

# \$77 million price tag for town road improvements

By **STUART JOHNSTON**  
Almost \$77 million will be needed to bring most of Halton Hills' roads up to an acceptable standard of improvement.

That's a long range figure recently calculated in the municipality's Road Needs Study, completed at a cost of \$40,000 by Philips Planning and Engineering Ltd.

According to the report, Halton Hills has just over 300 km of roads,

48.8 per cent of which are termed as being "adequate."

That's a lot better than in recent years, but the costs of repairs and improvements have also risen dramatically, Manager of Operations Ted Drewlo told Town Council Monday night.

Approximately 210 km of Halton Hills' roads will require \$76.8 million in improvement costs over

the next five years, the report stated. Almost 156 km of that, or \$64 million, is categorized as improvements needing to be done immediately.

The roads requiring work are located in both the urban and rural areas, Drewlo said in an interview.

"It's just a system where we try and set the most urgent needs by priority — we're just going to use it

as a guideline," Drewlo said. "The municipality is obviously not going to spend that kind of money because it doesn't have it.

"The study is a statement of deficiencies, but it's not like we're going to close a road down if we don't repair it over the next few years. Next week we're going to go over our capital budget for the year, and we'll decide then what our priorities are. It will then have to go

through council, of course, before we can go ahead."

The Town will not have to bear the bulk of the improvement costs as the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) provides annual 50 per cent subsidies to municipalities for such projects, Drewlo added.

Drewlo anticipates that this year's subsidy for Halton Hills from MTO will be roughly \$1,432,000.

## Unemployment office besieged

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
to speed up U.I. claims.

"It has been a very busy, busy time but we're just hanging in there, making the best of it," confirmed Debby McIntyre, supervisor of the Georgetown office.

Line-ups are common in Georgetown now and McIntyre estimates claims are up 30 to 40 per cent over last year.

Three large local companies laid off about 500 people for two weeks during the holiday season. In the past, usually only one company has laid employees off at Christmas, she said.

"It is not to the real panic point, but certainly it is not what it was last year at this time," McIntyre said.

What makes the situation worse for people being laid off is they often don't realize there's a two week waiting period before a person is eligible to receive payment. But there is such a backlog of applications that it may take six or seven weeks before a person

receives any money from the Unemployment Insurance plan.

Changes to labor laws, under Bill C-21 which was passed by Parliament on Nov. 18, 1990, mean a person who quits or is fired from their job could be denied benefits for up to 12 weeks. It was previously up to six weeks.

At the same time as people find themselves out of work, job postings on the job board are scarcer and wages tend to be lower.

"A job that paid \$9 an hour five months ago now pays \$7 or \$7.25," Brand said. "People who worked for a company for five or 10 years have built up an income to maybe \$12 or \$15 an hour. When you start over in a recession and with wages dropping, they have to adjust their wages considerably."

"I would expect to see a significant decline in retail in January and February, which means layoffs in retail," he said. Already, manufacturing and skilled trades are down, and now layoffs will likely be in the service sector, he said.

"I see the situation continuing for at least the next six months and possibly some levelling off by the spring and some rebounding, but not to the degree of pre-recession," Brand said, adding he isn't an economist, so his information is based on what he's read.

Under the Unemployment Insurance Plan, eligible people receive 60 per cent of their wages, up to a maximum of \$408 a week.

McIntyre said some changes in the office have improved the service offered to job-seekers. All the information about jobs is now provided on the job board, which allows people to contact the employer directly, without first seeing a counsellor.

A member of the North Halton Literacy Guild is at the office Mondays, 9 a.m. to noon to help people with the job board and filling out applications.

While there aren't as many jobs opening up, there are still jobs out there, McIntyre said.

### APPLICATIONS INVITED

The Council of the Regional Municipality of Halton is accepting applications from interested citizens to serve on three new Committees established to advise Regional Council on the operation of its landfill site and management of waste in Halton Region.

Applicants should have some familiarity with waste management issues and principles and a general understanding of the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).

Four (4) public members-at-large will be appointed to the Joint Municipal-Regional Waste Management Committee representing the major waste management interest groups in Halton. The goal of the Committee is the reduction, recycling and reuse of solid wastes generated in Halton so that there will be very little remaining waste to be landfilled, incinerated, or otherwise disposed of. The Committee will meet at least monthly. Prospective members must be available to attend meetings which are scheduled the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Four residents of the Town of Milton will be appointed to the Halton Waste Management Site Advisory Committee. The Committee will make recommendations to the Joint Municipal-Regional Waste Management Committee for the avoidance or minimization of off-site impacts from the landfill. Prospective members must be available to attend meetings which are scheduled the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 7:00 p.m.

