

## Cheer Up:

John Hribljan reports he saw a very large female Robin in a bush outside his dining room window at 9:25am Wednesday morning. Spring is on its way.



# Mean theft from Sally Ann Thrift Store

No questions will be asked if a thief returns three rings, valued between \$300 and \$350 that were stolen from the Salvation Army's Thrift Store on Mill Street last Thursday.

Salvation Army officials did not call police after the theft was discovered – the gold rings, one with a diamond, were part of a silent auction of valuable items at the store.

Major Margaret Locke said on the

advice of their headquarters they did not call police because they wanted to “appeal to the better side of people,” and hope the rings will be returned by someone with a guilty conscience.

Halton Detective Sargent Peter Hodgson said they always recommend that victims call police.

“For one thing, pawn shops and second-hand stores are checked regu-

larly. If an item is found and it hasn't been reported stolen we have no way, even though we may suspect it's been stolen, we have no way of tracing it back unless someone comes forward and tells us,” Hodgson said on Monday, adding sometimes people do the right thing, but reporting a crime “just covers your bases and lets us know if there's a problem developing in an area.”

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## Strike gold at Nationals

**SILVER SKATE:** Acton resident Maja Vermeulen and her ice dance partner Andrew Doleman won a Silver medal in the Novice division at the Canadian Junior nationals held in Brampton on the weekend. Story on Page 4. – Submitted photo

# Town taxes bargain insist Council, staff

By Frances Niblock

Many Acton homeowners will pay more for cable TV and telephone than they will pay in Town taxes this year, and they will get a lot for their money according to elected officials and staff.

The recently approved Town operating budget has a 5.4 per cent increase for Town taxes – \$50 more for a bill of \$980 on a property assessed at \$300,000.

By comparison, last year the average household spent \$1,217 on electricity, \$684 on cable TV, \$649 for water and sewer services, \$4,000 for gasoline and \$421 for phone service.

The total Town, Region and school board property tax increase is 2.7 per cent or \$82 this year, for a total tax bill of \$3,074 for a property assessed at \$300,000.

At the Town, the lion's share of the tax bill is earmarked for fire services, engineering and public works, general administration, recreational/cultural facilities and programs, and capital expenditures.

Debate over the long-term plan to hire full-time firefighters sparked debate, but the budget committee – all members of council and the

## Some will pay more for cable TV, phone

mayor – rejected a move by rookie Georgetown Councillor John Duncan to hire two, not four firefighters this year and save approximately \$250,000.

Both Acton councillors Clark Somerville and Mike O'Leary supported the cut, but the motion lost.

Councillor O'Leary, whose attempt to cut \$150,000 from an under-spent snow clearing budget was not supported by budget committee members, said the municipal budget process is a “damned if

you do, damned if you don't,” situation because they can't please everyone.

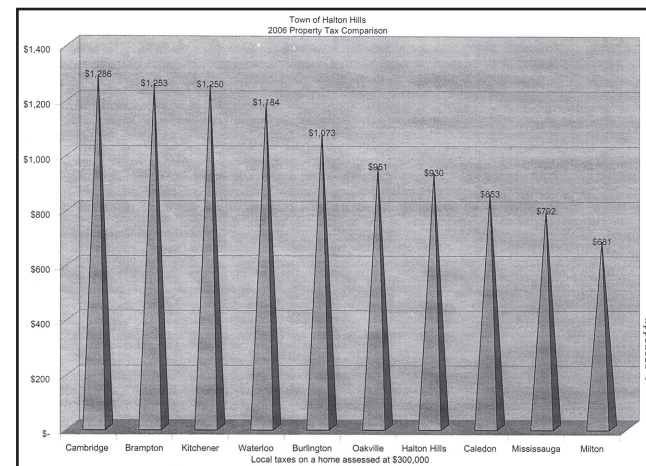
“The Town has to have money to operate and constituents, one of the things they are always asking for is more services, and people should stop and think who is going to pay for it, and that's you and me,” O'Leary said.

Councillor Somerville said he would have loved to have less of a tax increase, but his suggestions to cut items weren't supported.

“You don't always agree with all of the decisions, but that's fine – I can understand, and now, let's

*Continued on page 2*

## 2006 Property Tax Comparison



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