

Tax info available on-line Region offers residents a tax break

Halton property owners can now go on-line to find out how their new property assessment will affect their taxes and learn if they're eligible for the region's phase-in program.

The tax estimator, located at www.region.halton.on.ca was launched Friday and over the weekend had more than 200 hits.

Halton residents can get an estimate of their 2001 tax bill by calling up their properties using the address or assessment roll number. A computer program will calculate their taxes and indicate if they are eligible for a phase-in of their taxes.

She said as the region has done in the past to "soften the blow" for those property owners facing a big tax increase due to the new assessment the region for this year only will pick up the difference up to a maximum of \$10,000 on the bills of people who have at least a \$300 and 15 per cent increase.

"We understand that some

owners will face financial strain due to the province's property reassessment, that's why we introduced the phase-in program—to help relieve some of that strain," said MacCaskill.

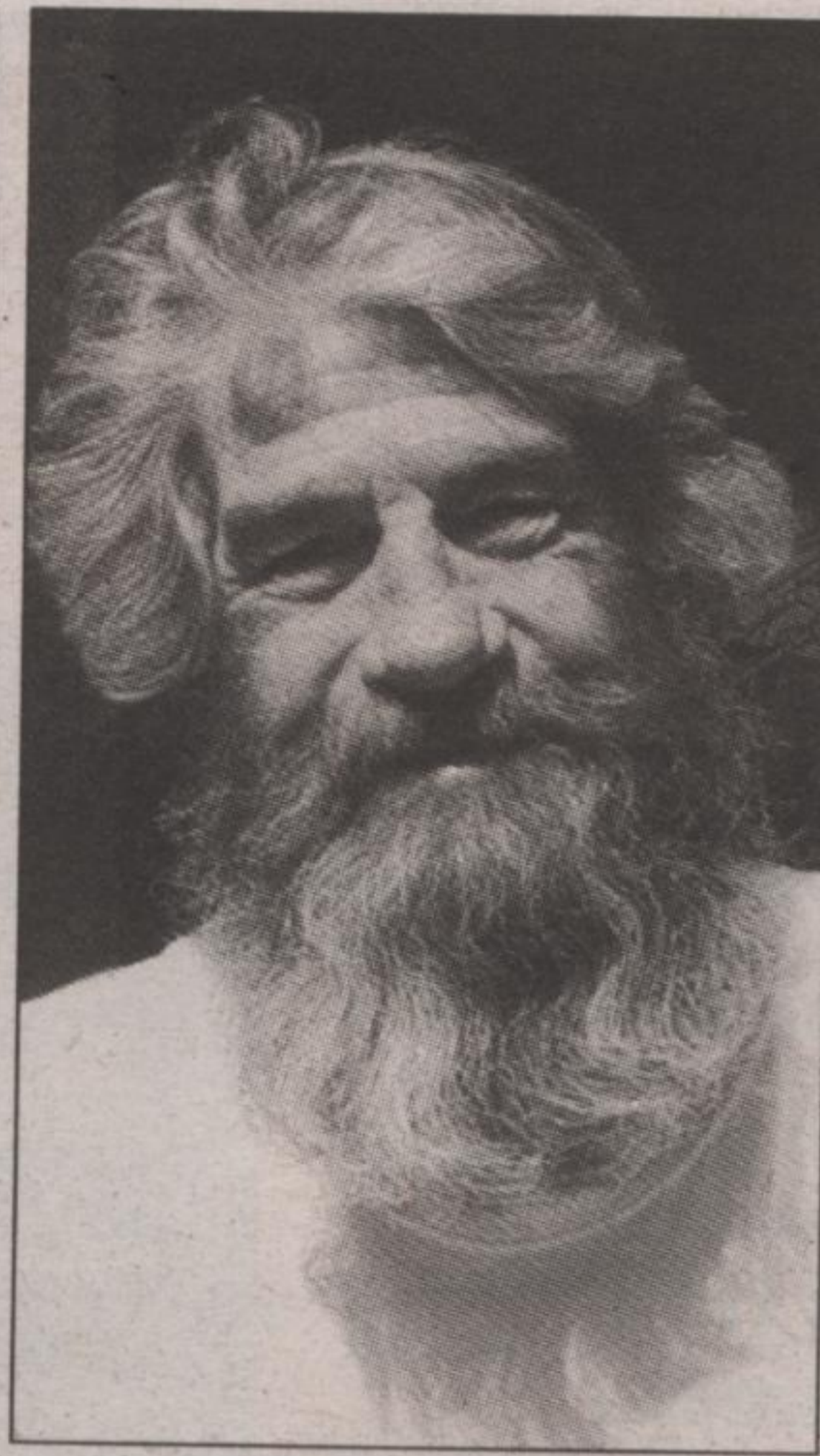
Next year those property owners will have to pay the full bill.

