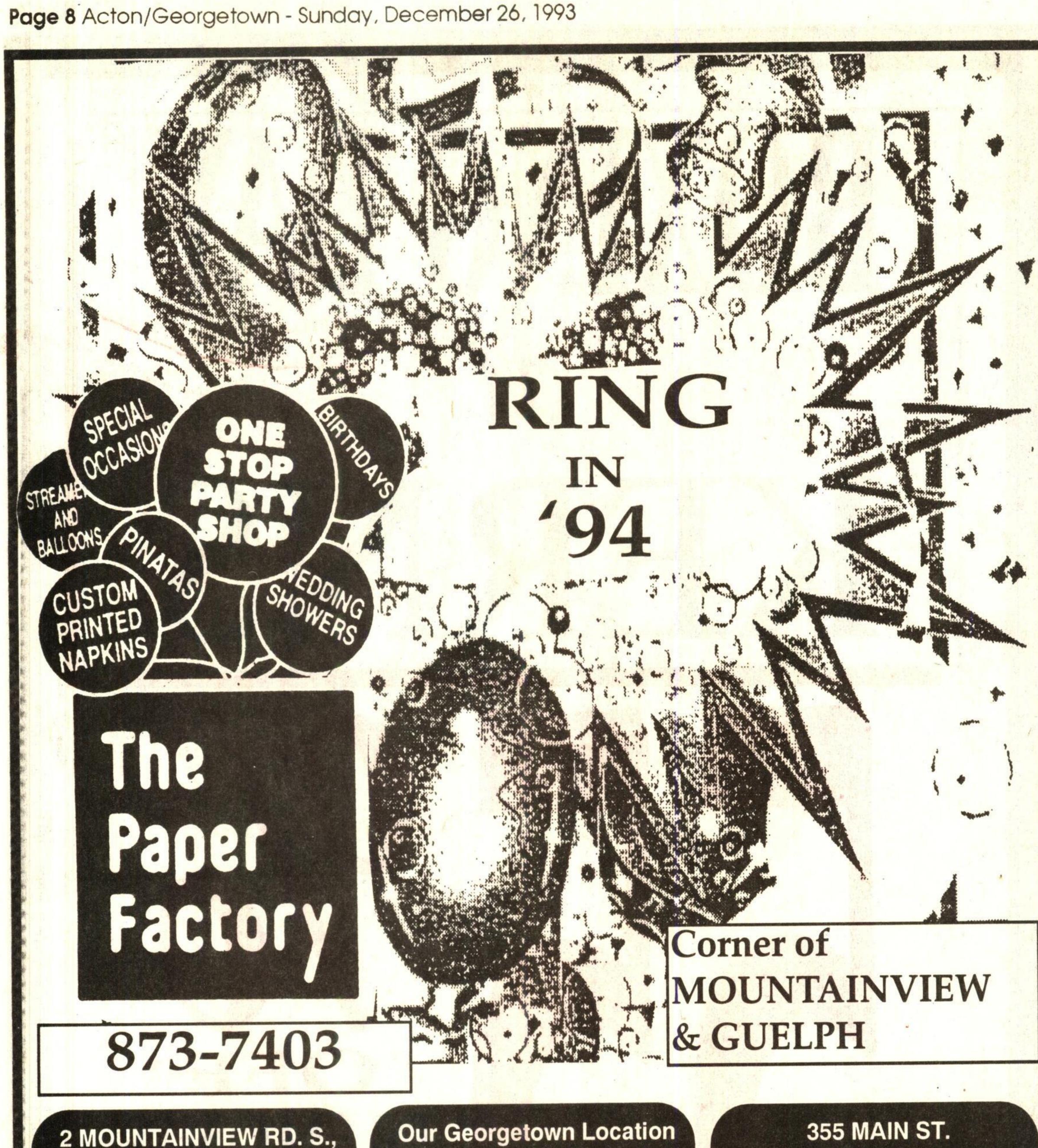
GEORGETOWN

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A Christmas miracle

Staff and students at Centennial Middle School arranged a "Christmas Miracle" for about 60 less fortunate Halton Hills families. Groups of students and staff adopted children, then raised money and bought gifts for the anonymous kids. Staff and students at the school also held a food drive to provide a complete Christmas dinner for the

residents of Halton Women's Place. Grade 7 teacher Rosemary Fiorino played an important role in motivating students to bring in food, toys, and raise money. Pictured are several students and staff members from Centennial who had a hand in the success of the Christmas Miracle.

