

# MVA report could mean lower taxes for Halton Hills residents

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 "It was the meeting of all the meetings that I've attended in 30 years," he recalled. Regional council decided to defer MVA, which was to go into effect Jan. 1, 1993, with a base year of 1988 and instead set up a citizen's committee to look into the matter.

The citizen's committee, with three representatives from each of Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills, met from February until August. The resulting 84-page report, which has about the same number of pages of graphs and statistical information attached, starts with the statement that "all proper-

ty tax systems are unfair in the sense that they neither reflect the ability to pay of the taxpayer nor the benefits the taxpayer receives from the provision of municipal and school board services."

"I don't mean to be harsh, and I don't know if the (other) regional councillors have some other busi-

ness (right now), but they could have been out here," said Acton regional councillor Rick Bonnette who led the drive last year to defer implementation of MVA.

As it was, Mayor Russ Miller came to the meeting after attending to other duties, but regional councillors Bill Robson, Pam Johnston and Marilyn Serjeantson were not at the meeting. These are the people who will be voting on the report Sept. 30.

If the recommendations of the committee are implemented, then no one's taxes would increase by more than 2 per cent per year. The tax shift would mean Halton Hills would pay 5.8 per cent less in property taxes, Milton 4.3 per cent less, Burlington, 7 per cent less, while Oakville would pay 3.3 per cent more.

On September 30, at a special meeting of regional council, the committee will present the findings of their report. At that time, council will vote whether to rescind their 1992 vote to implement MVA, using 1988 as the base year. If it is not rescinded, the new taxes will come into effect Jan. 1, 1994. If it is rescinded, regional council will then decide if they want to pursue the recommendations in the report. One of the recommendations includes using the base year of 1992.

## Police

### Blotter

#### Car scratched

A Ford Mustang was damaged while parked at 280 Guelph St. during the day Tuesday. Scratches were on both sides of the car, the hood and the trunk. Damage to the car is estimated to be \$500, police said.

#### Damaged elephant

Three people were observed kicking park equipment and breaking one yellow elephant which is mounted on a spring in a park at Barber Dr. and McKinnon Dr. in Georgetown Wednesday evening. Police said there was no other visible damage and they are looking for three young suspects.

