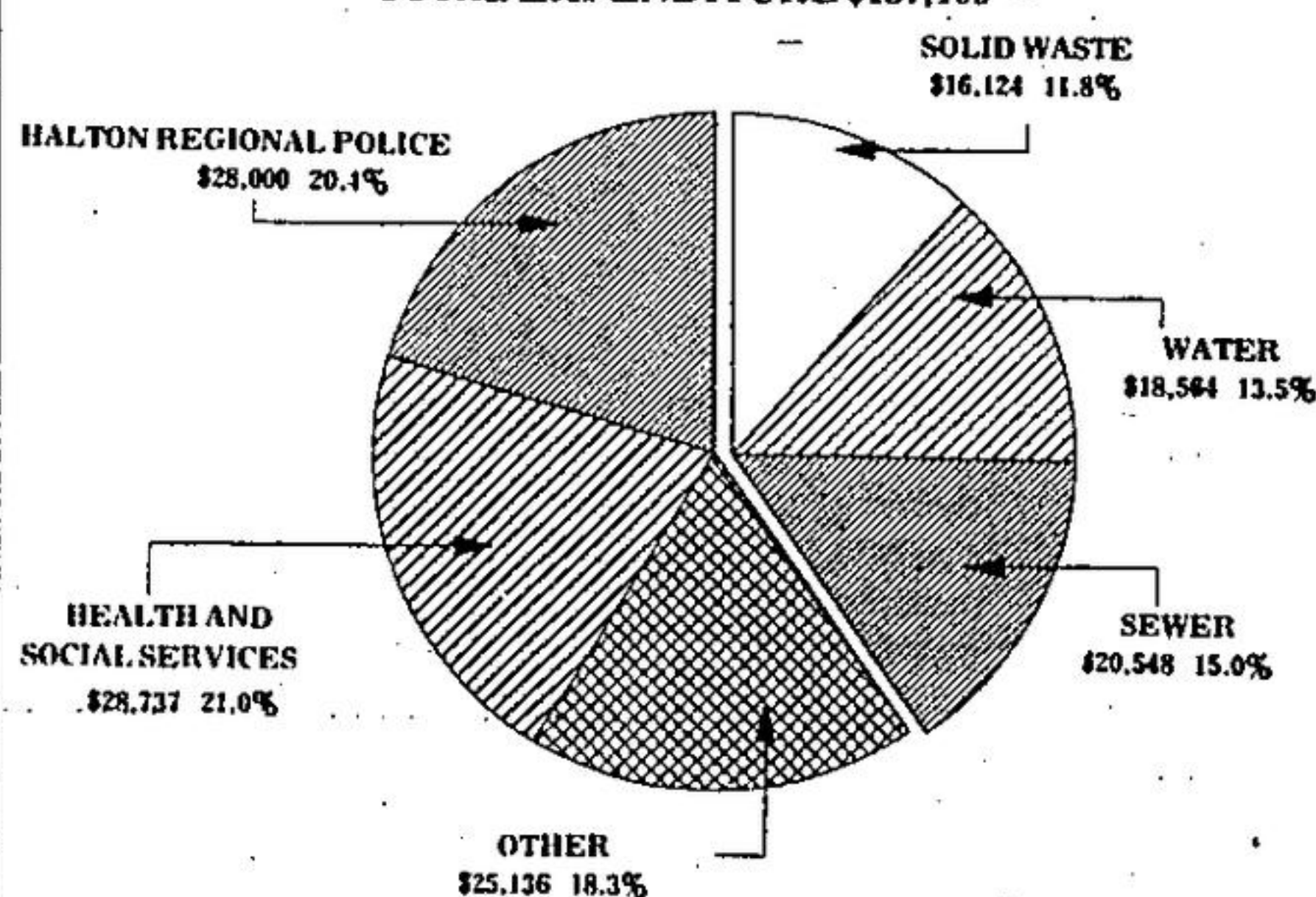
Halton's finance wizards ran into some substantial problems in an attempt to keep tax hikes low this year. In December, the provincial government announced a freeze on unconditional grants to municipalities. That move will cost Halton \$610,000 next year alone,

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CONSOLIDATED 1989 OPERATING BUDGET

(000 \$)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$137,109



Workers waiting

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Big business

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Selects are No. 1

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