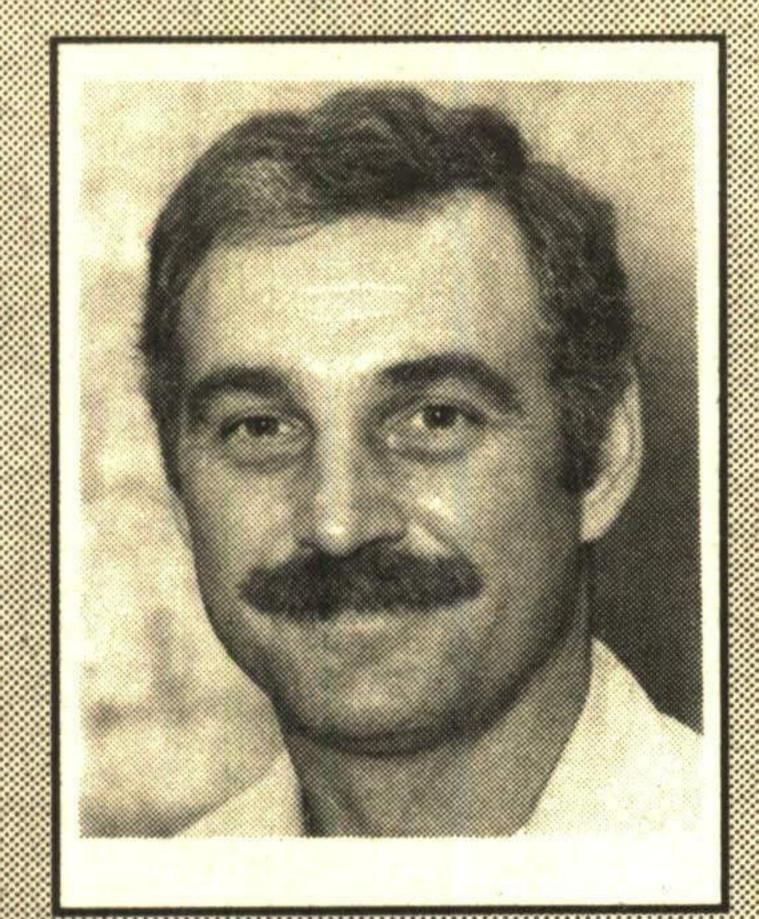


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130 Mill Street, Acton

Board to review tendering policies

By ANGELA BLACKBURN

Special to the Independent/Free Press

Oakville public school trustee John Scheel has finally persuaded the Halton Board of Education to conduct a review and update of its purchasing and tendering policies.

At a recent board meeting, trustees voted 16-2 to request administration to review and update the board's tendering procedure within 30 days.

Scheel first pushed for the review after learning the board's current administrative procedures do not require public tendering of large consulting (or legal or architectural) contracts.

He originally pushed for a purchasing policy review Oct. 8 but was defeated since he tied it to an attempt to get consulting fees for a board energy savings program ten-

At the time, trustees told Scheel they could support a review but not a delay of the energy management program under which a survey is

being conducted this year. Scheel took exception to \$2.9 million worth of consulting fees going to Tamblyn Energy Services for its part in Phase III of a board energy savings program. That program will see Tamblyn contract out, under public tender, a potential \$6 million worth of lighting replacement work in its schools across Halton.

The program was frozen by board administration when Scheel raised his concerns earlier this fall.

However in a 10-5 vote Oct. 8. trustees nixed a policy review and any further delays to Phase II of the energy savings program.

Trustees were concerned savings in the order of \$80,000/month were being lost in the delay.

The Ontario-Hydro sponsored energy savings program is expected to see the public school board recoup its costs and more (\$80,000/month in savings) through

utility savings.

The board's decision was preceded by a presentation by Oakville resident and Halton Taxpayers Coalition member Roger Love.

"Trustees, to our organization this is another "litmus test" vote. Are you willing and able to manage the board's affairs in a business like

way?" asked Love. "As business people, we are deeply concerned that the trustees may not be functioning in the way that a board of directors should and question whether they could be accused of not fulfilling their duties adequately. As members of the public we see this episode as another example of what appears to be an administration not fully under the

control of the trustees," said Love. Love criticized trustees for not having heard "alarm bells" sound when the issue of the consulting contract first arose last spring.

