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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1994

## Board axes all-day Kindergarten

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Board of Education trustees last Monday voted against all-day alternate-day Kindergarten.

Ward 1 and 2 (Acton and Georgetown) trustee Dave Whiting went with the majority because he's concerned about the fate of implementing Junior Kindergarten into the system.

Whiting says Halton Board minister David Cooke's memo to trustees dated Nov. 19 said they had until 1997 to implement Junior Kindergarten and adds it would have given them some latitude.

However, Whiting notes that

Cooke's next memo in late January suggested the program be in place come the start of the 1994-95 school year.

"It didn't seem right to make changes without a full picture," says Whiting, referring to the question of Junior Kindergarten and whether it might be joined with Kindergarten classes.

Changing the traditional half-day Kindergarten program, which exists in one-third of Ontario's 122 boards, would have saved \$67,000 in busing costs.

Whiting states the \$67,000 could be offset with what is done with Junior Kindergarten, which he figures will be decided later this month or early April.

"Removing the buses doesn't make sense because it removes the option of joining classes," argues the Board chair who adds other boards have chosen such a scenario.

Whiting, though, is not a fan of Junior Kindergarten.

"The younger kids' attention span is somewhat limited and there are so many pros and cons of whether a five-year-old could go to school all day," Whiting explains. "The dilemma increases when you're talking about a four-year-old."

"But Junior Kindergarten is nothing more than a tax-subsidized day-care program."

He says studies indicate some students get burned-out and don't want to attend college because of the extra two years (Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten) in their early years.

Whiting says local trustees will put an application to Cooke asking that a pilot project with four schools offering one Junior Kindergarten class in each, commence in January 1995. Trustees will vote on Cooke's proposal March 24.



### WON'T BE LONG!

Acton Cancer Society publicity director Pat Kentner, left, and president Cathy Gerrow stopped by Rene's Flowers on Thursday to remind us that April is Cancer month. One of 175 canvassors will be at your door from March 24 to 26 selling daffodils for \$3 a bunch. The Acton Branch's Blitz Night to kick off the campaign is April 7, with a chili dinner at 5:30 pm at Trinity United Church. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Senior awards nominations wanted

Acton Seniors can acknowledge their peers as the Ontario government will honour exceptional seniors with the Ontario Senior Achievement Awards.

These awards, to be presented on June 7, recognize and honour outstanding seniors who have made significant contributions to their communities during their senior years.

Award nominees must be 65 years of age or older and residents of Ontario, and must have made significant contributions in one or more of the following categories: Arts-Literature, Community Service, Education, Environment-Science, Fitness-Recreation-Sports, Humanitarian Activities, Preservation of History, Volunteerism, other (please specify).

Deadline for nominations is April 15. Forms are available by calling 1-800-267-7329.

## Town budget set for '94

BY BRAD HAMMOND  
The Acton Tanner

"This budget may not get the attention of Paul Martin's budget proceedings in Ottawa, but it is still important to the taxpayers in the Town of Halton Hills."

So said Rick Bonnette, Acton Councillor and Chair of the Budget Committee, in his 1994 budget speech. Bonnette addressed members of council at a meeting Monday night.

The new budget for 1994 totals \$15,923,399 and results in a zero per cent mill rate increase for general Town purposes and a 1.55 per cent decrease in the mill rate for

urban services.

This savings was possible by removing crossing guards at lunch time, and by reassessing funding to local organizations.

Bonnette assured council: "This budget did not completely cut services, although some had to be altered."

"I believe it is a fair and responsible budget. All of the councillors and department heads put forward a lot of hard work and time in completing the budget. They had to deal with the Social Contract and expenditure control, which resulted in a reduced financial contribution of \$400,000."

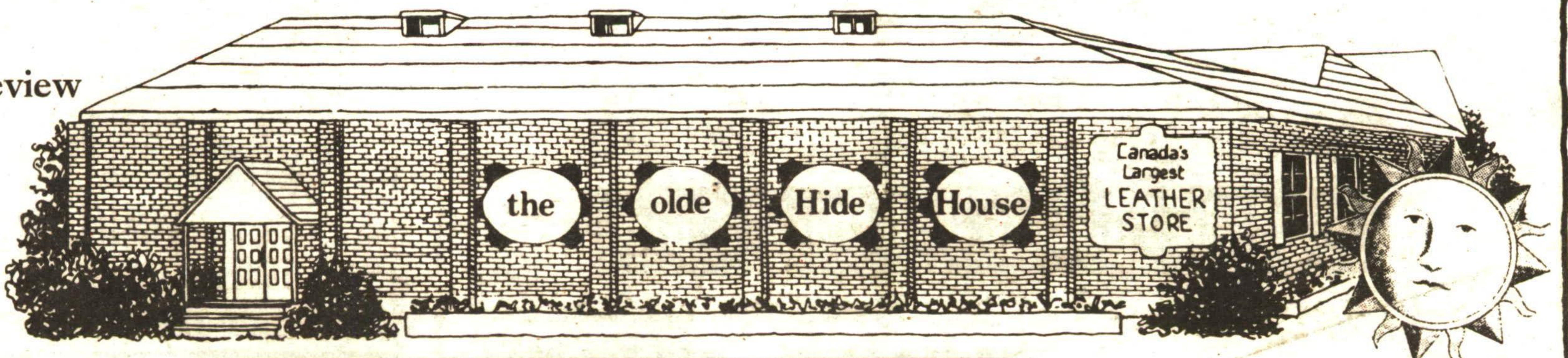
The 1994 budget includes: \$14,458 for a senior centre in Acton, \$200,000 to purchase land for a new arena in Acton, legal costs totalling \$100,000 for the OMB hearings and Acton quarry development, and \$60,000 for November's municipal elections.

Bonnette concluded: "It is important to know that this is the third consecutive year that this committee has been able to produce a budget with a zero per cent tax increase. I think this is incredible when you consider all of the costs that are required of the Town and reductions from the province that we have had to deal with."

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

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Spring Preview

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some of our new  
styles for spring!



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