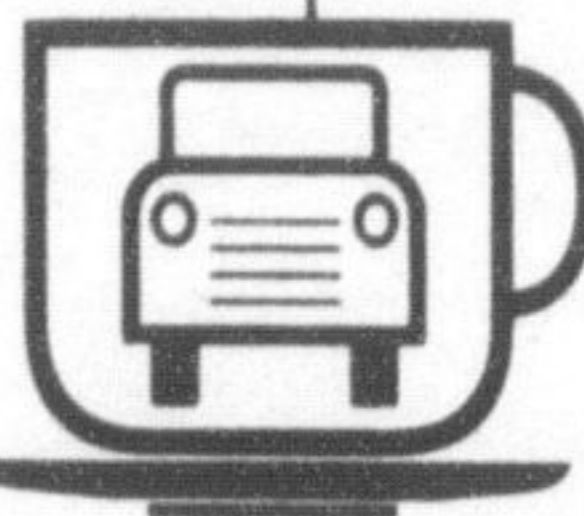


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# Halton police and Region hear concerns of rural residents during meeting at Kelso

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**

*The Champion*

Clear communication coupled with action is what's required to deal with rural residents' concerns.

That was the message presented at Thursday night's Rural Community Forum, in which about 60 residents packed a room at the Halton Region Museum to voice their concerns and talk about solu-

tions.

The main topics of discussion were communication, safety and security, speeding and illegal parking, plus traffic and road maintenance.

Regional Chair Joyce Savoline said she got the idea for the forum while campaigning for the last municipal election.

"What stuck out most were the questions we don't normally have a chance to talk to

the public about," she told the audience.

Ms Savoline hosted the forum with Halton Police Chief Ean Algar, who spoke of the need for a partnership between police and the public — the first step being communication.

"We recognize we're doing a number of things well, but you've got issues and concerns," he began by saying, adding that although Halton is one of the safest com-

munities in Canada, there's still work to be done.

Rural residents have special safety concerns simply because of the distance between houses, Ms Savoline pointed out, so communication between residents doesn't flow as naturally as it might in Milton's urban parts.

A number of people at the meeting pointed out a way they've found to be very effective in working together on rural issues — community consultation committees, or CCCs.

There are four CCCs in the rural areas surrounding Milton that cover Nelson, Halton Hills, Nassagaweya and Derry.

Staff Sgt. Susan Delaney said CCCs are useful because they're led by residents who know what the problems in their areas are.

"That's the beauty of CCCs — it's your committee," Staff Sgt. Delaney said, adding, "It's important to get involved. We (police) only assist. You can be our second set of eyes."

The Nassagaweya CCC, which has about 18 members, meets the third Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at Nassagaweya Community Centre.

## Residents say police response slow

Another issue raised several times by residents was a less-than-speedy police response to their homes when incidents arose.

Chief Algar said although they do their best, calls to police have to be prioritized according to importance. However, if an incident doesn't receive appropriate attention, Chief Algar said he wants to hear about it.

Ms Savoline commented on the dedication of police despite imperfections.

"We don't have a police service that's sitting on their hands and waiting for another break to have a Timbit," she said.

Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau said residents can't depend on police to do everything for them.

"Too often we expect police to solve all our problems. If we expect them (to do everything) we better be prepared to pay for one officer per house 24/7," she said.

A better solution is to work together with police through CCCs and by having neighbours looking out for each other, she said.

When the issue of roads was raised, a number of residents brought up specific intersections they felt warranted traffic lights. One woman brought up the issue of cars speeding on roads where people ride their horses.

A Campbellville resident said noisy, speeding motorcycles is his main concern.

Of course, break-ins are a constant problem. But Halton Regional Police Superintendent Mike Kingston said residents have done a good job helping police make arrests.

"Our break and enter rate is really low," he said. "We solve them because of help from the community."

Ms Savoline concluded the evening on a positive note.

"I hope you agree with me that even though we're not perfect, this is still the best place to be in Ontario. The thing is to get involved — stay aware, stay connected to the community. This is the beginning to be able to discuss how to make the community safer."

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ADVERTORIAL

## Milton Home Hardware Building Centre

# Another Great Success

North Halton, you have done it again! You were courageous, honest and candid. Cameras were clicking and fingers were ticking as entries were filled out and you wrote please "Rescue My Bathroom."

You used words like awful, horrible, gross and hideous. In the mid seventies Dresden Blue, Harvest Gold, and Blushing Pink bathroom fixtures were very hot! Paneling in the bathroom was a pleasant change from plas-

