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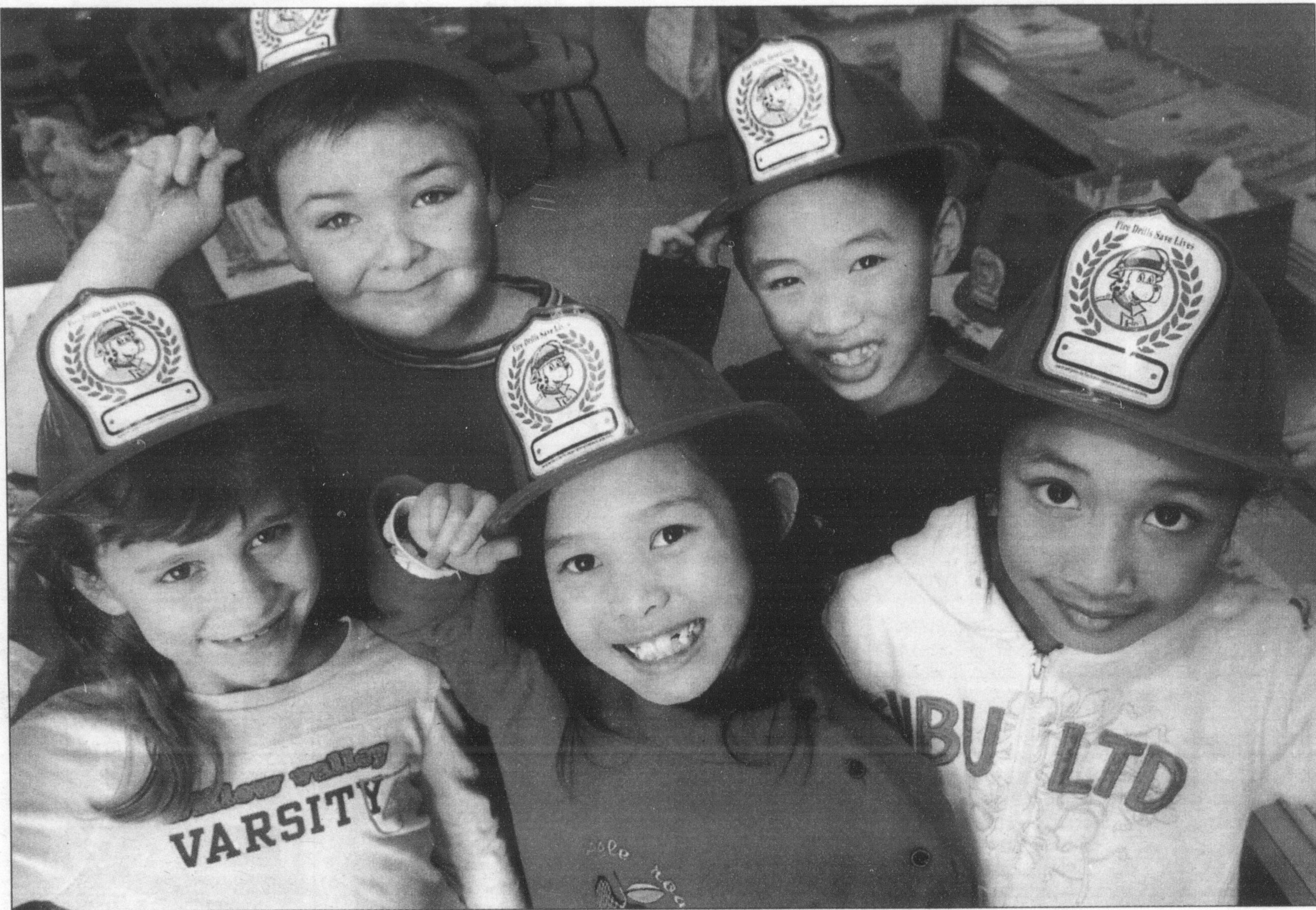
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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

LITTLE FIRE CHIEFS: These five Grade 2 students, representing their Grades 1 and 2 class at Holy Rosary School, show their mini fire chief helmets. It was all part of a pizza party their class and teacher, Rosaleen Wright, won in the province-wide Risk Watch fire safety lesson plan contest. From left are students Sofia Marinucci, Joshua Tremblett, Nicole Lay, Ty Sounthong and Amanda Aquino.

Federal minister in town

By Melanie Hennessey
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg stopped by Milton Tuesday to meet with local residents and share his two cents on Halton MP Garth Turner.

The Conservative event, held at the Olde Dickens restaurant on Mill Street, drew a couple dozen members from both the provincial and federal riding associations and Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh.

Solberg gave a brief talk in which he spoke optimistically about the Tories' chances of obtaining a majority government and winning locally in the next federal election.

"I know we can win this riding back
 • see SOLBERG on page A4

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'Show us the money,' urge mayors

By Melanie Hennessey
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Halton has a loud and clear message for the Province when it comes to its Places to Grow plan — "Show us the money."

Those words were spoken by Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and echoed by his fellow mayors at Wednesday's regional council meeting, where a motion was passed unanimously to tell the Ontario government that Halton can't accommodate the thousands of residents

called for in its plan without some hefty funding.

The region-wide effort, which has been dubbed 'Fairness for Halton', also lets those at Queen's Park know about the local funding shortfalls that need to be fixed — such as the combined local infrastructure deficit of \$300 million — in order to meet the growth targets specified in the Places to Grow plan. It says Halton's population is supposed to increase by more than 300,000 to 780,000 by 2031.

Bonnette explained that Halton isn't trying

to send a "zero growth" message.

"What we are saying is we'd like to sustain our growth," he said.

For Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, the matter boiled down to one of "say and pay," meaning if the Province is going to say this is how growth is happening, then it needs to follow up with some money.

"Say and pay, in my opinion, goes hand-in-hand," he remarked.

"I want a commitment, regardless of who
 • see PROVINCE on page A3

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