

Basements flooded by raw sewage

Approximately 15 basements in Georgetown were flooded out for several hours after raw sewage backed up through the pipes and into the homes Wednesday.

According to Halton region's director of maintenance Brent Marshall, "foreign debris" lodged in the sewer pipes and blocked the system, causing wastewater to back up into about 15 Maple Ave. townhomes.

Residents were forced to tear up their carpets and remove furniture

from many of the basements because of the moderate to severe flooding.

The blockage was cleared from the pipes within an hour or so after the problem occurred, Marshall said.

Halton officials met with the homeowners and advised them to file damage claims.

"I don't believe there is a great deal of damage in terms of dollars," Marshall noted, adding an exact cost will not be determined until the insurance adjusters have completed their

evaluation. Residents affected by the backlog of sewage described the problem "as a disgusting mess," and believe damages resulting from water and odors will be high.

Marshall was quick to point out that Wednesday's flooding "is an unusual situation," noting such a problem has not occurred for several years.

"It sounds like an entire system problem, but it really is localized," he said.

Sounds of Christmas

The Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press 1992 Christmas Carol books are now available at our office, 211 Armstrong Avenue.,

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STILL NOTING

WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Telephone problems

Georgetown residents with 873 and 877 exchanges may have experienced some problems with their phone lines on Thursday due to the cutting of a Bell cable in Brampton that morning.

Perry Blocher, communications manager for Bell Canada, says the cable was cut at a construction site on Queen St. west of the Second Line in Brampton at about 10:30 a.m.

Blocher says people with 873 or 877 exchanges may have experienced crackling on the lines, they had to wait longer than usual for a dial tone, or got a "fast busy" signal after they dialed.

A "fast busy" signal is a faster beeping than a regular busy signal. It occurs when a caller can't get a circuit.

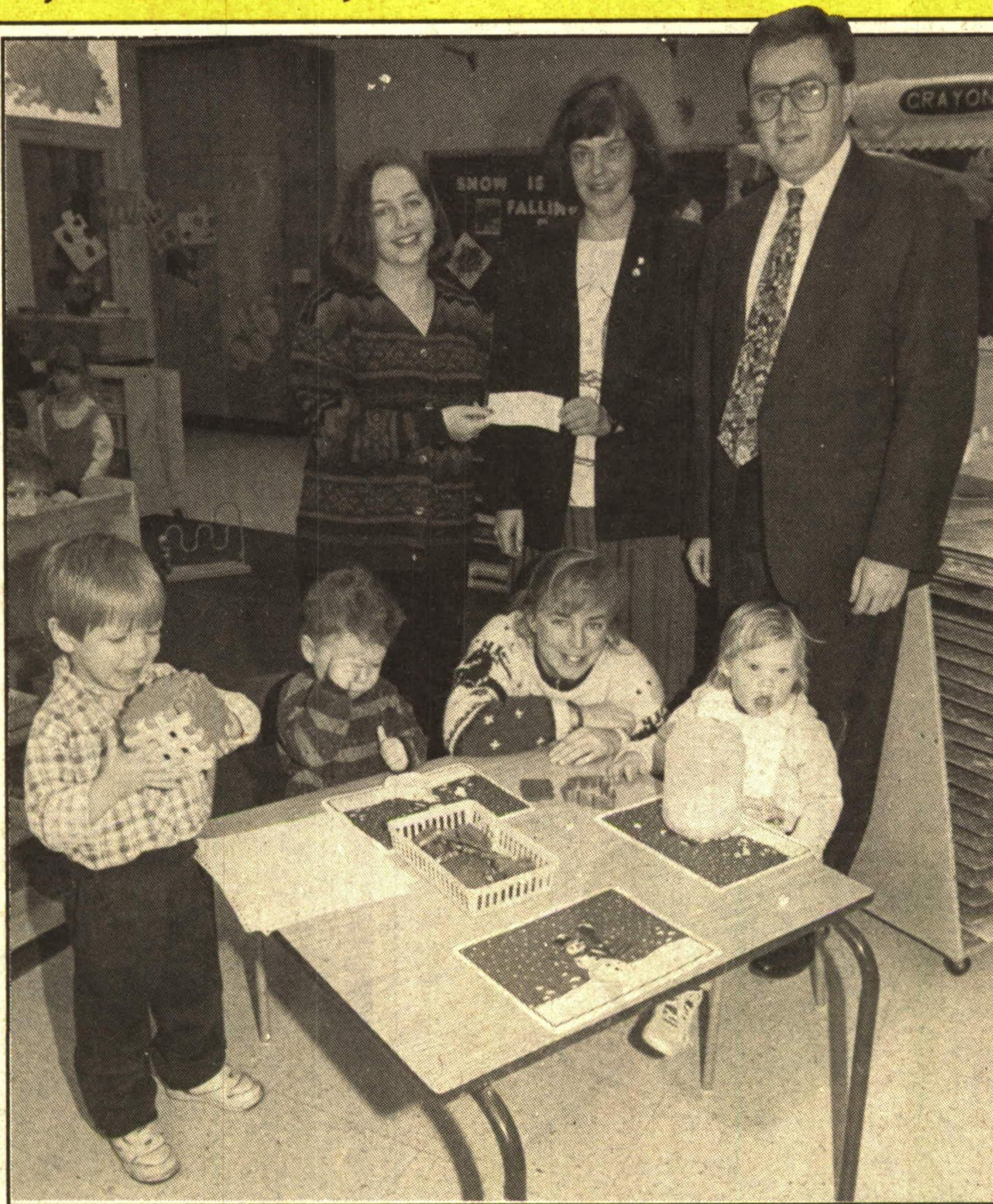
At press time Blocher predicted service would be back to normal by 9 p.m. Thursday.

