

Regional taxes coming down

Continued from pg. 1

"There's a lot of crystal balling in numbers like that because there's a lot of variability," said regional senior policy co-ordinator Rob Rossini. "The numbers are subject to change."

Another wild card is the pooling cost of subsidized housing, social assistance and property tax assessment.

Halton is now expected to chip in for GTA-wide expenses in these areas.

Even a one per cent change in pooling costs could throw the \$180 million regional budget off by \$865,000, said Rinaldo.

This may also be the last good news budget for a while, said Rossini.

Staff estimated that the 2000 and 2001 budgets would show increases of about two per cent per year.

That would be to cover costs such as GO Transit and improvements to regional roads (Hwy.) 5 and 25.

Though a provincial reinvestment in ambulances and public health allowed Halton staff to carve out a 5.4 per cent reduction in the regional portion of the tax

bill, some of that decrease was chipped away by increases in the police services portion of the bill.

Taxpayers will be dinged by a 4.8 per cent increase in police taxes in 1999, thanks in part to changes in community reinvestment fund (CRF) grants.

The grants were doled out to regions and municipalities to help them cope with downloading costs.

Reassuring 50 per cent of ambulance and public health costs triggered a recalculation of CRF grants.

"Halton saved over \$6 million with public health and ambulances alone, but with CRF losses, it comes out to be \$5 million," said Rinaldo.

Overall, the owner of a \$185,000 home can expect to shell out a total of \$1,088 in regional property taxes for 1999.

That's broken down to \$269 for police services and \$819 per year for regional expenses.

The preliminary budget will likely be presented to council for approval Wednesday.

—By Irene Gentle, special

TAX DIRECTORY

JOHN A. GIBSON

Chartered Accountant
Small Business Accounting
Personal Tax Returns
Corporate Tax Returns
873-0996
 10 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. S.,
 SUITE 201
 (MOUNTAINVIEW & GUELPH)

STARRET & STARRET

Chartered Accountants
 Tax Consulting and preparation for personal and business accounts of all sizes, including Electronic Filing.
 129 Main St. S. **873-1601**
 Georgetown, Ontario Toronto 905-846-2561
 Guelph 519-824-0862
Business is great, always looking for more.

DANIEL VARANELLI

Certified General Accountant
 Accounting and Bookkeeping Services
 Personal and Business Tax Returns
 76 Young Street, Acton
 (519) **853-4311**
 360 Guelph St., Knolcrest Centre,
 Professional Ste. #49, Georgetown
 (905) **702-9786**

To advertise in this year's Tax Directory call Jeanette at 873-0301 to book your spot.

GOEBELLE MACADAM ALEXANDER LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
 Serving Georgetown for Over 30 Years
 ★ Electronic Filing ★ Personal and Corporate Tax
 ★ Preparation of U.S. Tax Returns
 37 Main Street South
 Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3G2
877-5155
 1999 Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year!

Express EFILE H&R BLOCK

FREE WHEN WE PREPARE YOUR RETURN
 NOW OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

H&R BLOCK

THE INCOME TAX SPECIALISTS
 OPEN YEAR ROUND
 130 Guelph St., Georgetown
(905) 873-7855
 56 Mill Street East, Acton
(519) 853-5612

