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Weekend edition

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MILTON, ONTARIO, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 1990

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Region divided over blast to feds as funding cut

BY NORMAN NELSON

Halton Region is rapping the federal government's knuckles for cutting back on social assistance payments, but the condemnation is far from unanimous.

The 22 of 24 councillors who attended Wednesday's regional council meeting were deadlocked 11-11, and only a tie-breaking vote by Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy resulted in the resolution being fired off to Parliament Hill.

It basically demands the federal Tories withdraw the controversial five per cent spending cap they placed on social assistance payments to Canada's richer three provinces, including Ontario - or at least to go about it in a more democratic way.

The resolution said the cost cutting decision didn't receive as full a public and parliamentary review as was warranted.

Burlington Mayor Roly Bird instigated the almost successful uprising against the condemnation, saying he refuses to support "any resolution . . . that simply adds to the burden of debt that has engulfed this country."

The feds say they'll funnel the savings - \$155 million

in Ontario alone - into deficit reduction.

The deficit, said Mayor Bird, is lowering the standard of living for all Canadians. "Everyone suffers when governments overspend

revenues. The suffering that is felt by all is not immediate. It takes place in the longer term." If the same spending trend continues, he added, the national debt may double by 1995 to more than \$700 billion,

and by the year 2000 surpass \$1 trillion. "Total per capita debt for both federal and provincial accumulated deficits is now in excess of \$21,000 for every

man, woman and child in this country." While the Region's own per capita debt has actually decreased in the last six years, he predicted it will also increase substantially as the bill for the \$36-million regional

landfill in Milton starts coming in. Defending the wrist slapping, Burlington councillor Walter Mulkewich said a good part of the budget used by Halton to deliver its social service programs comes from the federal assistance program and therefore the Region

has every right to comment There is a process to be followed. It should be negotiated, discussed and a consensus arrived at."

The resolution said the spending cap violates the spirit of traditional federal-provincial cooperation established over the past 24-year period and urged the matter be referred to a federal-provincial conference of ministers responsible for social services.

It also called for national hearings in order to gather the

opinions of all concerned parties. Halton social services commissioner Bonnie Ewart drew strongly on a report by the Canadian Council on

Social Development to conclude that the federal govern-. see HALTON on page 7



Closing in

eack Grant Bowler carries the load for MDHS Must tion in Georgetown Wednesday. Milton won the game 25-6.

Smash and grab for smokes

A break-in early Thursday morning at Shoppers Drug Mart on Laurier Avenue netted thieves about \$20,000 worth of cigarettes.

Entry was gained by smashing the front window with a large rock. Once inside, approx imately 600 assorted cartons were removed.

The culprits fled in a vehicle east on Laurier

"They may be operating a bright red sports type car as one was leaving the area at a high rate of speed without the headlights on," said Halton police detective Michael Eacrett.

44 PAGES Lions come

for new van Regional politicians certainly don't mind being stuck in a room with

bearing gifts

these Lions. Especially when they come/from Milton bearing \$45,000 for a new handicapped van for use by Halton Centennial Manor.

Three club members were on hand at Halton Region offices Wednesday, on behalf of the group, for a special luncheon as well as to receive an official tribute during the regular council meeting.

Club honoured

Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy, noted that the old van - which the Milton service group also provided funds for in the early 1980s - "was due to be replaced when the Milton Lions came forward, as they usually

Lions president Steve Miller responded that the service club was "honoured to donate the wheelchair .. I'd like to thank all the town people who support us in our fundraising. Without that we couldn't do

Other Lions in attendance included Howie Scannell, past president, and Dr. