

Halton trustees unable to finalize '97 budget

be required to inform the (Education) Ministry of our position," said Williams.

Following the meeting, Williams indicated his main concern was the \$6 million reduction in "compensation accounts", staff salaries and benefits, that the board decided they would try to find. The board is currently in contract negotiations with five of its teaching and non-teaching employee groups.

So, five hours of private and public debate by trustees Monday only established a \$280 million overall budget for 1997; it didn't produce the means to get to that figure. Besides the agreement to go after \$6 million in salary reductions, trustees also voted to find \$1 million in miscellaneous under-expenditures and assume \$2 million more in supplementary tax revenue in order to get down to the 1.55 per cent.

The lack of a budget is a new experience for him, said board business superintendent Wayne McNally. "It's never happened before. There's just a lot of frustration in terms of the board's ability to deal with the mill rate at the local level.

"When you get 33 per cent less in government grants, and put forward a budget with a mill rate close to zero, it's difficult to reconcile the two."

McNally said the next move is to appeal to the education ministry for more time and money,

since the deadline for submitting Ontario school board budgets is Friday. He expected to talk to someone in the ministry yesterday (Tuesday).

"In my mind, they're not going to cut off our grants come Friday", said McNally. "But transfer funds are their leverage. We receive payment on a monthly basis. We'll be okay for May, but I don't know about June."

Board chair Linda Glover said she expects the board will need at least a week's extension, with budget debate continuing next week. She's also hopeful a follow-up by McNally to an earlier written board request for more funding for Halton will receive more serious consideration under the circumstances.

Trustees travelled down several avenues in attempts to cut expenditures from the '97 budget but couldn't reach a consensus.

Milton's Tim Kingsbury tried to get \$1 million slashed from the board's general maintenance budget, but his effort lost on a 12-5 vote.

Burlington's Sheila Flook wanted to cut non-credit, personal interest courses and computer training offered by the board's Adult and Continuing Education department. But after lengthy debate, the motion lost 9-8.

—By Tim Whitnell, special

LOCAL ARMY RESERVES HAS FULL-TIME JOBS AVAILABLE FOR THE SUMMER.



Classes starting in May so Applications Must Be Processed by April 23/97.

OPEN HOUSES: SATURDAY APRIL 19TH
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Locations: A. Company - 90 Thomas St., Oakville
B. Company - 12 Chapel St., Brampton
C. Company - 91 Todd Rd., Georgetown

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE LORNE SCOTS 1-800-856-8488
Canadian Forces Recruiting Hamilton
DAYS (905) 451-5724
THURS. EVENINGS (905) 451-2741

Swing into Spring NOW!

Georgetown Golf and Country Club is now open

Facilities • 18 hole championship golf course • Automated irrigation tee to green • Power Carts • Practice putting green • Men's and ladies' locker rooms and showers • Fully stocked proshop • Computer handicap and scoring

Georgetown Golf Club is located 3.5 km west of Winston Churchill Blvd. on Mayfield Road Georgetown.
Tel: 905-877-6011



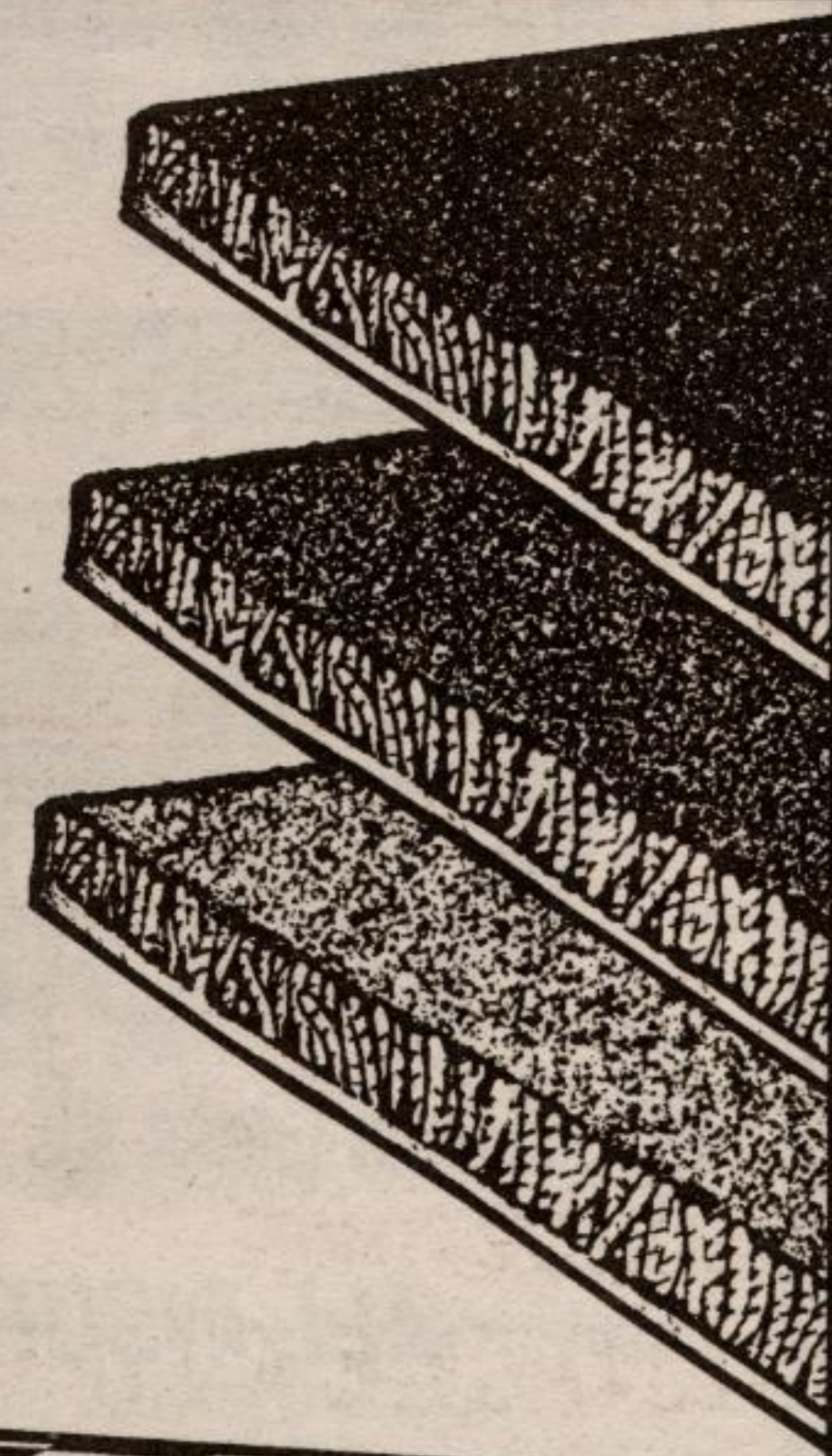
COME SEE OUR SHOWROOM!

