



**A crazy boat**

Gunter Schade, left, and his son Jorn, right, entered this monstrosity in Saturday's Crazy Boat Race on the Credit River. The race, sponsored by Georgetown Jaycees, attracted many entrants despite the cold weather. Mr. Schade is a teacher at E.C. Drury High School.

## Trustees reject adding consultants

A proposal to add two more consultants to Halton Board of Education staff has been rejected by trustees. Members decided last week to reject the plan to add two special education consultants to the staff for students in the intermediate-secondary range. Burlington trustee Marg Bullock said the consultants were desperately needed to develop special education programs at the secondary level. She noted that \$290,000 had been requested for special education in 1982 "but three-quarters of that was slashed by the budget committee." "We can live with that reduction at the elementary level but not at the secondary level," she said. "Let's take this one small step at this level at least." Consultants are used by the Board to develop programs in special areas. While the Halton Board currently has special education teachers at the senior elementary and high school level, there are no consultants. "There's no question of the need for these people," Halton Hills trustee Arlene Bruce said, adding that adding those staff had not been supported either by the finance or salary negotiation committees. Another of the arguments advanced for the extra staff was the possible effects from the Provincial Special Education Bill, which requires boards of education to provide the full range of services needed to meet the needs of all students. Burlington trustee Cam Jackson said it was an "overstatement" to say the finance committee had "slashed" the request for staff. Requests for increases had been prioritized by Board staff and these positions were given a lower priority than others.

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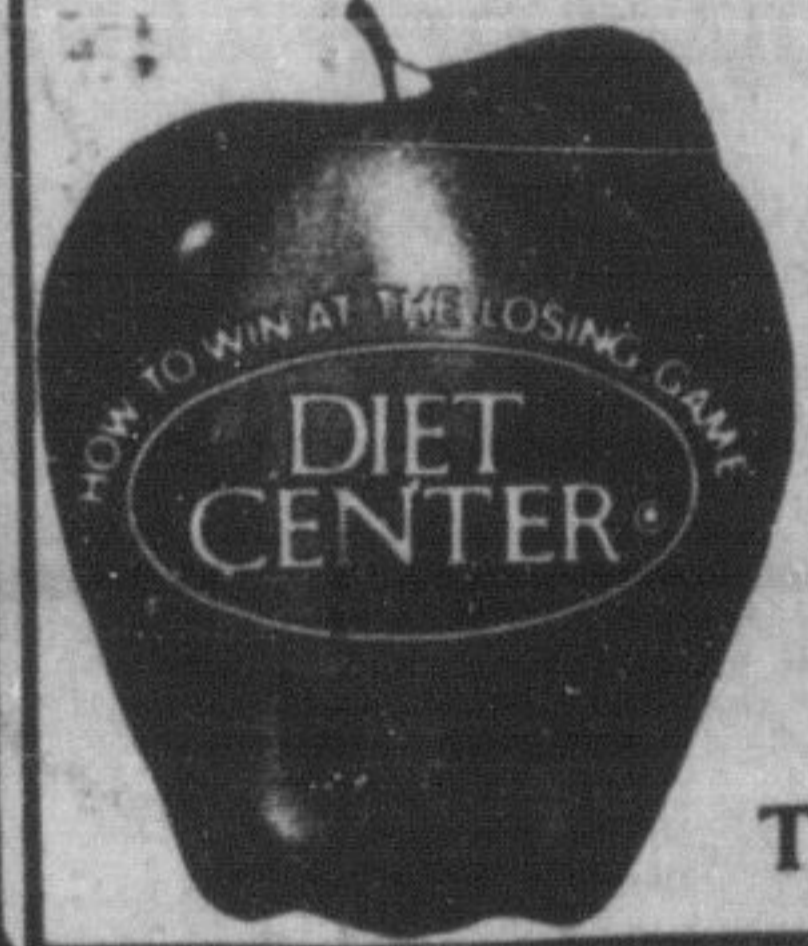


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### Eight years later

## Assembly of public works department continues

By STEVE ARNOLD  
Champion News Editor  
Eight years after the birth of Regional government in Halton the "basic structure" for one of the largest departments is still being assembled. Members of the planning and public works committee faced that fact recently in trimming one person from the 10 additional staff requested for the public works department. Bob Moore, public works director, had originally requested 10 more staff for his department in response to the extensive Hickling-Johnson management study that followed the deficit crisis of 1980. One of those new staff was cut from the budget by the budget review committee and another was slashed by the planning and works committee in its review. In total, regional taxpayers will provide \$2.9 million for the public works department to ensure the provision of drinking water, sanitary sewers, garbage disposal and regional roads. Another \$709,000 will be required for the regional planning department. Included in the list of new staff requested for the public works department was a three member special studies group which Mr. Moore said would save the Region the cost of hiring outside consultants. "We are being asked for more and more

special studies every year," he said. "If we don't have these people then we are going to be spending a large bundle on outside consultants." Despite their best efforts, Mr. Moore and his staff did lose the services of an audiovisual technician included in the budget at a cost of \$25,000. He had argued that the person was needed to prepare material used in presentations to councillors and in the displays used at public meetings. There are currently some draftsmen on the Regional staff "who can produce a certain level of work, but beyond that level they are very limited," he said. Their luck was a little better when Regional chairman Jack Raftis made a motion to cut a development technician from the proposed additions, saving the \$28,300 salary. "I think we're trying to do too much in one fell swoop here," he said. Oakville Coun. Terry Mannell argued against the move based on Mr. Moore's contention that the person was needed to meet the commitments that have already been made to developers in the region. "I think you could come down to our department at any time and see that there is still a lot of development going on," commented Ric Robertshaw, spokesman for the public works department. "We have plenty of work down there to

keep them busy," he added. Dennis Perlin, chief administrative officer, said the new staff being recommended for the department were part of the basic structure that had been recommended by the management study team. "There is nothing here other than what Hickling-Johnson recommended as a basic structure," he said. "This is a basic necessity... for the public works department to operate efficiently," he said. "We're simply allowing them to meet the basic demands that are being made of them." In response to questions from other councillors Mr. Perlin said that some of the extra staff being sought could be hired on contract, but that this was not always the best way to get the most highly qualified people at that level. "We're still talking, however, about the need for a basic structure that hasn't changed in the years I've been here. You can go by contract for some of these, but it still doesn't change the fact that we are talking about the basic structure." No new staff were requested for the regional planning department which underwent the amputation of \$70,450 from its budget by the budget review committee and the loss of another \$2,250 after a request from Mr. Perlin for a "bare bones budget" increase.

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