"We address you... with the reservations of business people about the manner in which the administration is and now, most certainly, is at least perceived as carrying out policies mandated by trustees," said Love.

Final stages

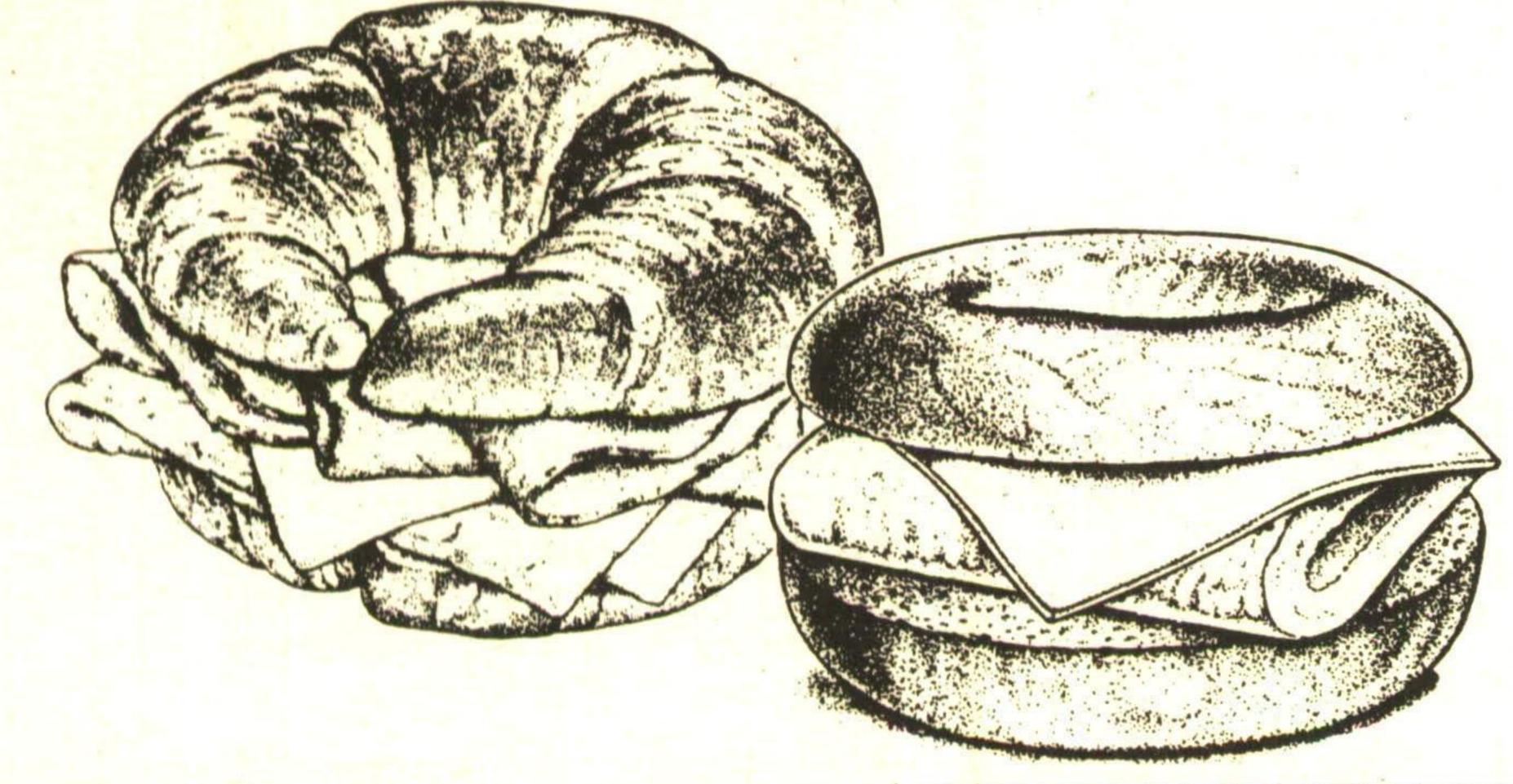
Thanks to the Lions Club of Acton and the many residential canvassers, the United Way campaign in Acton is moving into its final stages.

"Despite the campaign's late start, all of the canvassers are doing a great job in contacting as many residents as possible," said organizer Dave Pyke.