Two public members-at-large will be appointed to the Waste Haulers' Practices Committee. The goal of the Committee is to monitor waste haulage practices with a view to improving general traffic safety in respect of waste haulage practices. The Committee will make recommendations to the Joint Municipal-Regional Waste Management Committee. Prospective members must be available to attend meetings Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. every three months.

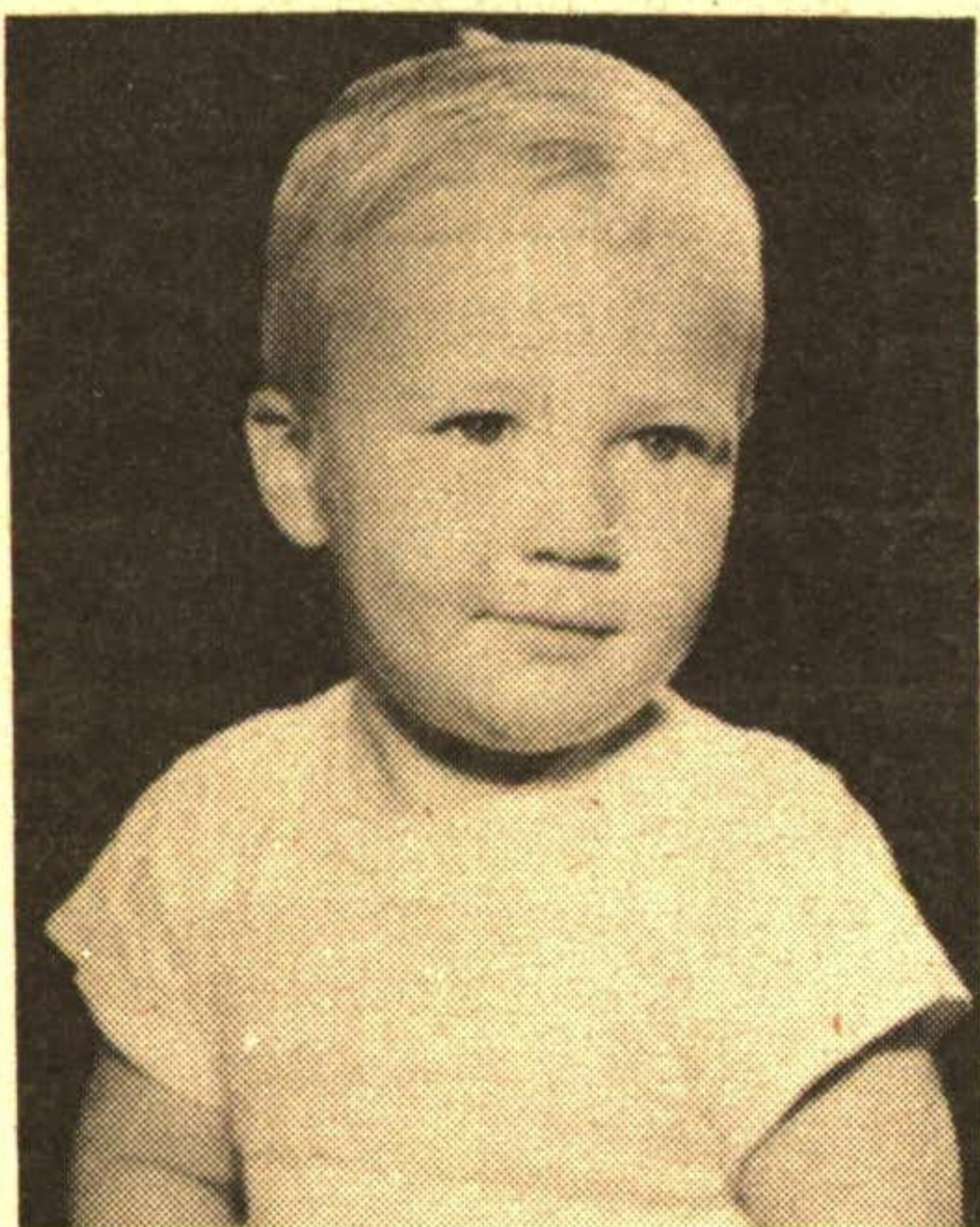
Letters of application, including a description as to how the applicant's background and skills qualify him/her for a position on the Committee and the name of the Committee applied for, will be received by the undersigned until Wednesday, January 23, 1991 at 4:00 p.m.

