

# Johnston hopes for police chief's resignation

By **STUART JOHNSTON**  
Staff writer

Halton Hills' regional councillor Pam Johnston believes police chief James Harding is all "image and no substance" and is privately calling for him to be removed from office.

"It's fair to say that I want to see changes in the way police do their business," Johnston told reporters Wednesday. "Yeah, I'd like to see (Harding) removed from his position."

Johnston, in fact, slammed the entire "upper echelons" of Halton's

police service for not doing enough to curb violence, especially violence against women and children.

She called them expensive public relations people who are more concerned with their image, claiming that a police-sponsored family violence committee is only window dressing to appease the public.

"The police on that committee do not know where they are going," she said.

Chief Harding was attending a private multiculturalism conference in British Columbia at press time, and could not be reached for com-



PAM JOHNSTON



CHIEF HARDING

ment. Johnston made her remarks following a brief speech to her region-

al colleagues about aggressive behavior against councillors during council and committee meetings.

She insisted that councillors should promote "equality and respect for human beings" by discouraging what she called aggressive behavior in the boardroom. She noted that some have used "bullying tactics" against councillors in the past by trying to influence their decisions through guilt, snide remarks and other means.

"Bullying tactics are no longer tolerated in boardrooms or council chambers in the 90s," she said. "We

as leaders must stand up and be counted and not put up with these aggressive patterns...People in authority need to promote non-violent behavior."

Johnston later admitted to reporters that she was referring, in part, to the way Chief Harding addressed councillors last week about a new police radio system. At the time, Harding insisted that the current system must be overhauled to the tune of \$6.5 million, threatening that his officers will be endangered without the new radios.

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HALTON HILLS

# WEEKEND

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News

Digest

### Blood Clinic time

It's time, once again, to give the gift of life.

The local chapter of the Canadian Red Cross will run their annual Blood Donor Clinic at Holy Cross Church on Maple Ave. in Georgetown, Monday, May 11, from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The event is being sponsored by the Georgetown Kinsmen.

### Peddlers still a concern

Licensed vendors selling their wares on town streets or door to door still concerns some councillors. Two weeks ago, councillor Ron Chatten wanted to know more about the town's practice of licensing peddlers, because of concerns that they may be taking business away from local stores. Bylaw enforcement officer Bob Ustrzycki informed council Monday that there are 19 local residents licensed and three non-residents. He added the town has the authority to prohibit sales on public lands, but not the hours of operation and if on private property. He suggested that the public can protect themselves by always asking the salesperson for identification, and for the license number. Chatten requested a list of the vendors and what each are licensed to sell.

