

Two property tax bills will hit the doorstep

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

Town council has followed the lead of neighbouring municipalities and will issue two tax bills in 1998.

"It is not going to be business as usual around here in 1998 or 1999," said Mayor Gord Krantz. "There will be severe impacts, not just here in Milton or Halton but across Ontario."

The initial bill will reflect taxes required to run the municipality if current provincial shifts of responsibility do not take place. The first budget

will be set on the basis of a tax freeze from 1997.

The follow-up tax bill will cover any shifts due to provincial actions which affect the municipality.

Councillors agreed Monday night that municipal departments should prepare budget packages which reflect a 15 per cent cut in spending to offset potential downloading from the province.

These packages will give council the opportunity to see the effect of cutbacks before they make decisions.

"It would be fairly clear to people what the

impacts are for changes and announcements by the provincial government," said David Hipgrave, Milton's chief administrative officer.

The provincial government is shifting the responsibility of some provincial transit to municipalities, in addition to changes to the funding of social services.

These large tax increases are expected even after the provincial government agreed to fund 50 per cent of the education bill. That money used to come from property taxes.

Mr. Hipgrave explained that the proposed two

tax bill system would allow Milton to get on with the work of collecting taxes, while clearly showing any changes to the norm. Milton has not had a tax increase on its portion of property taxes since 1993.

Mr. Hipgrave said financial information from the provincial government is expected by the end of October.

Milton's director of corporate services, Jim McQueen, said if all the expected provincial changes come to pass there will be a need to increase property taxes by 17 per cent in Milton.

Good show, art group

It was picture perfect.

The Fine Art Society of Milton recently hosted their first annual Milton Arts Festival, getting rave reviews from both artists and the crowds.

Tina Newlove was named Best in Show, Kai-Liis McInnes was awarded first place, Brigitte Schrever claimed second and Anne Elliot, third.

Those in attendance voted Linda Shantz winner of the People's Choice Award, while each artist received some votes, suggesting there was something for all tastes at the event.

Despite threatening weather 28 artists participated in the two-day event in Victoria Park. Artists came from as far away as Toronto and Kitchener to show their work.

Society spokesperson Miriam Hynek said the show was very well attended on both days.

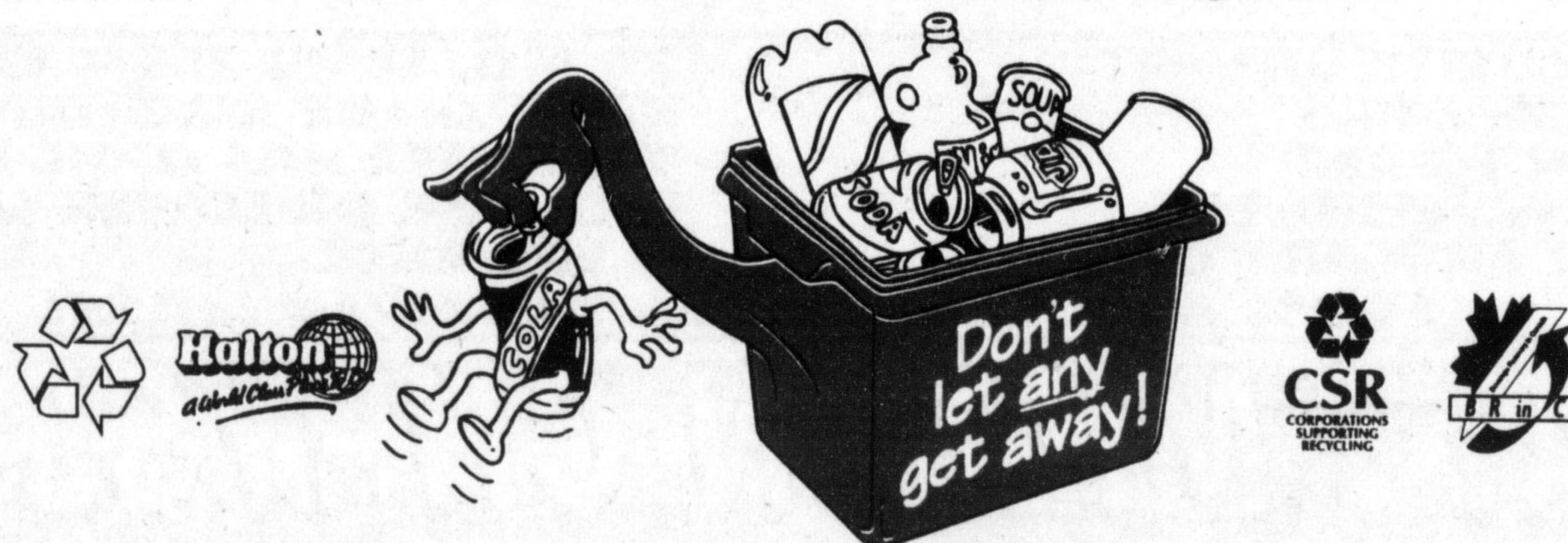
DON'T TRASH CANS!



If everyone recycled just one more soft drink can each week for a year, we would earn thousands and thousands more dollars in revenues.

Soft drink cans are made from aluminum, the most valuable material you can recycle. Recycling more cans, instead of throwing them in the garbage, would go a long way toward covering the cost of your

recycling program. So when you're away from home (and your Blue Box) remember to look for the nearest recycling bin-on the street, at work, at school or take it home. Every can counts!



STORE
YOUR BOAT, TRAILER OR RV
IN OUR COMPOUND
YOU GET THE KEY!

MILTON IMPORT CAR CENTRE

GERHARD & RUDY
583 MAIN ST. E.
878-5330

OPEN HOUSES
THIS WEEKEND

SUNDAY 2-4 PM
371 Bronte St., #74
\$127,500
Sales Rep in attendance
REMAX MILTOWNE REALTY CORP. 878-7777

SUNDAY 1-4 PM
Palomino Ranch (Carlisle)
From \$309,000
Gary Thomas in attendance
REMAX MILTOWNE REALTY CORP. 878-7777

SUNDAY 2-4 PM
337 Oak Street
Barbara Crowe in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE SERVICES 878-8101

Look for more details on these and other homes in the

BEST HOMES