CASH BACK H&R BLOCK

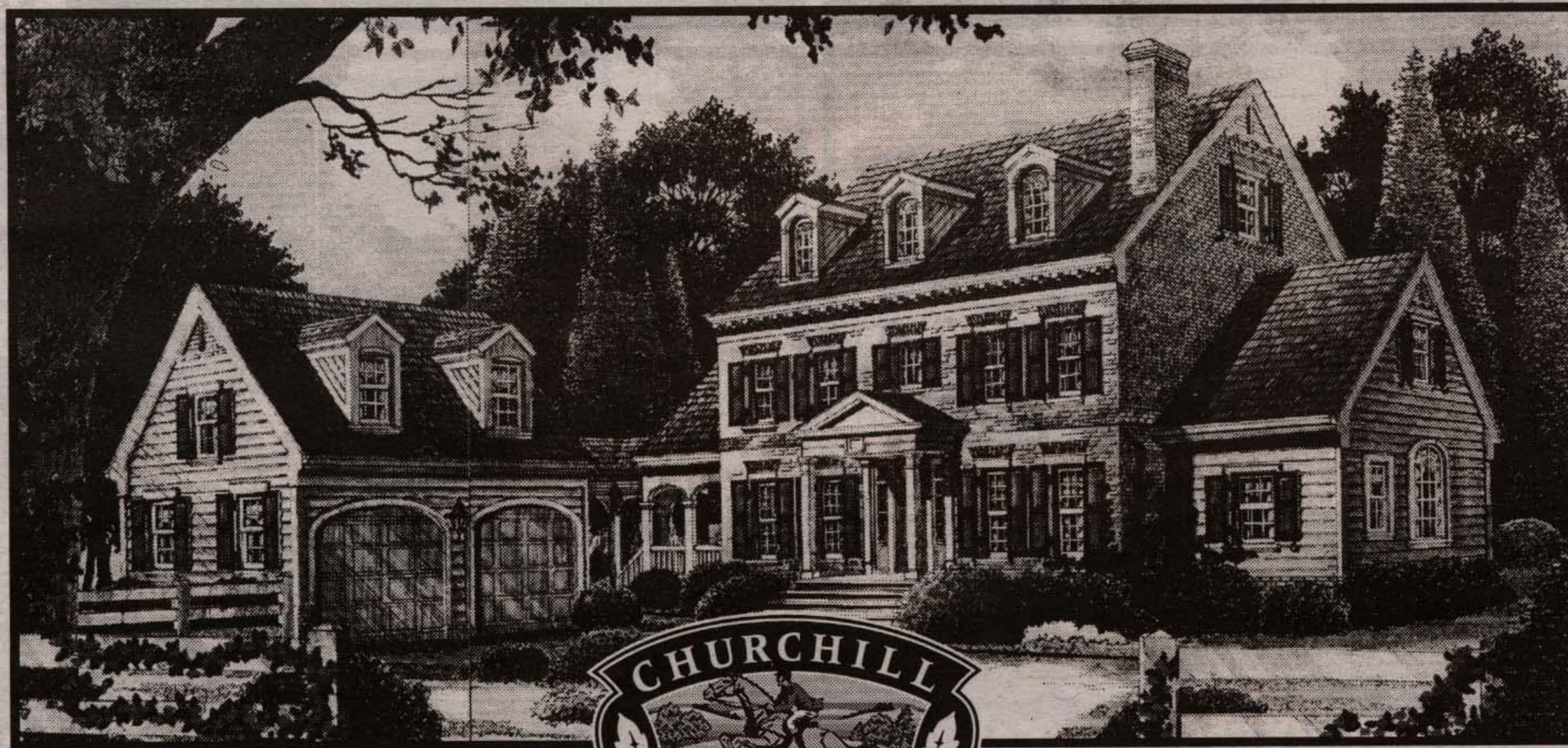
Why wait for your tax refund when you could get Cash Back fast?
FAST REFUNDS!

GEORGETOWN DENTAL
 WELCOME TO OUR DENTAL CAVITY FREE CLUB
 Each Winner wins one FREE kids video
CAVITY FREE WINNER!!
 Sponsored by Dr. Lisa Lindstrom and Dr. H. Greig
 CALL **877-4371**

Dana Farrow
 age 4

Dr. Henry Lau, M.D., B.Sc.
 General Physician
New Patients Welcome
 99 Sinclair Avenue, Suite #202
 Georgetown, Ontario L7G 5G1
 Telephone **(905) 877-9998**

IT TAKES A MAGNIFICENT HOME TO COMMAND A TWO-ACRE LOT.