Pyke adds that once all of the canvassers' kits are returned, they will then be delivered to the United Way's campaign headquarters for tabulation. For more information, contact David Pyke at 853-4534.

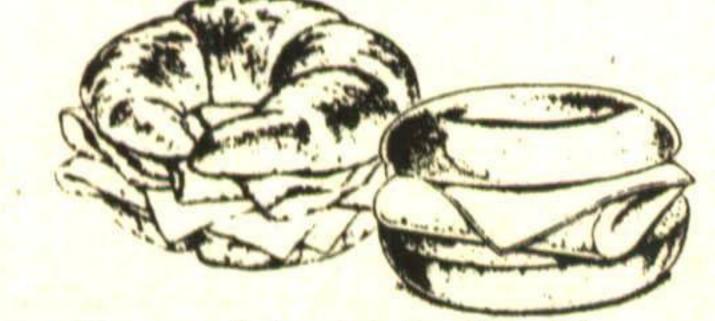
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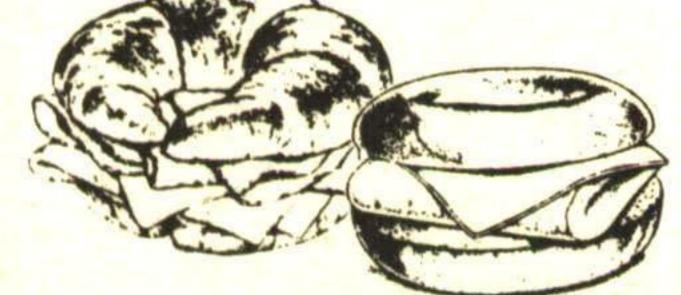


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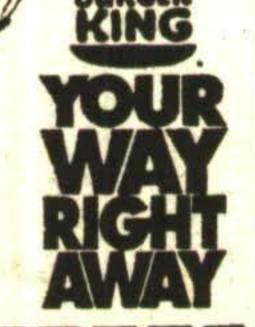
Bagel Breakfast

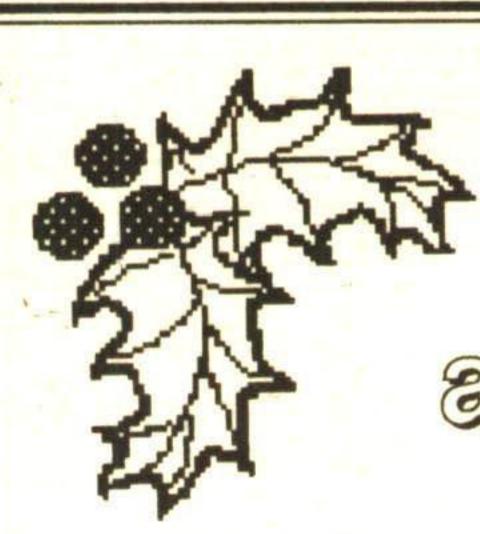
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Christmas Open House at Clay Concepts

The open house starts on Saturday, November 28th and continues to Sunday, December 6th. As in other years I have special things planned for each day.

November 28th - Canadian Tire Day - Everyone had so much fun with this last year that I thought I'd do it again. Bring in your Canadian Tire money and you can use it for up to 25% of your purchase price.

November 29th - Break a Balloon and win! There will be all kinds of prizes hiding in the balloons, including some pottery.

November 30th to December 4th - Food and door prizes will abound all week. This will be a good time for Moms to shop as it won't be quite as busy. Please just ask if I don't remember and I'll pull out some clay for the kids.

December 5th - On a more serious note - This year I'm incorporating a fundraiser for the Halton Rape Crisis Centre. If you would like to help a very worthy and important community support system, come out and do some of your shopping today. I will donate 20% of today's total sales to the centre.

December 6th - Clay Money - I'm starting a new thing today. From now on I'm going to give out "Clay Money". This will be money (not made from clay) that you will receive with each purchase that you can use against future purchases. No, I have never worked for that tire company . . . I just like some of their ideas!

My Christmas season with my guest artists will continue until Wednesday, December 23.

look forward to seeing all of you and sharing my studio's third birthday with new and old friends alike.

Carul-Ann Michaelson

Clay Concepts Studio and Gallery 523 Main St., Glen Williams (416) 873-2147

