

Outlook on Halton Hills

CVCA approves new budget

It will cost \$3.59 for every man, woman and child in the Credit Valley watershed to run the Credit Valley Conservation Authority in 1989.

The CVCA approved an 8.8-per-cent increase in the general levy last week, bringing the total cost for running the authority to just over \$7.6 million.

Although the general levy is going up an average of 8.8 per cent in order to raise about \$1.3 million, Halton Hills taxpayers will pay only 3.6 per cent more for a total of \$45,000. That's because the authority works on an "equalized assessment" program so municipalities such as the Region of Peel, the City of Brampton and the City of Mississauga, which are experiencing a much higher growth rate than Halton Hills, will pay more.

The general levy brings in about 18 per cent of the CVCA's funding. Provincial transfer payments

cover 28 per cent, and authority-generated revenues bring in another 19 per cent. Grants from other organizations, such as the Niagara Escarpment Commission, pay for seven per cent of the authority's costs.

The remaining 28 per cent is provided by a special levy placed on municipalities which benefit from specific programs. Here in Halton Hills, that means taxpayers will pay an extra \$315,000 to fund the acquisition of Willow Trailer Park in Norval, bank stabilization behind Metcalfe Court and work on the paper mill dam in Glen Williams. Under the special levy program, the municipality pays 45 per cent of the project, and the provincial government pays the remaining 55 per cent.

The 8.8-per-cent increase in the general levy translates into about \$108,000, said CVCA general manager Vicki Barron. The main

reason for the increase is to pay salaries of summer technical students. Just three years ago, the CVCA received a provincial grant of about \$111,000 to pay for summer help. However, due to the low unemployment rate in the area, Ms. Barron expects those grants to decline to almost zero this year. So the authority has budgeted \$22,000 for summer help.

Capital projects such as \$15,000 to make repairs to a swing bridge at the Belfountain Conservation Area also contribute to the increase.

As well, government grants for operational programs to municipalities have increased by only four per cent this year.

That is running slightly behind the rate of inflation so municipalities will have to pay an extra \$18,000 to help run the authority next year, said Ms. Barron.

Developers seek exemptions

Bird unloads on 'cry babies'

Calling developers who want exemptions from Regional lot levies "greedy cry babies" Burlington Mayor Roly Bird successfully convinced Regional council last week to impose full lot levy charges on industrial subdivisions signed after Oct. 19.

One construction company is expected to make profits of about \$6.7 million on one industrial subdivision, said Mayor Bird. "Anybody that's making the kind of profit out of the land that I see being made... I would call them greedy cry babies if they expect me to swallow it," Mayor Bird said in a 10-minute tongue-lashing of the developers at a Regional council meeting.

"Am I supposed to stand here and feel sorry for developers who make that kind of money?"

The decision means Halton will recover almost \$2.4 million on the lands located in the southern part of the Region.

Lot levies are fees charged to developers to help pay for the costs of services such as sewers, water, police and fire needed for new development.

Halton put developers on notice Oct. 19 that it was considering lot levies and that Oct. 19 was the possible implementation date.

Developers called that implementing "retroactive" lot levies. Rudy Reimer, president of Reimer Construction said he would likely have to cancel many

business contracts if the lot levies were implemented as of Oct. 19. "I am not against lot levies in principle but I am totally against lot levies being charged retroactively to last October," said Mr. Reimer.

"We're more interested in attracting businesses (to Burlington) than making a lot of money on these lots," he said, adding that his firm had already given away most of the profit on the land.

Mitchell Faskin of Cooper Construction said he doesn't necessarily agree with lot levies, but he understands the rationale for having them.

Although developers were put on notice in October that lot levies may be implemented, they were told only that the price could be anywhere from \$4,000 to \$10,000, said Mr. Faskin. Developers didn't actually find out the probable lot levies until 90 days later, he said.

Responding to Mr. Reimer's claim that Burlington will lose business if the lot levies were made

retroactive, Mayor Bird said it's up to Mr. Reimer if he wants to continue doing business in the city.

Halton has been talking about lot levies for years so developers have had sufficient notice, he said.

Referring to a real estate research document, Mayor Bird said businesses list the price of land as 13th and 14th on the list of priorities when choosing where to locate. Businesses that locate in Halton "don't come here and say 'we came here because we got the land cheap,'" said Mayor Bird.



Faith Gospel Tabernacle dedicated

It was a memorable day on Feb. 26 for the congregation of the Faith Gospel Tabernacle, east of Norval at Highway 7 and Creditview Road, as a special ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official opening of the new church building. Pastor John Williamson

(right) and his wife Christine received assistance from Brampton Regional Coun. Frank Andrews in cutting the ribbon. Special guests on hand for the grand opening included visitors from Pastor Williamson's native Ireland. (Herald photo)

Park draw a success

The Park Parents Association would like to thank everyone who was involved with the successful fundraiser, The Sweetheart Draw.

