

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Area teachers stayed the strike course Wednesday, continuing their opposition to Bill 160. Pictured here, teachers outside Martin Street School make their opinions known as to who will suffer most from education reform.

Teachers may be forced back

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Chudleigh's office.

The Milton Fire Department extinguished several fires, set in barrels at picket lines Tuesday for warmth, after receiving public complaints about smoke.

Firefighter Mark Cross said the department enforced a town bylaw that bans open-air burning in urban Milton.

"We can't let teachers do it and then tell residents they can't burn in their backyards," he said.

Both police and fire officials said teachers fully cooperated with their requests.

Morale on picket lines has been good, Mr. Tanner said, and some parents and students have joined in, waving placards. "The public support has been fantastic."

He said teachers are gaining public support as more people realize the government's claim that Bill 160 will improve education is a "smoke-screen" for cutting funding.

And he believes the Tories should put energy into

solving the controversy instead of toward seeking an injunction.

But Mr. Chudleigh, who was to meet with the other Halton MPPs and representatives of local teachers' federations yesterday, said the Ontario Teachers' Federation isn't willing to talk.

"It's hard to talk to them when you're sitting in the office waiting for them to come in and no one comes in," he said.

"They're not interested in talking. They want to bring this government down, and they don't mind using kids as pawns."

He added that he believes the majority of Ontarians support the Harris government's educational reforms.

But teachers' federations say Bill 160, the Education Quality Improvement Act, would hurt students by removing teachers' contract limits on class size and preparation time and bringing about the hiring of unqualified people in areas such as computers and science.

Other important issues on ballot

Two questions unrelated to choosing candidates will be on the ballots in the municipal election Monday, Nov. 10.

The Town of Milton will ask citizens:

- Do you agree that the cost of welfare, social services and social housing should be downloaded by the province onto the property taxes?

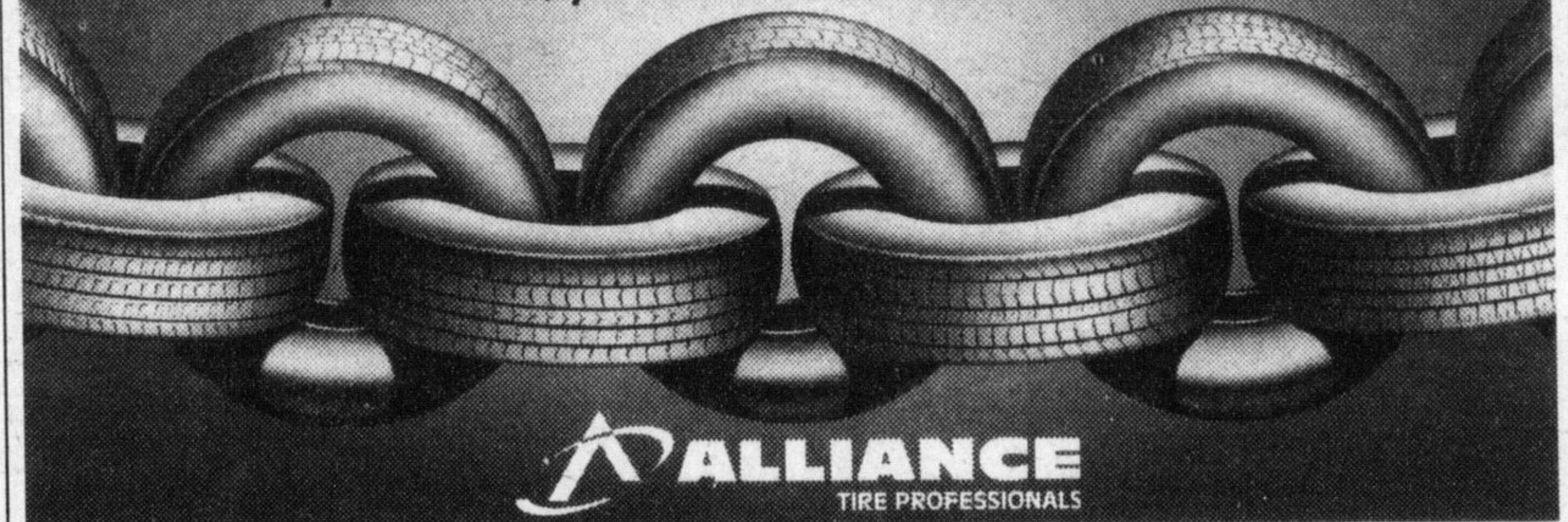
- Are you in favour of continu-

ous chlorination of Milton's water supply?

Citizens who aren't interested in voting are being asked to at least come out and have their say on the issues.

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