

Prepare to Lighten Up, Canada

Okay folks, prepare to don your red noses and laugh it up for the second annual Lighten Up Canada day. Acton resident and radio personality Jack Carpenter lobbied town councillors Monday to be the first in Canada to proclaim February 5, 1993 as Lighten Up Canada day, and they wholeheartedly agreed. This Monday councillors are expected to make the day official.

"There's no fundraising, no ulterior motives, no demands and no guilt — just a day to have fun," Carpenter explained.

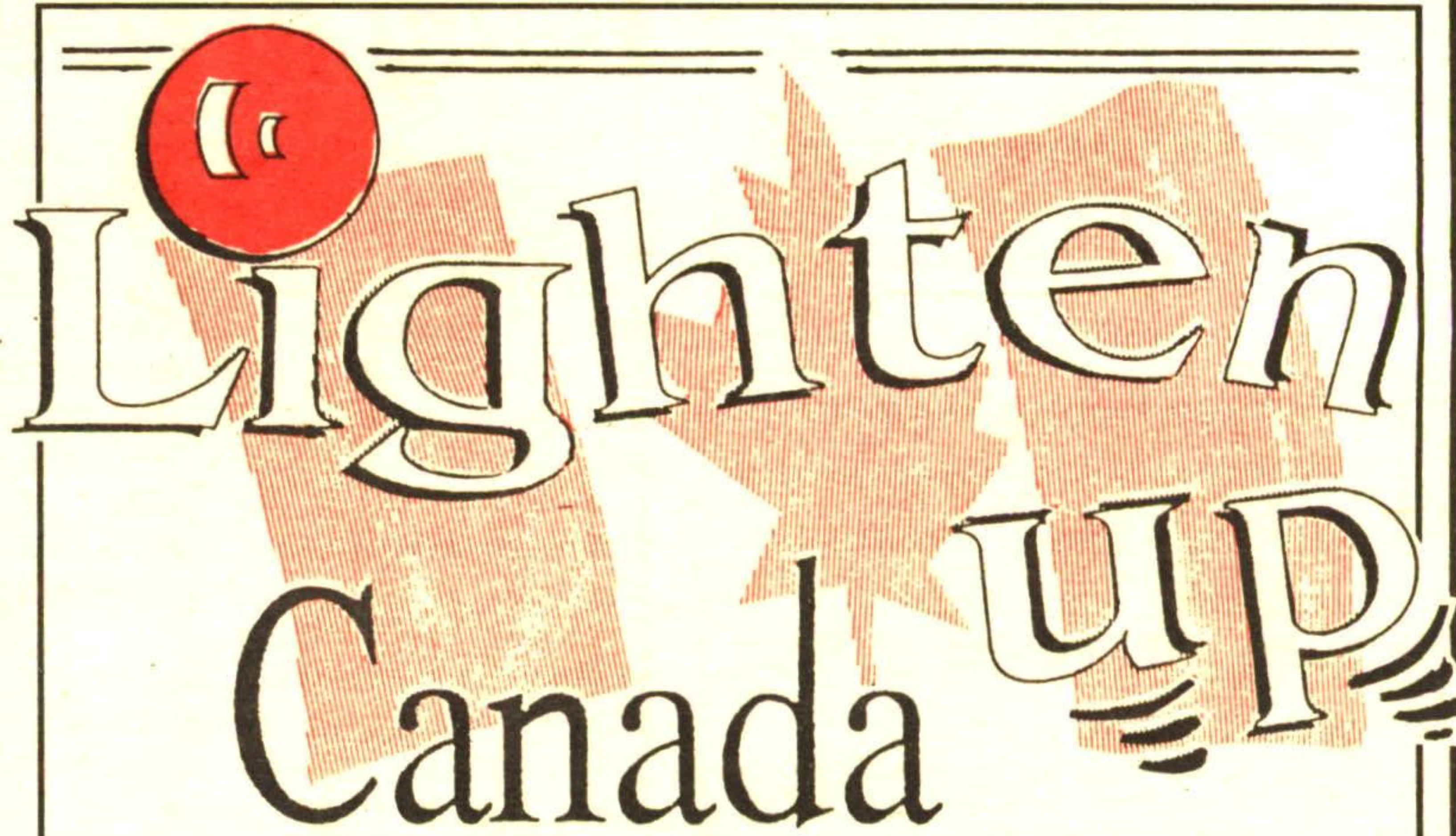
Carpenter was instrumental earlier this year in starting this wacky tradition of donning a red nose and having a few yuks. Preparing for his annual "St. Jack's Day" radio special (the patron saint of humor),