Interviews will be conducted during the week of February 4, 1991 and initial appointments will be from February, 1991 to November, 1991.

**J. Louise Temple**  
Regional Clerk/Director  
of Administrative Services



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### GEORGETOWN & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL NOTICE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

An Open Meeting of the Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital Board of Directors will take place on  
**JANUARY 24, 1991 at 4:15 p.m.**

in the Hospital Board Room.

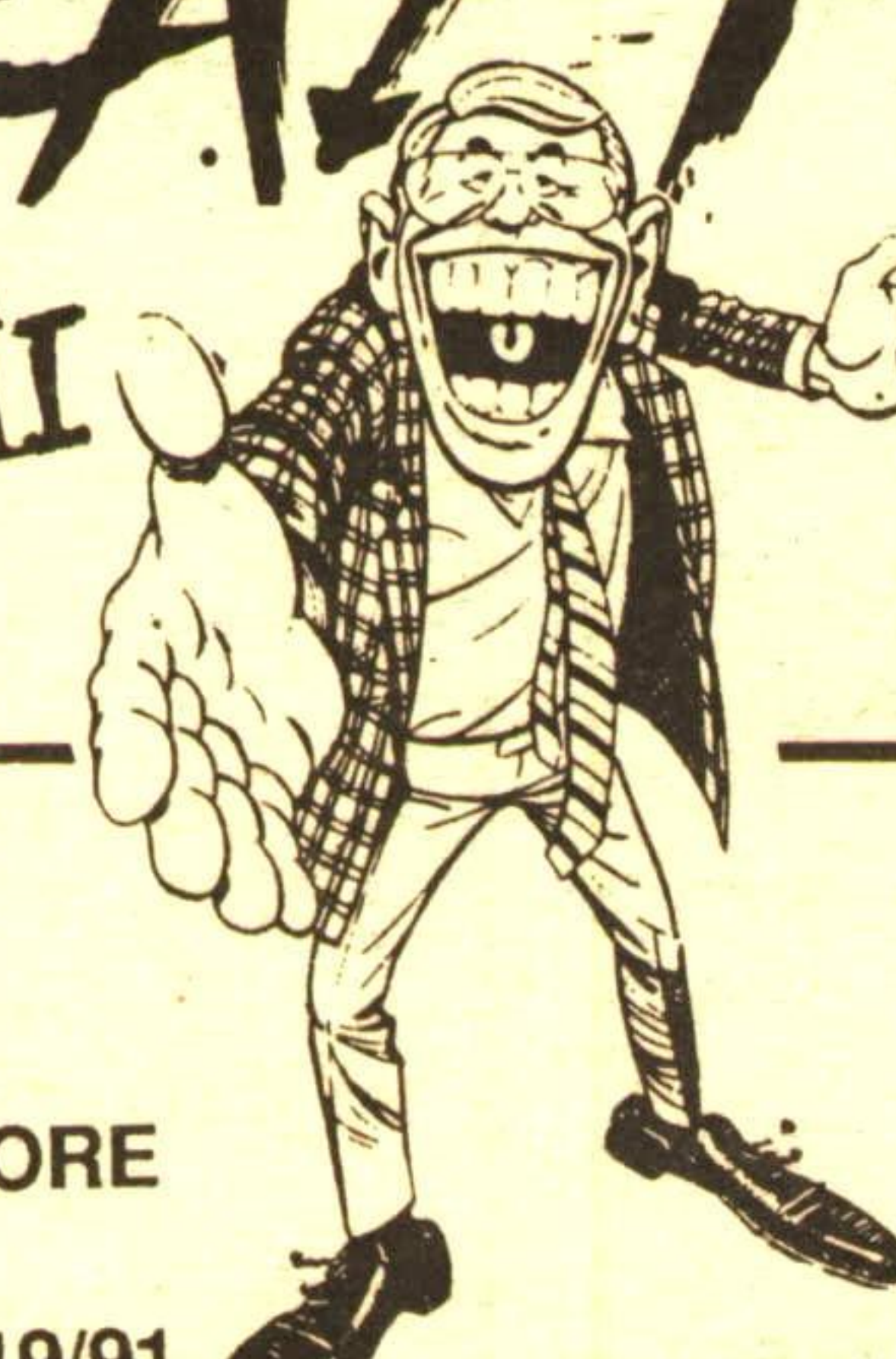
The agenda will be posted by 9:00 a.m. the day of the meeting in the Administrative Offices.

Those wishing to address the Board must forward a request in writing to the

Chairman, Board of Directors,  
Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital,  
Princess Anne Drive, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 2B8  
by January 18, 1991

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