

# Weekend will rock with Curl 4 Cancer

It's just about time to rock the house, with the second annual Curl 4 Cancer.

The local event, scheduled for this Friday and Saturday at the Milton Curling Club, is expected to top last year's fundraising total of \$25,771.

Said organizer Ken Hassard, "Donations are pouring in and we've got some great items for the auction, like a 15-minute aerobatics flying lesson with champion aviator Roger Hadfield and a week's accommodations at a time-sharing residence in

Mexico."

While the event has reached its capacity in terms of team entries, individuals and businesses can still make a contribution.

In addition to supporting a curler through a pledge, people can buy a rock for \$25, buy a sheet of ice for \$100 or buy the end of the rink for \$250.

Anyone who wishes to support the Curl 4 Cancer event can do so by calling Mr. Hassard at 878-8231.

# Makeover is on hold, bid is for beds instead

By IRENE GENTLE

*The Champion*

Halton will likely put a \$7.5 million make-over on hold while pursuing 68 new beds for Allendale's antiquated Martin House, the Region's health and social services committee heard recently.

The committee voted to put the much-needed modernization project on the back burner, allowing staff to prepare a bid for more long-term care beds at the Milton based home for the aged.

At present, Martin House has 100 beds.

The matter will go to council for final approval.

Halton was recently given eight years to bring Martin House back up to snuff after it failed to live up to provincial long-term care standards.

Though the building is structurally sound, it was considered outdated by the Ministry of Health, said Adelina Urbanski, Halton's health and social services commissioner.

"It's not that the building itself is falling apart, but it's outdated," she explained.

A dearth of private rooms and unreliable elevators are two reasons the facility got a poor rating, she said.

Though the province has agreed to provide \$7.5 million over 20 years to help shore up the facility, Halton will likely pay for the improvements up front once the bed issue is resolved.

Persistent rumblings that the Ministry of Health will be allocating more long term care beds as early as April have Halton hoping to be second time lucky.

Martin House would run more efficiently with more beds in it, said the Region's finance chief, Joe Rinaldo.

"Having 168 beds is the most cost effective way to run that facility," he said.

In a previous go-round, the Province distributed 6,700 beds across the Ontario, with 650 going to Halton.

Though Milton made the short list, all the beds ended up going to Oakville, Burlington and Halton Hills instead.

"We were optimistic before and quite surprised we didn't get them" said Ms Urbanski. "Staff were of the opinion that we should go back and give it another shot."

After that round of allocations, Halton ended up with a total of 1,640 beds, broken down into 682 in Burlington, 505 in Oakville, 153 in Halton Hills and 300 in Milton.

### Won't wait forever

If the bid is rejected, upgrading will begin immediately, said Ms Urbanski.

"This is just about as long as we think we should wait given that we think an announcement of more beds is close at hand," she said. "The building needs to be dealt with. We have to get on with it."

Burlington Councillor Jack Dennison was in favour of bringing more beds to Martin House but spoke against delaying building improvements.

"I'm surprised we're waiting to go ahead with the renovations. I think we should be proceeding with that," he said. "We have a good, solid building and happy residents, but I recognize the need to get out of the 'D' category."

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale noted that Milton didn't get beds last time because the need lies elsewhere in Halton.

"I was really intrigued that the Province didn't buy that these beds were needed in Milton," she said. "They were allocated on the basis of need."

More beds in Milton would benefit Halton as a whole, said Ms Urbanski. "Half the residents in Martin House came from somewhere outside of Milton," she said. "The issue is there's a real shortage across Halton."



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### TAX NOTICE

Ratepayers of the Town of Milton are reminded that the first installment of the 1999 interim Tax Bill is due on March 5/99.