Carpenter happened to mention an event in England where people put on a red nose and shared a few laughs. He suggested that's just what Canadians needed to get away from their pressures and stress, and it took off from there.

Halton Hills was the first community to act silly for 24 hours, and the infectious laughs quickly spread across Canada.

The first time around approximately 25,000 people joined in the fun, but 500,000 are expected to put on a red nose this February in Ontario alone.

Also, a newspaper photo contest with Lighten Up Canada as the theme will be held in Halton Hills, either at the Georgetown Library or the Civic Centre, later in the month of February, Carpenter added.



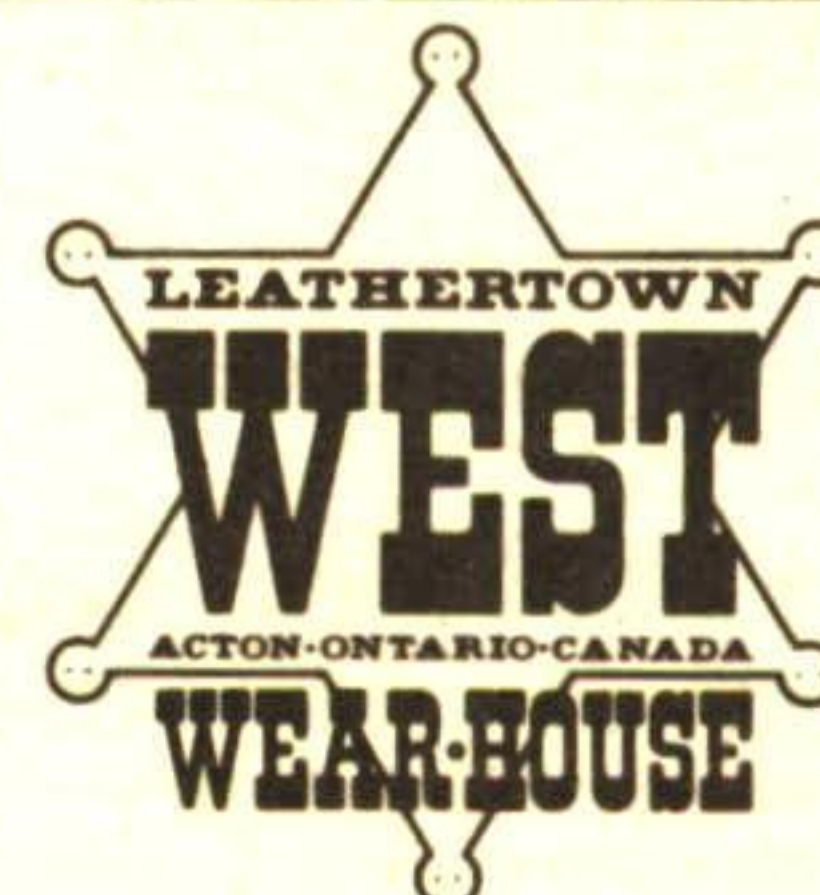
HALTON HILLS

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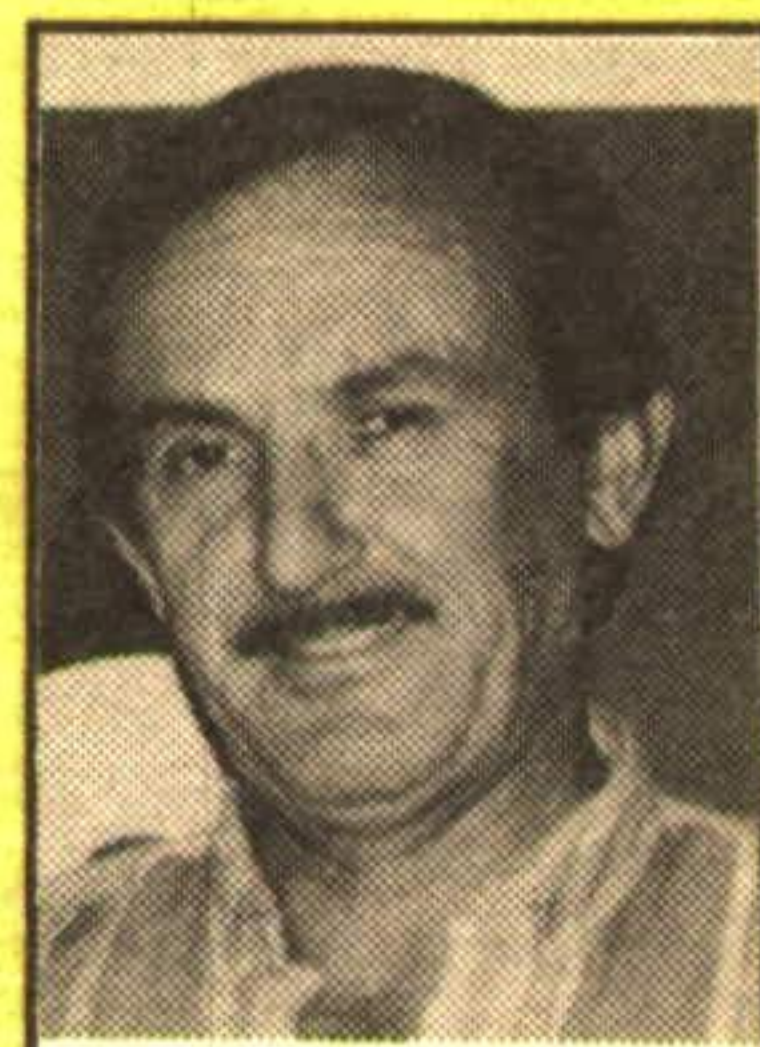
News

Digest

A winner!

Jack Zomer did a triple take before he convinced himself he held a winning ticket in the Lotto 6/49 draw recently.

The 54-year-old Hornby resident who won \$77,202, checked his 10 ticket numbers in the newspaper not expecting to find a match.



JACK ZOMER

"I'm pretty lucky I guess. I'm really happy," he said.

Zomer and his wife Janice picked up the second prize which was part of a \$10 million jackpot. The local winner said he only buys tickets when the jackpot is high.

