

School board wants 8.5% more money

It'll take \$21.7 million more - an 8.5 per cent increase - to keep the Halton Board of Education running as it does now in 1991, according to a preliminary budget forecast.

That would bring last year's \$254 million budget (which was a 14.6 per cent increase) to a 1991 figure of \$275.8 million.

At the second meeting in which public school trustees reviewed the 1990 budget Monday night, they heard that the real place to look at making budget

cuts would be in staffing - but that their hands are tied since the board just this year signed a new two-year collective agreement with teaching staff.

"Really folks, we're not talking about cutting the budget, but we're talking about not increasing the budget," said board chair Pat Hillhouse, adding there would have to be some meaningful discussion by trustees on the issue of staffing.

"Before we talk numbers, I'd like to talk ideas," said Burlington trustee Don

Cassidy, noting that without a consensus on the staffing question, specific looks into the budget fragment immediately.

Hillhouse noted that a number of years ago the board decided to hire more staff to decrease pupil-teacher ratios and class sizes. She said the board is now feeling the pinch of that decision.

"Other things... will not really get at the guts of the issue that staffing will," she added.

But cries that the board was committed to its present staffing situation for at

least two years didn't sit well with Halton Hills trustee Dick Howitt, who at the Oct. 22 budget meeting had threatened to leave, charging trustees weren't accomplishing anything, largely due to a lack of information. "Philosophically, I've got a problem with just throwing our hands up in the air and saying we can't do anything. I'm not convinced there isn't some fat on the pork chop and I for one am prepared to nickel and dime the budget to death," he said.

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TED BROWN Halton Hills Weekend

Sunday is Remembrance Day, and veterans across Canada will be remembering their fallen comrades from wars of the past. Tom Given, of RR2 Acton checks the Honor Roll at Limehouse Church; the roll which he reads every year at the Remembrance Day Service at the church. Now a member of Branch 120 (Georgetown) Legion, Given served from 1939 to 1945, enlisting September of '39, when war broke out. Reaching the rank of Sergeant, he sailed out January 24, 1940

and finally returned to his wife Lil, on March 9, 1945. Serving with the original Lorne Scots, Given later was assigned to the H.L.I. of C. (Highland Light Infantry of Canada), and was wounded by machine gun fire in the town of Leportel, France, September 20, 1944, at 4 p.m., (a time he vividly remembers). Tom Given will be joining his comrades, Sunday, some in body, others in spirit only, as he remembers those who didn't return.

MPP to intervene on Silver Creek issue

Halton Region's plans for Silver Creek Valley could be put on hold now that local MPP Noel Duignan has asked the Ministry of Environment to conduct a full Environmental Assessment of the area.

Spurred on by residents' concerns over possible cumulative effects of several Region projects proposed for the valley, Duignan is pressing the MOE to carefully scrutinize all the plans. Until that is done, he recommends that all existing development for the Hungry Hollow ravine be put on hold.

Many residents are concerned that the proposed twinning of a trunk sewer running through the valley may disrupt its natural setting, which is classed as environmentally sensitive lands by the Region.

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Food drive in conjunction with Santa Claus parade

Acton Village Constable Bill Riddle is organizing a food drive in conjunction with the Santa Claus parade in Acton next Saturday, November 17.

