

Halton Family Services gets funding

To help improve office technology, the Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded \$74,000 to Halton Family Services. The funds will be used to purchase com-

puters and software. "Without the help of the Trillium Foundation, these improvements would not have been possible," said Nancy

Brown, executive director of Halton Family Services.

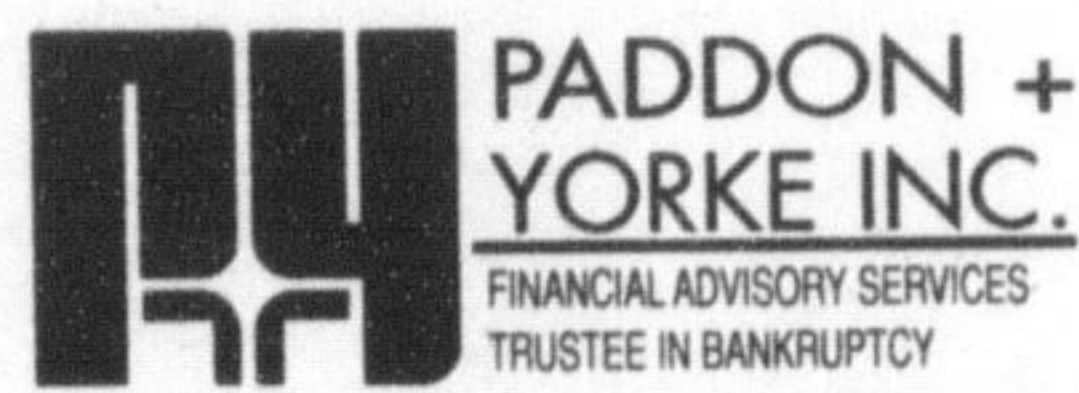
Halton Family Services is a United Way agency that provides a wide spectrum of professional counselling services in Milton, Oakville, Burlington and Halton Hills. Founded in 1954, the agency helps thousands of people resolve individual, couple and other family problems.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, receives \$100 million of government funding annually, which is generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative. The foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social service sectors.

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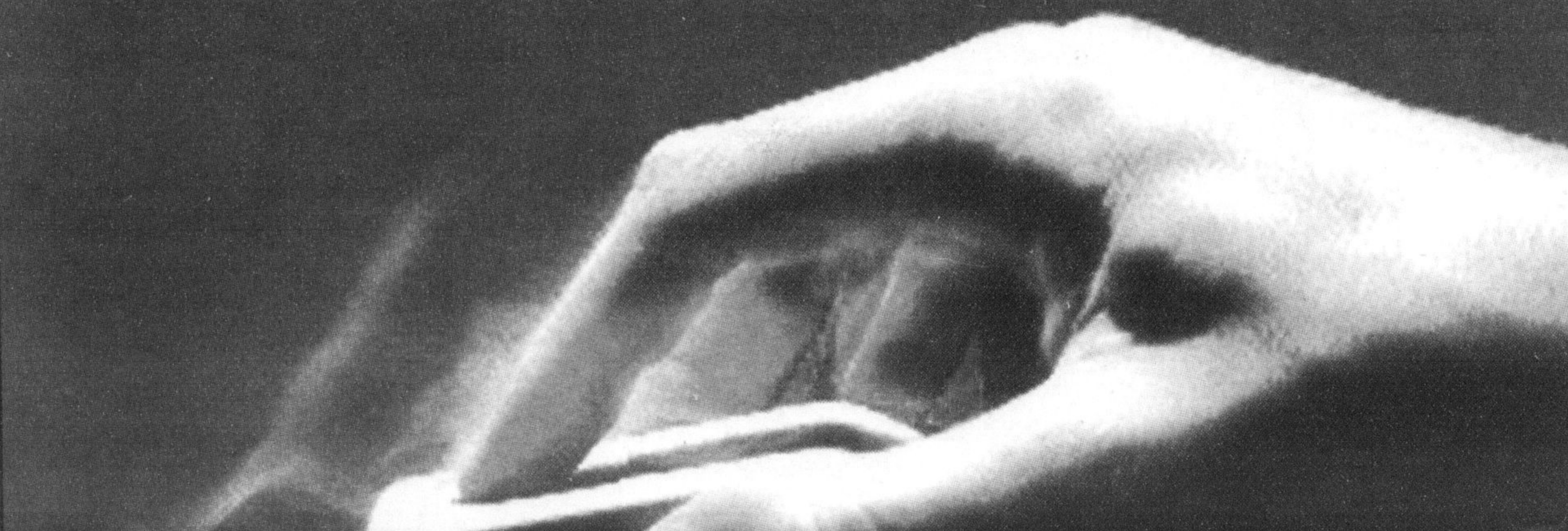
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Other votes likely wouldn't have made difference

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

It appears support would have been stronger for the approved smoking bylaw had absentee councillors been able to attend.

Councillors Wally Hunter and Brian Penman agreed some exemptions are necessary for the smoking ban — which will come into affect May 31 — to work.

