



**BLUE BOXING:** Styrofoam, high-density polyethylene (bleach and detergent bottles), aluminum foil, boxboard and fine paper are five materials Acton residents can now deposit in their Blue Boxes for bi-weekly pick-up. Victor Lesnicki (shown here), from the Halton Region Waste Reduction Office, announced the expanded Blue Box plans last Wednesday at McKenzie-Smith. (Doug Harrison photo)

# Blue Boxes more versatile

BY DOUG HARRISON

There are lots of changes in store for our trusty Blue Boxes, says a member of the Halton Region Waste Reduction team.

And living up to his promise, Victor Lesnicki, manager of waste reduction, has introduced five new materials that consumers can now put in their Blue Boxes for pick-up.

It's the first step in the Stewardship of Materials demonstration project proposed by the Province.

Added to the list of accepted recyclables are: Polystyrene or "Styrofoam" materials such as cups, plates, packaging foam and food trays; high-density polyethylene bottles (bleach and detergent bottles); aluminum foil and containers such as pie plates and roasters, along with boxboard materials such as cereal, detergent and tissue boxes.

"The emphasis will be on the producers of packaging materials," Lesnicki told 20 members of the Protect Our Water and Envi-

ronment Resources (POWER) group and other concerned citizens at McKenzie-Smith Middle School last Wednesday. "They will have to accept responsibility for the disposition of materials. They will also have to become partners (with consumers)—cradle to cradle, if you will."

The change will be welcomed by the wallet of each consumer.

"With the new scenario," explained Lesnicki, "consumers will only pay for the collection. The producers will take on the financial responsibility to make sure the markets are in place and pay for the cost of recyclables. Any revenue from this will go back into their (the producers') pot. That's the really big shift."

Igloos, the bell-shaped devices that sit on the Wastewise site in Georgetown, contain only a tiny hole, so people won't stuff garbage in them.

However, Lesnicki revealed with these newly-added materials, the Waste Reduction crew are

expanding the size of holes on the igloos. Formerly, the igloos prohibited someone from jamming, say, a Javex bottle down them.

"Eventually garbage will be dumped in there," said the manager of waste reduction programs. "Unfortunately, the people who do this will be creating a problem for everyone else."

The demonstration project will be in effect until Feb. 1, 1994.

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## Education taxes jump by \$43

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

By close of business today (Wednesday), administrators at the Halton Board of Education will have a good idea if up to 37 teachers and staff face layoffs.

In an effort to shave \$1 million off the expenditure budget, trustees asked the Board's 4,000 staff to voluntarily accept a one-day pay cut, or 75 staff would have to be laid off.

Fifty per cent of staff agreed to the wage concessions, meaning \$500,000 still must come out of the budget and the deadline for making voluntary contributions was extended until today.

Acton trustee, and board vice-chair, Dave Whiting had hoped that at least 75 per cent of staff would give up a day's pay.

"The staff that will be looked at first for layoff will be the ones that signed on after the collective agreements were signed," Whiting said in an interview last Thursday.

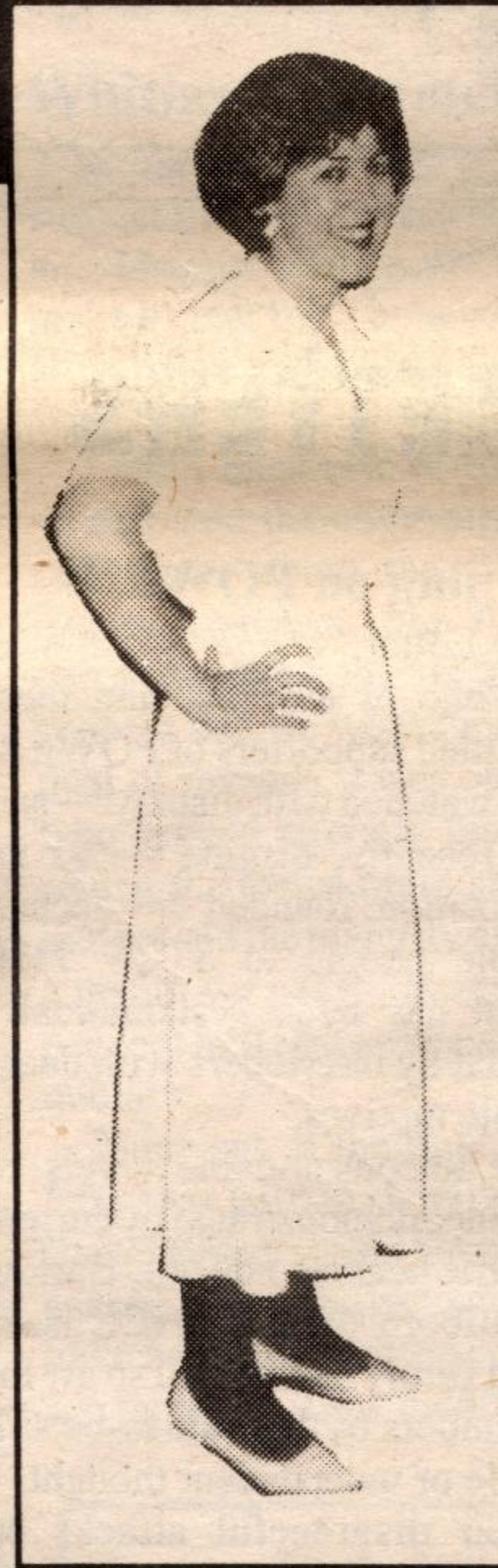
"I am disappointed with the provincial teachers' federation and how it handled the issue, Whiting explained.

"Clearly our local federations are not autonomous and don't really control their own destiny. The provincial people really call the shots and it really brings home the point that if anything is going to be done it has to be done at a provincial level.

"You can't do it locally, even if you've got the co-operation between the unions and our boards here, because the provincial people have the ability to step in and short-circuit the process," Whiting said.

The final \$291 million budget is \$2.4 million less than proposed by staff in February. It includes a 3.43 per cent mill rate increase, the lowest in a decade, which means an extra \$43 in education taxes for the taxpayer with an average assessment of \$5,700.

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