

**Team honored**

Page 18



**Heritage Acton wants fire station**

Page 3



**GDHS blanked in field hockey**

Page 19

# The Independent

## Weekend Edition & Free Press

**APPLE AutoGlass**  
WINDSHIELD REPAIR

We'll Match Any Competitors  
Gimmicks ONLY  
We'll use factory OEM Replacement Products

360 Guelph St., Unit 7  
Georgetown, Ont.  
873-1655

50¢ (+ GST) Serving Halton Hills Sunday, September 22, 1996 32 Pages 17,000 copies

### NEWS AT A GLANCE

#### Fun, fun, fun

■ There's plenty to do this weekend!

There will be more rides, attractions and lots of traditional events that have entertained families for generations at the Acton Fall Fair. Tickets are \$10 for a weekend pass, \$5 for adults, \$4 students (13-17), \$3 seniors with ID, children, \$2 (under 5 free) and disabled parking only, \$3.

•The 16th Annual Terry Fox Runs will be held in both Acton and Georgetown today (Sunday). The Georgetown run will be held at Georgetown South Community Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Acton's event will be held at Acton High School from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

•The fifth annual Homes of Distinction tour is on today, providing area residents with an opportunity to visit 10 of the most distinct properties in the Brampton-Georgetown area. The tour runs from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Passports are available for \$15 at: Johnson Associates Halton Ltd., Georgetown Marketplace Mall; Realty Executives Supreme; Re/Max Blue Springs Realty (Halton) Corp.; Re/Max Suburban (91) Inc., Georgetown.

#### INSIDE

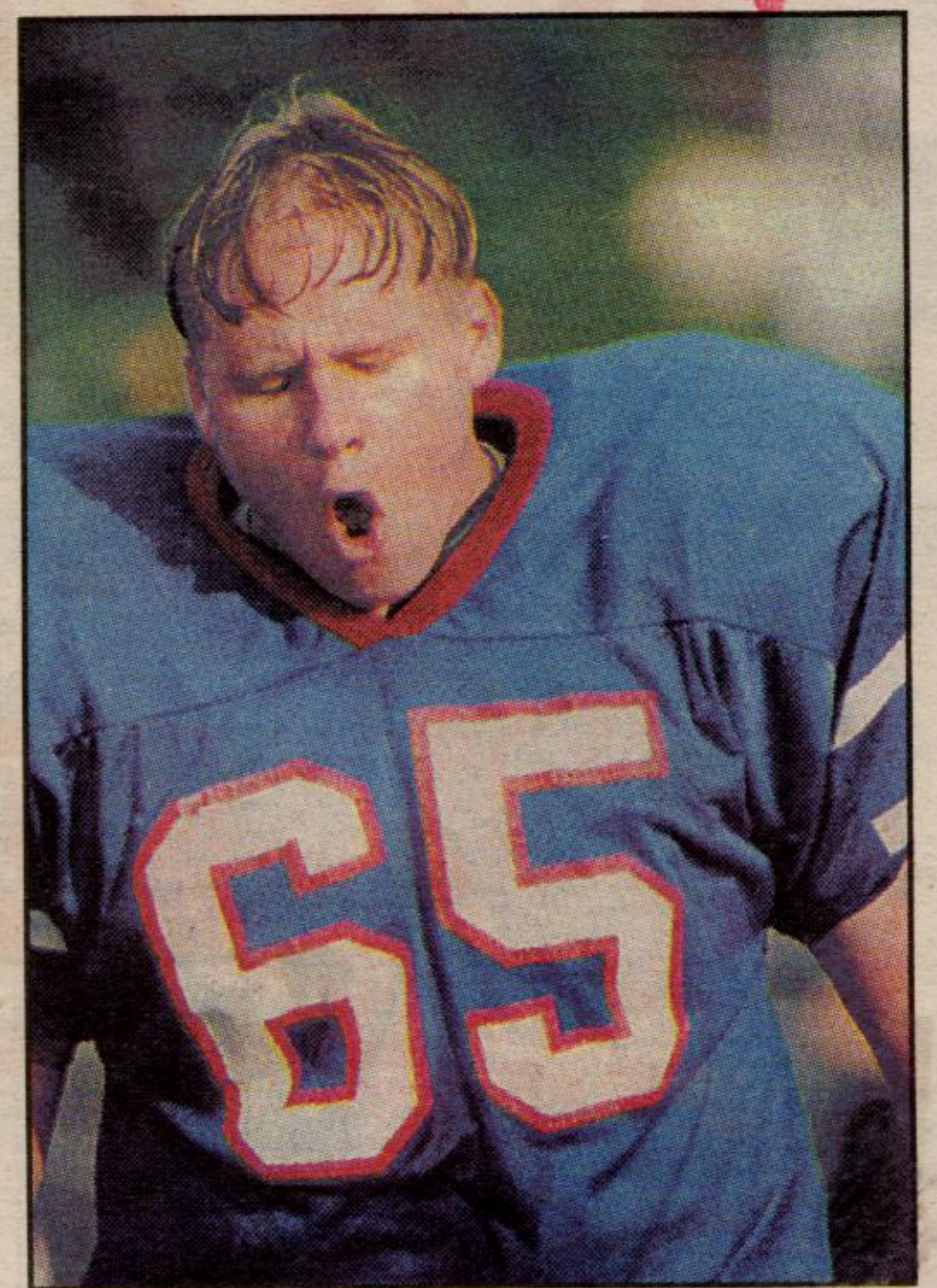
Editorial .....	6
A Ted Bit.....	7
Legion news.....	13
Entertainment.....	14,15
Sports .....	18,19