20% OFF!

ALL CARPET IN THE SHOWROOM

Including these quality brand names:

• RICHMOND • CABIN CRAFT • GULISTAN
• PARAGON • VENTURE • CORINET



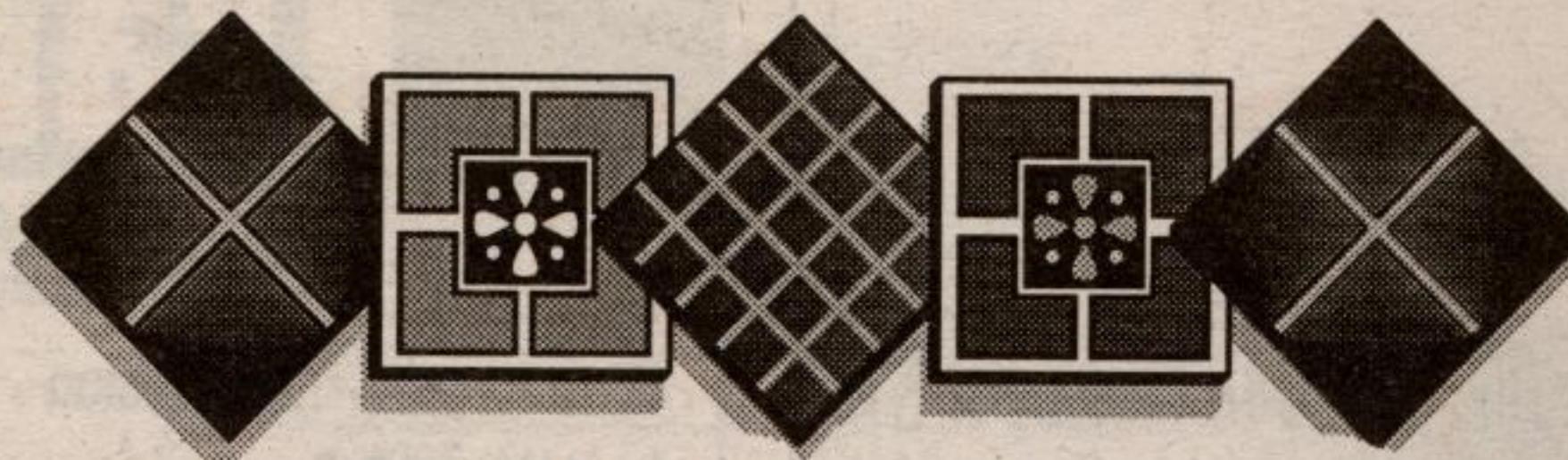
WE OFFER EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR YOUR COMPLETE RENOVATION!

- Co-ordinated kitchen & bath designs from concept to completion
- Windows & doors
- Indoor/outdoor carpet
- Kitchen cabinets
- Bathroom vanities
- Bar stools, chairs, tables
- Residential & commercial flooring

10% OFF!

LAMINATE FLOORING

• Imagine • Traffic Zone



Financing available O.A.C. All sales end April 30/97

Lakeview Flooring & Kitchens Inc.

1 mile south of Acton on Hwy. 25

Call for a free estimate today! **(519) 853-4577**

