

No snow job — winter budget has money to spare

Despite the relentless winter we have experienced so far, it looks like the town's works department may finish the year off with some money to spare in its snow removal budget.

"After five weeks we have spent 56 per cent of the 1994 winter control budget," said Ted Drewlo, manager of operations for the town. "It has been a pretty rough

five weeks."

So far this year \$212,000 has been spent of the \$377,000 budget to keep the town's roads safe to travel on and clear of snow.

Drewlo said we can usually count on one final blast of winter in April. The budget covers January through the end of this winter and November and December of next winter.

"This year we haven't really stopped plowing, sanding and salting for any stretch of time," said Drewlo.

The town's 25 public works employees, and at times extras recruited from the recreation and parks department, have kept 14 snowplow trucks and graders busy for the bulk of the winter.

Although north Halton hasn't

had as much snow as Burlington and Oakville, Drewlo said the wind has blown around the snow we do have resulting in extra plowing being required on rural roads.

Due to the fact that salt isn't as effective when it is very cold, like it has been this year, Drewlo said they have been using more sand than salt this year on the town's roads.

Last year was a relatively hard winter as well. Drewlo said \$350,000 of the \$376,000 1993 winter control budget was spent last year.

"That winter was pretty bad as well, but we had a good November and December."

If November and December 1994 don't bring a lot of snow, Drewlo said they should come in under budget this year as well.

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WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Nominated for bravery

Ed Hillier is being nominated for a medal of bravery from the Ontario Firefighters Association for his rescue of an Acton senior from a burning house Feb. 6. Hillier is also being recommended to receive a certificate from the Halton Region Safety Council, said Fire Chief Bill Cunningham.

Keep fire hydrants clear

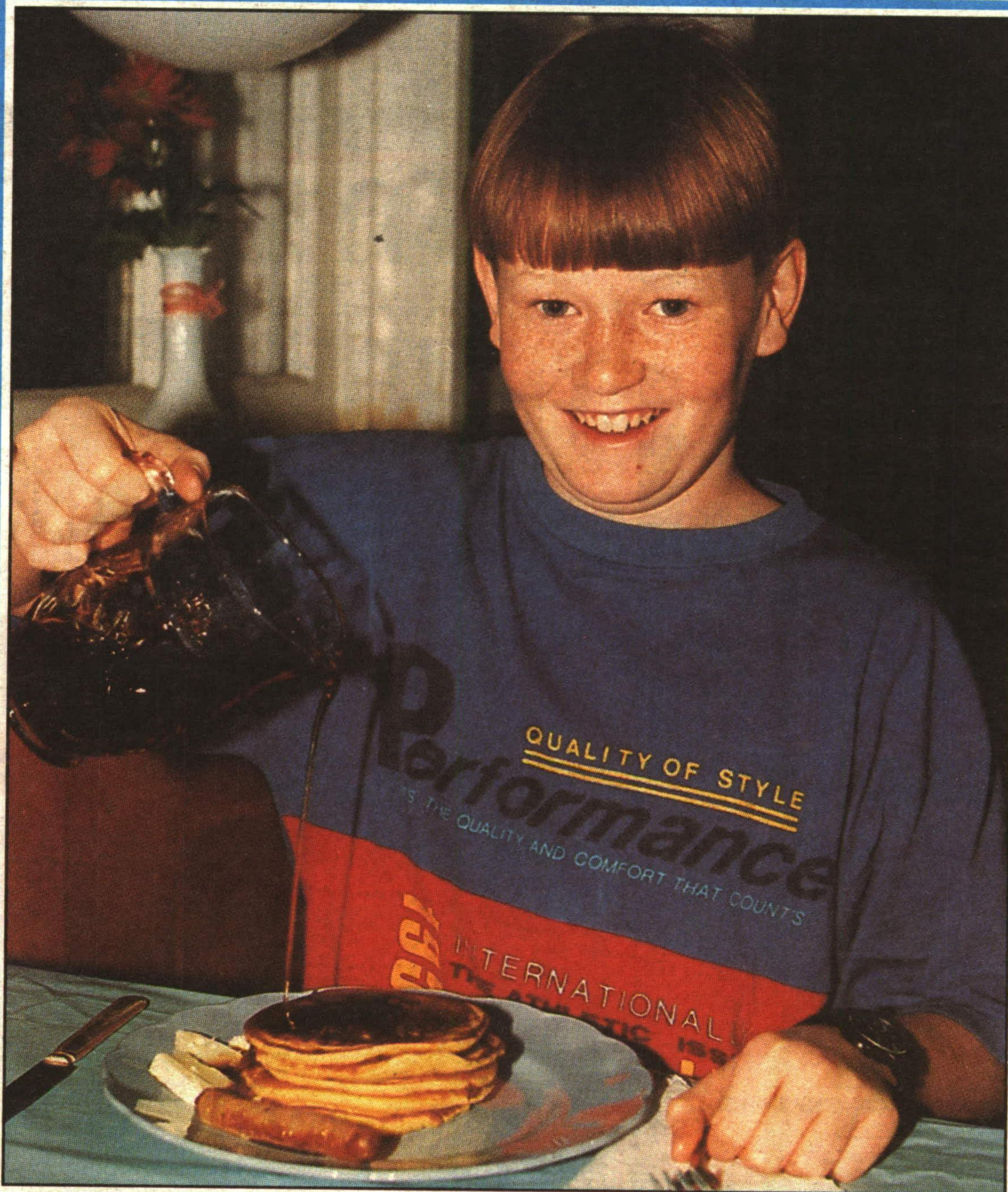
Seconds count! Your help is needed to ensure that fire hydrants in your neighborhood are kept visible and accessible all year round. Your assistance in removing snow from around fire hydrants this time of year would be appreciated. This will enable the fire department to locate and operate fire hydrants during an emergency. The fire department and the Halton Region Public Works Department thank you for your cooperation.

