

# Housing gobbles up income

It's tougher than ever to find a place to live if you're on a fixed income in Halton.

And people depending on welfare are increasingly forced to spend an increased proportion of their income on rent, according to the Halton Housing Coalition, a volunteer organization concerned with affordable housing issues.

A family of four on social assistance, paying average rents in Halton, now has less than \$300 a month to cover other costs, such as food and clothing, according to the coalition.

The coalition said in Halton Hills, there is a \$270 gap between the average three-bedroom unit, and the portion of a person's welfare cheque meant to be designated for housing.

Figures from the organization say about 25 per cent of Halton households can't afford the average rent for a three-bedroom home, based on shelter costs not exceeding 30 per cent of household gross income. Families in this type of housing can expect to use 50 per cent of the allowance for basic needs, such as groceries, to cover their rents.

## Suspension reviewed by board

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In accordance with the Education Act, the Burlington resident was given the opportunity to make written submissions in his defence to the board, but declined, said Director of education Bob Williams.

However, the disciplinary action may be lifted since the charge was withdrawn, he said.

"With what I know right now I don't see that there is any basis for suspension," Williams said.

He said the board will meet to review the situation within the next couple of weeks.

Dubbed Project Rosebud, the crackdown was conducted by police in May. The daytime undercover operation was launched after a woman complained to police that she encountered men engaging in gay sex while she was walking through the park with children, said Det. Sgt. John Petz, head of the Hamilton-Wentworth police department's vice squad.

