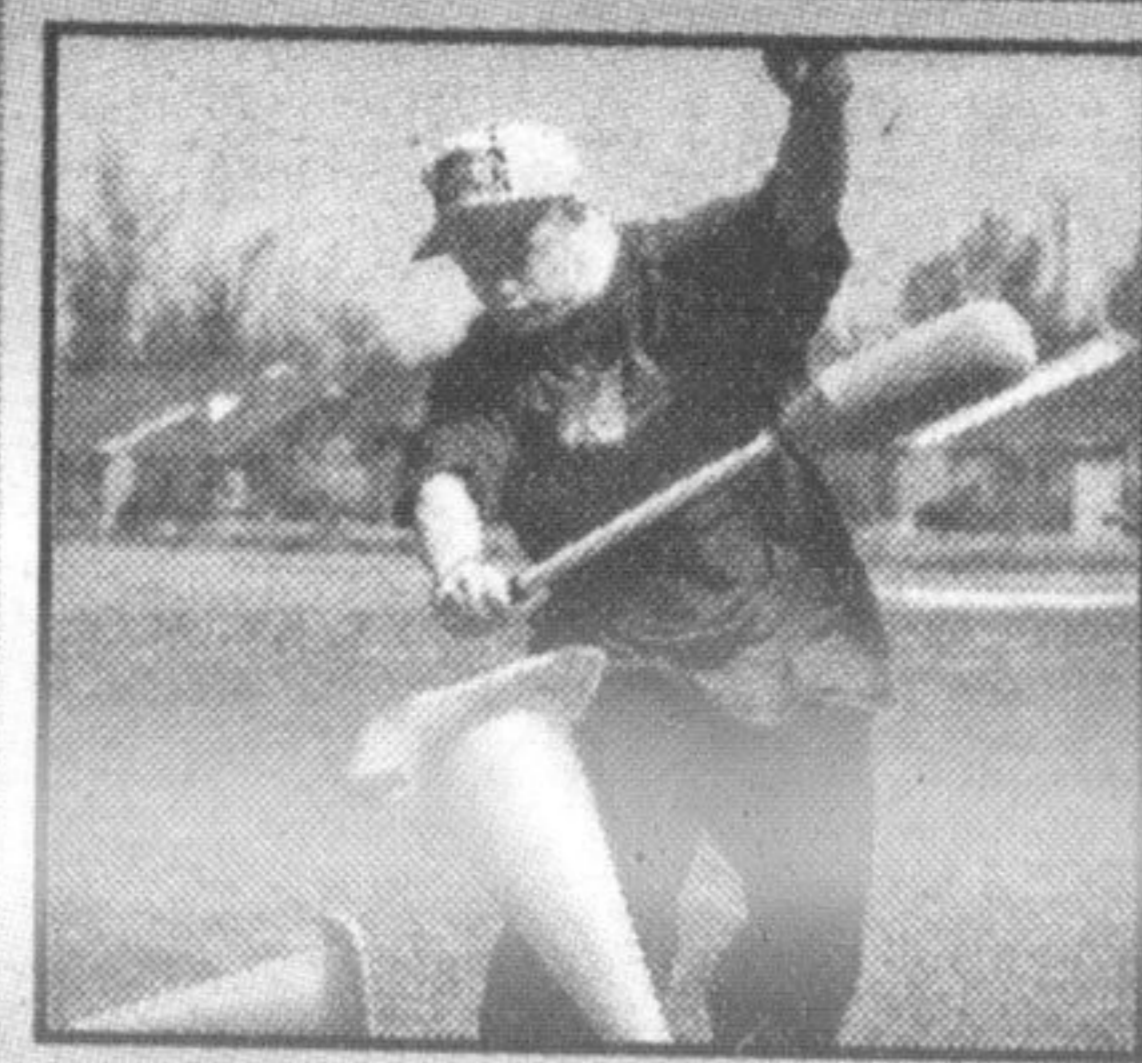


CH has agreed to manage water at Dufferin quarries

See page 3



Students up to the Challenge

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Baseball Royals capture regional championship

See page 21

Firefighters set to race in bunker gear for hospital

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# The Canadian Champion

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A Metroland Community Newspaper

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## SARS has cost HHS \$1.3 million: Oliver

By JASON MISNER  
*The Champion*

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) was hit with about \$1.3 million in costs and losses this spring because of the impact of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

HHS CEO John Oliver said it has cost the corporation, which includes Milton District and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial hospitals, \$900,600 to pay for staff overtime, extra security, masks and other needs, to deal with infection control due to the outbreak.

The hospital lost \$460,000 in revenue from sources like parking, cafeterias and gift shops because of fewer visitors to the two hospitals. The government imposed restrictions on hospitals when SARS first hit Toronto between late March and mid-May, and that prohibited visitation.

"It's a ton of money," Mr. Oliver said of

the \$1.3 million.

In Toronto, SARS has now entered its second round in the last week-and-a-half and has spurred dozens of new cases and forced more than 5,000 people into quarantine.

Financial information from HHS is based on the first bout with SARS. And given the latest outbreak and the uncertainty of just how long it will last, Mr. Oliver said the losses will climb further.

What should help keep the costs and losses down, he said, is the fact Halton is not under the "Code Orange" alert that it was during the first SARS outbreak. There aren't as many restrictions and allows for some visitation at the hospitals.

HHS is awaiting word from the Ontario government about funding to compensate for the costs, Mr. Oliver said. The corporation's figures have been filed with the Ministry of Health.

"We're waiting for reimbursement for those costs, but we don't know if we'll ever recover (them)."

• see GOVERNMENT on page 2

### Action!

E.C. Drury High School drama students Kim Howard (left) and Stephen Ground finish last-minute preparations for tonight's and tomorrow's performances of *Mother Tongue*, both at 7:30 p.m. Students received many awards for their performance of the play at this year's Sears Drama Festival. The performances tonight and tomorrow will also include a screening of the documentary *Chinese Daughters*. Tickets are available at the door and cost \$12 for adults and \$7 for students.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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### TUESDAY INSERTS

• Tuesday, June 3 •

- 2 for 1 Pizza\* • White Rose\* • Leather by Mann\*
- Rona/Cashway\* • SportChek\* • Rona Home and Garden\*
- Oriental Cuisine & Donut\* • Halton Wheels\* • Sears\* • Blacks Photography\*

\*Selected areas only

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