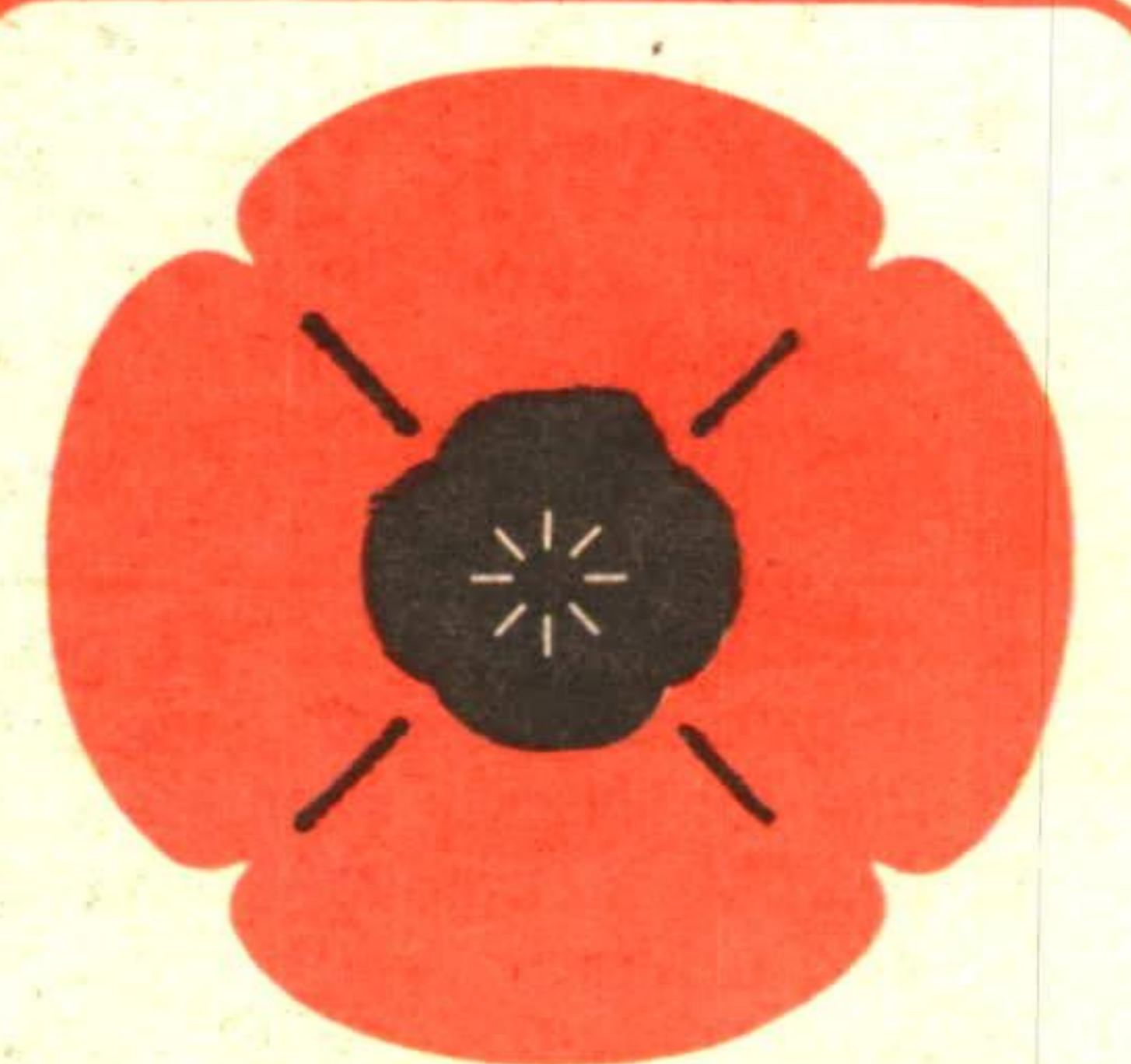
He's asking the people of Acton and district to bring non-perishable foods to the parade as donations to Acton Food-Share, located in the old Beardmore building. It will be collected along the parade route.

"We'll have two clowns on either side of a van collecting the food," Constable Riddle says. He'll be driving the van in the parade.

Donations to the Acton food bank can also be made at the police station on Mill St. Although non-perishable food is the big item the food bank also accepts cash donations.

Joan Waldie, coordinator of Acton Food-Share says there has

been an increase of from 10 to 17 families needing help each week because of unemployment, high rents and other factors.



Halton Hills residents will honor their veterans on Sunday. Georgetown and Acton will hold Remembrance Day services at their respective cenotaphs at 11 a.m. A service will be held in Glen Williams at 2:30 p.m.



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