

The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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Photography: Ted Brown

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Classified Manager: Carol Hall Classified- Mary Watson

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Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell, Shelli Harrison, Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

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Mailing Address: 211 ARMSTRONG AVE. GEORGETOWN, ONT. L7G 4X5

Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398

e-mail: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com



Taxing situation

You're forgiven if you find the current budget figures being tossed out by the region and Town of Halton Hills a tad confusing.

That's because they are confusing.

If you live in the Town of Halton Hills, the region portion of your property tax bill is going down this year by 2 per cent, despite the fact the police portion of the region budget is climbing by 5.6 per cent.

The town portion of your tax bill will likely climb by 1.2 per cent (or about \$9) but because the region couldn't cover the entire \$780,000 reduction in community reinvestment funding the province foisted upon the town, the town portion of your tax bill will actually rise by \$11.

At least for now.

These figures do not account for any increase the school boards may bring in when their budgets are finalized. So, in effect, all figures are really estimates.

What is somewhat clear in all this number-crunching is that after the province introduced sweeping changes to municipal funding and the region and municipalities fought for revisions to aspects of the funding formula, the end result is we will likely see a small tax increase this year.

It appears that all politicians, at all levels, are finally getting the message that huge tax hikes will no longer be tolerated by taxpayers.

PUD



Public urged to offer views on town plan

Dear editor,

As a resident of rural Halton Hills, I encourage other members of my community to actively review and participate in the Subwatershed and Secondary Plan process now being co-ordinated by the Town of Halton Hills.

The town is currently preparing a secondary plan which will determine land uses and rezoning provisions from Winston Churchill Blvd. to west of Fifth Line; including a large area of lands north of Steeles Avenue. It is proposed that these lands be rezoned from rural agricultural use to urban use, possibly industrial or residential, therefore greatly affecting the rural residential land owners in the area.

The completion of this process must take into consideration the concerns and issues raised by the

Letter of the day

Day commended for running

Dear editor,

Politicians are a much reviled class of people these days. We, the voting public, often feel disappointed and betrayed by those we elect to office, so much so, that we end up being suspicious and cynical of anyone who steps into politics.

This makes it all the more uninviting and difficult for genuinely concerned and committed individuals to be willing to answer this call to democratic responsibility and public service.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank John Day for deciding to stand for the provincial Liberal nomination in the Halton riding. Everything that I know about him, both as a regional politician and as an individual citizen, indicates that he is a capable, dedicated and decent person, genuinely concerned about the best interests of his community in a remarkably wide range of areas.

John's candidacy motivated me, for the first time in my life, to become a member of a political party and to work for someone I was excited to support. While I am disappointed that John did not get the nomination, I remain very grateful for his efforts and commitment. I look forward to his continued advocacy as our regional councillor, and to future opportunities for public service that may come his way.

Thanks, John. Here's hoping that other good citizens follow your fine example.

Grant Linney, Georgetown

community. I urge residents to take part in this process by contacting their local ward councillor for further

information, and to attend public meetings regarding this matter.

P. Tait, Halton Hills

Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for content and length and can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com