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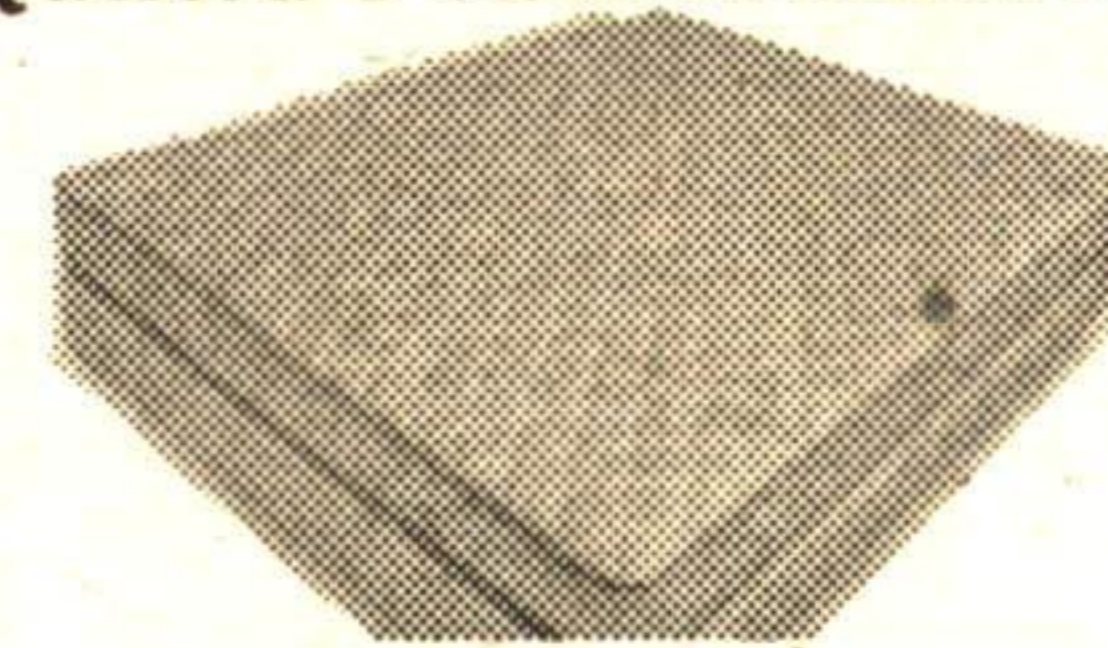
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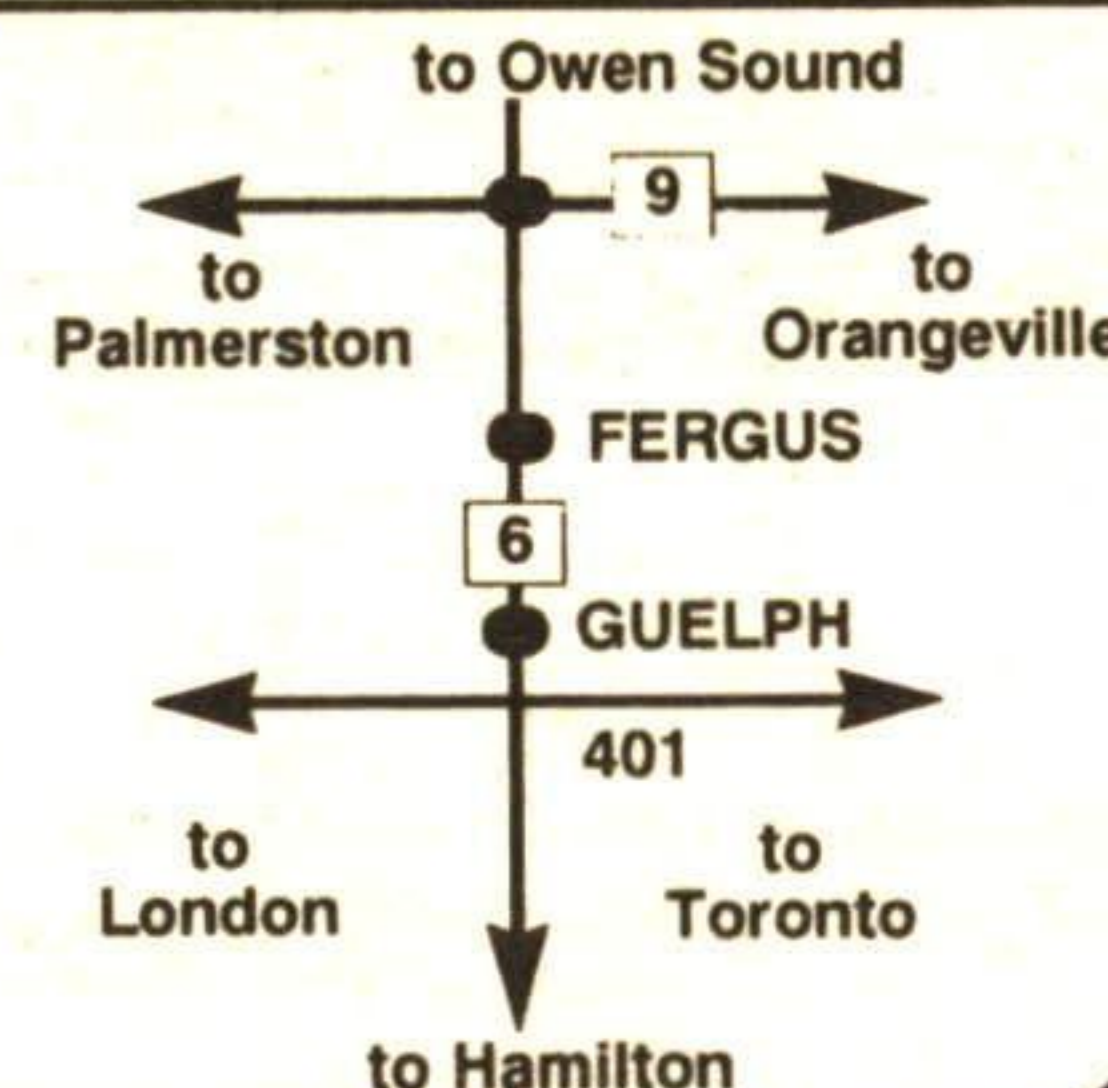


