## Nice meal

Percy Merry School enjoyed its annual Christmas lunch Wednesday. The food was donated students, teachers community members. Below, Liz Patterson (left) and Tori Pickering enjoy a traditional turkey lunch with all the trimmings, while, at right, vice-principal Shirley Chaisson (left) loads up her plate with the help of parent volunteer and lunch coordinator Penny Patterson.



## Lunau says small tax hike required

• from NO PROPERTY page 1 increase left without \$54,500 in further cuts by staff.

Though he agrees with the zero increase, Mayor Gord Krantz would rather see the elimination of the funds to hire new full-time firefighters — at a cost of \$114,000 — than Mr. Challinor's proposal.

"I can't and won't support the hiring of five additional firefighters at a time when everyone is down-sizing," the mayor said. "I'm not in the business of building huge bureaucracies."

The lone committee member voting against the budget — as amended — was Councillor Cindy Lunau, who said she'd like to see a small tax increase.

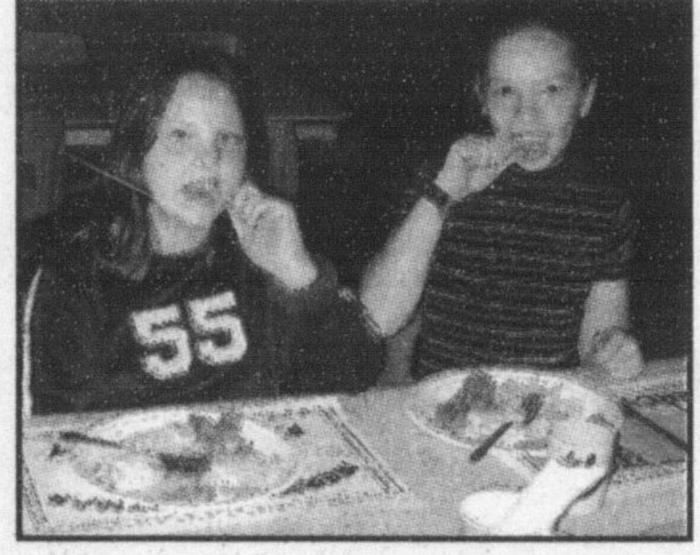
"I think that we're deceiving ourselves if we think we can accommodate everything without a measure of a reality check as to what costs are," she told the committee.

"There's no question that the slots revenue and hydro revenues have helped. Should that ever drop, we would be astounded to find that we have significant tax increases just to maintain what we have accomplished."

Slots revenues from Mohawk Raceway for 2001 totalled more than \$6 million, while Milton Hydro revenues came in at about \$1.3 million. Both revenue streams feed the Town's reserve funds.

With a significant rise in development charges — up to \$10 million from \$5.7 last year — the 2002 capital projects will have little impact on the tax base. Nearly all capital projects scheduled for next year — totaling more than \$24.5 million — are funded either through development charges or reserve funds.

A special meeting of town council is scheduled for January 7 to formally address the 2002 budget.





## MILTON MALL

CORRECTION NOTICE

YES!

Santa is here today from 2 - 8 p.m.

and

Saturday

Dec. 22: 11 - 8 p.m.

Sunday and Xmas Eve

Dec 23, 24: 11-4 p.m.

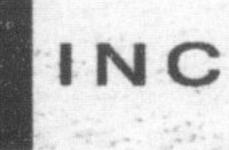


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