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Halton off the hook

Province to take back social program costs

By Kim Arnott
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

About \$10 million will be cut from Halton's costs over the coming four years, following an announcement on Monday by the provincial government.

At the annual general meeting of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in Ottawa, the Liberal government announced a plan to take back \$935 million in social program costs currently being paid by the province's municipalities.

Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr said the announcement was "very good news" for local taxpayers.

"It's a good step in the right direction," said Carr, who noted that most municipal politicians agree social pro-

• see NEWS on page A19

Man dies after bizarre fall

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A strange set of circumstances led to the death of a 51-year-old Milton man who fell from his second-storey roof on Main Street East Wednesday night.

Police said the victim — whose name hadn't been released at press time — was relaxing with a friend shortly before 6 p.m. on the rooftop of his multi-unit apartment when he was swarmed by hornets from a nearby nest and stung.

"While attempting to swat (them) and retreat, he apparently fell from the roof," Halton Regional Police Sgt. Peter Payne told the *Champion*.

He landed on the pavement below, sustaining serious head injuries, and was attended to by Halton police and EMS workers, who transported him to Milton District Hospital.

Shortly after, he was airlifted to St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto where he succumbed to his injuries at about 10:20 p.m., Payne said.

It wasn't known at press time whether alcohol was a factor in the fall, which appears to have been accidental, police said.

Two witnesses to the tragic accident — the man who was with the victim on the rooftop and another individual who saw the fall from ground level — have been assisting police in their investigation, which is ongoing, Payne said.

An autopsy was scheduled for yesterday.

The identity of the victim was being withheld pending notification of family members.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Milton Criminal Investigations Bureau at (905) 825-4777 or (905) 634-1831, ext. 2415, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION
Top, emergency workers transport the fallen man to hospital. Above, police investigate the scene of the accident.

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Hawkins Animal Hospital
ASK DOLLY

Dear Dolly: My humans heard that there have been increasing incidents of dogs stolen from their yards or gardens, in Ontario. What can us pets' do, to keep safe?
Signed "Worried" of Campbellville.

Dear Worried: Yes, my friend, there are some horrible, ruthless humans out there. They do not care that you love your family, or that you may need medication for an ongoing illness. Make sure you are microchipped, and get your humans to keep an eye on you, not leaving you unattended outside for long periods. And to you dog thieves... you are very, very cruel. We hope that you are caught, then severely punished.
Signed "Dolly"

IF ONLY PETS COULD SPEAK.

Dr. Debbie Hawkins 550 Ontario St. S., Unit 5A (located in Pizza Hut Plaza) 905-875-6888