Going to trial

As a result of a preliminary hearing in Burlington recently Keith Bettridge, the 35-year-old Halton Hills man, originally charged with first degree murder in connection with the shooting death of his common-law wife Kimberly Thompson in June, has been committed to stand trial on a lesser charge of second-degree murder. Halton police media relations officer Sgt. Joe Martin says a trial date has not yet been set, and likely will not be set until January.

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Community supporters

North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped (NHADH) is \$430 richer after members of the Maple Lodge Farms Chicken Coop social club presented a donation recently at Acton Y Preschool, located at M.Z. Bennett School. Donations like Maple Lodge's help fund programs like the Y Preschool, where NHADH provides support staff so their clients can be integrated into the program at an early age. Currently, four NHADH clients are using the Y program in Acton, and a total of 25 children have been integrated into local day cares in Acton, Georgetown and Milton, allowing the little ones to attend day care in their home town, with their own friends. A resource teacher travels between day care locations rather than transport the children. Included in the photo are front, Y students MacBride Hunter, Mitchell Dunn, NHADH resource teacher Anne Gilmour and Sarah Loturso. In back, presenting the cheque are Grace Brousseau, of Maple Lodge Country Market, NHADH Community Relations Director Anne Sidebottom, and Andy Hicks, of Maple Lodge Farms.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

MVA deferred for one year

By STUART JOHNSTON

Staff writer

After a marathon nine-hour session into the early hours Thursday, Halton regional councillors relented to overwhelming public pressure and put market value assessment (MVA) on hold for another year.

Only Oakville councillor Keith Bird voted against deferring the controversial new tax, but not before council listened to 56 delegations protest for several hours about how it is going to adversely affect them, businesses and the region as a whole. Halton Hills chamber of commerce president Bob Malcolmson and local builder Dave McNally were among the numerous delegations.

About 450 people crowded into the auditorium at Halton's Oakville headquarters, while at least another 200 watched the proceedings on monitors set up next door in the cafeteria. Halton Cable broadcast the entire meeting live, as well.

"This was our plan from square one," beamed a tired but jubilant Dr. James Millington at the conclusion of the long meeting, which finally adjourned just after 3 a.m. Thursday. Millington, an Oakville resident, helped spearhead the massive public opposition to MVA. "I'm tickled pink that (council) listened to the people. That's what it's all about. Tonight is an example of good government at work."

Acton rep Rick Bonnette, who led Halton Hills' fight against MVA and was instrumental in getting Wednesday's meeting organized, claimed the decision was a "people's victory," and praised all those who attended, wrote letters or phoned. He presented the regional clerk with well over 100 letters sent to the Independent/Free Press in a recent survey of Halton Hills residents.

Once the long list of delegations concluded their presentations, councillors launched into over two hours of debate themselves over the merits of deferring MVA until 1994.

However, they first had to follow a somewhat complicated process before being allowed to discuss the issue.

Under council's procedural rules, only someone who had originally voted in favor of the new tax could suggest reopening the matter for another round of discussion.

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RICK BONNETTE



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