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## Quarries out-consume entire region in water use

By ROB KELLY

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said Monday night that if it's a choice between drinking water for the Town, or water for quarrying operations on the Niagara Escarpment, then there will be no choice at all.

As far as he is concerned, the quarrying companies will be out of luck. In fact the mayor went as far as to suggest the amount of water the quarry operations currently use is too much.

"The (water) permits should be rolled back," he said. "I'm not sure whether they're being used wisely."

Mr. Krantz's remarks came on the heels of a staff report from town planning director Bob Zsadyani which showed that together three quarrying operations control more water atop the escarpment than Halton Region, and with fewer restrictions on the use of that water. The report was for council's information only, not action, but it prompted a discussion anyway.

The three quarrying companies listed, active in Halton Hills and Milton, are Indusmin, Dufferin Aggregates and Lac Minerals. Indusmin has access to 3,372,000 imperial gallons per day while Dufferin is allowed 2 million and Lac Minerals 900,000.

Halton Region, which is responsible — see TOWN on page 3

## Daffodil days start tomorrow

Members of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority of Milton will be out in full force this week selling daffodils to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Daffodils can be purchased at Milton Mall tomorrow, Friday and Saturday. All proceeds will go toward cancer research.

Loblaws at Milton Mall will sponsor a customer appreciation day Friday. A Beta Sigma Phi representative will sell daffodils at the store's service desk.

The flowers cost \$3 for a bunch of 10 blooms.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

## Look that says spring

The pretty floral print and the flower trimmed straw hat worn by Simone Carnegie are the essence of spring. She was one of the models in Sunday's Spring Fling Fashion Show organized by Milton District Hospital Auxiliary. Simone's outfit is from Chudleigh's and along with a selection of others can be ordered. Other show participants were Irene Hill; Aril's Fashion; Lobello Furs; Fitness Technique; La Ville Fashions; Dante Gentleman's Apparel and Jeanette's Shoes and Accessories.

## Hospital staff, services, beds could be cut

By NORMAN NELSON

Last year when Milton District Hospital received only a 4.1 per cent funding increase from the provincial government, it combined its pediatric ward with general surgery and cut its intensive care unit to four from six beds during the summer.

This year, if an expected 4.8 per cent increase comes through, hospital officials warn of even more drastic steps, including bed reductions, staff layoffs and service cutbacks.

David Wilson, the hospital's assistant executive director in charge of finance and administration, said a 4.8 per cent increase would amount to a \$513,000 increase over last year's \$11 million budget.

With salary increases, inflation and imposed government programs (such as pay equity) however, he said the hospital requires \$750,000, or a 6.8 per cent increase over last year.

"We certainly do not want to alarm the community unnecessarily, but we felt that it was important to make people aware that some services may be affected by lack of funding," he said in a press release.

### Pay equity impact

Halton North MPP Walt Elliott conceded that such programs as pay equity could have a substantial impact on hospitals this year.

"He said the pay equity costs can vary from one hospital to another — something not addressed by the Ministry of Health's across the board budgets.

"That's where my job comes in," he added, in a phone interview yesterday from Queen's Park. "I have an appointment with (Milton District Hospital executive director) Brian Brady Friday afternoon. If the hospital is short changed because of vagaries, it's my job to go to bat for them."

Without any advance knowledge of the ministry budget, however, he said "there is little I can do except get the hospital's side of it."

The ministry grant, said Mr. Wilson, represents about 90 per cent of the hospital's funding, with the other revenue coming from "piles of different sources" — such as OHIP billing and cafeteria and ambulance billing.

The only other way the 103-bed hospital could raise substantial money, he said, would be to dip into its \$400,000 capital budget, which is used for purchasing new equipment.

However, he cautioned that would be "robbing Peter to pay Paul."



Sparky the talking robotic dog is the newest member of Milton Fire Department.

## Robotic dog new fire safety promoter

An \$11,000 remote-control dalmation dog named Sparky will be teaching local children about fire safety as part of a new initiative by Milton Fire Department.

Milton Optimist Club members financed the purchase of the robotic dog that can listen and respond to children while riding his tricycle.

Before Sparky can ride into action, four firefighters will

— see SPARKY on page 2