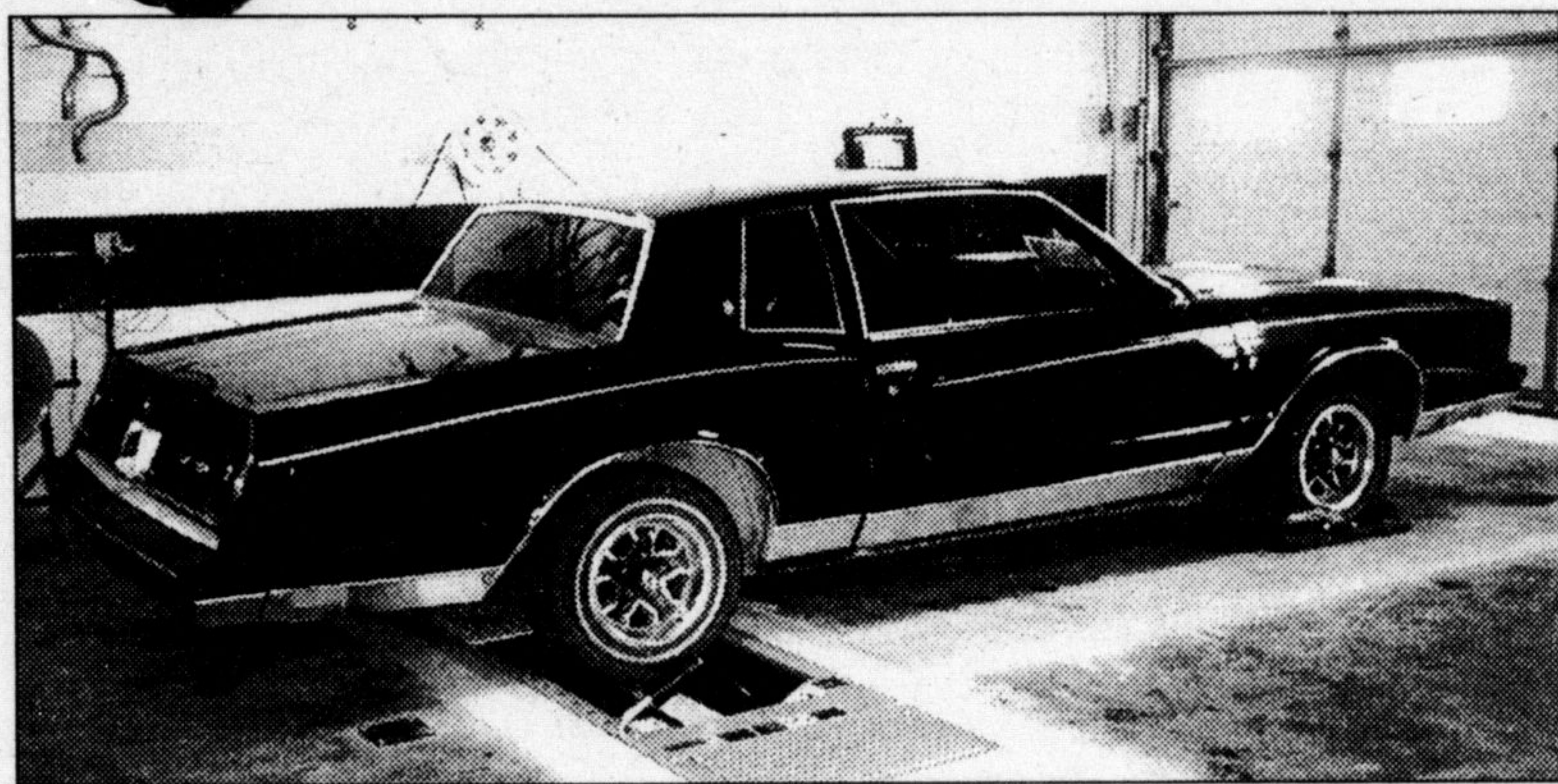
If you require information about taxes, please contact the Corporate Services Tax Department 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, (905) 878-7252, ext.393.

Tax payments must be received in the Corporate Services Office on or before the due date to avoid penalty. Late payment charge of 1 1/4% will be charged on the first day of default and on the first day of each calendar month in which the default continues. It is the responsibility of the ratepayer to ensure that the taxes are paid by the due date, even in the event that the bill is not received as mailed.

#### Taxes may be paid:

- By mail to the Corporate Services Tax Department, 43 Brown St., Milton ON L9T 5H2. Cheques post dated to the due date are acceptable & encouraged.
- At the Royal Bank, Milton Mall (there is a small service charge)
- By phone if you bank with Canada Trust, TD Bank, CIBC, Royal Bank or Bank of Montreal. Please call them for details.
- By using the mail deposit box to the left of the glass doors at Town Hall.
- Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Corporate Services Tax Department, Town Hall, 43 Brown St., Milton. (Cheque or money orders preferred rather than cash.) Direct debit now accepted.

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