

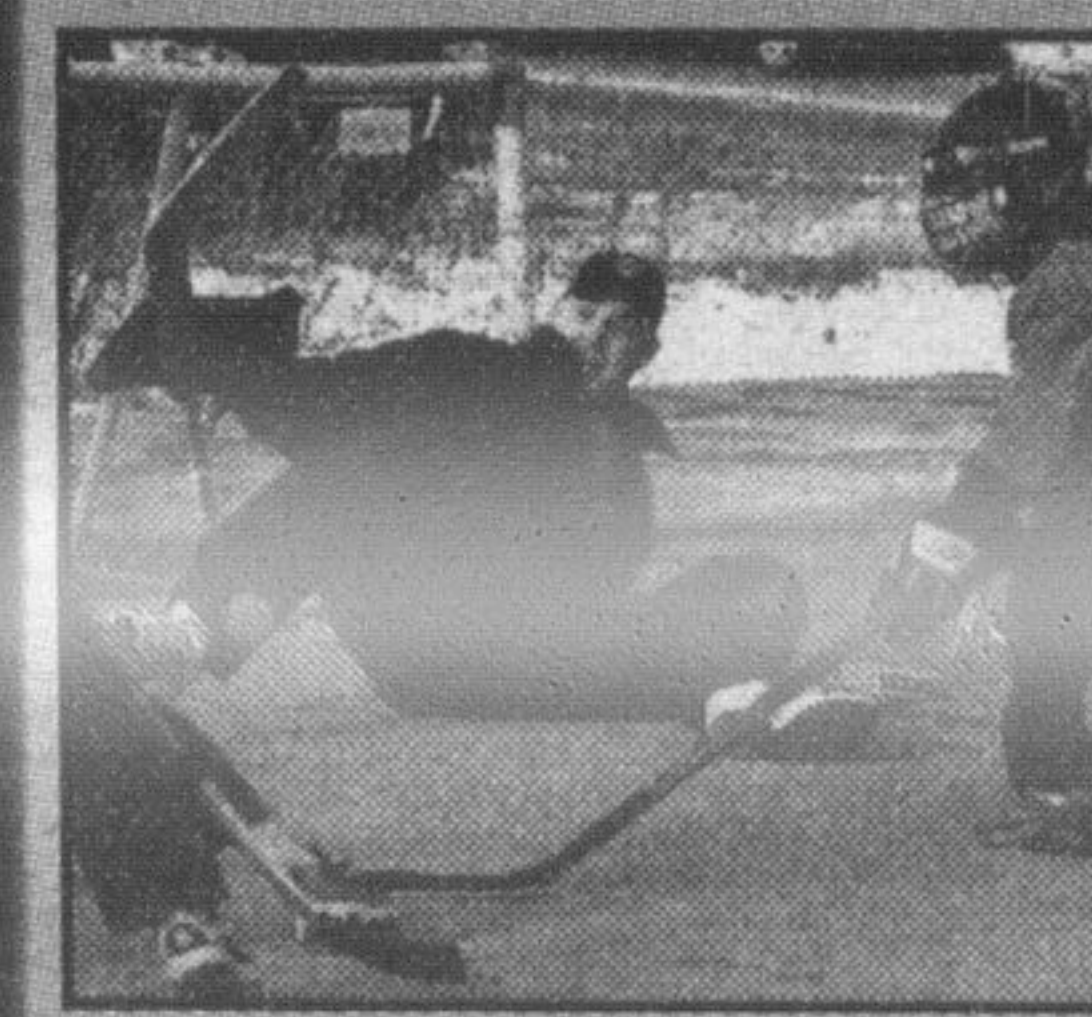
Halton Catholic students above average: testing

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Hospital tree-lighting ceremony tonight

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House league peewees win annual clash

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Snow-plowing budget strained from last year's heavy snow

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The Canadian Champion

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A helping hand

Food drive volunteer Rachael Verstraete, 10, loads up boxes of food under the chin of friend Lauren Furik, 10, during Saturday's Firefighters Food Drive for the Salvation Army. The two are daughters of members of the local Kinsmen Club, a co-sponsor of the annual event. The drive collected 14,552 pounds of food.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Savoline calls for end to pooling of tax dollars in council inauguration speech

By JASON MISNER

The Champion

Three-time Halton Chair Joyce Savoline says the region's quality of life risks being hampered by a system that pools taxpayers' dollars to help pay for social services in Toronto, and it must be re-tooled.

Ms Savoline was sworn in alongside 20 other regional councillors — five of them new — at an inauguration ceremony Wednesday. In her speech she lamented the pooling system and that upper levels of governments must come to the aid of the



Joyce Savoline

Sunday's best in Council Chambers at the Bronte Road headquarters.

"Let me be clear. Halton does benefit directly

municipalities in Greater Toronto that pay into it.

"Over the last five years, Halton taxpayers, through pooling, have contributed nearly \$230 million dollars to fund social service programs in Toronto," the chairperson told the crowd of approximately 150 family members, friends and supporters dressed in their

from a healthy Toronto and a healthy Hamilton. Yet, while Halton enjoys financial health, our residents cannot continue to bare the heavy tax burden caused by social service pooling, support for social housing and the investments required in road and transit systems to alleviate gridlock.

"The current level of pooling has reached a point where it is no longer sustainable and has begun to impact and undermine the quality of life for Halton's own residents."

Part of the solution, she said, must come from a "new deal" that has been talked about between the federal and provincial governments — both conveniently of the Liberal stripe — to help municipi-

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