Georgetown Rebels seniors boys' football season got off to an auspicious start Tuesday as the Rebels were thrashed 41-6 by Brampton's St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders at GDHS. The expression on Rebels' defensive back John Moon (right) told the story as Rebel turnovers made things easy for Raiders. See story Page 18.

Photos by Ted Brown

## Bad start for Rebels



## Service cuts or tax hikes coming—region

BY BRAD REAUME  
Special

**F**inancial pressures will force Halton Region to make dramatic cuts to programs or significantly raise taxes, according to acting chief administrative officer Joe Rinaldo.

To maintain the status quo, the tax and utility rate hike to a typical homeowner for 1997 is expected to total an extra \$48.66—6.4 per cent. That does not include education levies, which make up about 60 per cent of the property tax bill.

"You can only take so much in the way of provincial downloading before pressures become too great," said Rinaldo. "We are going to go through this gut-wrenching process. There may be a reduction in services or the elimination of programs."

Wednesday the budget review committee heard that further provincial funding cuts, slower than anticipated assessment growth and crumbling pipes and roads have combined to bring Halton's budget to the breaking point.

The total tax and rate jump to Halton residents could easily top the 6.4 per cent predicted by

regional staff. That number assumes a relatively lengthy period of 10 years for refitting old cast iron water mains across the region.

Halton's predicament was laid bare when Rinaldo admitted to Burlington councillor Rob MacIssac that the region's proposed budget policies were not adequate to sustain Halton's infrastructure. Moments later senior policy budget co-ordinator Robert Rossini told committee that Halton could not borrow money for infrastructure because it has reached the debt ceiling allowed by provincial law.

"There are hard decisions and

choices to be made by council," said Rinaldo. "It may mean a reduction in services or an increase in taxes."

Rinaldo said Halton's debt load was "reasonable." He called the region's ability to move from about \$19 million in provincial funding to \$6 million, "a real achievement" but acknowledged further cuts could not be absorbed as easily.

Regional Chair Joyce Savoline suggested the various components of Halton's tax bill be classified for taxpayers, so they will know how much they pay for each service and which areas are increasing taxes.

**BLUE SPRINGS GOLF CLUB**  
853-0904

## PRO-SHOP SALE

### END OF SEASON CLEARANCE!

Great Values on Selected Men's and Ladies Fashion Wear & Outerwear.  
Also Shoes, Hats, Rainwear, Golf Clubs, Bags and Accessories.