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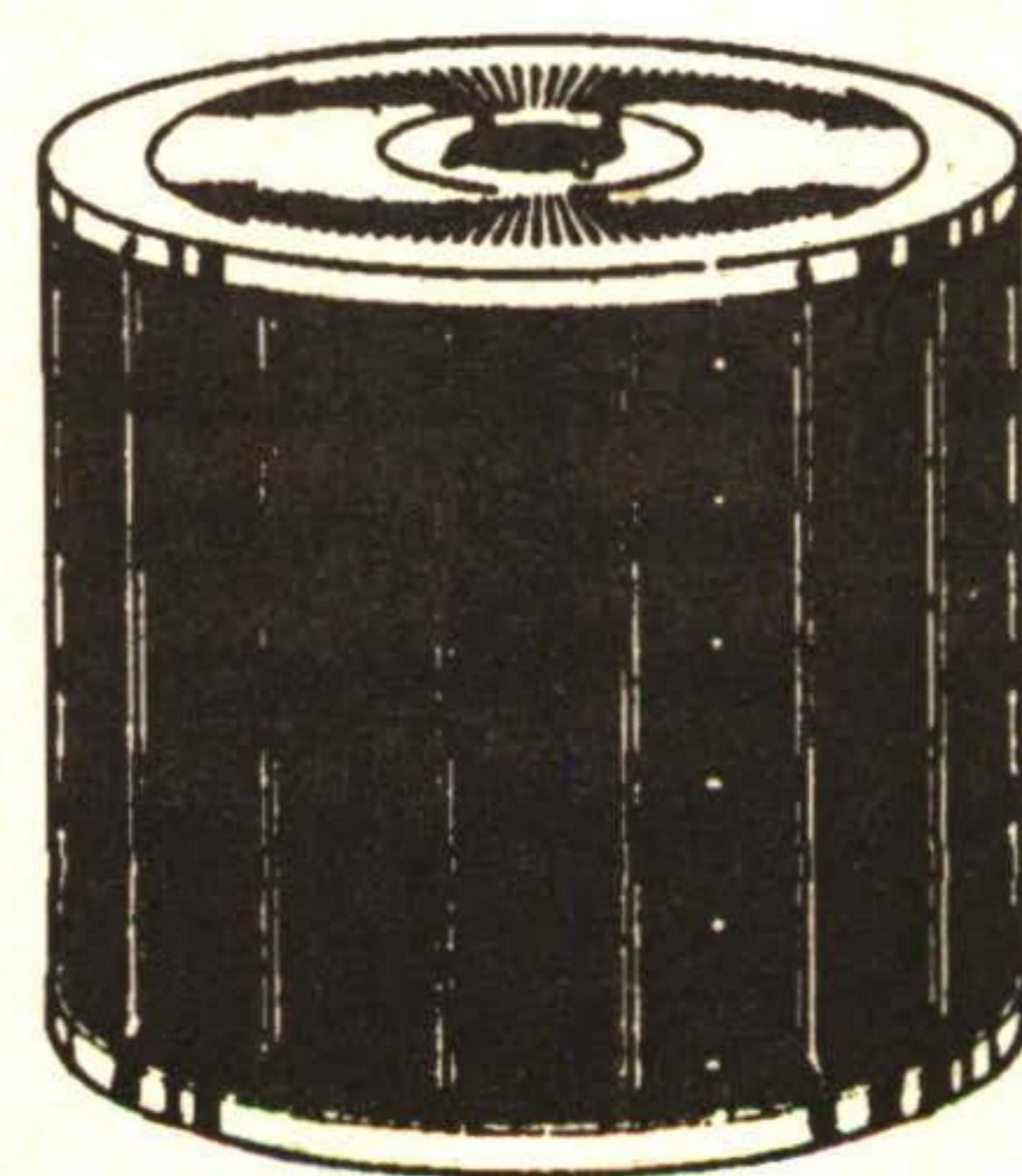
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