

Fire guts vacant farmhouse

A vacant farmhouse on Fifth Line near Milton was gutted by fire Tuesday evening.

Milton firefighters initially responded to the call at the Halton Hills home located just south of Steeles Avenue, and Halton Hills firefighters were called out at about 8 p.m.

When they arrived they found the second floor of the home was on fire, but due to the condition of the building, fire-

fighters did not enter the home and put only enough water on it to ensure it remained a controlled burn, said Halton Hills Chief Officer of Prevention and Public Education Harry Olivieri.

Olivieri said firefighters were there "to monitor the fire situation" at the home that was in the process of being dismantled and had no utility services.

Firefighters remained at the scene until about 6:30 a.m.

Wednesday.

The cause of the blaze is undetermined, said Olivieri. Due to the home's condition, there was no dollar loss and no further investigation into the cause of the fire.

The property owners told fire officials they had not been in the home that day and had no idea how the fire started, said Olivieri.

Fraud case back in court in May

The court case of a Halton Hills woman charged with defrauding three north Halton school councils of about \$30,000 — including two in Milton — will continue next month.

Brenda Pickering, 43, was charged in February of last year with three counts of theft over

\$5,000 and uttering a forged document.

Her next court appearance will be May 14 at Ontario Court of Justice in Milton.

The date was set April 18 in Oakville.

From 2002 to 2005, Pickering served as the volunteer treasurer for the school

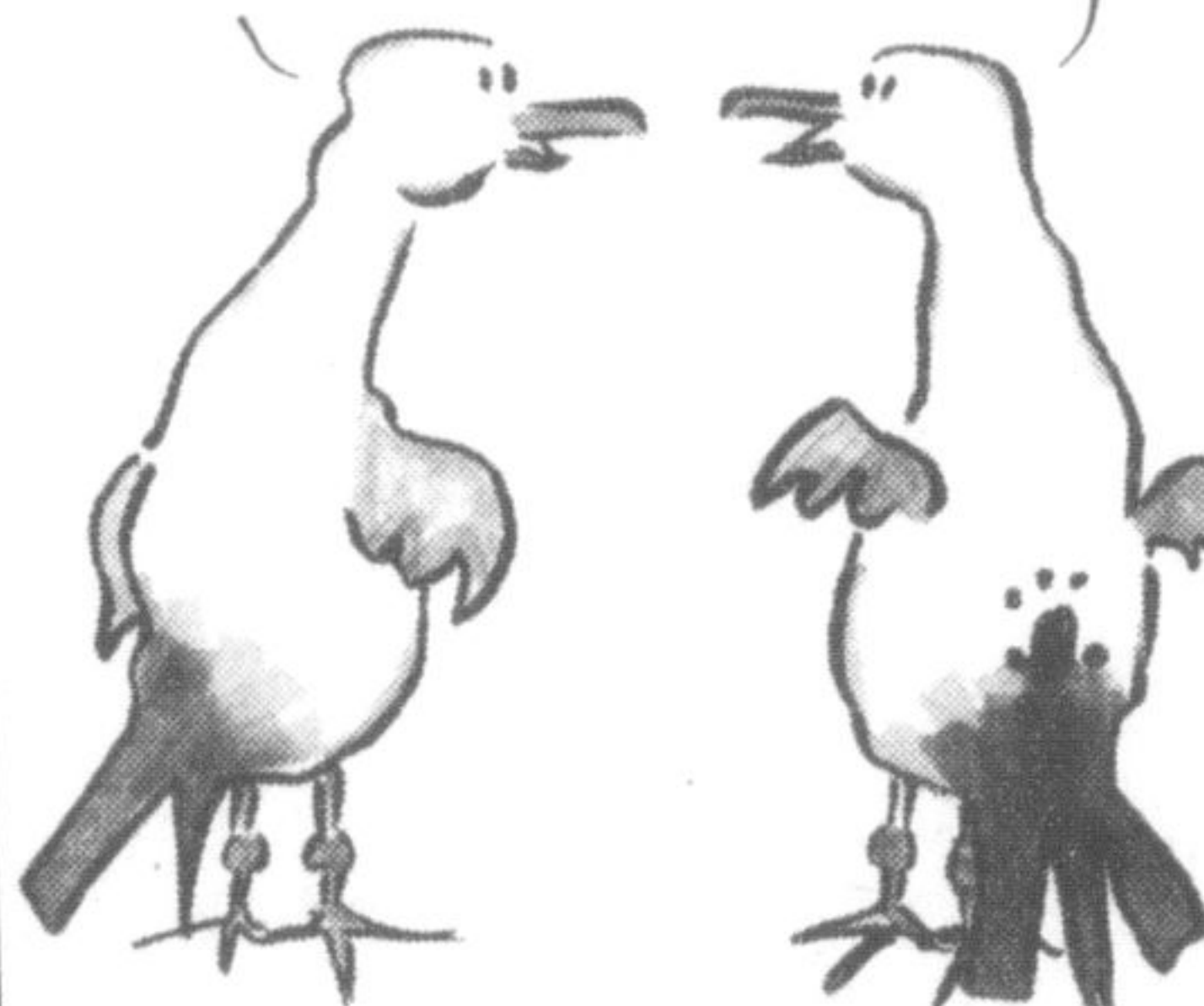
councils at J.M. Denyes and W.I. Dick as well as at Georgetown's Stewarttown Public School.

A police investigation was initiated after a complaint by the Halton District School Board that irregularities had been discovered in the school councils' accounting practices.

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