

Region challenges province

By Johanna Powell
Special to HHTW

Halton council wants the Ontario government to account to municipalities for provincial spending and revenues.

At a special meeting, regional council decided to ask Premier Bob Rae to explain why his government has introduced new programs and program enhancements at a time when municipalities are being forced by the province to make extremely difficult budget cuts.

The meeting had been called so that council could give its approval to a plan which will cut nearly millions from regional spending in compliance with the provincial expenditure control program and social contract.

However, the meeting also gave councillors the opportunity to express their dismay with new provincial programs.

"We keep hearing announcements of new programs," Halton Hills Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said. Council is willing to do its part to reduce spending, she said, but she would like to know what kind of job the province is doing.

"I can understand their frustration," Oakville South MPP Gary Carr said.

"Percentage-wise, the municipalities have made

bigger cuts than the province. There is still a tremendous amount of waste in provincial government."

Carr said figures released June 30 show that the province spent \$2 million more than it had budgeted for the first quarter of the fiscal year.

At the same time, rev-

enues were down \$55 million because fewer taxes than estimated were collected from corporations, tobacco sales and land transfers.

However, Carr said the government does not have a revenue problem, but a spending problem: "Spending is at historical levels."

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As a result of the manufacturing process, physical or mechanical damage may later occur. Damage may include holes, tears, rips or overall weakness.

These conditions usually occur in double-thick areas first, since these areas receive the greatest amount of wear in use and have greater chemical retention. Fabric damage from the distressing process is usually progressive and may not become apparent until after the garment is subjected to agitation in cleaning.

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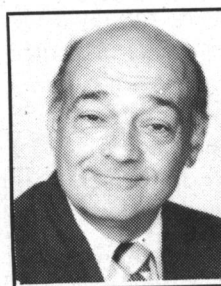


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