

Provincial changes good for Halton

When the provincial government shifted responsibility for a number of programs to the Region of Halton, cut grants and created pooling across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), regional council was concerned how these changes would affect our residents. We voiced our concerns with the province and they listened.

On March 23, Finance Minister Ernie Eves released updated budget information to all municipalities across Ontario. Related to this were several announcements regarding cost-sharing a number of social services and health programs.

Regional staff reviewed what all this information means for Halton, but most importantly, for regional taxpayers. In some cases, it means more responsibilities for the region, but financially, the impacts are positive.

This week, regional council will consider the 1999 budget. As a result of the hard work of regional staff and these recent provincial announcements, staff are able to recommend a 3.1 per cent decrease in regional taxes over last year.

Eves' announcement did not have the same positive effect on the Town of Halton Hills taxes— instead taxes will increase slightly. However, we are very conscious that there is only one taxpayer in Halton and I am pleased that the proposed regional tax decrease is sufficient to offset the majority of the impact of the province's announcements on the Town of Halton Hills. The net result on Halton Hills taxpayers is a combined regional and town tax increase of only .1 per cent or \$2 per household.

The province also responded positively to our concerns in two other areas: the role of the Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB) and council's request for the direct election of the regional chairman.

THE REGION REPORT



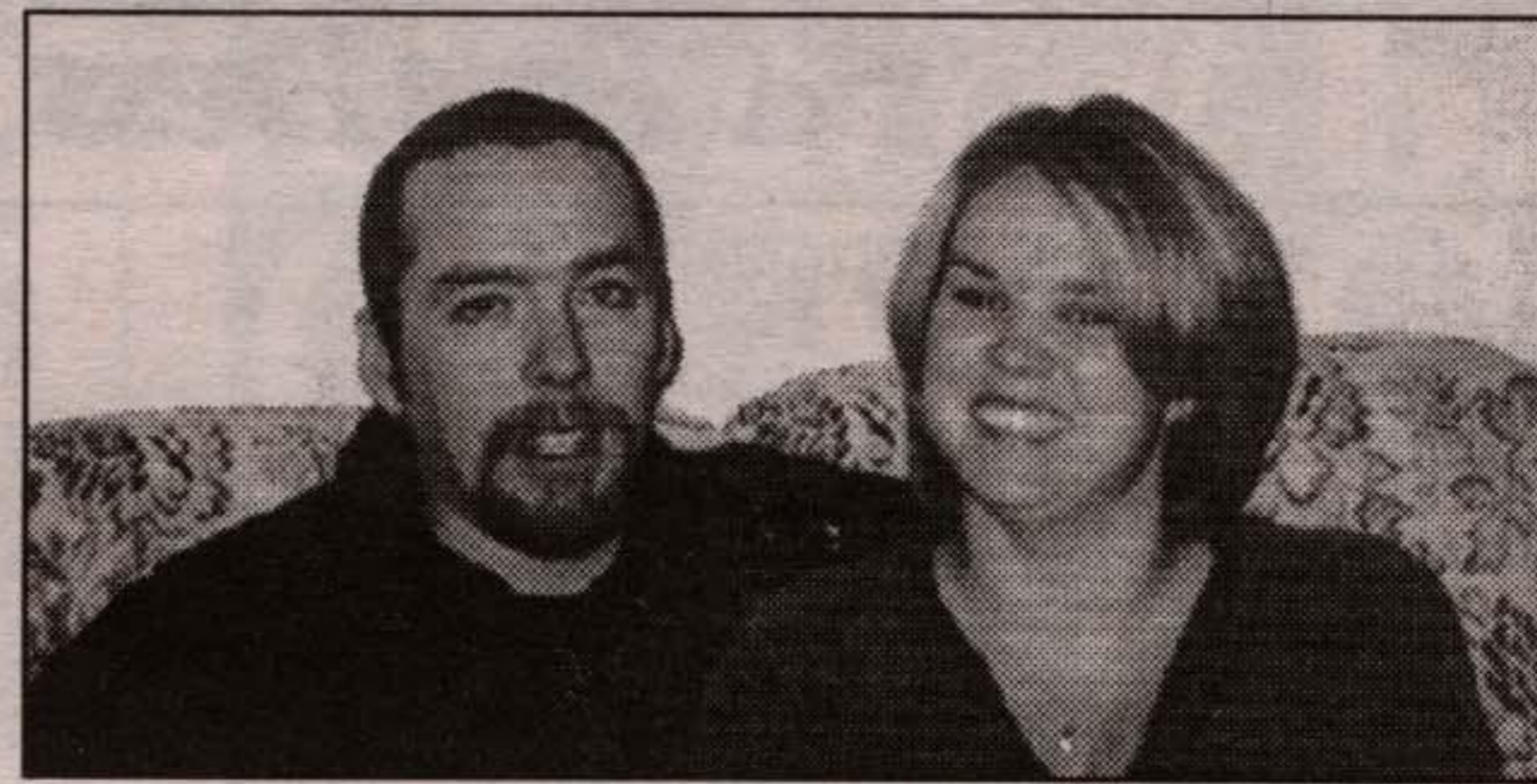
Joyce Savoline

The GTSB provides a forum within which GTA municipalities can work together to promote co-ordination of inter-regional services within the GTA. Halton regional council has been quite clear that it does not support the creation of another level of government. Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach assured me the GTSB will not be another level of government. It has no service delivery responsibilities other than overseeing the operation of GO Transit, has no direct taxing authority and will not require a large bureaucracy.

