

# Tax meeting postponed - Arena's grand opening

## MPP a no-show

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

A Town meeting designed to whip up public opposition to Provincial down loading plans has been postponed because the intended hot seat guest — Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh — says it's premature. The meeting to outline the impact of Queen's Park's plans to transfer financial responsibilities to municipalities — generally known as the "Who Does What" (WDW) initiatives — was scheduled for February 16, but at Monday night's general committee meeting Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson informed councillors that Chudleigh had indicated that "he really doesn't want to attend that meeting."

"He (Chudleigh) would

rather attend the meeting once the Province has completed its (financial) announcements on March 31," Serjeantson said, adding that that would put the local meeting into April.

At their first budget briefing last week councillors were told that the latest WDW initiatives would add \$125 to the tax bill of an average house

Meetings like the planned in town were designed for staff and councillors to ask the public whether they would prefer service cuts or a tax increase to cover the increased municipal costs of the Provincial changes.

At last week's budget session Acton Councillor Norm Elliott was concerned that a separate meeting for Acton was not being considered.

"If we're trying to whip up public input, and this room (Council Chambers) is limited in the number of the public that can be here, are we going to get real feel for what the public wants?" Elliott asked, suggesting that meetings be held in the high schools in Acton and Georgetown.

Town Acting Administrator Janet Lunn Stewart said that the intent of the proposed meeting was to enhance public awareness of the actual implications of the Provincial down loading.

"The \$64,000 question really is just that. What are the final and definite implications?" Lunn Stewart said.

Town Treasurer Andy Koopmans had warned not to expect new information before the March 31 date.

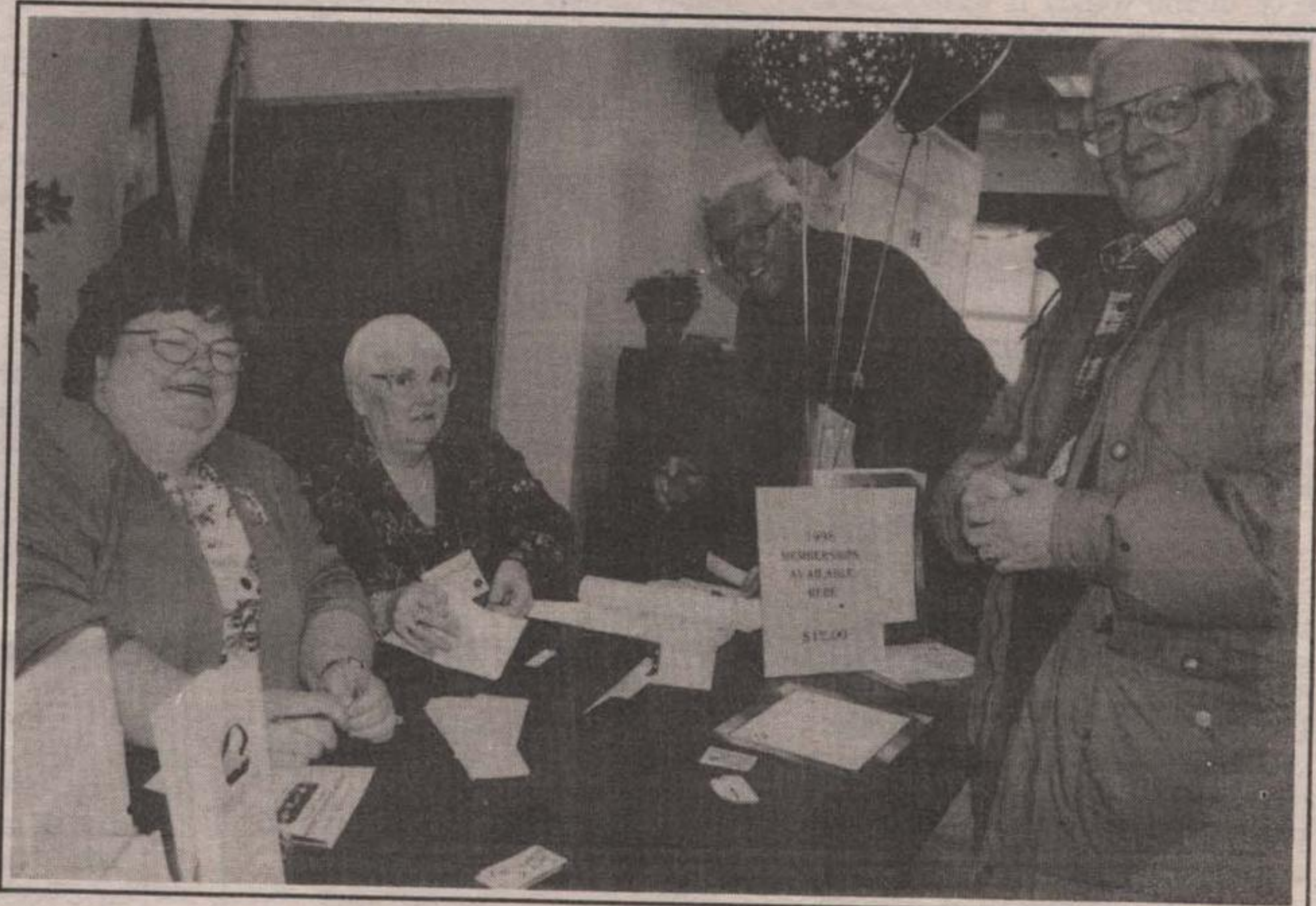
"The role for Town or Regional staff is to take what the Province presents in terms of overall provincial numbers and take that back and say what does it mean to the Town of Halton Hills?" Koopmans queried, adding that they need to get on with their budget process even though they don't have firm numbers.



Acton Citizens' Band, as usual, contributed much to the solemnity and enjoyment of the official opening.



Recreation Director Joy Thompson points out recognition in bronze to Mr. and Mrs. Roger Beaman of the Thomson, Rogers law firm. The firm donated over \$5,000 to the new facility. - Eve Martin photo



Memberships for Acton Seniors group were available at the seniors' centre Sunday. One new member signs up. - Eve Martin photo

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