Artist's Concept



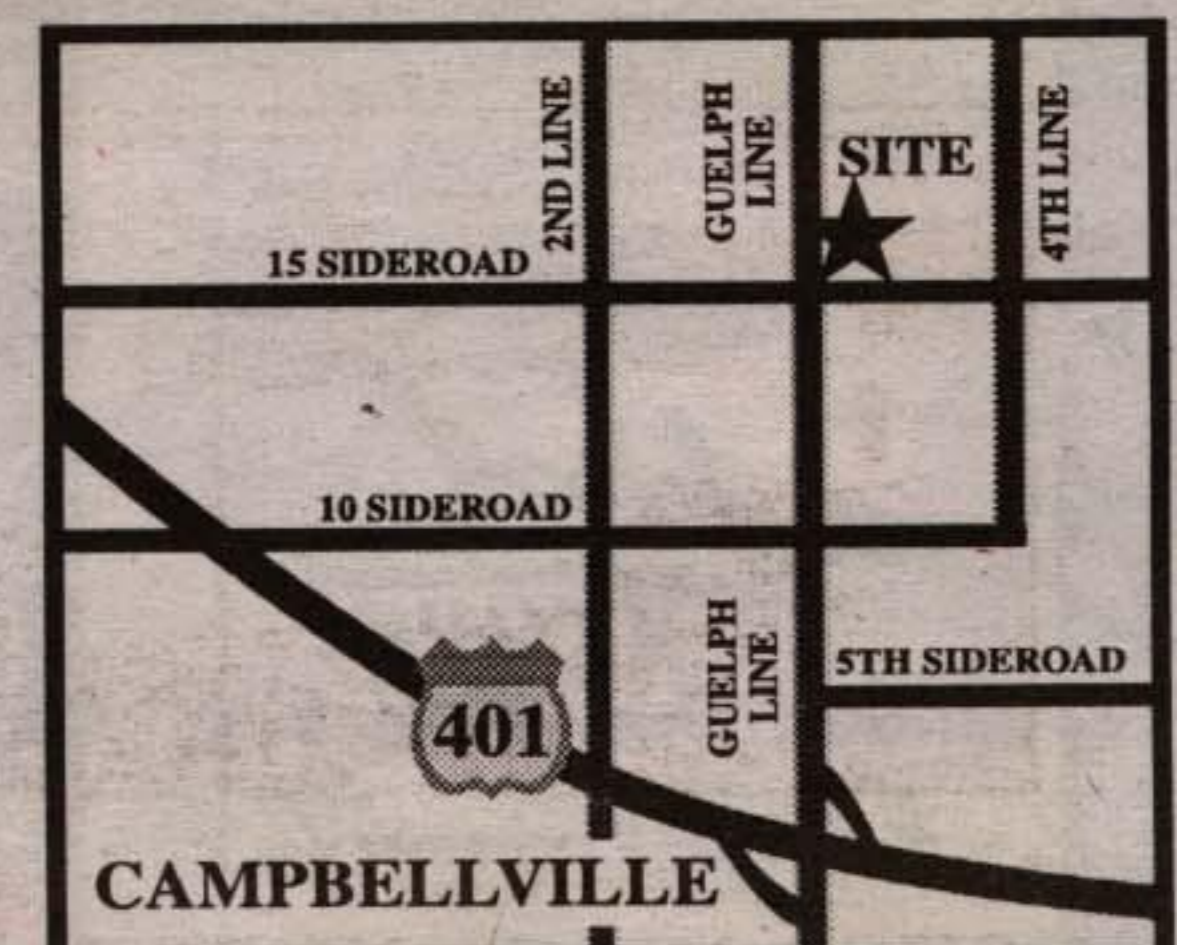
THE RICHMOND 2,665 SQ. FT.

CLASSIC COUNTRY ESTATE HOMES ON SPRAWLING COUNTRY LOTS

Spaciously designed and graciously appointed, with features ranging from private studies to great rooms with huge fireplaces and French doors. With 10 spectacular models to choose from, nestled just north of Campbellville and priced from \$349,000. Churchill Estates. For the home you want to spend the rest of your life in... out in the country and out of this world designs.

Join Us For a Preview Opportunity

It's a chance to see your dream home, captured in one beautiful blueprint. In just a few weeks, Forest Homes is unveiling an ultra-exclusive collection of estate residences on sprawling 1/2 to 2 acre lots that recall the grand plantation homes of the South.



CALL TODAY FOR YOUR PRIORITY PREVIEW APPOINTMENT
[905] 878.7777
 GARY THOMAS - REMAX
 BLUE SPRINGS REALTY, HALTON