Business of the Year

Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce is pleased to honor Halton Flour Milling Inc. as the 1993 Business of the Year. The awards dinner will be held February 24, at North Halton Golf and Country club. Cocktails at 6:15 p.m. and dinner at 7:15 p.m. Register early as seats are limited. Call Chamber to reserve tickets at 877-7119 or fax 877-5117. Tickets are \$40 including GST. Admission by ticket only and there will be no sales at the door.

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Sticky situation!

Thirteen-year-old Chad Edwards of Acton made sure he had lots of syrup on his pancakes at the annual Pancake Supper last Tuesday night at St. Alban's Anglican Church, in Acton. This marked Chad's first

visit to the annual dinner which has been held for the past seven years in honor of Shrove Tuesday.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Town freezes taxes

By LISA TALLYN

Staff writer

As it stands now, Halton Hills rural taxpayers will pay the same this year as they did last year on the town portion of their tax bills and urban residents will pay, on the average, about \$2.50 less than they did in 1993.

The town's budget committee, consisting of the mayor and all councillors, approved the town's 1994 \$18.3 million operating budget on Tuesday night along with the \$5.8 million capital budget.

Both budgets have to be approved by council before they are final, which is expected by the end of the month.

"The biggest factor in the decrease for urban residents was the elimination of some lunchtime crossing guards," said Koopmans. "Overall the municipality experienced a 2.5 per cent increase in assessment growth as well."

Town treasurer Andy Koopmans said all town departments had to do some serious slashing to meet council's mandate of a zero per cent increase in light of about a \$400,000 cut in provincial funding in 1994.

Staff had to juggle several requirements when calculating the budget, and cut about \$500,000 from their combined department budgets before Koopmans could go to committee members with a zero increase.

"It was a matter of determining priorities. We wanted to minimize the impact on current levels of services and we didn't want to lay anybody off. It wasn't easy," said Koopmans.

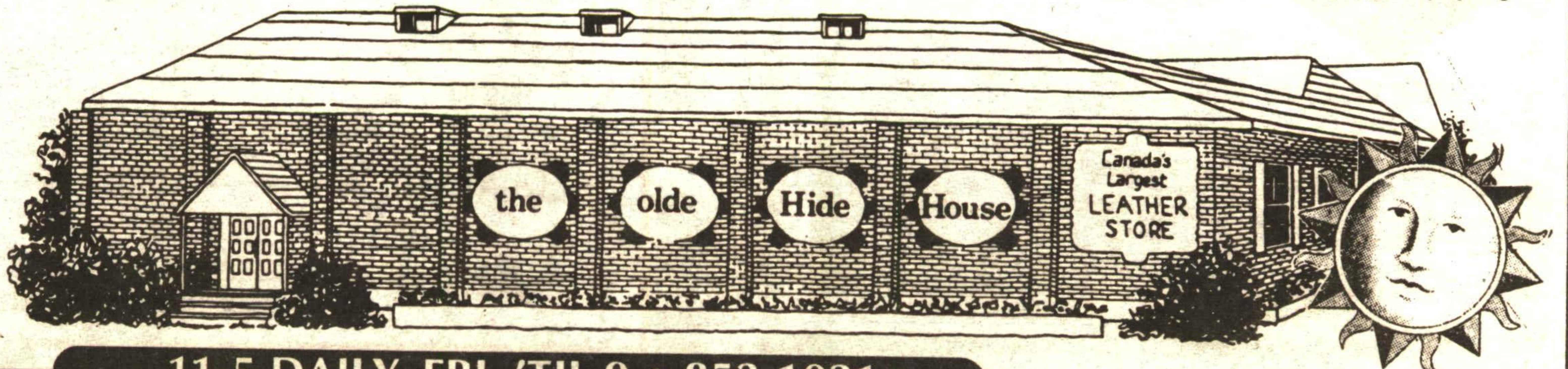
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Out With The Old ... In With The New!

Winter Blowout ...

Spring Preview

Stop in for some great end-of-season specials & preview some of our new styles for spring!



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