

# School trustees want public input on budget

By ANGELA BLACKBURN  
Special to the Independent/Free Press

The Halton Board of Education is giving the public two weeks to respond to 10 budget cuts before trustees debate and vote on the potential cuts and the currently proposed \$291 million 1993 expenditure budget.

The budget, presented at the March 8 finance committee meeting is a 2 per cent expenditure increase that will translate into a 4.01 per cent mill rate increase on the tax bill.

It was reached after trustees directed staff to cut a further \$2.4 million from

the previously proposed budget.

Those cuts saw another \$1.4 million hacked out across the system and assumes a further \$1 million will be raised if the over 4,000 board employees agree — as recently asked by director Bob Williams — to voluntarily give up a day's pay.

That issue has been a matter of hot debate, particularly with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation which was told by its provincial body to oppose the move on the basis that it equates to reopening the collective agreement.

Principals received a voluntary letter

Monday to distribute to staff yesterday and the board expects responses by Friday. If no one agrees, the board will be looking at 75 layoffs. Depending on how much is raised, that number could be reduced or eliminated.

Trustees put forward 10 areas for suggested further cuts. Staff will take two weeks to compile reports on the cost savings and impact of many of the cuts before debate occurs March 22.

The proposed cuts include:

- Reduction of temporary assistance fund by 50 per cent;
- 1993 budget based on 1992 actuals except where 1992 actuals are greater

than the 1993 budget, excepting all contractual items;

- Elimination of trustee conference/convention budget for 1993;
- Only trustees residing north of Britannia Road charge mileage expenses;
- Administrative assistance for elementary panel reduced by 50 per cent;
- Elimination of "Our Schools" magazine for \$43,470;
- Reduce budget for staff recruitment by \$28,943;
- Eliminate a non-contractual staff development budget, \$293,270;

See CUTS, page 2

HALTON HILLS  
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## WEEKEND

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SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1993 - VOL 8 - ISSUE 48- 40 PAGES - 50¢ + G.S.T.

### News

#### Digest

##### Hit and run

Police report a hit and run incident on Guelph St. in Georgetown last Friday evening, March 5. The owner of the vehicle parked in the parking lot of the Georgetown Marketplace Mall at 6 p.m. and upon his return at 8 p.m., discovered a dent in the rear passenger side door.

##### Looking busy

At Monday's council meeting Councillor Pam Johnston asked town staff to investigate the possibility of devising some sort of bylaw to ensure that the vacant stores in Halton Hills look occupied. She said it was important the stores and businesses look attractive when industrialists visit the town. Johnston suggested that staff consult with Welland city staff, who apparently have such a bylaw. Councillor Anne Currie raised concerns about who would pay for the clean up.

##### Charged with theft

A Georgetown woman has been charged with theft under \$1,000 following an incident in Georgetown earlier this month. According to police, sometime between March 1 and March 9, the accused stole a Georgetown woman's welfare cheque, for \$350, and attempted to cash it at a local bank.

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### Top speakers

North Halton Public Speaking Finals were held Wednesday at Georgetown District Christian School where students from Georgetown, Acton and Milton competed for top honors. In the intermediate division, (above) winners were congratulated by Peter Welling, president of the Optimists Club of Georgetown, sponsors of the competition. Winners were (from left) first place, Nicole Lee, of St. Joseph's School, Acton, second place to Alicia Kelly, of Holy Cross, Georgetown, and David Slessor, of Our Lady of Victory School, Milton. Junior winners (photo right) were (from left) third place, Derrick Birkmann of Robert Baldwin School, Milton, first place Ashley Johnson of George Kennedy, Georgetown, and second place, Tim Salvador of E.W. Foster School, Milton.

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## Hearing decision overturned

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

A three-judge panel of Ontario Court's General Division handed down a decision on Tuesday that could indirectly mean that Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) could be back sooner than expected to pursue their application to landfill the Acton quarry.

In regard to an Ontario Hydro case the judges decided that applicants who require approval for projects under more than one provincial law, and may face more than one public hearing, be given a hearing under the province's Consolidated Hearings Act.

Last fall Reclamation Systems Inc., which is seeking approval to put a landfill in the Acton quarry, was denied a hearing by the joint board because it had not provided all the required documentation and applications.

Ontario Hydro, which is seeking to extend transmission lines for a west of London project went to court in January and as a result put the RSI decision in question to see if they could proceed to the consolidated board hearing process in the application.

The court decision also stated that it wasn't necessary for the Minister of the Environment to formally refer applications for environmental approval to tribunals created under the act and that the perception that an application is inadequate is not a jurisdictional issue.

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## MARCH TAX BREAK

Now through March 21st, we'll knock 15% off our lowest ticketed prices — equivalent to us paying your GST and PST — at Leathertown West Wearhouse, the Flight-Line Leather Store and the Hide House! (Furniture and foodservice not included)

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