

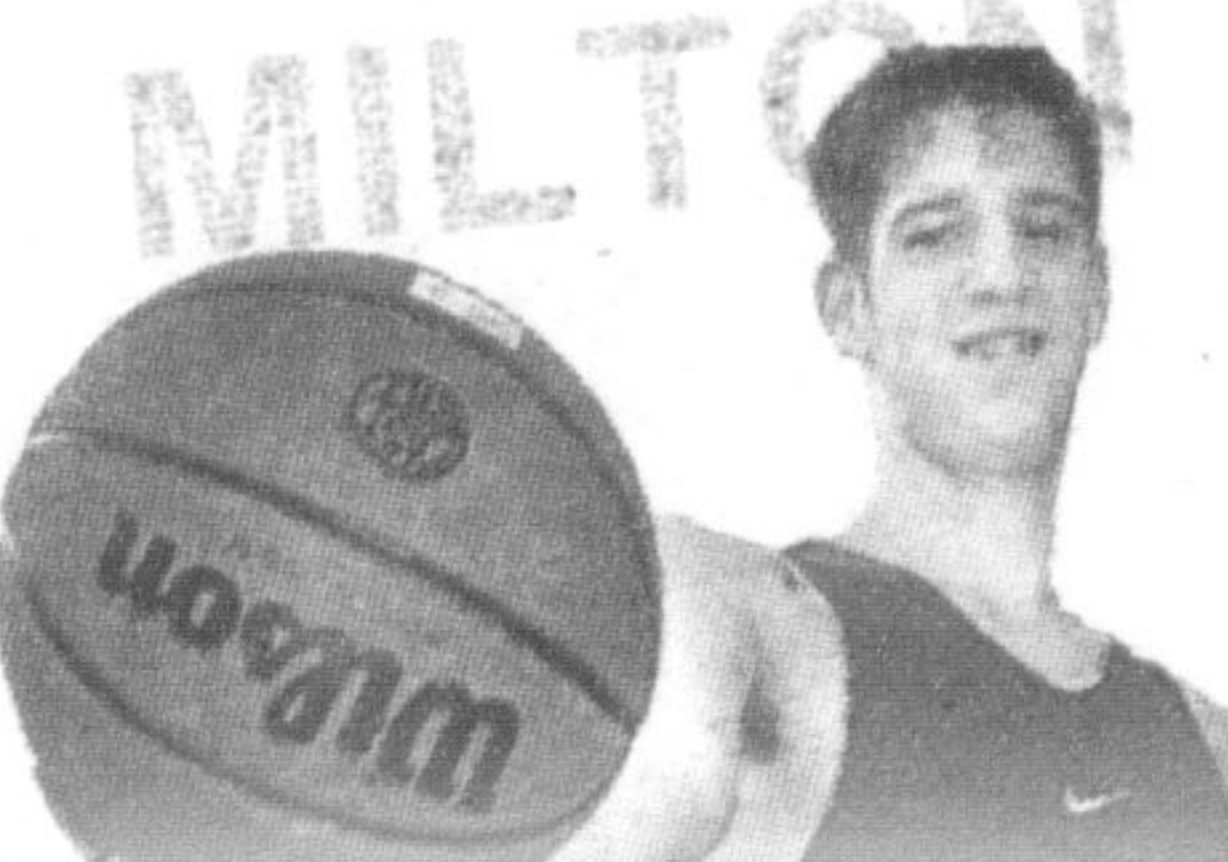


### NEWS

Golfers tee off for charity  
Page 18

### SPORTS

Milton hoopster makes Ontario team  
Page 24



### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local churches putting on evening concert  
Page 12



**APPLE AutoGlass**  
Auto Accessories  
Upholstery Repairs  
Windshield Repairs  
781 MAIN ST. #1 & 2,  
MILTON 876-4785

# Weekend Champion

**KAREN'S FLOWER SHOP**  
487 Laurier Ave. 878-2881

A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 145 NO. 36

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2004 \$1.00 (GST included)

36 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



## Cooling off

Eight-year-old Cody Franke cools off under the jets of the new water works at the Rotary Park Outdoor Pool this week, beating the stifling heat and humidity. The pool will officially open tomorrow. Get more details on the celebration in Dateline on page 19.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Looks like taxes on the rise again

By MELANIE HENNESSEY  
*The Champion*

Halton residents could see a \$45.30 tax increase and a \$46 hike in their water and waste water bills next year.

These are the tentative numbers the Region's financial gurus are predicting for 2005, as a result of a projected 4.2 per cent tax hike and 8.2 per cent increase in water and waste water rates.

Council reviewed a report Wednesday from Halton Commissioner of Corporate Services and Regional Treasurer Jane MacCaskill that lists some of the financial challenges the Region will face next year, thus leading to a tax hike.

The amount taxes will go up ultimately depends on the Halton Region Police Service budget, which hasn't been finalized yet.

The report predicts the police budget could go up

by 8.4 per cent next year, which would make up \$26.70 of the tax increase for the average homeowner based on a \$250,000 assessment.

The other part that contributes to the increase is the tax-supported base budget. Council approved that this budget be prepared on the basis of a 1.5 per cent tax increase, not to exceed 2.4 per cent, or \$18.60.

With the predicted increases in the police and tax budgets, this would mean an overall tax rate hike of 4.2 per cent, or \$45.30.

Burlington Councillor Mike Wallace said he's comfortable with the 1.5 per cent increase.

"As long as the increase comes in under inflation, I'll be satisfied," he said.

The water and waste water rate-supported base budget will have a 6.5 per cent rate increase, with a ceiling of 8.2 per cent. Based on an average consumption of 300 cubic metres, this would tack an extra \$46 onto your bill.

sumption of 300 cubic metres, this would tack an extra \$46 onto your bill.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, Burlington Councillor Jack Dennison and Oakville Councillor Allan Elgar opposed the water and waste water hike.

Mr. Dennison said the budget needs to be reviewed, looking for cost reductions.

"We have to work harder on it to spread that increase further down the line," he said.

Mr. Wallace told his fellow councillors to make some suggestions on the budget and have a debate.

"I want to see some action from people, instead of just chatting," he said.

Ms MacCaskill's report explained why there has been and continues to be hikes in water and waste water rates.

• see SOME on page 4

### Inside

Comment .....	6-7
Dateline .....	19
Real Estate .....	21
Classified .....	30-33

### INSERTS

- FRIDAY, JULY 16 •
- Shoppers Drug Mart • Canadian Tire • Sleep Factory
- Future Shop • Home Hardware • Portfolio of New Homes
- Cogeco • Dell Computers • Sobeys • Action Sobeys • Best Buy
- Zellers • Sears • Home Depot • A&P
- \*SELECTED AREAS ONLY

MILTON TOYOTA

www.miltontoyota.com

**TECH-NET Professional AUTO SERVICE**

# BOB'S AUTO SERVICE

For all of your Emissions Testing & Car Repair Needs

Thank you Milton for nominating us Favourite Auto Service and Repair Centre!

ONTARIO'S DRIVE CLEAN

For the air we breathe

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL **878-7926** OR DROP IN AT 18 COMMERCIAL ST.

Stop in and let our trained technicians treat you to super service at prices that won't leave you cold!