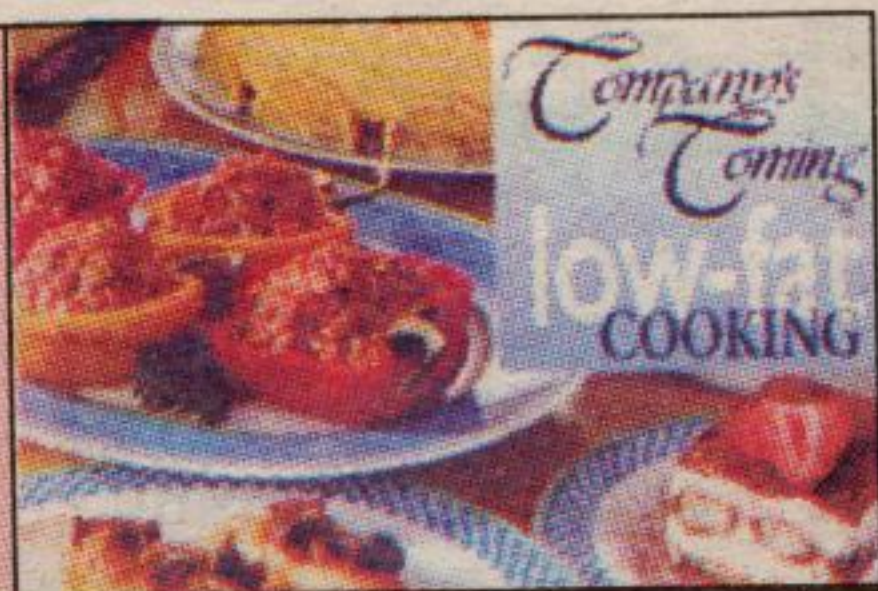


**Cookbook
contest**
Page 10



**Medical officer
orders inspections**
Page 9



**House league
players honored**
Page 17

The Independent

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NEWS AT A GLANCE

\$50,000 fire

■ About \$50,000 worth of damage was caused to a Moore Park Cr. home Thursday afternoon by a fire that started in an upstairs bedroom.

Firefighters were called to the home at about 12:30 p.m. The damage was mostly contained to the one room as firefighters were able to extinguish it when they arrived. A woman resident of the home was taken to Georgetown Hospital for smoke inhalation and was treated and released.

A spokesperson for the fire department said the cause of the fire is believed to have been a candle that ignited curtains.

Falcon stolen

■ Police are investigating the theft of a falcon from a Glen Williams backyard Saturday evening. Sometime between 7 and 9 p.m. someone took the falcon which was secured to a perch by a leash. The bird is valued at \$4,000.

INSIDE

Strike over.....	3
This 'n That.....	5
Editorial.....	6
A Ted Bit.....	7
Police beat.....	8
Entertainment.....	12
Community calendar..	16
Sports.....	17, 19



Workout leaves Lorne Scots tongue-tired

As part of an ongoing training program, members of the local Lorne Scots were out in full force Tuesday as they took part in their warrior training on Armstrong Ave., running along the street and at times down the more grueling course in the ravine along the river. The training is in preparation of their annual fitness testing period this fall, which applies to all members of the military, including the reserves, and includes testing on weapons training, and various soldiering skills, including map reading and orientation.

Photo by Ted Brown

Council okays budget

Halton Hills council approved its 1998 budget—a \$19 million operating budget and a \$4.6 million capital budget Monday night.

Based on a residential unit with an assessed value of \$185,000 (1998 assessment based on 1996 market values), the 1998 property tax for town purposes will be \$645. This is an 6.97 per cent increase or \$42 higher than 1997's taxes. These numbers do not include any increase or decrease resulting on individual properties from the Ontario-wide tax reassessment.

However, the town leaders were quick to point out that only \$5 (0.83 per cent) of this increase was council-controlled. The other \$37 is attributed to provincial downloading of the Who Does

What (WDW) services. The WDW required the town to assume responsibility for additional services costing \$607,176.

"Our decision to pass the Who Does What impacts to the taxpayer was not an easy one," said Councillor Moya Johnson, budget committee chair. "And to further cut service was not an option of any member of this committee."

The 0.83 per cent increase resulted from capital projects to address roads and public safety, Johnson said, "and both these are recognized as priorities by the taxpayers of this community."

According to a report by Halton Hills Treasurer Andrew Koopmans, most of increased costs in the budget will be paid by increased assessment growth and increased revenues, however \$10.8

See COUNCIL, pg. 2

Georgetown teens face counterfeiting charges

Halton police have charged two Georgetown male youths in connection with counterfeit money that was passed at local stores, and have seized \$45 in phony bills. The two were arrested Wednesday.

A 14-year-old has been charged with making counterfeit currency and a 14-year-old has been charged with possession of counterfeit currency, uttering counterfeit currency and breach of probation.

The first 14-year-old is to be in Milton court on June 5 and the second youth was held for a bail hearing.

Police believe some of the

bills may still be in circulation and request co-operation from the public in surrendering \$5 bills with the serial number GOP1565870, \$10 bills with the serial number BDE6773562 or BDL8966564, and possibly \$20 bills with the serial number ESW8047734.

Police say the money is easily detectable because of its poor quality.

Police are crediting an alert citizen for tipping them off to the counterfeit money as he called police after seeing two youths trying to pass off some phony bills. Police would like that man to contact Det. Scott McLaughlin at 878-5511 ext. 2419.

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