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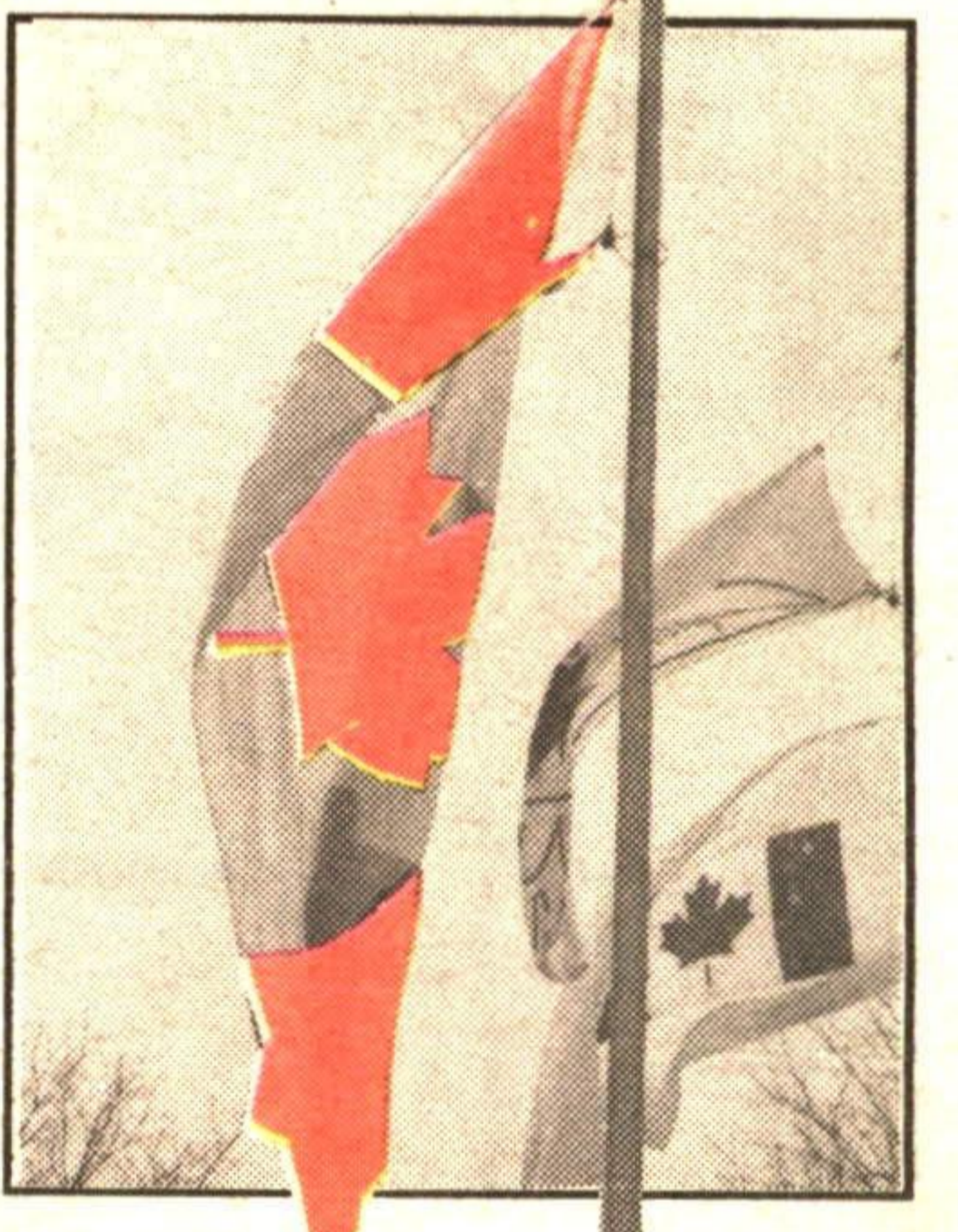
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Photos by BARB STEPHENS

## Proud to be Canadians

These Halton Hills youngsters carry an oversized Canadian flag to the pole at the Civic Centre last Sunday. The local Kinsmen and Kinettes had 4,000 school children from 16 schools sign as part of the national 'Proud to be Canadian' campaign, celebrating Canada's 125th birthday.



## Hearing location has council miffed

By **STUART JOHNSTON**  
Staff writer

The preliminary environmental hearing scheduled next month into Reclamation Systems Inc. plans to landfill the Acton Quarry has local councillors steaming mad.

The hearing itself was long expected by local officials, but what shocked them was the announcement that it is going to be held in Milton — not in Halton Hills where RSI's plans will have the biggest impact.

"I wasn't just surprised, I was mad, downright mad," Mayor Russ Miller said in an interview Thursday. "For it to be held in Milton, that's terrible."

Miller contends that the location may affect the number of citizens attending the hearing to voice their opinions on the proposed landfill. If held locally, people will be more likely to show up, he added.

Miller believes the Ministry of Environment chose Milton "on purpose just to make it more difficult" for residents to attend.

"They don't want to be blasted over this, so they made it out of the way," he added. "We have staff going down there, which will cost more money, the residents have to go all the way down there — now, is that fair?"

On Wednesday, regional councillors supported town council's decision to oppose the Milton location,

insisting that it be moved to a Halton Hills locale.

"It might put pressure on the ministry to have the main hearing held here," Miller said.

Ministry staff visited Halton Hills Thursday, but Miller is unsure if they agreed to move the hearing.

The preliminary hearing is to be held at the Herigate Inn in Milton on June 1, and is expected to last a week. The hearing will determine what the issues are, who is to be involved and who qualifies for monetary assistance, called intervenor funding, to attend the hearings.

The actual hearing into the proposal is not expected to begin until at least the summer.

According to the planning

department, the province looked at a number of locations both in Halton Hills and Milton before choosing the Herigate Inn. They considered the size, availability, whether there are phones, faxes and copiers to use, its location to the site and Hwy. 401 and if it has coffee.

However, planning staff re-organized the criteria and determined that the Civic Centre, Gordon Alcott Arena and the John Elliott Theatre are better suited than the Milton location.

"We are serious, and this is a serious situation," Miller concluded. "Hopefully, we'll get our own way on this."

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