

Help needed in program

Burlington Counselling and Family Services is looking for volunteers to help with the Custody Access program located in Milton and Burlington.

At the Family Visiting Centre, volunteers are needed to assist with supervising visits between non-custodial parents

and their children, monitoring exchanges for weekend visits, setting up and cleaning up the visiting area and helping to create a warm and friendly environment. Training is provided.

For more information, call (905) 637-5256.

Watch out for slippery shores, warns Conservation Halton

Conservation Halton wants watershed residents and especially children to be aware of the dangers that exist near streams, rivers, ponds and lakes during this time of year.

We all look forward to warmer weather and being outdoors.

But spring weather also brings melting snow, rain and the break-up of ice in rivers and lakes, which can be dangerous.

Creeks have higher water levels and flow much faster during the

spring. Their banks and shorelines are often unstable and slippery and water temperatures are extremely cold.

This creates very hazardous conditions close to any water area.

Conservation Halton's watershed has 17 creeks that flow into Lake Ontario.

These streams pass through heavily-populated areas and can become quite treacherous during heavy spring rains.

Although much of the snow has

melted, recent rainfall has increased the threat of flooding throughout the area's watersheds.

Conservation Halton continues to monitor creek conditions and will issue flooding messages when required.

Please keep children away from creeks and ponds during the next few weeks and help make this spring safe and enjoyable.

For more information on creek conditions, call Conservation Halton at (905) 336-1158.

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Councillors see red over tax grab

• from GOOD on page 3
would offset the rest from its budget.

The Region makes its residential calculations based on an average \$185,000 home.

"Let's do the figures based on a \$200,000 or \$250,000 home. Let's get realistic here," said Regional Councillor John Taylor of Burlington.

If the CVA increases weren't enough of an irritation, local politicians saw red upon hearing that taxes collected over and above the

provincial average will flow out of Halton to more needy areas.

"It looks like \$4.5 million will be flowing out of the region and going into a provincial pool because assessment values have increased at values greater than the provincial average," said Mr. Birkett.

That had councillors taking potshots at the Province and the City of Toronto.

"As always, Oakville is really thrilled at the way this is falling out," said a sarcastic Mayor Ann Mulvale.

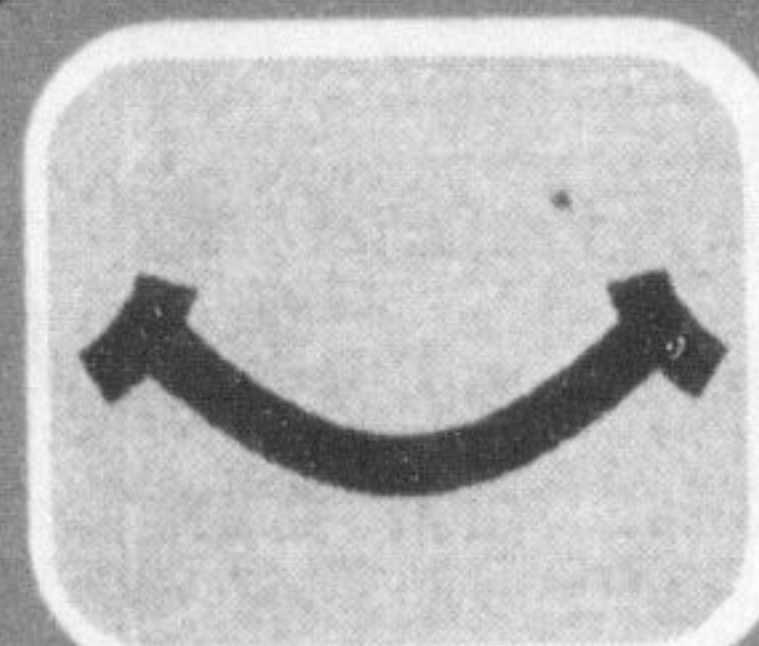
"This tax system is the biggest screw-up I've ever seen. Maybe we should be like Toronto. You call the premier a liar and get your million dollars."

Ms Mulvale added, "Just because you've done a good job and encouraged economic development, you get shafted, again."

Ms Mulvale also criticized the cost of shifting to CVA — and a standardized tax bill since the new bill won't clarify where tax increases come from.

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