

Facing and beating the budget challenge

The holiday weekend was great! I did begin to think that winter was here again, however, the sun now has the sparkle of impending spring and early shoots can be noticed in gardens.

Budget discussions are finally over. After eight long meetings we managed to almost meet our goal. We cut and cut. We feel that our budget challenge was met and the integrity of our town is intact.

The average home is faced with a \$2.29 increase for the year 1997. I must admit the loss of flowerbed planting has caused me some personal disappointment. I take pride in our community and enjoy the bright colors of flowers in our gardens.

As you know, I have hosted two Mayor's Youth Action Committee meetings. Our young people have listed some of their concerns and wants. They definitely want a drop-in centre. As money is unusually tight we will have to work in partnership with the community to meet this expectation.

Our youth are anxious to be a part of projects such as the Town Trail Committee, working with Cable 4 to create a youth program, put a website page on the Internet and form a steering committee to manage the Mayor's Youth Action Committee.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Marilyn Serjeantson

A very exciting initiative and one close to my heart, is the enthusiasm of some to help organize a community flower planting project. The town did put money in the budget to buy plants and I am encouraging our youth to take part. Watch for an update—working together can be fun.

We are again faced with edicts from the province; this time the Greater Toronto Services Board initiative.

We have finalized our submission and council has difficulty in supporting the establishment of a Greater Toronto Services Board. We want to ensure that our community, our citizens and our politicians have a strong voice in the decision-making process that affects Halton Hills. The establishment of the board, we believe, will weaken that voice.

However, we realize if we don't

add our comments, we only have ourselves to blame for the results.

I hope you have noticed the action taking place at the Acton Arena site. It is my understanding that the footings are about to be poured.

The youth talent show at the John Elliott Theatre was a huge success. The Arts Alive group did a marvellous job and the kids were terrific. It was a great evening and the volunteers deserve a huge thank you.

Our community is extremely lucky that the volunteers are A-1! Without them our town would be missing a whole lot. They are the backbone of Halton Hills. April is volunteer appreciation month—a great time to say thank you.

It is with great sadness that the regional council received the announcement from Walter Mulkewich, mayor of Burlington, that he would not be seeking re-election due to illness. Walter is an honorable person who blends honesty, integrity and competency into politics. Walter will be missed.

Garbage update—a special collection date will be held during week of April 22-25 (on your regular pickup day) for items such as furniture and appliances.

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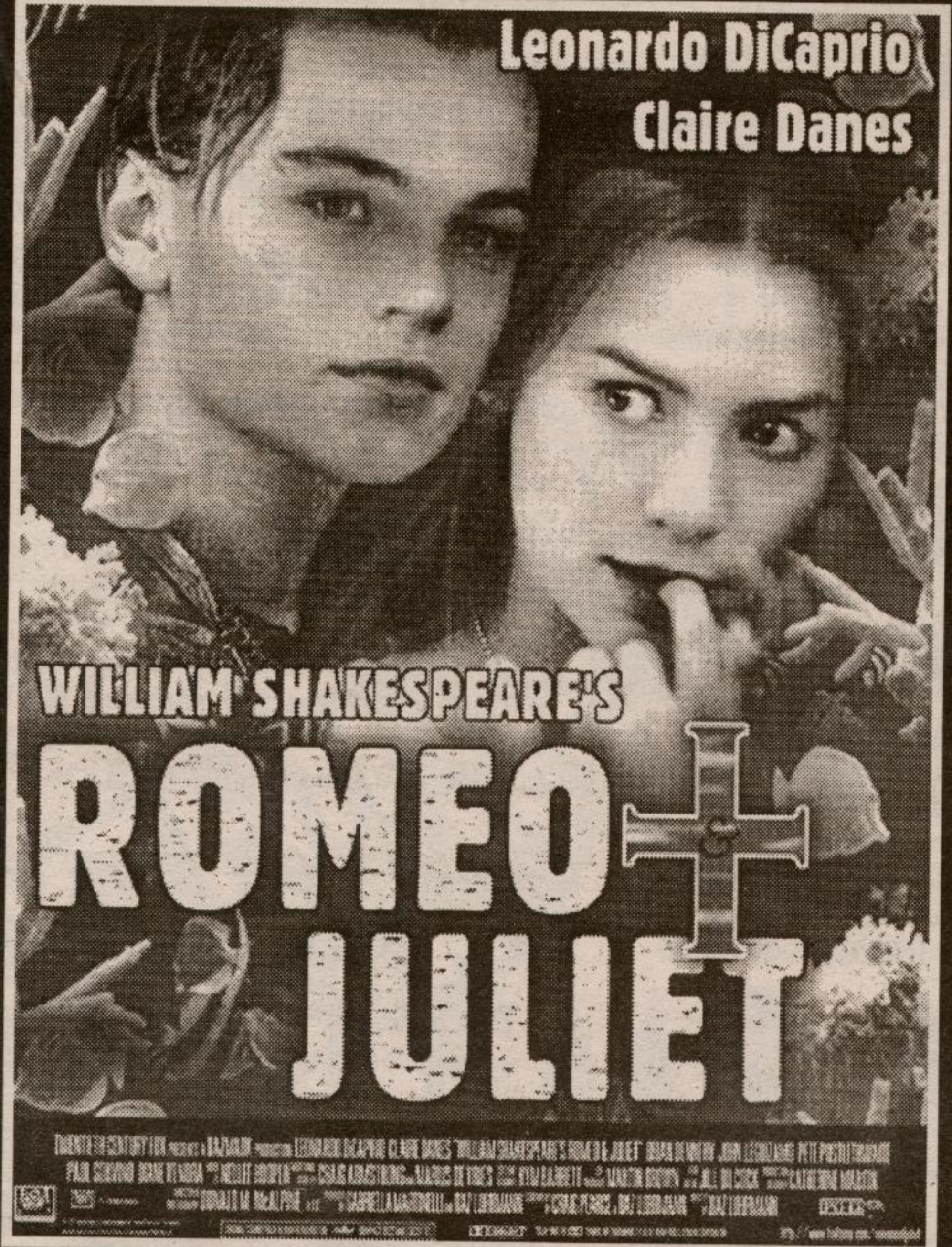
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