

Taking and keeping the Oath of Office

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

Newly elected Town and Regional representatives have all made the same declaration of office at their inauguration ceremonies. Their key promises are to exercise their offices to the best of their ability, not to receive any reward for acting out of bias or corruption, to disclose any direct or indirect pecuniary interest, and to bear allegiance to the Queen.

In contrast, Member of Provincial Parliament Ted Chudleigh reveals that he only had to swear allegiance to the Queen.

Here, in full, is the declaration made under oath by all of

north Halton's local and Regional elected officials:

"I, [name of person], having been elected or appointed to the office of [name of office] in the municipality of [name of municipality], do solemnly promise and declare that:

1. I will truly, faithfully and impartially exercise this office to the best of my knowledge and ability;

2. I have not received and will not receive any payment or reward, or promise thereof, for the exercise of this office in a biased, corrupt or in any other improper manner;

3. I will disclose any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of*

Interest Act;

4. I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

And I make this solemn promise and declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath."

If citizens believe that any elected official has broken this oath, and wish to make a formal challenge, they would have to bring a lawsuit to the General Division of the Ontario Court. This procedure is the same for the Region of Halton and the towns of Milton and Halton Hills.

Arkell water-taking update

BY DONNA DANIELI

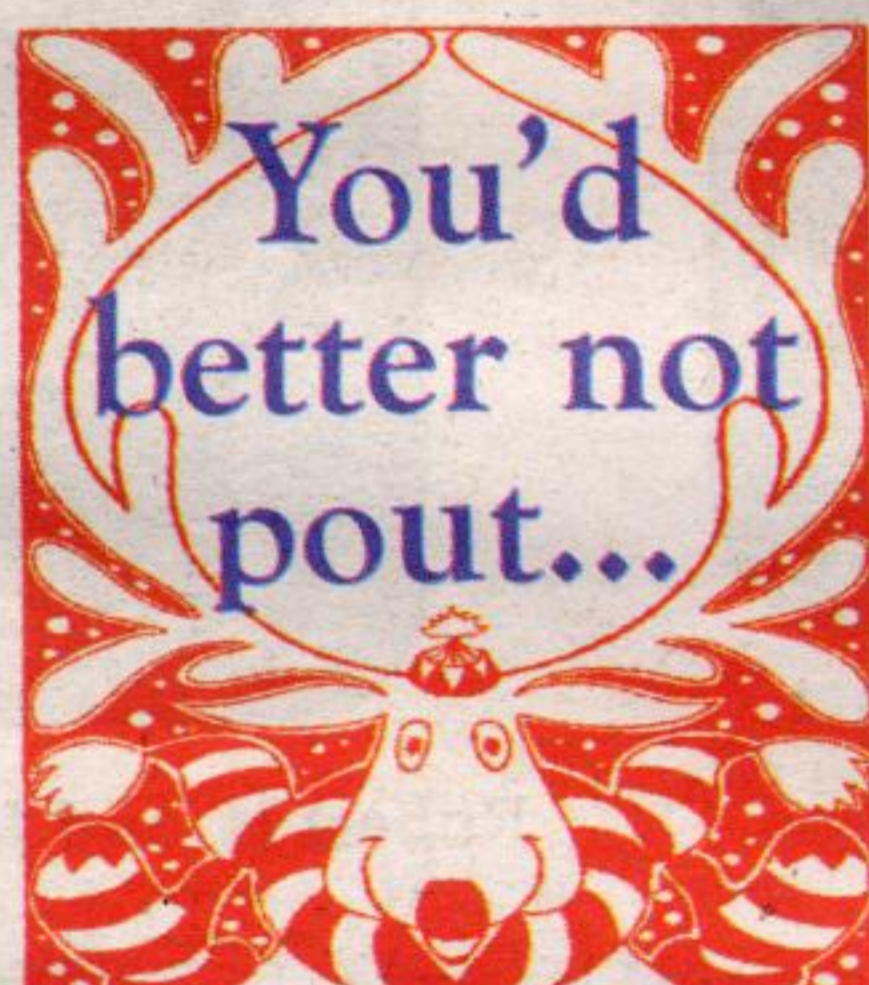
North Halton residents waiting to find out if the City of Guelph's application to remove more water from its Arkell Well will have to wait just a little longer. The Region of Halton hosted a public meeting on November 17 at which all attendees were requested to provide written comments. As well, Regional staff took note of over 40 concerns voiced that evening. Halton Region is compiling and finalizing the public's comments to ensure that all of the noted concerns have been addressed prior to the staff's report to Regional Council. Although the City of Guelph has requested a speedy process to the application to allow them to have the new water sources up and running before peak summer demand, it is unlikely that this staff report will be available to be presented to Regional Council before February 2004 at the earliest.

Guelph's other neighbours have also expressed uneasiness at the proposal which would see the watertaking at the site increase from 13.6 cubic metres (approximately 13,600 litres) per minute to 20 cubic metres (approximately 20,000 litres) per minute. The Grand River Conservation

Authority presented a report to its general membership that passed a resolution to request Guelph to examine wellhead protection in the capture zones as a result of their application to deal with potential land use restriction in the capture zones. As well, the Town of Puslinch has hired the environmental consulting firm Harden Environmental and its staff hydrogeologists to review the Class Environmental Assessment documentation.

The final result of Guelph's application may not be known for some time as each of its neighbours ensure that everything is in place before they'll commit to anything. For the next little while, at least

North Halton, Eden Mills, Rockwood and Puslinch residents won't need to worry about where their next drink of water comes from.



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