

Riddle & Co. raise money for cancer

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Acton Village Constable Bill Riddle had so much fun at the recent Food Fair Face Race for Cancer that he nearly choked.

Riddle was part of the five-member Halton Regional Police

team that ate french fries, chocolate brownies, an egg roll and chicken balls, spaghetti and drank a pint of root beer to raise money for the Cancer Society.

The second annual food eating rally, which was held in Milton Mall's food court, also drew com-

petition from the Milton Fire Department, the Milton Canadian Champion newspaper, Halton Cable TV and Milton town council-Chamber of Commerce.

Riddle, Keith Gregory, Bob Percy, James Barnes and Vaughan Ashley were the brave — emphasis on brave — members of the Halton Police squad who volunteered to eat at the fund-raiser and in the end, won the Good Samaritan award for collecting the largest donation from sponsors.

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CONST. BILL RIDDLE

Riddle, who had his hands behind his back, was not only brave enough to eat the egg roll and chicken balls without a glass of water, but he did it without sitting up and easing the act of swallowing. He nearly choked.

"It was so dry, but I didn't realize there was a technique (sitting up) until it was over," remembers Riddle, who joined his teammates and washed down the food with a coffee after the event. "You don't really think about it. At the time you're having fun; it's a big laugh."

Riddle still has \$30 to collect from the \$150 he raised, but says the team's total will surpass \$700.

He would like to thank all the people who donated to the worthy cause and is pleased that many pledges came from Acton people.

And already he's looking ahead: "Next year the technique is to get the root beer," he laughs.

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Homeowners will pay record-low tax increase

BY JOANNE STEVENSON

The Acton Tanner

Last Thursday, the Board of Education approved their 1994 budget of \$282,723,980. While it is being hailed as "the lowest increase in the history of the Halton Board of Education" it still means an increase in the mill rate of 1.34 percent, which leaves the average taxpayer in Halton with a \$17 increase in municipal taxes for 1994.

Trustee Penny Siebert, chair of the finance committee, says: "What we have is a fair and reasonable compromise between preserving quality of educational services, while addressing the real financial concerns of taxpayers."

Faced with an 11 per cent drop in funding from the Province and a mandate to keep increases as close to zero per cent as possible, trustees were forced to cut millions of dollars in a number of ways: trimming the amounts spent on consumable school supplies, making outdoor education user-pay, cutting the amount spent on building maintenance, eliminating the mailing of secondary school report cards, and encouraging support staff to take additional days without pay.

These cuts are in addition to a series of reductions already made by administration which include: not replacing retirees, reducing professional development funds, and re-organizing continuing education programs.

The number of superintendents will drop to nine from 13.5, for a savings of over \$600,000 each year. This will be accomplished through attrition — there will be no layoffs of permanent staff for budget reasons.

Siebert stresses that the decision-making process was different this year because of the dramatic increase in community interest and involvement.

"I asked the community to share in this process and they certainly did.

"We have always heard from those residents who want the budget slashed, but we also heard from people who did not want a reduction in services and were willing to pay to have the quality of programs remain intact."

Siebert feels the Finance Committee was "blind-sided" by the Province with the sudden reduction in grants of 11 per cent, while continuing to mandate costly programs like Junior Kindergarten.



JUST FEELS RIGHT! Achilles Mazda president Les Pelitis, left, his wife Litsa and Tosi Mori, president of Mazda Canada, hold the prestigious Dealer of Distinction award presented to the Acton car dealership last Monday. (Doug Harrison photo)



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