

Duignan invites area MPs to discuss issues

Noel Duignan, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Halton North, has extended an invitation to the three Halton area federal members of parliament to attend a meeting to discuss federal-provincial issues.

Duignan recently wrote to Julian Reed, MP for Halton-Peel; Bonnie Brown, MP for Oakville-Milton; and

Paddy Torsney, MP for Burlington and indicated he was looking forward to a cooperative era of representation.

In his invitation Duignan referred to the set of studies which showed how badly Ontario has been affected by the practices and policies of the previous federal government.

"Premier Rae has called upon Prime

Minister Jean Chretien to reverse the current discrimination against Ontario," said Duignan.

"He has also called upon the new federal government to join with ours in creating jobs, renewing manufacturing, and investing in people and technology," he added.

Ontario is already investing, on its

own, almost \$4 billion a year in putting people back to work and has provided financing for a number of infrastructure and other projects in Halton Region.

"An additional contribution from the federal government would mean more jobs in Ontario and for the communities in our area," said Duignan.



NOEL DUIGNAN

HALTON HILLS

WEEKEND

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News

Digest

New police chief

Peter James Campbell will be the new police chief for the Halton Regional Police Service starting January 1, 1994.

Campbell is currently deputy commissioner of the OPP and his appointment was announced Friday at a press conference. Campbell is replacing Chief James Harding, who retires December 31.

Harding has been appointed to become head of investigative operations for the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) of the Attorney General's office. The unit investigates police shootings in Ontario.

On strike!

Employees of Miracle Food Mart, including those who work at the Miracle store on Guelph St., were on strike Friday.

Talks between the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Locals (UFCW) 175 and 633 and Miracle Food Mart and Miracle Ultra Mart Division of A&P Canada Ltd. broke off Thursday.

The 6,500 employees of Miracle Food Mart and Ultra Mart have been without a contract since June.

UFCW Local 175 president Michael Fraser said the key issues are the company's insistence on changes to contract language, and its position that over the next two or three years several stores would be closed resulting in job losses.

INSIDE

- New armory.....page 3
- Police blotter.....page 6
- Allendale.....page 8
- Community calendar.....page 18
- Entertainment.....page 20
- Halton champs.....page 22



Blowing in the wind

Town of Halton Hills works department employees Herman Vieira (left) and Dave Shannon were busy last week as they took on the mammoth job of cleaning up the fallen leaves in Greenwood Cemetery in Georgetown, by blowing them into piles, before other employees loaded them into trucks. The annual cleanup job keeps six town employees busy for a week as they maintain the beauty of the cemetery grounds.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Students get longer break, less PA days

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

March break will be two days longer, but Halton public school students won't lose any classroom time as a result of social contract changes this year.

Halton Board of Education trustees finalized the changes at an in camera special meeting Thursday night. The Catholic board has not yet made any changes to the school calendar in order to accommodate the social contract cutbacks.

Halton students will have Thursday and Friday, March 10 and 11, off which will extend the March Break by two days. The elementary teachers won't be paid for these two days. June 3 and 29, which were to be PA days, will now be instructional days, so that the students don't lose any classroom time. In addition, two more PA days, Feb. 3 and 4 will be unpaid days for the elementary teachers.

Secondary school teachers are getting three unpaid days. Feb. 4, a PA day, will become an unpaid day for the teachers. In order to make up for the two extra days at March Break, secondary teachers will lose two PA days at the end of June, June 27 and 28.

Payroll deductions for the unpaid days will be spread out until March 31, so that the teachers aren't hit with a sudden reduction in pay during certain weeks.

"I think it's a workable solution, and looking at it in terms of the kids, they're not losing any additional school days," Georgetown trustee Dick Howitt said.

While both Howitt and Acton trustee Dave Whiting agree that the provincial government had to make cutbacks, they have different opinions on how this was achieved.

"It was a pretty gutsy move on Bob Rae's part. He's not going to win any popularity contest...I think the government has to be given full marks for that," Howitt said. "It has not been an easy process, it has been months of trying to get all the details. This has been changing not only day by day, but also hour by hour, and that's been frustrating."

Dave Whiting said he sat in on the negotiations with the unions and found it a very frustrating process.

See WHITING, page 6

'Twas the month before Christmas and all through the House ...



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