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Local grocers don't want Sunday shopping

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

Local grocery retailers are opposed to national food chains in Halton Hills opening on Sunday.

The Acton and Georgetown grocers reacted to reports that four top executives from A and P and Dominion, Loblaws Supermarkets Ltd., Miracle Food Mart and the Oshawa Group Ltd. recently asked Halton Region to grant the national food store chains an exemption allowing them to open Sunday.

The food stores say they want a piece of what they say is a lucrative market in Halton Region. Halton Region can grant Sunday exemptions under an amendment to the Retail Business Holidays Act that takes effect next February.

However if the large grocery chains open Sundays, it could damage smaller businesses, some retailers say.

Emil Abboud, owner of the Min-a-Mart franchise on Guelph Street in Georgetown, said large chains would "kill" his business, which relies on Sunday sales for one third of its gross sales.

"Here in Georgetown, if they open Sundays, I better close the

Town's libraries are substandard report says

The Halton Hills Library Board Monday asked the Town of Halton Hills to fund a project to rescue "substandard" library services at a price that could reach \$2.3 million.

Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwell said the library system needs almost 16,000 books immediately and will need 19,000 square feet of increased space by the year 2001. Mrs. Cornwell said the average square-foot will cost \$100 to build and supply furniture.

The average book costs \$25 to buy and process.

The town agreed to set up a committee to review the needs of the Acton and Georgetown libraries. Town councillors, library board members and the chief librarian will form this committee.

"Both libraries are currently below standard in all categories," Library Board member Steve Foster told councillors. He said service in the libraries is "down for that reason."

store," the Min-a-Mart owner said. "It would be a catastrophe. The small stores would close."

Sales that normally take place over six days will not expand if stores open Sunday. Acton A and B Foodland owner Don Lindsay said. Mr. Lindsay insists that "there are only a few dollars out there." He says large grocery chains are reacting to drug stores and fruit markets that carry an increasing amount of grocery items. "If it wasn't for that, the chains wouldn't want to be part of Sunday opening," he said.

Mr. Lindsay says his grocery store is closed Sunday and will remain closed Sunday. "I already work too many hours in a week. I wouldn't open (Sunday) even if I had to."

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Rural areas may get waste pick-up

Halton Hills rural areas could get municipal garbage collection and could begin to pay a share of urban service tax charges as early as October of next year.

Town manager of engineering operations Ted Drewlo said Monday rural residents and commercial businesses could get garbage collection if a scheme to be reviewed next year is approved. The earliest rural garbage collection could be implemented is October, 1990, he said.

Urban service charges in Halton Hills totalled \$1.4 million this year. The charges were levied on all urban residents at an average cost of \$102 a year. Urban residents paid an average annual tax of \$493 in 1989 while rural residents paid an average \$381 in 1989.

Urban service charges cover mostly garbage collection but also provide funds for street lighting and crossing guards.

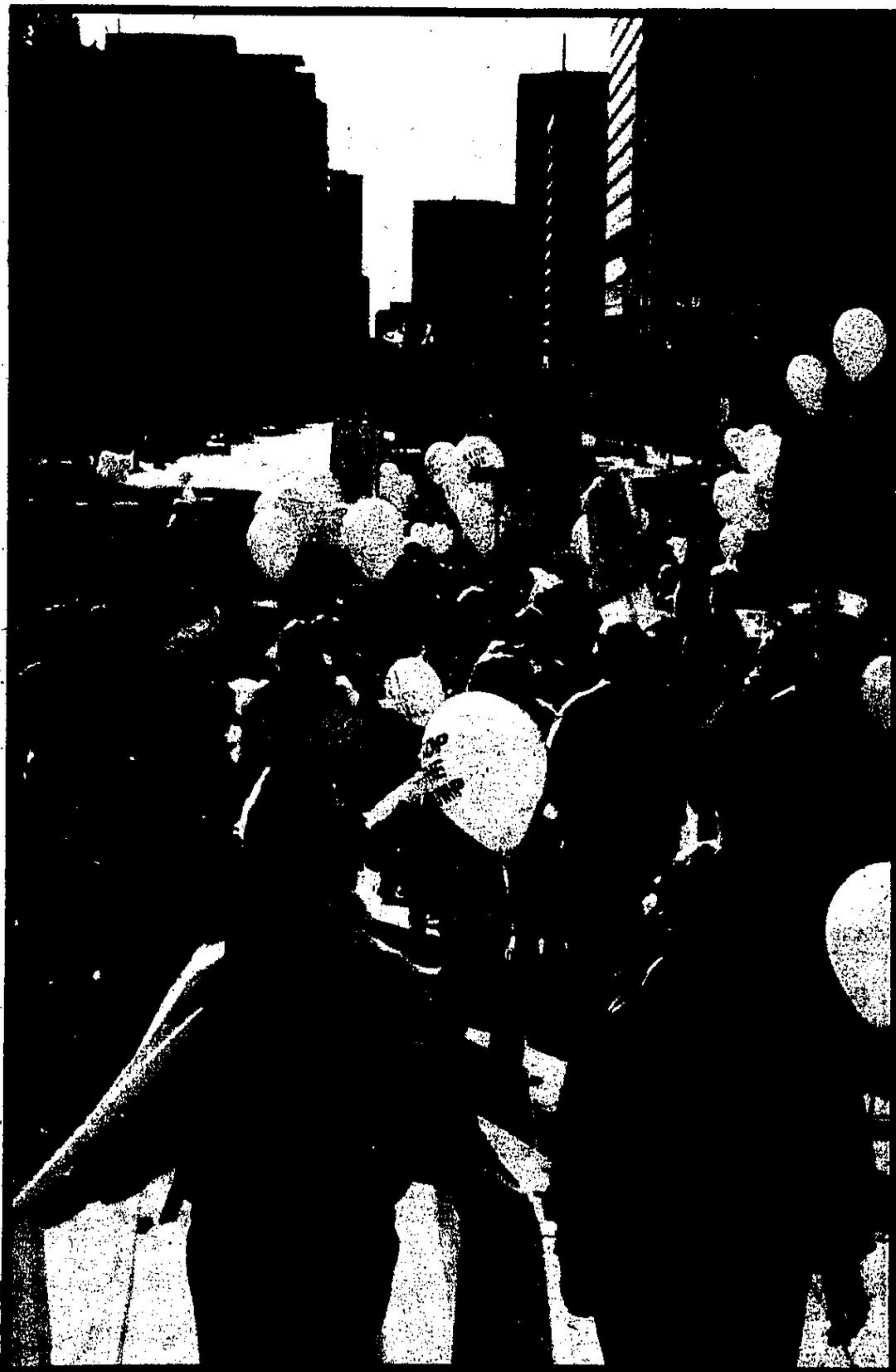
Those charges increased by 28 per cent from 1988 to 1989, jumping from \$1.1 million to \$1.4 million.

Mr. Drewlo said urban service charges would be removed in favor of a town-wide levy.

"If the town does decide to eliminate urban service charge, the costs will be spread out over the whole tax-base," he said.

"We pretty well have to consider (garbage) collection for the whole town."

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People POWER

These are just some of the 250 protestors from Halton Hills, Peel, Vaughan and as far away as St. Catharines who joined forces to denounce the Toronto area waste management body, the Greater Toronto Area committee - as "undemocratic, unaccountable and unnecessary" during a demonstration at Queen's Park Saturday afternoon. For story see Page 5. (Herald photo by Ben Dummett)