In Halton Hills about 400 property owners will be eligible for the phase-in and their bills will be adjusted accordingly. Region-wide more than 3,750 property owners will receive phase-in relief.

MacCaskill said they expect the phase-in to cost the region about \$2 million and plan to get the province to pay back \$600,000 of that as it relates to education taxes.

Regional council also recently approved a tax deferral policy to help low income seniors and people with disabilities, a tax rebate program for charitable organizations and provincially mandated caps on assessment related increases for multi-residential, commercial and industrial properties.

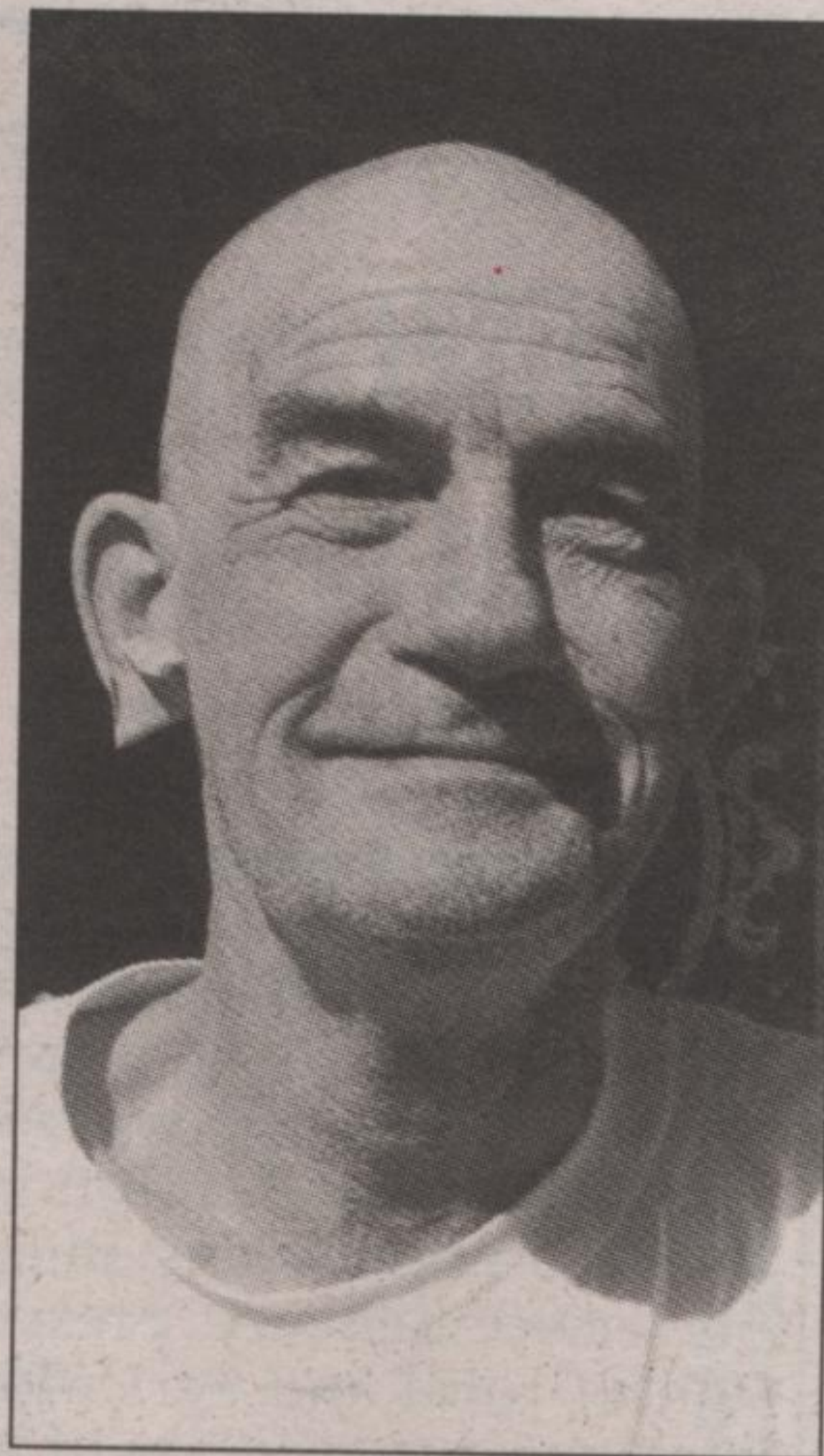
—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



Bad hair day?