LISA TALLYN Independent/Free Press

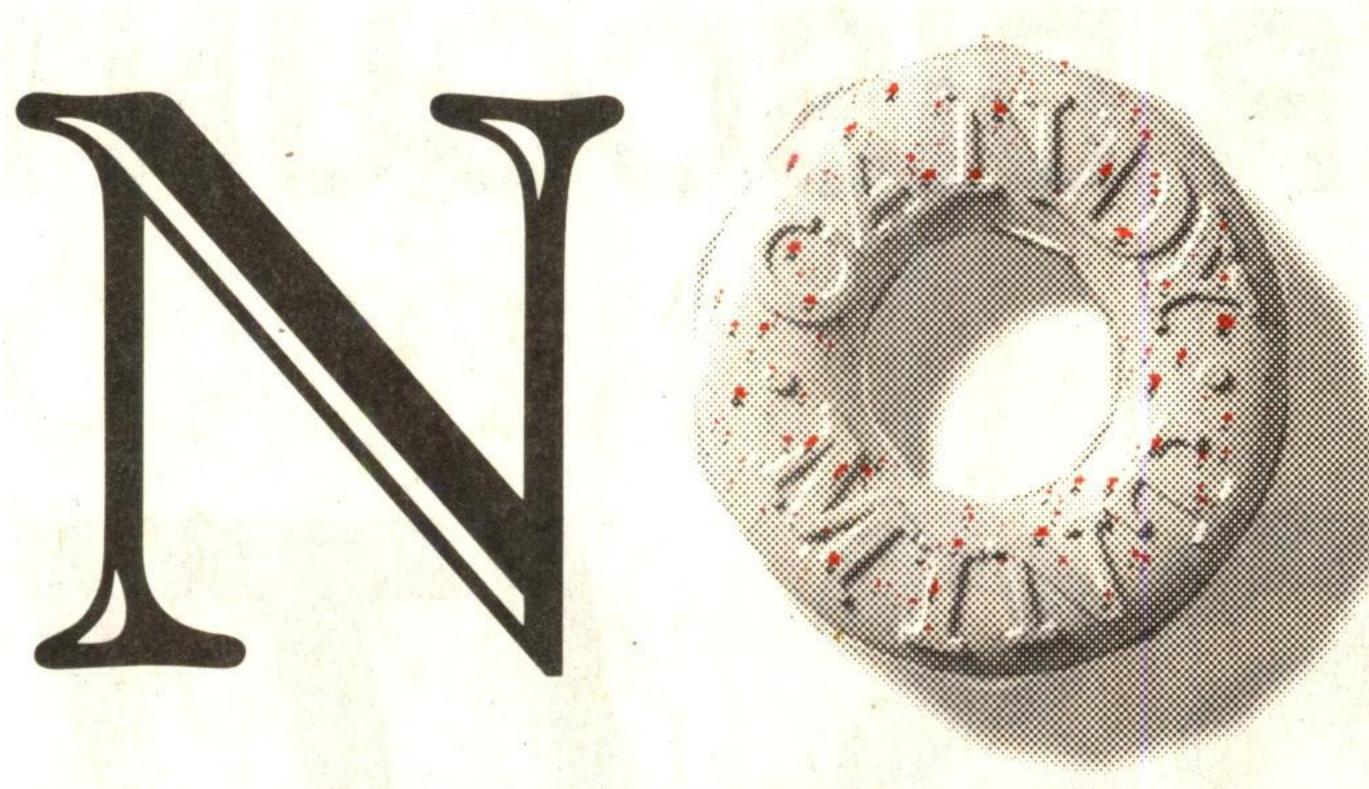
MILTON

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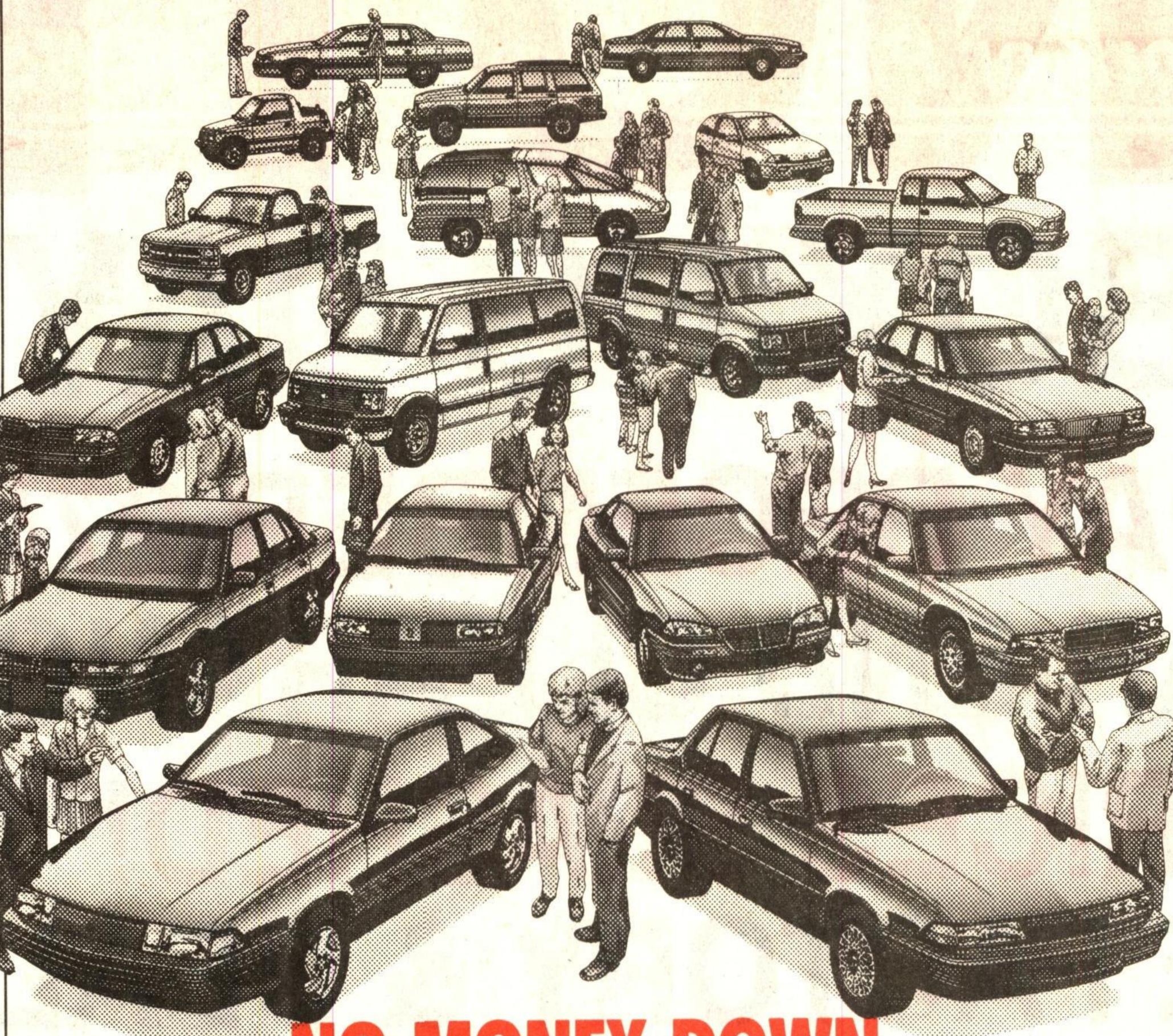
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Company requests licensing review

By STEVE LeBLANC Special to The Independent/Free Press

Halton Hills Council voted to reexamine the town's procedures for business licensing following a request by K.T. Taxi owner Ken MacIsaac December 13.

MacIsaac's request concerns the renewal of his business permits, which total \$470 and include a billiard table, arcade and snack bar. These permits become due on December 31.

The newly established business owner explains that he paid the full year's licence fees back in late August and now, instead of having to pay a year from the date of licence payment, he will have to pay another one-year licence fee at the

end of the month. "It is my feeling that as the permits are not pro-rated with an expiration of December 31 of each year, that permits in fact should expire one year from the date of issuance," explained MacIsaac. "I hope that if possible you can put yourself in the shoes of all newly established businesses in Halton Hills, and see that in these economic times that amounts of money as such can nearly determine the future of your

