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ran for
Terry Sunday**

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Acton Fair
was a hit**

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HERALD**

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866

FREE DISTRIBUTION WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, 1989 32 PAGES

Halton ponders market value assessment

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

Halton Region will vote today (Wednesday) on a study of Region-wide market value tax assessment that some councillors say could give Halton a "fairer" tax system.

Ontario Ministry of Revenue spokesman Robert Beach was at Halton's finance meeting last Wednesday. He said different

municipalities in the Region pay varying Regional and school taxes on properties of equal value.

Mr. Beach said the impact study could be ready for Halton in two years, but approving the study would not lock Halton into approving the new Region-wide tax scheme.

Over 668 municipalities have moved to the new tax system so

far, including Metro Toronto, who last Wednesday voted for equal taxation across the Toronto area.

Most Regional councillors last week were in favor of proceeding with at least the impact study.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller said he would approve the study, but he said he would not decide on Region-wide assessment until results come back from the

Ministry.

"Everybody should be paying an equal amount. ...it's much easier to understand and explain," the mayor said.

"Anything is a good idea that is fair and equitable and easily understood."

But when asked if he would support the scheme if it meant Halton Hills residents would pay more

Regional and school board tax, Mayor Miller said it is "hard to say."

Although several councillors voted cautiously on the tax impact study, Burlington Mayor Roly Bird gave his unconditional support.

"I would be all in favor of this exercise being carried out," he said. The new system would not be a money-maker for the provincial government.

"The whole thing is supposed to be revenue-neutral with a one-per-cent or a 1 1/2-per-cent increase," Mayor Bird said.

"The most appealing aspect of this is once it's done, there's an automatic four-year update," he said referring to the Ministry's review of the tax scheme every four years without approval from council.

The four-year scheme means "we're being fair every four years instead of every 40."

But Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale said a new tax system may not be good for Oakville. Approving the tax study could cause a "split council" in Oakville, she said.

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Taxi owners apply for fare hikes

It could cost taxi cab users as much as 10 per cent more for an average ride if Halton Hills town council approves a price hike next week.

The town's bylaw enforcement officer put forward a report asking for an increase in the "drop" price, the initial cost of entering a taxi, a higher price per kilometre for taxi rides and an increase in the waiting time fee.

The average ride in Halton Hills at three kilometres, will cost \$5.70, which is a 10-per-cent increase over the present rate of \$5.15. A 10-km ride will cost taxi users \$15.00, a four-per-cent increase over the present fare set at \$15.00.

Having a taxi cab wait for you will cost 20-per-cent more if the new bylaw is passed. It will cost \$18.00 an hour, up from the present hourly rate of \$15.00.

Georgetown Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said she hears complaints from people who "already can't afford the taxi cab ride" at present rates.

She said senior citizens would be affected by price increases.

Rural Coun. Joe Hewitt agreed, saying, "the people that can least afford cabs are going to be the ones that are suffering the increase."

Coun. Hewitt said a shuttle bus to

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The Queen and her court

Miss Acton Fall Fair of 1989, Karin Pfahler is flanked by (left) first runner-up, Jenn McDonald, (at rear) last year's Queen, Kelly Bishop and second runner-up, Donna Van Der Heyden. Miss Pfahler was crowned Friday evening at the Acton Community Centre.

The fair was a success despite the weather, drawing a most twice the population of the town of Acton. Some events had to be cancelled Saturday, but it didn't rain on these royals on Friday. (Herald Photo by Colin Gibson.)