

# Town's chances 'slim to none' in fighting MVA at OMB

By **STUART JOHNSTON**  
Staff writer

Taking Halton Region to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to delay or kill Market Value Assessment (MVA) has all but been ruled out as an option for local officials.

In a verbal report to town councillors Monday night, administrator Dan Costea argued that legal action against the region to stop the new tax, which local officials deem unfair, would "not be appropriate."

"Our solicitor has informed me that such

action would be premature at this time, since assessments have not been determined yet, and in his opinion the chance of success would be quite low," Costea said.

Two weeks ago councillors were fretting over how to stop Halton regional council from going ahead with its plans to implement market value assessment, a new tax based on 1988 property values. At the time, councillor Rob Heaton suggested referring the matter to the Ontario Municipal Board, but Costea pointed out Monday that there are only two options for appealing the tax through the

OMB, and the town's chances of success would be slim to none.

Costea noted that under current legislation, the town can only appeal through the assessment act, or by taking the region to court for a judicial review.

Since assessments have not been completed, and appeals must be made on specific properties, then appealing through the act is out of the question at this time, he added.

Also, Halton Region's approval of MVA just got the ball rolling on the new tax, as it is the province's Assessment Commission which

is responsible for implementing it, Costea added.

However, councillor Marilyn Serjeantson believed there still might be a way of appealing the 1988 base year, arguing that since market values were so inflated then, it is unfair to use them in today's depressed economy. Costea agreed to look into the matter and report back to council.

But, if they cannot appeal MVA, and if regional officials do not change their minds, then the town will have to live with the new tax, Costea said in an interview.

HALTON HILLS

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## News

### Digest

#### Acton man killed

An Acton man was killed when the jeep he was driving left the road and rolled into a ditch on Hwy. 24 north of Guelph Thursday evening.

Police say Garry Taillefer, 43, of Acton, was driving a 1979 Jeep southbound on Hwy. 24 six km. north of Guelph at 11:55 p.m. when the vehicle left the roadway on the west side. Police say the driver over-corrected and the jeep crossed the highway, entered the ditch, then rolled over. Taillefer was pronounced dead at the scene.

A passenger in the vehicle, Scott Withers, 32, also of Acton, suffered leg, head and other injuries in the accident. Withers was taken to Guelph General Hospital. At press time he was listed in satisfactory condition.

Both men were thrown from the vehicle according to the OPP.

#### Marketing fraud

The Guelph detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police wish to remind the public to be wary of telemarketing frauds which continue to be prevalent throughout Ontario.

The majority of these fraud artists will pressure you into revealing your credit card number.

The OPP strongly encourage you to never give your credit card number over the telephone.

## INSIDE

- Food drive.....page 3
- Wastewise.....page 5
- Entertainment.....page 21
- Raiders rocked.....page 28



## Happy Halloween

Wanda the witch paid a visit to the Independent/Free Press office compliments of Up and Away Balloons, as she judged the entries in the newspaper's Halloween coloring contest. Among the winners were (from left) pirate Blake Mandarino, of Georgetown, bunny Alexandra Wolfe, of Ballinfad, and owl Jena Gatto from

Glen Williams. All of the more than 150 entrants in the contest who delivered their entries to the office in person were given certificates to McDonald's Restaurant, Georgetown, and the winners received prizes from Zeller's and Wildwood Manor Ranch.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

## Lake water an option for Town

By **STUART JOHNSTON**  
Staff writer

Halton Region officials are confident that enough water will be found to accommodate a future population of 40,000 in Georgetown and area, but now it's just a question of where it is to come from.

In a report to regional councillors Wednesday, engineering staff pointed out that, while wells in the Georgetown area are currently producing less water than is needed for future growth, other sources such as Peel could become available to fill in the gaps.

Halton Region was placing its faith in two separate test wells to provide enough water for Georgetown's expected growth for the next 20 years. However, test well 15, located on the Eighth Line south of 15 Sideroad, is undergoing extensive monitoring and may not be deemed acceptable by the ministry of environment (MOE).

The other, known as test well 22 at Lindsay Court and Trafalgar Rd., has only been approved to service an additional 2,100 people — one-third of its expected capacity.

MOE officials ordered the region to monitor the Lindsay Court well, once it's up and running next June, until 1995. After that, if the results are favorable, then the remaining two-thirds of the well's capacity might be approved by the province.

But, according to engineering services director Ric Robertshaw, the region must still find alternative sources of water. Recently, Peel sold Halton its Huttonville well at a cost of \$80,000, but Robertshaw admitted the water source is not as good as they had first expected. In order for the well to be acceptable, an extensive, and costly, overhaul of the facility is required.

See SEVERAL, page 8



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