



NDP leader  
Bob Rae  
sizes up  
Halton Hills  
environment

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55.3

49.5

Gas prices  
went up  
6 cents a  
litre in town

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Georgetown  
hosts Ontario  
skating  
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From 11.6 per cent

## Town tax hike slashed to 9.9 per cent

By BEN DUMMETT  
the Herald

The town's budget committee slashed away at the 1990 budget Monday eventually bringing the proposed budget down to contain a 9.9 per cent increase instead of the initial 11.6 per cent tax hike they considered just one month ago.

Town councillors, which make up the budget committee, cut the initially proposed 1990 operating budget enough to reduce the tax increase from 11.6 per cent for urban area residents after 32 and a half hours of budget deliberations, said committee chairman, Councillor Rick Bonnette Monday.

The number of hours (on a

budget) is probably the largest number of hours councillors have spent on a budget in Halton Hills history, said Coun. Bonnette.

But the budget committee did not cut \$200,000 to fight the Acton dump proposal, \$5,500 to start a "mild" composting project and \$84,000 in salaries for three new firefighters.

Halton Hills fire chief Bill Cunningham said Monday night the department is currently "critically" short of firefighters for daytime calls during the week.

The preliminary operating budget submitted by the town treasurer Ray King in mid-March contained \$16.1 million in expen-

ditures with a total tax bill of \$549.78 for the average urban area resident.

Monday's version of the budget calls for town expenditures to drop but Mr. King didn't have exact figures at press time. The average urban area resident will pay \$541.70 if the proposed budget is passed.

The budget committee also reduced the tax hike for rural area residents from the original proposal of 10.4 per cent to 8.4 per cent, said Coun. Bonnette. Those who live in the rural areas don't have to pay for Regional services such as garbage disposal so their tax bill is lower than urban area

residents' taxes. Rural area residents will pay \$411.68 in taxes instead of \$419 as originally proposed, if the budget is adopted by councillors.

The tax rate is based on a residential assessment of \$5,500, said Mr. King.

Over 70 per cent of the town's population lives in the urban area and will face the urban service charge.

Council approved a tax increase of 11.5 per cent last year.

The increase in urban service charges are projected to jump by 15.5 per cent in 1990 to \$130.68 from the 1989 figure of \$113.14.

The increase in urban service

charges is attributed to a huge leap in tipping fees from \$83.50 per tonne of garbage in 1989 to \$116 per tonne of garbage this year, said Mr. King. This represents a 38.9 per cent increase in tipping fees.

The tipping fees expenditure is the cost to the town for disposing its garbage. Garbage disposal is the Region's responsibility but the costs are collected on the town's tax bill. Currently the Region ships Halton's garbage to sites in Niagara Falls and New York State at a cost of \$1 million a month. But Regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo expects tipping fees to drop in 1992 if the Region is permitted to open a dump site in Milton on Highway 25 near Britannia Road.

The budget committee approved  
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## Crazy boats ready for the Credit

It's that time of year again - time for the annual Georgetown Lions Club Crazy Boat Race down the Credit River.

Halton Hills residents will be privy to witnessing anything and everything that floats this Saturday as 80 to 100 boating enthusiasts race to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis research.

The Lions Club, like last year, hopes to raise \$10,000, said the race's co-chairman Mark Rush.

Canoeists participating in the race will start at the Cheltenham Park at 12 noon Saturday.

Those racing the service club and comic and crazy boats will start opposite the Terra Cotta Inn an hour later. The race ends at the Glen Williams baseball park. And Mr. Rush estimated it will take participants two hours to finish the race.

If you're wondering about the difference between a crazy boat and one of the comic sort, it comes down to speed, said Mr. Rush. The comic boats are generally faster than the crazy boats, he said. The crazy boats are usually in the form of such reliable seafaring vessels as the good old barrel.

Best spots to witness this boating extravaganza, Mr. Rush said, are beside the Terra Cotta Inn, the Tenth Line bridge or at the finish.

As part of the festivities there will be a dance Saturday night at the Acton Legion starting at about 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$6 and those wanting to purchase a ticket should contact Jim Levy at 877-6719.



## Hidden Bounty

The President of the Friends of the Halton Hills Libraries, Doug Magwood, shares some thoughts with University of Guelph Fine Art professor, Chandler Kirwin, on this painting entitled "Child in Flowering Meadow" by artist Majorie Nazer during the opening of the Hidden

Bounty Exhibition Sunday at the cultural centre. This oil painting is only one of 56 paintings that will be on display during the exhibition which runs until April 15. (Herald photo by Ben Dummett. For story see page 8)