

Town loses
oldest resident

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Mother's Day
cookbook contest

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NEWS AT A GLANCE

Police get raise

Halton Police, who haven't had a raise since 1992, will see their salaries increase by a total of 9 per cent over the next three years.

The contract settlement recently ratified by the Halton Regional Police Association and the Halton Regional Police Services Board was the result of extensive collective bargaining throughout 1996 and 1997. The multi-year offer, which applies to Halton constables and civilian staff, covers 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999.

Georgetown resident and board chair Al Cook and association president Bill Henshaw said the deal was fair and consistent with agreements reached in Peel, London, and almost 20 other police services.

Train damaged

Halton police report \$500 damage was caused to a CN train in the Maple Ave. and Mountainview Rd. area about 1:30 a.m. Thursday when someone threw a large object, cracking the engine's windshield. The engineer stopped the train and police were called.

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One for Mother Earth

Grade 4 Glen Williams School student Megan Sproule, 10 was one of many Glen students who took to the park to plant trees for Earth Day Tuesday. The 150 white ash trees, donated by Georgetown IGA through the IGA Hometown Proud program, were part of a re-naturalization program the students are taking part in, in cooperation with the Town Environmental Advisory Committee (TEAC).

Photo by Ted Brown

Board okays 1.75 per cent tax increase

By TIM WHITNELL
Special

The Halton Board of Education finally has a budget. Delayed 10 days by a tie vote at a previous meeting that left them with no financial structure for 1997, public school board trustees pushed through essentially the same budget at a meeting Thursday.

By a 10-6 vote, the board agreed to a \$274 million budget that incorporates a 1.75-per-cent increase to the mill rate. That means the owner of a typical \$200,000 home will pay an extra \$26.94 on the education portion of their property tax bill.

In 1996, the Halton board passed a 1.9-per-cent mill rate increase.

On April 14 the board attempted to pass a budget for '97 with a 1.55-per-cent mill rate increase that would have raised education taxes in Halton an average of \$23.75 per household.

Prior to passing the '97 budget, Milton Trustee Tim Kingsbury asked business superintendent Wayne McNally what he considered an achievable mill rate. McNally said that administration's recommendation was a minimum increase of 2.88 per cent.

"We have given our advice and a lot of that was dealt with in-camera. We gave you our scenarios then," McNally told Kingsbury.

Trustees actually tabled zero and 1.5 per cent mill rate increases earlier in the evening that were highlighted by \$9 million and \$6 million reductions to staff salary and benefits, but they were voted down.

The 1.75-per-cent increase approved by the 16 trustees present— Burlington's Joe Pavelka was away on business while vice-chair Debbie Marklew of Oakville had a family emergency— includes revenue and expenditure line budget items needed to recoup the \$12.6 million shortfall in 1997, mostly due to cuts to provincial education grants.

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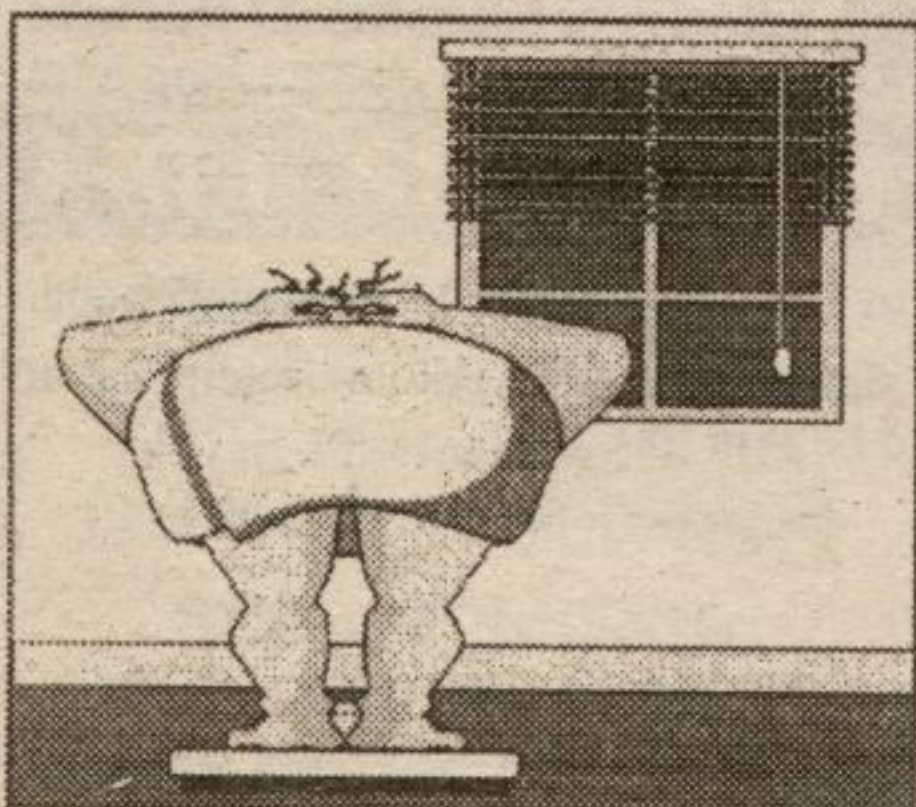
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