For the ninth year in a row, Robert Millard, of Georgetown, had his locks sheared at the George and Dragon to help raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. This year, Millard, who lets his hair and beard grow the entire year before the ceremonial clipping, collected \$310 from George and Dragon Patrons. Sarah's Creative Hairstyling/Makeup Artistry/Photography handled the shaving duties.

Photos by Sarah Hiseman



Contract approved for wastewater plant upgrades

Earth Tech Canada Inc. is to do the final design and administer contracts for the \$5.9 million in upgrades planned for Acton's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Last week Halton Region council approved extending Earth Tech's contract and paying the company a maximum of \$448,644 to do the work.

Upgrades planned for the plant are necessary to ensure the plant operates efficiently and to accommodate growth in Acton.

Bruce Kitchen, Halton's director of engineering services, said they plan to go to tender on the project this summer, with construction

beginning around the end of August.

Upgrades include construction of a filter building to house the ultraviolet disinfection system, installation of an emergency diesel generator, control room, and a secondary treatment system to replace the existing aerators. The existing settling pond and filter beds are also to be cleaned and decommissioned and a new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to automate the plant is to be installed.

Kitchen said they expect the upgrades to be completed and operational by August or September 2002.



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PUBLIC MEETING

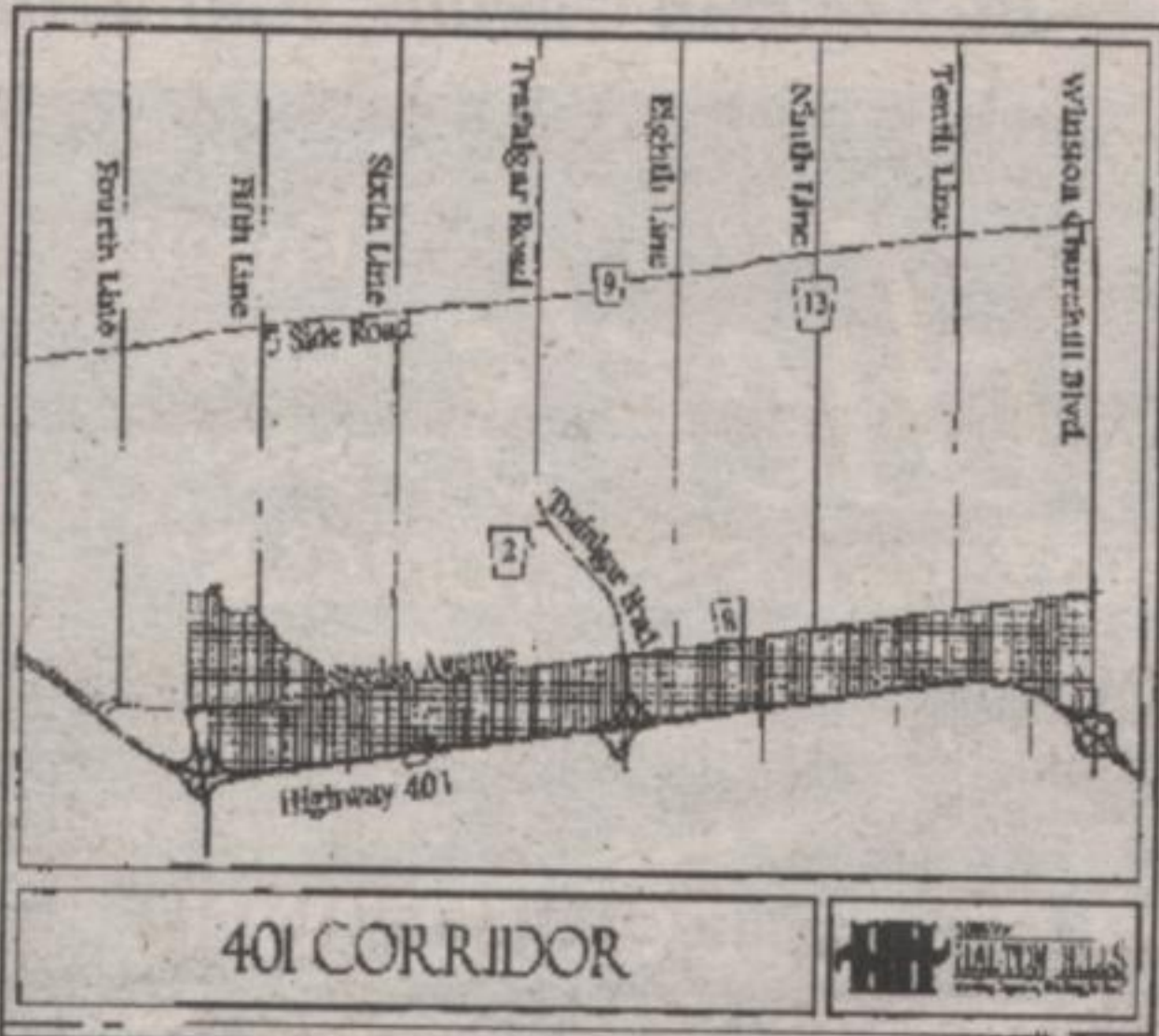
Notice of a Public Meeting 401 CORRIDOR INTEGRATED PLANNING PROJECT TEMPORARY USE BY-LAW DEVELOPMENT "D" ZONE