business." Town clerk Janet Lunn Stewart explained that because Halton Hills has to collect around 1,000 licences, making the payment due once a year is the most manageable way of dealing with the collection process.

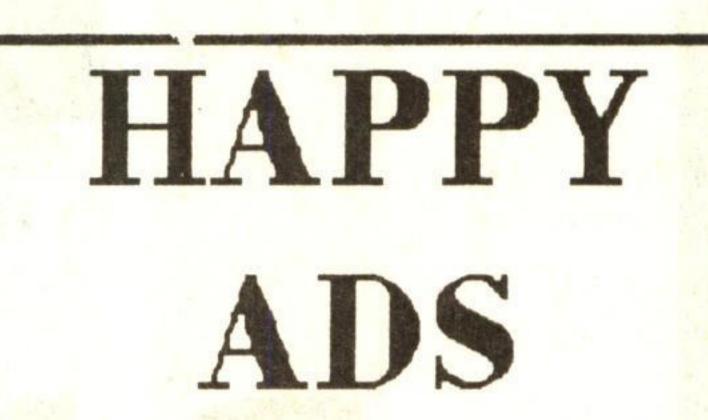
Halton Hills takes in \$37,000 in licensing fees.

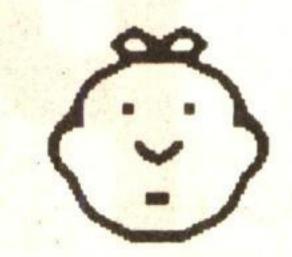
"It is the recommendation of staff that the town stay with the present system," said Stewart.

A number of different collection procedures were suggested including Councillor Anne Currie's proposal that the collection be determined on a quarterly year basis — that businesses opening in April be required to pay only three-quarters of the full amount, that those established in July pay only half, etc.

Other suggestions raised included a rebate system and an individual process for the 12 present businesses in the highest licensing fee bracket.

"We need to support the businesses in this community. If the licensing collection system isn't fair, there may come a time when there aren't any businesses here," stated Councillor Rick Bonnette.





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