

# Tax free political pay a sticky point at Halton



**"We could get whacked big time if changes push us into a higher tax bracket. One of the toughest things an elected person has to deal with is his or her own salary."**  
**MAYOR GORD KRANTZ**

By **BRAD REAUME**  
*The Champion*

Halton politicians have become antsy over plans to rescind the one-third tax free provision on their public service salaries.

The change is one of several concerns members of the regional administration and finance committee had with a proposed new Ontario Municipal Act.

They agreed to lift the proposal out of their support for changes to the Municipal Act, and consider it more thoroughly.

Burlington's Don Carter said local politicians should have tax parity with their provincial and federal counterparts. He said there is currently an inequity between politicians at different levels and while he leans toward removal of the

tax-free provision, he wants a strong case before offering his support.

Burlington's Rob MacIsaac said he supported the removal of the provision.

"We should be paid the same way as anyone else," Mr. MacIsaac said. "I'm not saying it shouldn't be increased to compensate, but it must be understandable."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz agreed and suggested a broad-based citizens' panel be struck to determine pay levels for politicians. "Changes have to be well thought out," he said. "We could get whacked big time if changes push us into a higher tax bracket. One of the toughest things an elected person has to deal with is his or her own salary."

Committee chair Liz Behrens of Oakville suggested council set salaries at the end of their

term to take effect after the election. That way it could be an election issue.

Halton chair Joyce Savoline said the one-third tax free provision is not applied equally in all areas of the province. Oakville's Keith Bird agreed the proposal should be lifted, given that it will likely become the focal point of debate and could stall important legislation which forms the bulk of the new Municipal Act.

In addition Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson said that the region should sponsor "informal meetings for councillors to let their hair down that are not for the whole world to listen to."

Halton's clerk Joan Eaglesham said there were no provisions in the new act for any changes to regulations governing when councillors can go into a closed session.

Ms Serjeantson pointed to provincial and federal government cabinet and caucus meetings, which are held behind closed doors, and suggested the same for Halton councillors. However, she did not put the idea to a vote.

## Dateline

Dateline is a free listing of coming events only. The column is available to local community groups to assist in promoting their future events. Only charitable or non-profit community groups may use this service. We can only guarantee one issue of publicity closest to the date of the occurrence. Notices for Dateline should be handed in at the office of The Champion, 191 Main St. E., mailed to P.O. Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, or faxed to (905)878-4943.

### Tuesday May 20

The **Calling New Parents Group** meets at CHERISH Parent-Child Centre, 540 Childs Dr., from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information, call 825-6060, ext. 7365.

The Milton Children and Youth Centre, 917 Nipissing Rd., holds the **Leisure Time drop off program** for infants to five-year-olds from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$5.50.

The Milton Women's Centre hosts an

Exploring Health Alternatives workshop on **acupuncture** with Alice Pearcey. The centre is located at Hopedale Mall, 1515 Rebecca St., Suite 301, in Oakville from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$6. To register, call 847-5520.

### Tuesday May 20 - 21


Bishop Reding Secondary School on  
 • see **DATELINE** page 15


## HIKE FOR HEALTH '97

**Sunday, May 25, 1997**

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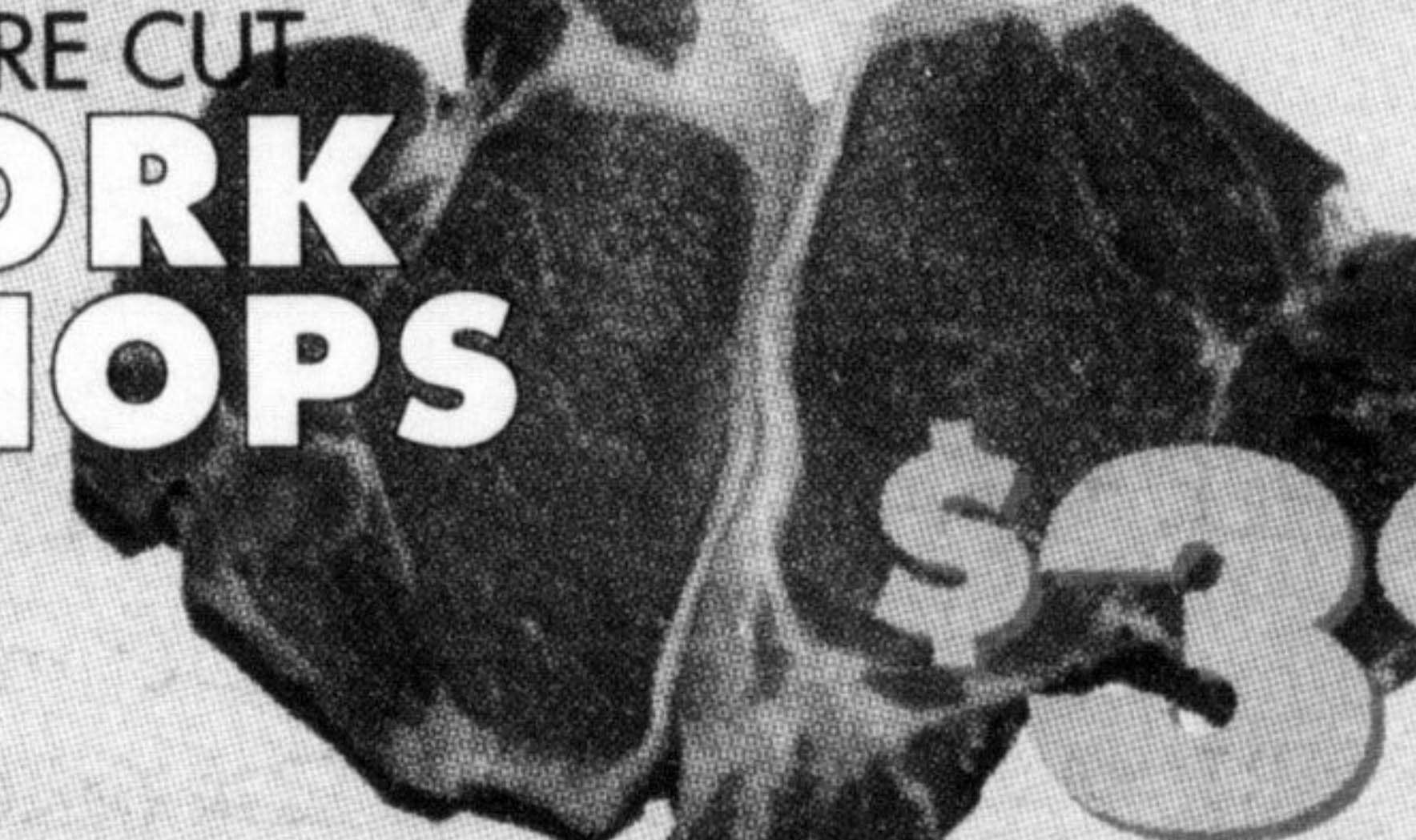


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