

Region treasurer proposes 3.6 percent tax hike

By **ROB KELLY**

Special to the Independent/Free Press

Halton treasurer Joe Rinaldo is proposing a 3.6 per cent property tax hike for regional expenditures in 1993, which amounts to \$11.42 for the average homeowner.

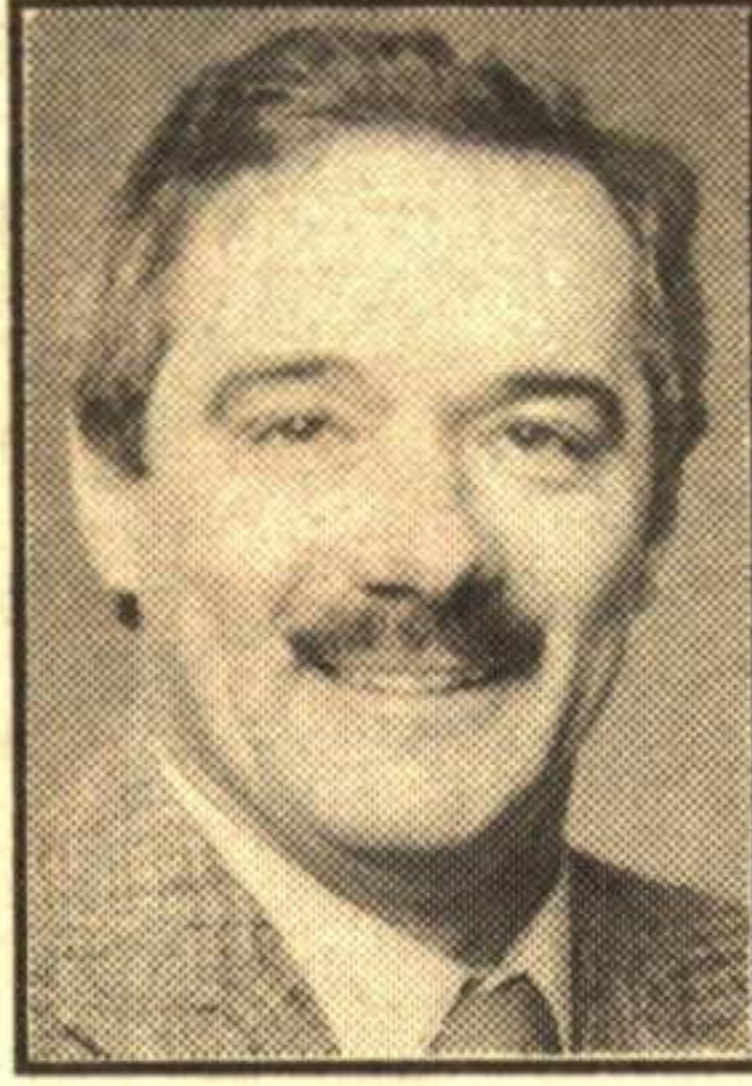
Earlier in the year regional council told Rinaldo to examine ways of flattening the tax increase to zero. He has provided a contingency plan for that, but isn't recommending it because of the perceived hardship it would involve.

Rinaldo was also quick to point out that the lion's share of the increase - \$7.86 or 2.5

per cent - is for police services. Halton has little direct control over the police budget.

The treasurer gave a brief outline of the budget proposals at the end of the last regional council meeting for 1992 Wednesday in Oakville. Councillors will mull over the numbers, and possibly change them, in a series of budget discussions extending through February.

Halton's tax-related budget for 1993 is \$141 million. The average homeowner will pay \$325 for regional services through taxes in 1993, with \$175 going for



JOE RINALDO

policing. Halton raises another \$80 million from residents annually in utility rate charges. That budget, already approved, was frozen for most users in 1993.

The regional tax levy is comparatively small, at 14 per cent of the average total property assessment. Education eats up 57 per cent. The rest goes to the four area municipalities, Rinaldo said.

In attempting to hold the line on expenditures, Rinaldo has trimmed \$1.3 million from regional programs, including dropping 13 employees, mostly through

attrition. Various outside agencies which obtain operating funds from Halton Region will have their allocations capped at last year's level if Rinaldo's outline is adopted.

Included in that list would be many community service oriented groups. The only outside social service agency which is not expected to have its funding flat-lined is the Children's Aid Society.

Rinaldo warned that if council opts for a freeze on all expenditures, rather than a 3.6 per cent increase, "it would have a dramatic impact" on capital projects.

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News

Digest

Toy drive

Employees of Georgetown Post Office are holding a food bank and toy drive. All non-perishable goods or unwrapped toys are welcome. Help us help the less fortunate. All donations will go to Love in Christ food bank in Georgetown.

New pumper

In about six months Halton Hills Fire Department may have a brand new triple combination fire pumper. The pumper will operate out of the Acton station and will replace a 25-year-old truck. The truck will cost about \$295,000, (\$287,244 before taxes) and council approved the tender submitted by Almonte Fire Trucks Ltd. of Carleton Place, Ontario.