Leach has also written in response to regional council's request that legislation be changed to allow for the direct election of the regional chairman, by the people of Halton. Currently the 20 regional councillors elect the regional chairman. Leach indicated that he intends to recommend the direct election of the regional chairman and will look for an opportunity to introduce the required legislation for this to occur in time for the November 2000 municipal election.

There have been a lot of changes over the past few months and the region is pleased with the province's response to our concerns regarding these changes. We have a long road ahead of us, one the region is prepared to tread for the benefit of our residents.

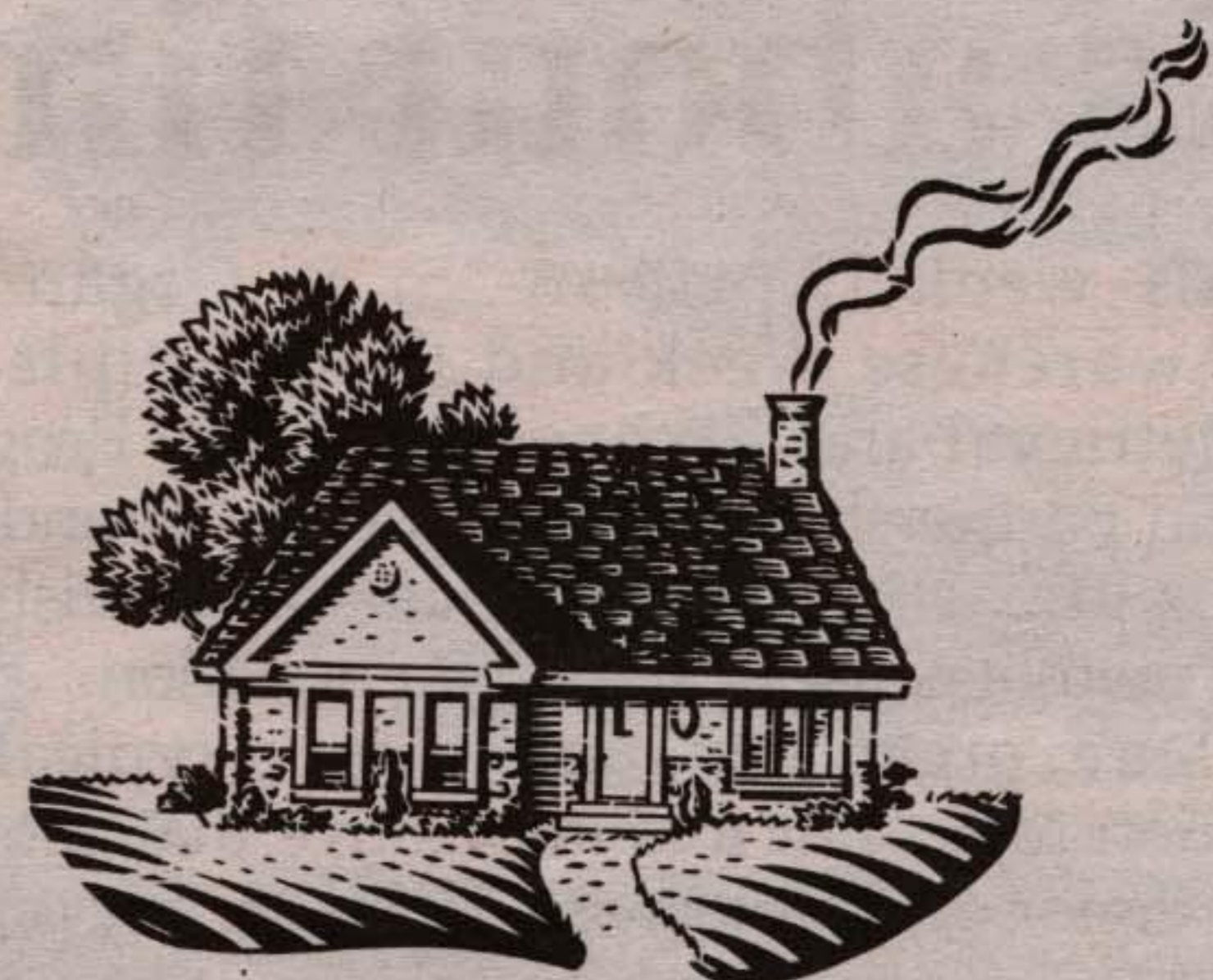
STAG & DOE FOR JEN & MIKE



Mike Wallace and Jen Jeffrey
Sacre-Coure Hall Sat. April 24/99
For tickets call 873-8053/873-2579
or at the door

BORROWING CAN BE THIS COMFORTABLE.

3% CashBack Mortgage.



3% CashBack. That's what we give you when you give us your mortgage business.*

Clear. And to the point. That's the message behind our 3% CashBack Mortgage.

Get a mortgage with a competitive interest rate from Canada Trust. Then we'll deposit 3% of your mortgage principal, in cash, into your account upon closing. On a \$150,000 mortgage that's \$4,500 to use however you wish. And there's no upper limit.

Simple? Absolutely. Helpful? We think so. And it's an offer supported, as always, by the Canada Trust tradition of knowledgeable, professional, personal service that walks you through the mortgage process step-by-step.

In an age of increasingly impersonal banking, it's reassuring to know that borrowing can be this comfortable.



The sky's the limit on our 3% CashBack Mortgage. So talk to us about one today.

CALL **1-800-387-8551**

VISIT A CANADA TRUST BRANCH OR CHECK OUT WWW.CANADATRUST.COM

Canada Trust

*Some conditions apply, ask for details. Offer can be changed at any time, without notice.

A Statement of Elegance



Always something very special at Siffari.

Siffari

fire & ICE
Jewellery Emporium

310 GUELPH ST., UNIT 5, GEORGETOWN
873-4408