Council for the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss a proposed temporary Zoning By-law Amendment for the 401 Corridor Secondary Plan Area.

Town Council adopted the 401 Corridor Integrated Planning Project in March 2000 which includes a Secondary Plan as well as Urban Design Guidelines, Scoped Subwatershed Study, and Implementing Official Plan Amendment.

On June 19, 2000, the Town passed Zoning By-Law 00-076. This By-Law placed the lands subject to O.P.A. #94 into a "Development (D) Zone" for a one year period pending the completion of a comprehensive Zoning By-Law for the 401 Corridor. Subsequently, the Town passed Zoning By-Law 00-138 for the 401 Corridor on October 23, 2000. This By-Law has been appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. Until the OMB rules on the appeals, it is proposed that a Temporary Use By-Law be passed to recognize the future development of the lands, however, in the interim, it only permits uses by a public authority and uses legally existing at the date of passing of the By-Law.

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide more information regarding the By-Law to zone the area as Development "D" Zone. Planning staff will provide additional information at the Public Meeting. The public is invited to attend the meeting to ask questions and provide comments. If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the approved authority does not make oral submissions at the Public Meeting, or make written submissions before a decision, the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss the appeal.



Further information is available in the Planning Department.

ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, June 10, 2001, 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, Civic Centre
FILE NO: D08/401 Secondary Plan 108

INVITATION TO WORKSHOP

Invitation Official Plan Program Workshop

The Town of Halton Hills is in the process of undertaking an Official Plan Review. An important aspect of the Review is to obtain input from the community to help guide the future direction of the Town. Through Steering Committee meetings we have identified three major areas of interest: Growth Management, Economic Development and the Environment. Growth Management is the topic of this workshop and we are inviting you to contribute your views on the future of the Town of Halton Hills. The workshop will be held on:

Thursday, June 14, 2001
Cultural Centre
9 Church Street, Georgetown
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Background information and illustration panels will be on display at the open house prior to the workshop. A brief presentation about the Town of Halton Hills Official Plan Work Program will be made. Growth Management in Halton Hills will be the focus of the workshop and discussion groups.

6:00-6:30 - Drop in, view display panels.

6:30-9:00 - Overview of Official Plan, Break out Groups for discussion of Growth Management (with concluding discussions at approximately 8:45 p.m.)

We value your input and hope that you can join us. We ask that you register ahead of time. Please contact Jason Innis at 905-873-2601 ext. 2256 or by email at jasoni@town.halton-hills.on.ca to confirm your attendance.

Last day for registration is Wednesday, June 6, 2001 by 4:00 p.m.

Information on the Town of Halton Hills Official Plan Program is available at www.town.haltonhills.on.ca (Planning & Development Services). 107

What You Said

'What do you think of standardized testing for students?'



Jacqueline Labao
Georgetown
student

"I don't think we should have to do it (Grade 9 math test) because it is just extra on our workload. Why should we do an exam on top of everything we have to do?"



Kristen Lowe
Georgetown
sales

"I don't agree with the testing because of the pressure it puts on kids. Their test results shouldn't be part of their final grade."



Lauren Smith
Georgetown
retail

"I think it's a good idea. With standardized testing as least students know where they're at and they can get the help they need."



Fraser Leblanc
Georgetown
student

"Since it's extra work, if some people want to take it they should, but those who don't want to, shouldn't be forced to take it."



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