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School boards say future of education in Halton optimistic

Additional funding much-needed boost

By **TIM WHITNELL**

Special to *The Champion*

The extreme pessimism of just six months ago has turned to current satisfaction and reason for future hope for a couple of high-ranking officials who help oversee the operation of Halton's two school boards.

The public consultations on the provincial funding formula, subsequent recommendations from the Rozanski task force

and quickly-announced infusions of money for Ontario's cash-strapped school boards have buoyed the aspirations of both Halton Catholic board Director Lou Piovesan and Halton public board Chair Ethel Gardiner.

"The Halton District School Board, along with other boards of education in Ontario, look forward to 2003 with hope, encouraged by the recommendations of Dr. Rozanski and the members of the task force who reviewed the provincial education funding formula," observed Ms Gardiner, the public board trustee for Halton Hills.

"Beginning in September 2003, we hope to see the beginning of a three-year phase-in of funds to address the \$1.1 billion dollar shortfall identified by the Education Equality Task Force. That shortfall has had a profound effect on the programs and services offered by the Halton board. It is my hope that public education in this province has endured its darkest days and that the government will act quickly to implement all of the Rozanski recommendations."

• see BOTH on page 2

No one hurt in \$40,000 kitchen fire

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**

The Champion

Fire damage at a Victoria Street residence would have been a lot worse had it not been for the thermal imaging camera, say Milton Fire Department personnel.

A grease fire broke out in the kitchen at about 2 p.m. New Year's Day and made its way into the ceiling, said Deputy Chief Dave Krantz.

"Firefighters had the fire extinguished in 20 minutes and we stayed on scene for two to three hours afterwards. There was extensive fire damage in the kitchen."

Deputy Chief Krantz said the home was so overcome by smoke that firefighters couldn't see in front of them when entering.

Firefighters relied on the thermal imaging camera, which detects the hottest source of heat in the room, to make their way through the home.

The camera is mainly used to find victims in homes filled with thick smoke and can also detect fire within walls. The latter

• see FIRE on page 2

Gotta like it

Mayor Gord Krantz shows two-year-old Daniel Marshall the chain of office during the New Year's Levee at Town Hall Wednesday. See more photos on page 8.

Photo by **GRAHAM PAINE**

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