

**POVERTY**

Facing financial hardship on the front line
— LS1

**BIG WHEELS**

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Region tax bite of 13.8% is unacceptable: Krantz

By NORMAN NELSON

With a preliminary 13.8 per cent tax hike being forecast, Halton Region's upcoming budget is enough to ruin any taxpayer's summer vacation.

The two main escalating costs, stated Halton Region Chief Administrative Officer John Fleming in a report to be presented at today's regional council meeting, are increased garbage expenses and more hefty welfare payments.

Other significant factors, he said, include pay equity, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and financing municipal services needed because of the area's burgeoning growth.

"In addition, there's the continuing problem of off-loading... by the Province," he said.

"The challenge for 1991 will be to do everything in our power to limit tax increases to an acceptable level while still living up to our statutory responsibilities and meeting the legitimate needs for services in our communities."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said it's unaccept-

table to contemplate a tax increase "double the rate of inflation."

He said he'd like to see some belt tightening in soft service areas such as museums or in some of the health and social service programs, and suggested a hiring freeze.

He stressed, however, that hands should be kept off hard service areas such as roads, sewer and water.

He urged a strong stand be taken against any further shifting of responsibilities from senior levels of government onto the already beleaguered municipal tax base.

"If the Province says 'you must implement a program', then we should say, 'you must fund it,'" he suggested.

Two examples of provincially-mandated programs which cut deeply into municipal taxpayers' wallets in the last budget, he elaborated, were court security, which the Province handed to the municipalities, and provincial pay equity guidelines, which municipalities had to adopt.

• see TAX on page 2

More students than jobs this summer

By KAREN SMITH

This week is the last chance for students seeking summer jobs to find one at the Canada Employment Centre for Students in Milton.

The centre, 310 Main St. E., will close Friday afternoon and local job postings will move to the Oakville facility.

Located at 635 Fourth Line, the Oakville centre is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contrary to last year, there are more students seeking employment this summer than there are jobs available, said Katherine Platten, student placement officer.

About 500 students seeking employment have registered with the Milton centre. Most students are looking for day jobs with steady hours, but have been without luck.

"Some students are starting to get frustrated," she said. "You just have to be here at the right time. The good jobs go very quickly."

At the same time, "a good number" have found employment through the centre this summer, said 20-year-old Miss Platten, a student herself.

Summer job postings started out slow in June but are picking up this month, she added. "It's still not as many as we had last summer, but they're coming in now."

The majority of jobs are labour or retail oriented. Students willing to paint, clean windows and garden are always in demand.

Jobs pay between \$5 and \$10 per hour, with the average about \$7 to \$8 per hour.

Any local jobs still open next month will be posted at the Canada Employment Centre, also at 310 Main St. E. in Milton, beginning Aug. 7.

The Milton student employment centre can be reached by calling 878-8418 and the Oakville office number is 842-3616.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Blooming bounty

Huge clusters of Easter lilies tower over Matthew Brown's head as he stands in his grandfather's flower garden. The six-foot tall blooms were nurtured by Elmer Serafini at his Court Street home.



Stiffer fines for illegal trash trucking

Trucks illegally importing waste into Canada will be slapped with much stiffer fines, federal revenue minister Otto Jelinek has announced.

Mr. Jelinek, the Oakville-Milton MP, said recently that those falsely declaring waste shipments at border checkpoints will pay first offence fines of \$10,000. A second offence will

mean a \$25,000 fine and a third will result in a fine equal to the value of the vehicle carrying the waste. Such trucks range in worth from \$40,000 to \$75,000.

The new penalties came into effect July 9 and replace former fines of between \$200 (first offence) and \$800 (subsequent offences).

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