

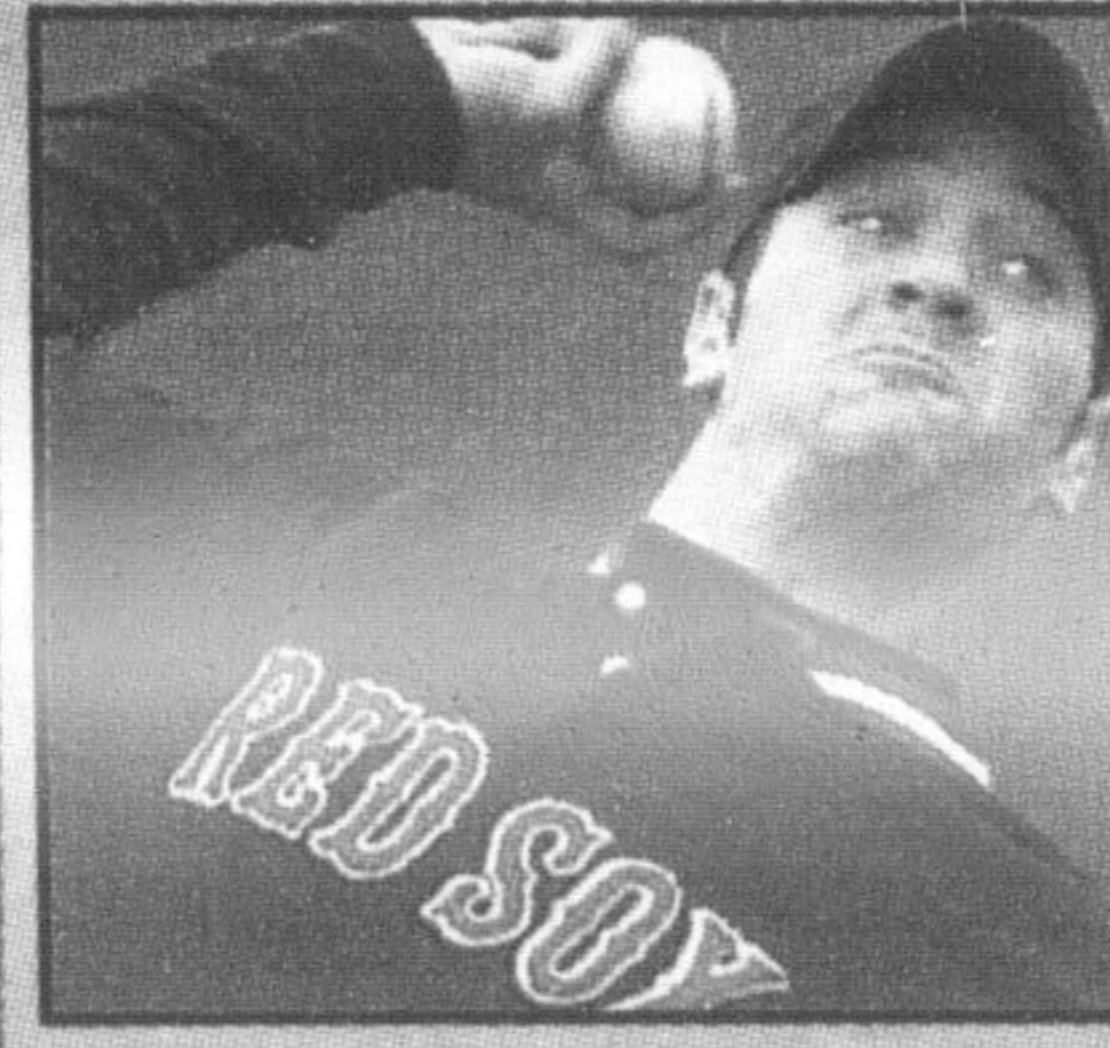
School board's budget still up in the air

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It's Community Living Month in north Halton

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Senior Red Sox in tough on opening day

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Horticulture industry lacks manpower

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The Canadian Champion

Milton's Choice Since 1860

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52 Pages

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Tulip time

John Woods of the Milton Horticultural Society takes a close look at a tulip entry still partially wrapped for transport. The entry — part of the group's show at the mall Saturday — was a collection of tulips in three different varieties.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Debt from group's OMB challenge retired

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

A hefty debt incurred by the Friends of E.C. Drury Park (Friends) has been retired — with partial credit going to the development community, including H.D. Investments.

"The retirement of that debt is due to the very hard work and generous support of Milton residents and the deaf community," Friends representative Mel Cutler said in a letter to *The Champion*.

"We are very grateful to the many people who have contributed their time and/or financial support over the past three-and-a-half years."

The group was billed about \$50,000 for legal

services defending a town council decision to refuse a proposed geared-to-seniors housing development on lands known as Drury park.

Friends spoke against the development during an Ontario Municipal Board challenge made by the developer, H.D. Investments, to see the council decision overturned. The challenge succeeded and the development is currently under construction.

Numerous community initiatives were held to pay down Friends' legal bill prior to, during and following the challenge, including donation solicitations by Councillor John Challinor late last year. The majority of the debt was paid through these initiatives.

"There's a lot of different groups, businesses involved," Mr. Cutler told *The Champion* refer-

ring to the fundraising efforts.

Costs were further reduced when the lawyer representing the group forgave a portion of the bill.

But it was a fundraising call to Councillor Brian Penman that resulted in the debt retirement. As a councillor, Mr. Penman told *The Champion* he didn't feel it would be appropriate to donate, but he wanted to see the issue resolved. He then approached the development community about the matter and collected in excess of \$12,000 — paying off the debt.

"I think that the development community felt that there was some animosities and some hardship that had been created in council. I think there was a desire to put this thing to rest and put it all behind," commented Mr. Penman.

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