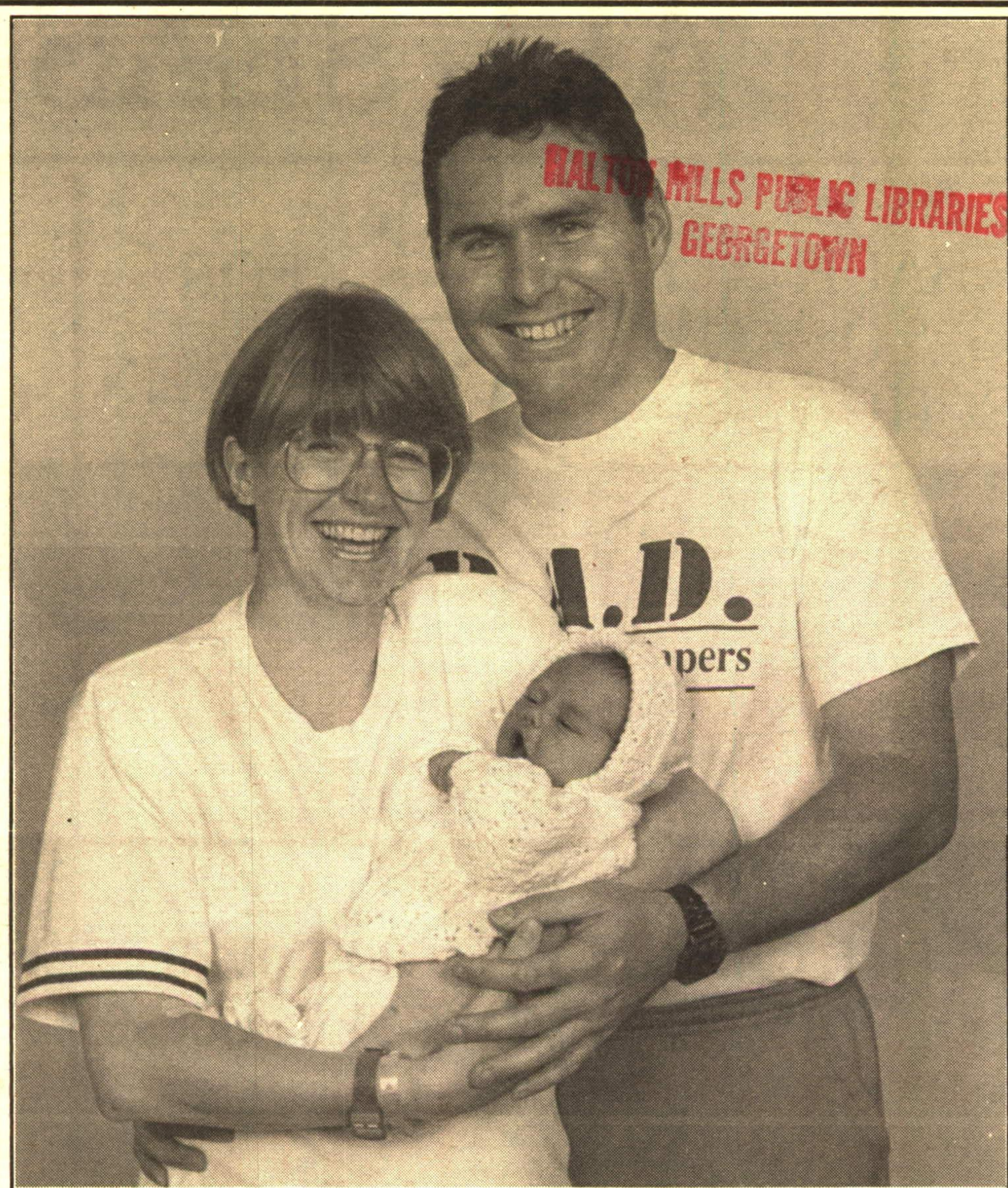
The self-employed greenhouse owner bought the lucky ticket at a Mac's Milk store in Streetsville.

Wife Janice didn't believe her husband when he gave her the news about his ticket.

The couple, who have three children, plan to invest the money for 90 days and then take a trip.

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"Baby, you can drive my car!"

Olivia Ann Clifford just couldn't wait to get her life started last Friday as she made her entrance into the world at 9:52 p.m. in the family car as it sat in the emergency entrance parking lot at Georgetown Hospital. Baby is fine and proud parents, Bruce and Ann, are recovering quite nicely. For details see story on page 2.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Tax hike

Region votes in favor of Market Value Assessment

By STUART JOHNSTON

Staff writer

A new regional property tax system that will see many Halton Hills homeowners and businesses paying more money next year was narrowly approved by Halton councillors Wednesday.

Halton chairman Pete Pomeroy was the deciding factor in the decision to change the region's current tax system to one that assesses properties based on 1988 market values. It is to be phased in over a four-year period, and will be updated every four years as well.

Pomeroy broke a 12-12 tie vote by favoring market value assessment (MVA), after more than six hours of debates and public opposition.