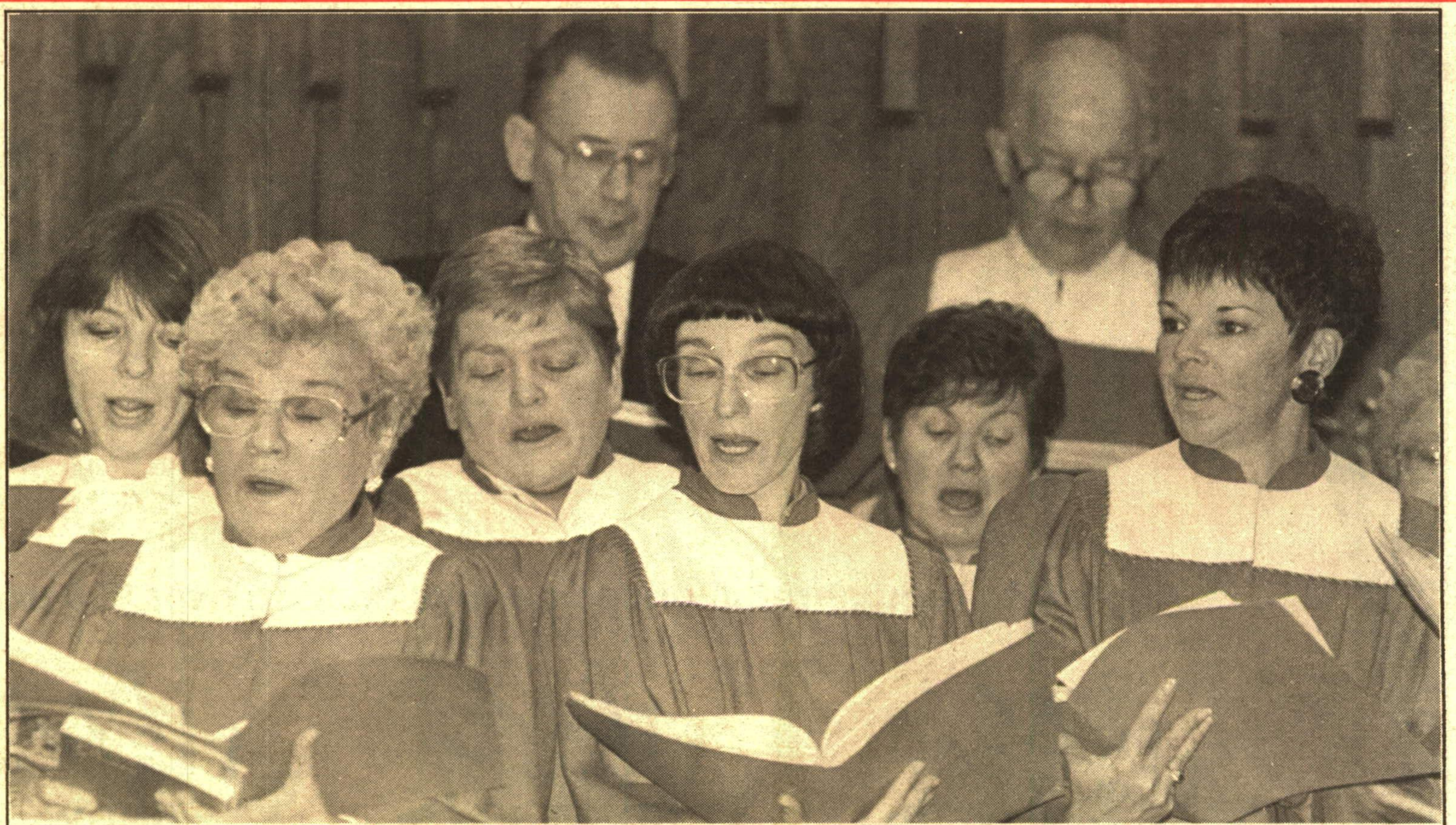
The Almonte bid was the lowest of three tenders submitted.

On the move

Halton Hills council members agreed Monday night to forward a resolution the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) requesting the Halton Hills Sand and Gravel set for Wednesday Jan. 20 be moved from Oakville to this community.

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Sounds of Christmas

The Christmas mood poured out as members of several Georgetown church choirs assembled with the Weston Brass Quintet at St. John's United Church, Georgetown, Wednesday night to take part in their annual Carolfest.

Under the direction of Haydn Evans, the group sang many favorite carols and led the audience in song.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Monarch must take rezoning decision to OMB

The owner of Monarch Resource Recovery and Transfer Operation is going to have to go to the Ontario Municipal Board to seek rezoning so the Armstrong Ave. business can operate legally.

Council decided Monday night not to amend the town's bylaw which would have made it legal for the resource and recycling company

to operate at its present location.

Mike Norris, a resident of The Sands residential condominium which neighbors Monarch, made another appearance at council Monday night to ask councillors to turn down the rezoning application.

Norris has called the business an eyesore and was very unhappy with the fact that the revised bylaw

allowed the building on the site to reach 50 ft. Planning director Ian Keith said the bylaw would be amended to allow only a 40 ft. high building.

"We don't want to be treated as a building with 160 units, we are 160 households," said Norris. He charged that the town's planning department had "exceeded their

mandate" by providing council with a revised bylaw that would permit Monarch to operate legally.

The business has been operating on the site for several years.

Andrew Colley, the town's senior planner, says a decision from the OMB on the Monarch case will likely not come down until March or April.



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