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Merger with Halton means big tax hike for Flamborough

By **IRENE GENTLE**
The Champion

Flamborough taxpayers should expect to pay a big price for cozying up to Halton Region, a new analysis has shown.

A media briefing at the Region Wednesday afternoon revealed that east Flamborough residents could face tax and utility hikes of between 16 and 27 per cent

as the cost of divorcing Hamilton-Wentworth.

For the owner of a \$175,000 home in urban Flamborough, that would amount to between \$482 and \$790 a year.

Those figures stem from a technical analysis undertaken by the Region to determine the costs of remarriage should a portion of Flamborough find a home in Halton.

"The financial impacts are of course the most critical," said Halton CAO Brent Marshall.

But since Hamilton charges a much higher commercial tax rate than Halton, a merger would have a dramatically different result on the commercial side of the tax coin.

On a \$200,000 assessment, east Flamborough commercial taxes would plummet between 25 and 28 per cent, while industrial taxes would likely dive 17 to 19 per cent.

East Flamborough, which includes Waterdown, Freulton and Carlisle, is the portion of the town most likely to hook up

• see **FINAL** on page 12

King admits to stealing poppy boxes

By **LISA CARTWRIGHT**
The Champion

A woman pleaded guilty Tuesday to eight counts of theft for stealing poppy coin boxes on Remembrance Day — a crime that outraged local war veterans and the community at large.

Lorraine King, 24, of Milton, who appeared in Oakville court, also pleaded guilty to welfare fraud for receiving \$5,500 in social assistance she wasn't entitled to.

Court heard that on November 11, Ms King went to eight stores in Oakville claiming she was collecting poppy boxes for the Royal Canadian Legion.

She was wearing a poppy and holding charts. The clerks at each of the stores believed she was a representative of the legion and allowed her to take the donation boxes.

Ms King was caught on surveillance tapes at three Beer Store outlets in Oakville. At one of the stores, she was seen getting into a vehicle driven by an unknown driver.

The Crown estimated that each poppy

• see **POPPY** on page 3



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

✓ Irish eyes are smilin'

Four-year-old Sophie Begg-Lennon puts some finishing sprinkles on her pot of gold craft for St. Patrick's Day earlier this week at Safe and Sound Children's Centre.

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