



Open Door Youth Centre Assistant Director Kathy Winterburn (left) and Chairperson Judy Gibson were on hand at a display set-up last Saturday in the Marketplace Mall in Georgetown to inform the public about the drop-in centre and to do some fundraising by selling tickets for the Cow Paddy Draw. For further ticket information call 873-2966. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Politicians scramble over MVA

By Oksana Buhel

As the deadline approaches for region-wide market value assessment, Halton Region and provincial staff members are scrambling to complete necessary steps to sanction the introduction of the new tax system.

Halton Regional chairman, Peter Pomeroy, said he was "very optimistic" the prerequisites would be completed by Monday, the deadline issued by Burlington regional councillors at a Sept. 30 special meeting. He added, however, various operational procedures must still be completed, and several provincial ministers' written approval has not yet been received, "although I've been assured they're coming," Pomeroy insisted.

Floyd Laughren, provincial Minister of Finance, wrote Wednesday to "confirm the ministry of finance's support for the

Regional Municipality of Halton's (market value assessment) proposal..." The transmission further stated the ministry is "prepared to implement a region-wide reassessment in 1995 for taxation in 1996, based on 1992 market values."

"It's not over 'til it's over"

- Peter Pomeroy

The ministers of education and municipal affairs, who were requested to provide written confirmation that all necessary legislative and administrative actions will be taken, have not yet responded.

Pomeroy admitted the region's request to have

everything completed by Monday is "extraordinary" and is putting a strain on provincial funds and manpower.

"The funds and staff have already been allocated elsewhere, and with our hasty request, the ministry of revenue will either have to reassign people, or hire new ones," Pomeroy said.

Although Pomeroy said he is optimistic everything will be completed in time, he added, "in my political career, I've learned it's not over 'til it's over."

If everything is completed by Monday, regional councillors will vote on the proposal at Wednesday's regional meeting.

Pomeroy commended regional and provincial staff, the Citizen's Committee on Tax Reform and various members of the provincial parliament in Halton south for their participation in the project.

Halton Hills This

WEEKEND

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Media violence a threat to kids

By Stephanie Henderson
Special to HHTW

Sandra Campbell has nothing but contempt for Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jean-Claude Van Damme.

It's not a criticism of their acting talents, but the way violence is portrayed in their movies that makes her see red.

"Violence has been completely glamorized by the entertainment industry," she said, citing the highly popular action movies made by both actors as examples.

"That's big, Hollywood fantasy violence business."

For a number of years, women like Campbell have been voicing their concern over violent content in films and television shows. But with the advent of affordable home entertainment devices, media violence in the '90s is far more "insidious" than in previous decades, she said.

Violent movies given a restricted rating in theatres are not the problem, she notes. But when the movies are released on videotape, they are no longer controlled by

the Ontario Film Review Board.

She also spoke of a Grade 6 teacher who was very surprised to learn that most of her students had seen the movie 'Basic Instinct'. But the real danger is when very young children see images they cannot readily distinguish from reality.

"Some kids who are heavy TV watchers find it hard to believe there isn't a psychopath lurking somewhere on the street."

Campbell is a former researcher for TV Ontario, which does extensive studies of its audience, including children.

"We know that once it (movies) gets packaged for home video, children under five watch it. Research showed that kids' viewing choices were videos that were very rarely made for kids."

As keynote speaker during a conference called Controlling Exposure to Media Violence, hosted by the Halton Rape Crisis Centre, Campbell urged her audience to talk to advertisers, toy manufacturers and retail-

ers.

She says many specialty toys and video games based on popular action films teach children to solve conflict in daily life with violence, instead of words.

In particular, toys aimed at boys aged eight to 12 "reward aggressive behavior," she declared.

"Images have tremendous power, and images that go with color and sound and music have even more power. And advertisers pay for this. We mustn't ever forget that."

Solutions are needed, noted Campbell, "based on the needs of the child for health."

Parents should exercise consumer clout by selecting and asking for toys based on their educational value.

They should resist pressure to purchase inappropriate items backed by major merchandising campaigns, Campbell said.

Adults should also be aware of what their kids watch and read, guarding against sexual stereotypes as well as violence, she cautioned.

Blood donor clinic a success

Red Cross officials reported 288 donors attended the Blood Clinic at Holy Cross hall Monday sponsored by the Georgetown Lions Club, and donated 277 units of blood.

Thanks were offered to Dr. A. Thompson, volunteers, staff, nursery help and drivers, the clergy, John Ollivier of Halton Cable Systems,

Halton Hills Hydro, Dairy Queen, Pizza Hut, Miracle Mart for coffee, Loblaws for donuts, Mr. L. Ferguson of Mac's Milk and Coca-Cola Ltd. for soft drinks, C.W.L. for kitchen help and Mr. C. Domingos for use of Holy Cross Auditorium.

Special thanks to Maruk Bopooji and her telephone committee, to Shirley

Chapman for publicity and promotion and to Ina Reed and Alice Greenaway, conveners of this clinic.

Donor Awards were given to: Lavine Greenby - 124, Russ Jones - 50, Maurice Quinet - 40, Douglas Lorreman - 35, Valda May - 35, Bonnie Belder - 20, Richard Bailey - 20, Lowilis Britena - 20.



Bill Anderson of Georgetown, offered his arm to Registered Nurse Linda Mather for the 95th time last Monday, at the Georgetown Branch of the Canadian Red Cross blood donor clinic at Holy Cross Church Hall. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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