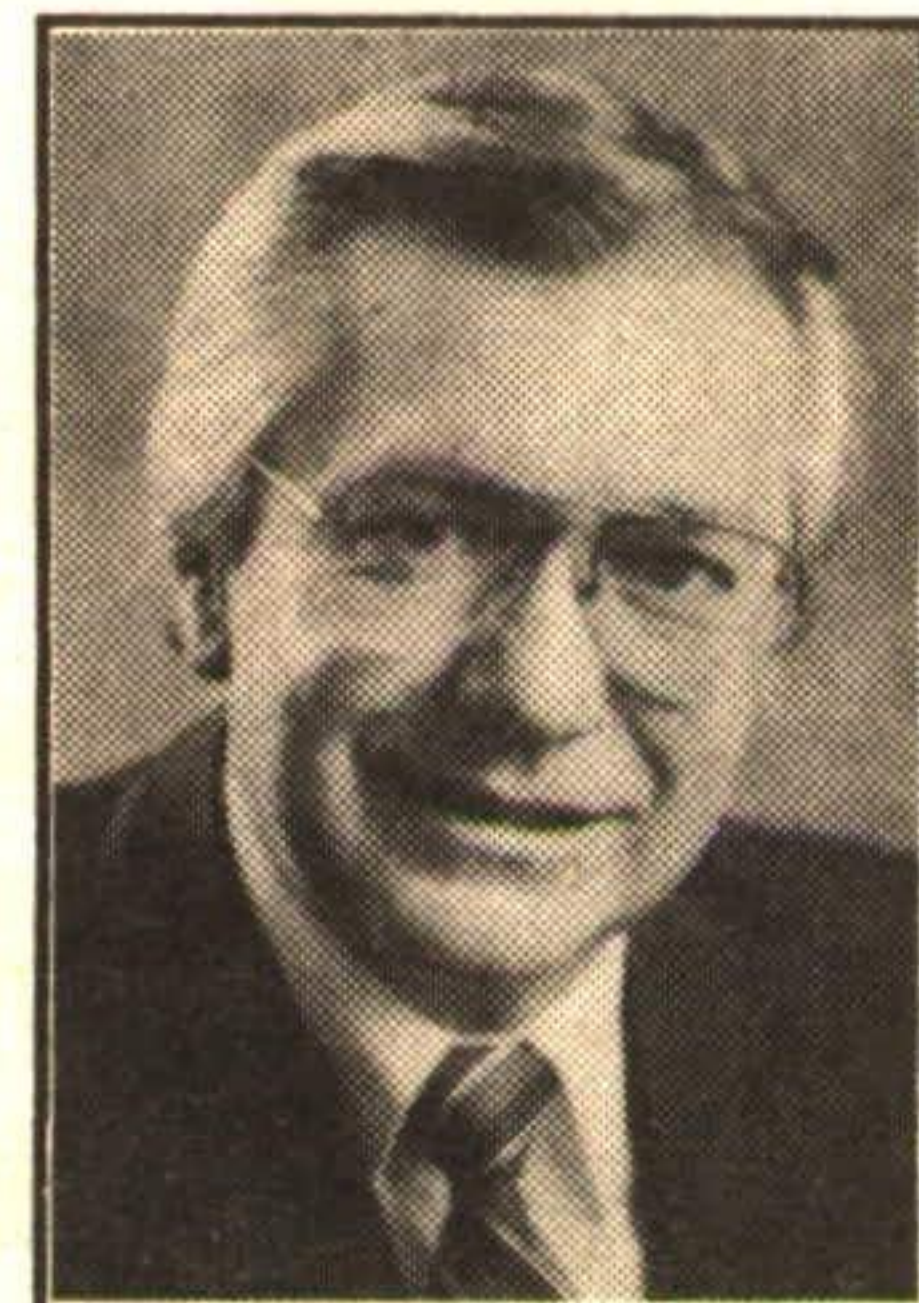
Halton Hills and Oakville councillors unanimously opposed the new system, arguing, in part, that it is irresponsible to use the inflated property values from 1988 in today's depressed economy to determine the level of taxes people will have to pay. Some argued if it is to be implemented, then 1992 would be a better base year.

But, Burlington and Milton favored the change as is, because for the most part, taxes will go down in those municipalities.

"This has to have more input to make sure we know exactly where we're going with this," Halton Hills mayor Russ Miller said. "We are in recessionary times — people are hurting, out of jobs. So, to make the switch now is asking too much."

Councillor Rick Bonnette argued it is "not the time to burden the taxpayer."

"You'll have everyone with an increase lined up at the assessment office appealing their taxes," he added. "It's going to be a real dog's breakfast, and all it's going to do is create more jobs for the tax office."



PETER POMEROY
Deciding vote

See HALTON HILLS, page 8

FALL SPECIAL



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