

# Tax hikes likely from MVA

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significantly more and others, less, which caused Halton Hills town treasurer Ray King to recommend that council oppose the regional proposal.

In a written report prepared for town council last spring, King warned: "During a period of continued recession, the implementation of regionwide assessment would mean that a total of 8,343 residential units or 66 per cent of all residential units contained within Halton Hills would experience a tax increase of some magnitude."

The local farm community will benefit most with a reduction in taxes under the scheme.

Fully 86 per cent of all Acton homeowners will face a moderate tax increase as a result of regional council's decision. Downtown merchants will also feel the tax sting.

Mayor Russ Miller, who tried unsuccessfully with the help of Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale, to get the whole matter deferred at the regional level, said the town treasurer's department will now have to look at how to phase-in the proposal so that it causes "the least impact" on local taxpayers.

The regional system calls for a four-year phase-in period, thereby cushioning tax increases for those most affected by MVA.

Councillor Pam Johnston noted

that additional staffing time, at the local level, will be needed because of the phase-in. As a result, there'll be increased local costs.

Using 1988 as the base year for the re-assessment is also bad news for Halton Hills ratepayers, Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said. By using 1988 values, taxes will increase by \$719,000 in Halton Hills, while 1992 values would see taxes lowered by \$890,000, she told council.

"This whole system was approved in the name of fairness and equity," Serjeantson said. "But, in retrospect, it's not fair to us (Halton Hills)."

# Waste reducing habits key to winning

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Urban household refuse collected last October in Halton Hills amounted to 691 tonnes, the public works employee said. If the town should win the waste reduction challenge, the prize will be an honorary plaque which will be hung in the Civic Centre.

Wastewise, Georgetown's waste reduction and recycling centre, is also doing its part to promote Waste Reduction Week.

Throughout the week, Wastewise representatives will visit Halton Hills' businesses, where they will conduct a search for "environmentally-friendlier shoppers."

Consumers with waste-reducing habits will be rewarded with each winner receiving a subscription to Earthkeeper magazine, An Almost Perfect Packaging Shopping Kit and a coupon for five free sortings of material brought into the Wastewise warehouse on Armstrong Avenue.

Wastewise workers, Bill Wray and Jennifer Duff, have also issued a press release focusing on educating consumers about waste reduction.

The release recommends three methods of reduction: reject—don't buy things you don't need or things that produce excessive waste; reuse—buy reusable products rather than disposables, and buy second-hand wherever possible; recycle—after reject and reuse, recycle is the next best option. Composting is also recommended as an effective means of waste reduction.

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