

# Board finishes 1996 with surplus

**Special to The Tanner**  
At a recent finance committee meeting, Halton Board of Education trustees received a preliminary report from staff with respect to the 1996 financial operating results indicating that the Board should finish 1996 with an operating surplus of \$4 million. This is good news. The Board had expected to finish 1996 with a deficit of \$6 million because, in approving the budget in April 1996, the Board reduced compensation

accounts by \$6 million in anticipation of negotiated reductions in these accounts. A major contributing factor to the surplus is supplementary taxes from new residential and commercial development in 1996 which were not budgeted for and totalled in excess of \$6.2 million for the year. The bad news is the \$6.2 million is reduced to \$900,000 because of tax write-offs and government clawbacks. Other factors which con-

tributed to the year-end results were benefits overspent by \$700,000 due primarily to more retirements than anticipated, salary accounts overspent by \$2 million rather than the \$6 million that was originally expected and an under expenditure of \$2.8 million in supplies, services, utilities, interest and other expenditures. "It's obvious the staff have kept tight controls on spending during the year in order to bring in a budget that has

shown such positive results. They are to be congratulated," said Linda Glover, Chair of the Board. The Board is still left with some difficult decisions to make with respect to the 1997 budget. Grant reductions and other factors indicate it may be necessary to levy a tax increase in 1997. A revised expenditure budget proposal will be presented to the finance committee by early March.

## Crime Stoppers in need of helpers

Crime Stoppers of Halton Inc. is looking for volunteers who are seeking ways to help make their communities safer, especially in Halton Hills.

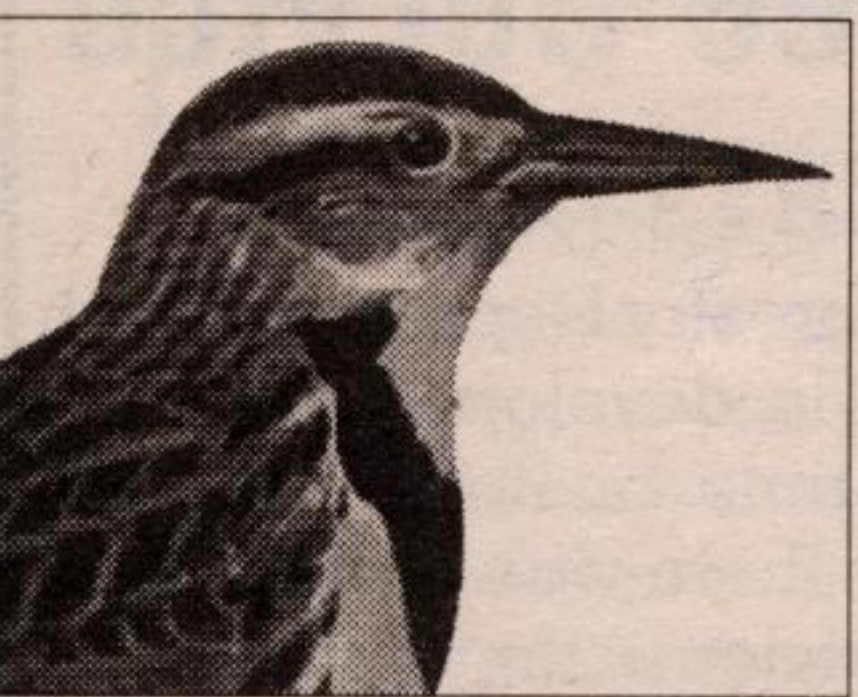
Crime Stoppers is an incorporated company managed by a civilian volunteer board of directors. It is not run by the police service.

Its mission is to help solve and deter crime by providing a means of reporting criminal activity with guaranteed anonymity through the cooperation of the police, the media and the community.

To accomplish this, Crime Stoppers needs volunteers to help raise the funds required to promote the program, and to pay cash rewards to those who provide information that leads to an arrest. The volunteers also determine the reward levels, establish policy within the organization and help publicize it.

Anyone who can donate a few hours a month is welcome to contact the coordinator for Crime Stoppers at 878-5511, ext. 5139.

## MISSING



Many of Canada's migratory birds are disappearing. To help save them, call 1-800-26-PANDA and ask about adopting a kilometre of migratory bird flyway.



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Dr. Bruce Foley holds that frequent eye exams are indispensable to your eye health. Since the eye is a sensitive organ, it undergoes many changes over a lifetime - changes that may be imperceptible to you, but which can lead to difficulties if left undetected. Only your eyecare professional has the specialized knowledge and precision instrumentation available to evaluate the health of your eyes, as well as the effectiveness of your glasses or contact lenses. Seeing 20/20 isn't the only reason to have an eye exam. During the course of an annual exam, optometrists may detect many general health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, multiple sclerosis, etc. They will monitor the effects of these diseases on the eye and visual system and often co-manage with physicians.

## Focus on the Future

Vision Awareness Week  
February 17 - 24, 1997



Vision Awareness Week 1997: How does the latest technology affect the health of your eyes? Ask your local optometrist about computers and vision, laser eye surgery, and all the latest in eye technology!

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS  
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<http://www.opto.ca>

### Telltale Signs a Child is Struggling with a Vision Impairment

Children with vision problems often do not recognize that they have a problem so parents and teachers need to be on the look-out for signs. These include:

- Blinking frequently
- Rubbing eyes frequently
- Covering one eye with hand while reading
- Losing place frequently while reading
- Holding material close to his or her face
- Tilting head to read, or using awkward posture to avoid using one eye when reading or focusing on something specific
- Becoming abnormally fatigued by schoolwork
- Difficulty concentrating leading to behaviour problems at school

Dr. Foley recommends that parents take their children for a vision examination before the age of three and again before starting school. For more information, contact Dr. Wm. Bruce Foley at (905) 873-2077.