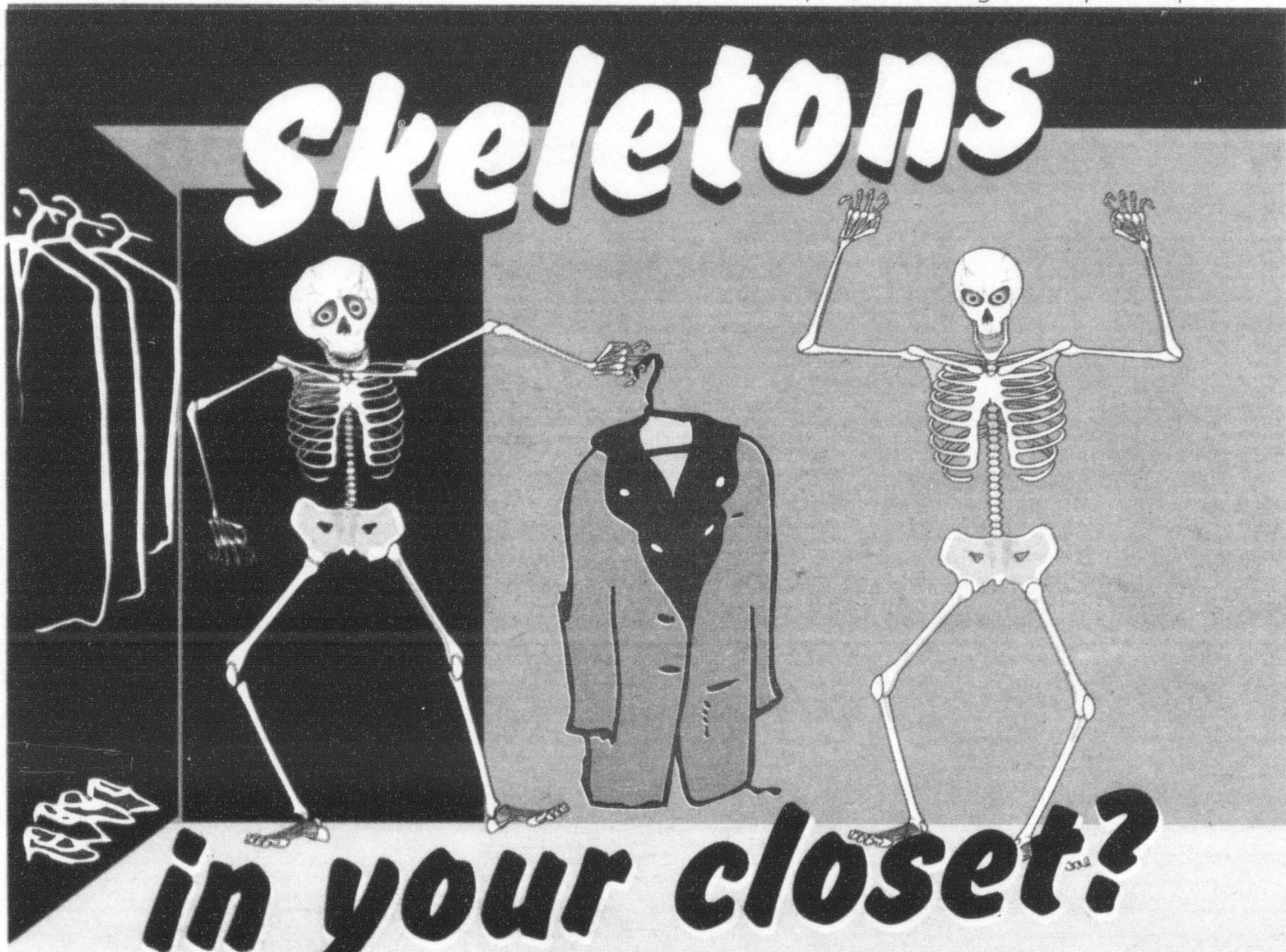
ter, and mosaic tiles were the rage. Vinyl flooring and metal edged counter tops were both functional and easy to care for.

Many accompanying descriptions were poetic and inspiring. Some if put to music could have been a very nice ditty, and all around good humour prevailed. On Sunday night at 5:00 Milton Home Hardware Building Centre ended another successful promotional giveaway "RESCUE MY BATHROOM" a dream bathroom makeover. Although returning entries were slow in coming back at first, North Halton region residents rose to the occasion and as the contest was in its final days, our goals were realized and we received eighty-four worthy entries. Judging by Home Hardware Building Centre's Kitchen and Bath Designer and two of our contributing suppliers was not an easy task, as many entries were indeed worthy of the prize.

Five finalists are chosen, and the winners name will be drawn out of a hat on Wednesday night, the 21st, by storeowner Angelo De Medicis. Look for the winners name to be announced in the Champion very soon.

As one contest closes and the winner anticipates their rescue, a new event begins! "SKELETONS IN YOUR CLOSET" KOMANDOR the company that does custom closet organizers are here! They will custom design your closet and make your skeletons turn tail and run. Receive one ballot every time you shop at Home Hardware. You could win a closet organization worth \$2,500. So shop often and increase your chances to win. Draw to be made November 15th. See you in the store!

Fern Evans, Kitchen and Bath Designer



**SKELETONS**  
**in your closet?**

Get them organized with  
**"Komandor" Closet Organizers**

Enter our Draw  
for a chance to

**WIN**

**\$2,500.00**

in  
**"CUSTOM CLOSET ORGANIZERS"**

Receive a ballot every time  
you shop at our store.



Draw to be made  
**NOVEMBER 15/04**

Shop Often... Multiply your chances



**Milton Home Hardware**

HOURS: Mon-Fri 8:00 am-9:00 pm, Sat 8:00am-6:00pm, Sun 10:00am-5:00pm