Without all the committee members' input it would not have been the success that it was.

First prize went to Mike Brightman, who won a weekend for two at Hotel Admiral which was co-ordinated by Anna White and Julia Arnold. Second prize which was dinner for two at the Cellar went to Mrs. S. Alden. Third prize was a beautiful flower arrangement, courtesy of Fendley Florists, which went to Mrs. E. Lyons. Special thanks to Sarah Edwards for handling all the tickets as they were sold.

24 break-ins

Halton Regional Police say there were 24 break-ins at the Smallwood Acres Trailer Park in Acton the afternoon of Feb. 20.

Police say the trailers were entered by an unknown suspect who smashed the glass in the trailer doors. Although reports of items missing are not complete, one trailer is missing \$1,000 worth of tools.

Police say two trailers are not missing any items. Investigation continues into the break-ins, which occurred between noon and 5 p.m.

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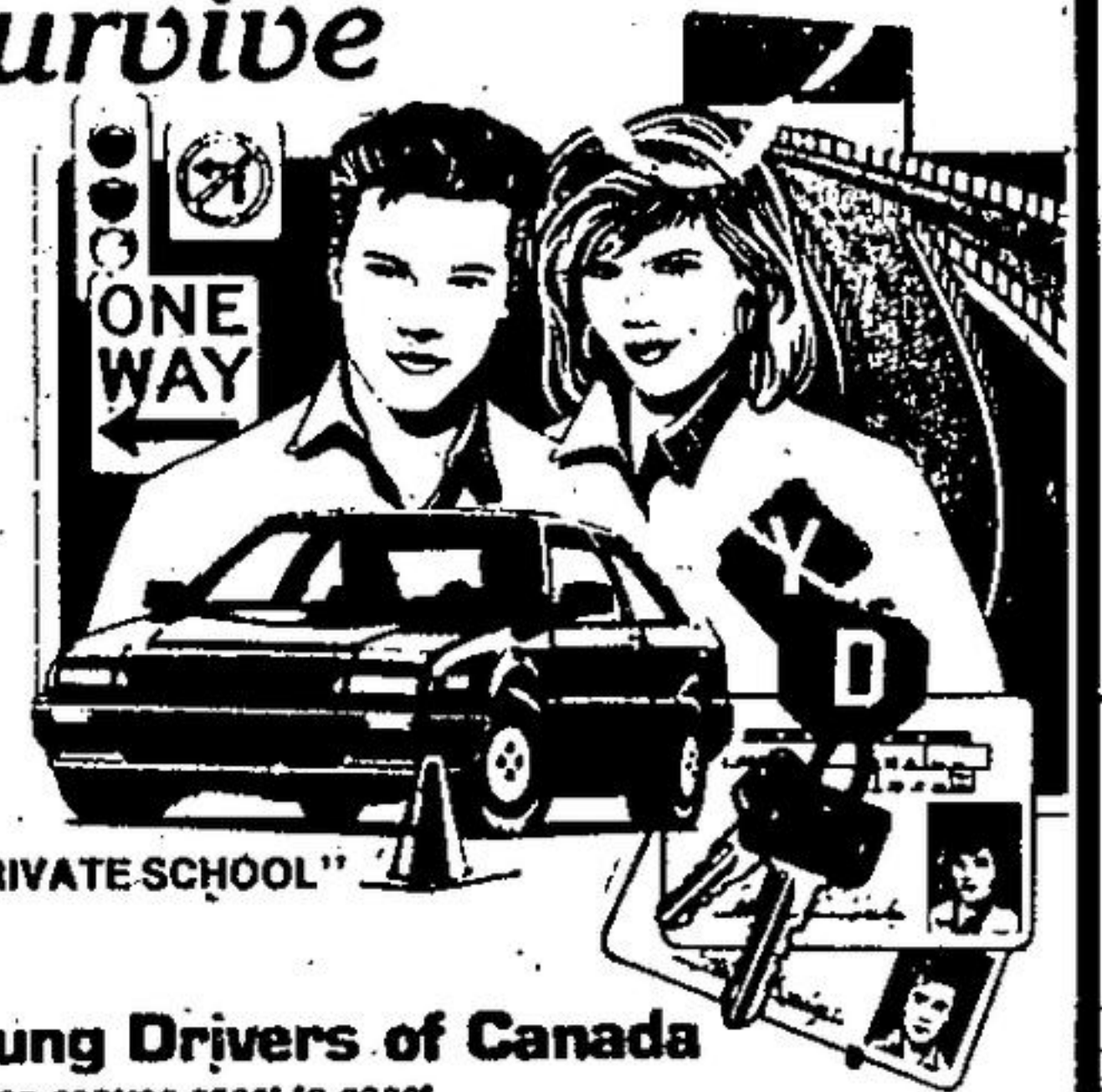
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