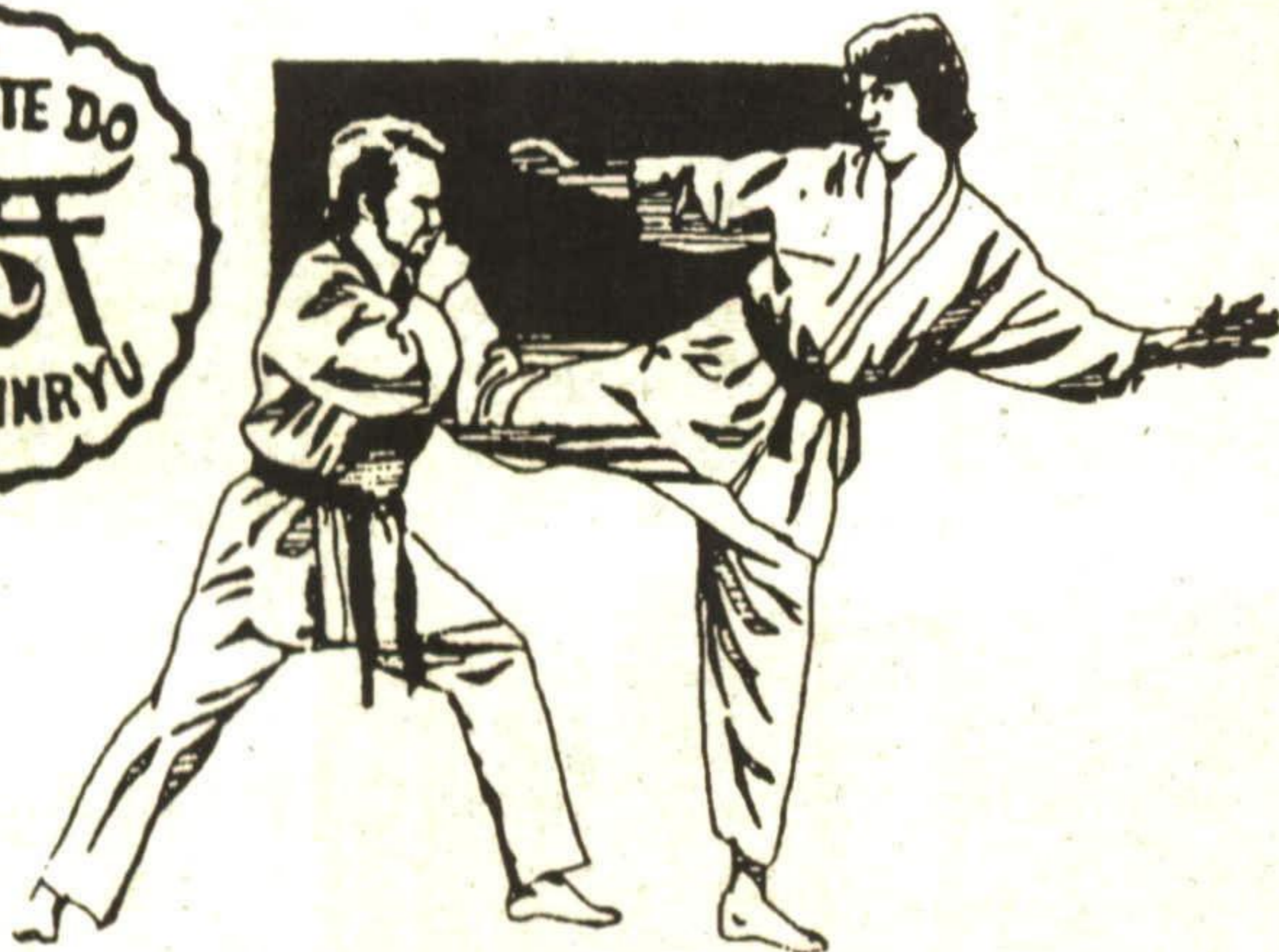
#### Creating a disturbance

Police arrested a Brampton man at a Georgetown residence at 3:15 a.m. Wednesday and charged him with causing a disturbance. A woman called police when she saw a man in front of her house shouting at her. When police arrived, a man was still in the yard and he shouted at police, they said.

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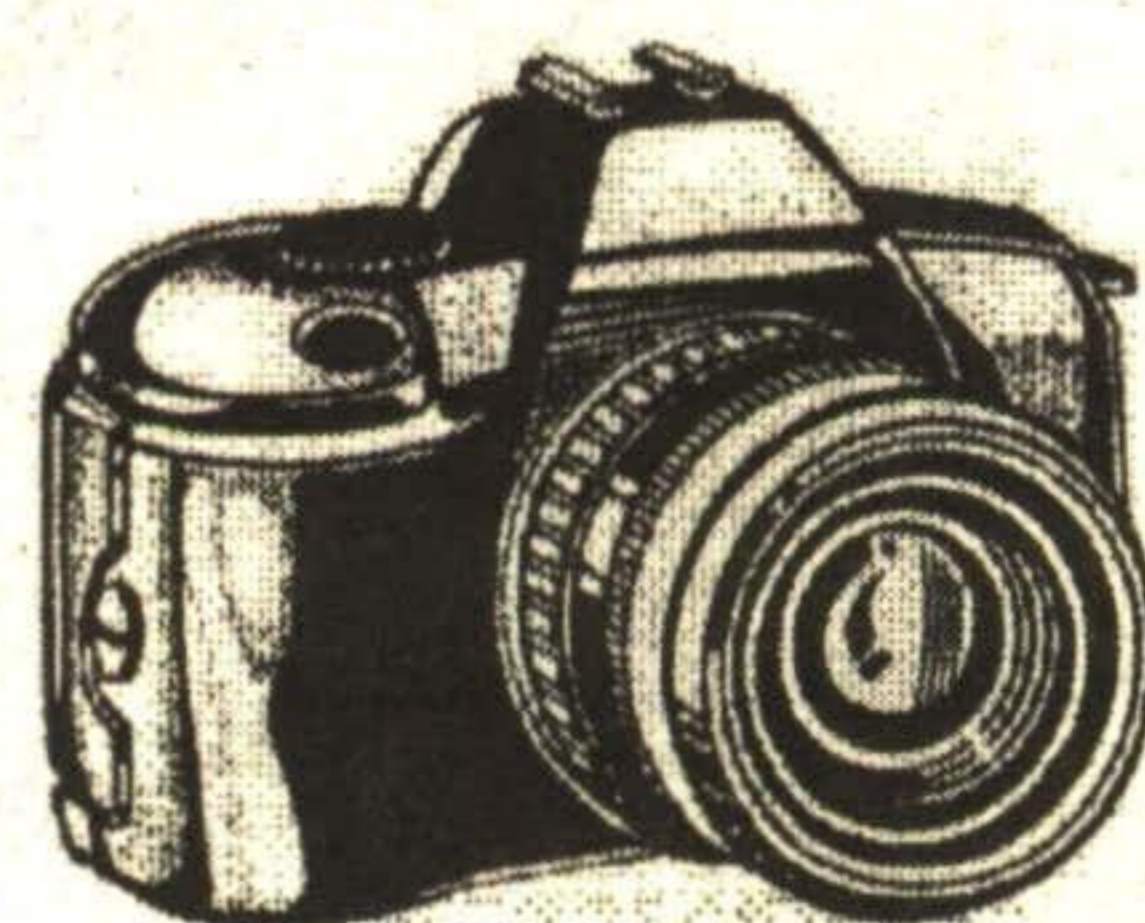
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