"As an initial phase here, to say you're going to have no smoking at the bingo hall, no smoking at the slots is a little unrealistic," Mr. Hunter said.

"My position is that I'd rather not have smoking in any restaurants or public places, but you're going to have to have some exceptions to the rule."

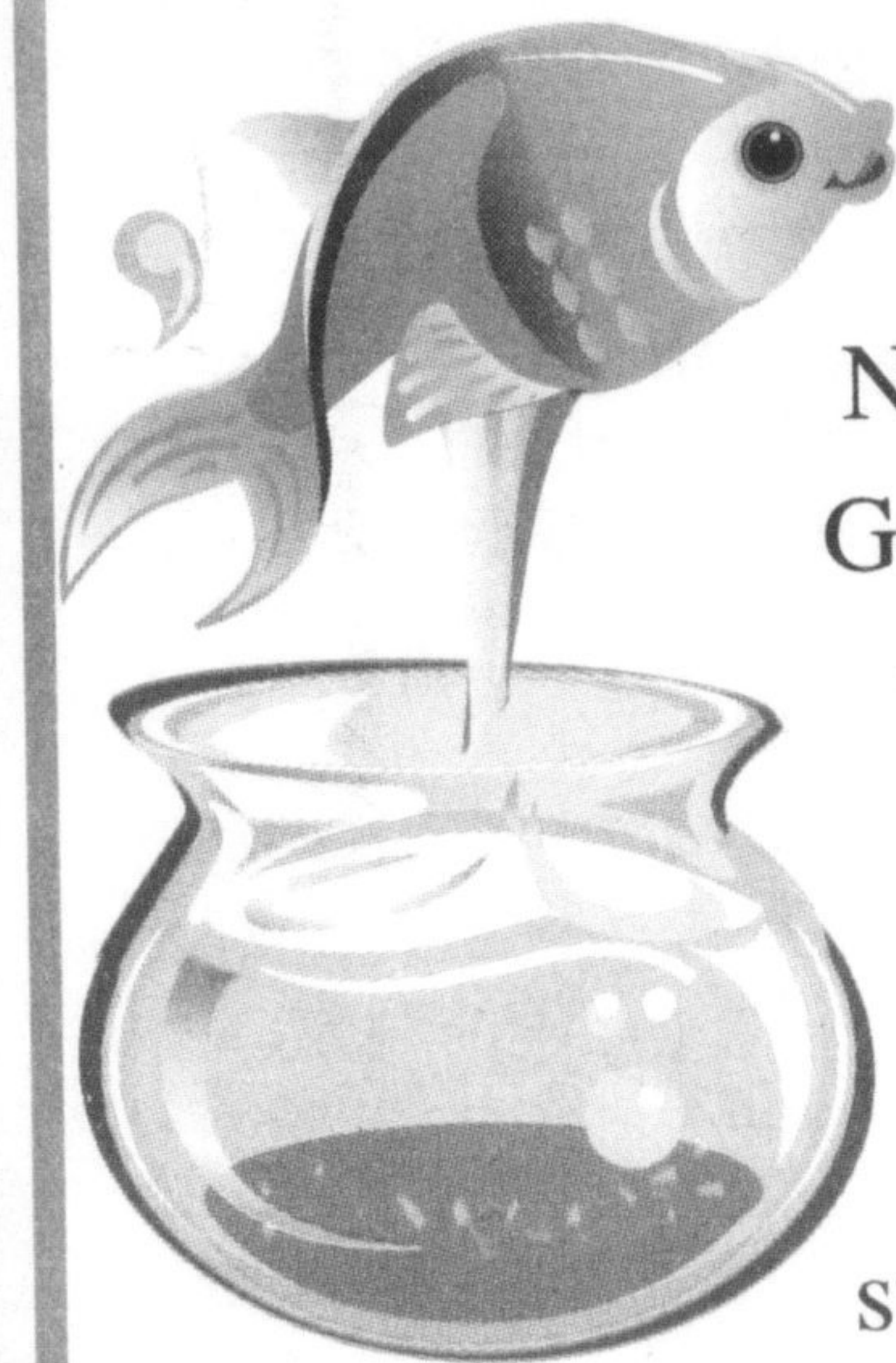
Town council voted 5-4 in favour of a bylaw banning smoking from workplaces and public areas at its Monday meeting. Approved exemptions to the bylaw include Bingo Country, half of the gaming floor and bleachers at Mohawk Slots and private clubs.

Mr. Penman, who missed Monday's meeting as a result of a serious infection in his leg, concurred with the position taken by the majority of council — that economics do play a role in the decision process.

"I certainly will not be one to topple that vote. The vote is secure," he said. "I have no problem with the bylaw as presented, but my preference would have been a 100 per cent ban. However, this is probably as good as it gets."

Bingo Country provided council with information indicating a serious drop in profits in areas where smoking bans have been instituted. Profits at slot facilities that ban butts have also reportedly dropped by 20 per cent.

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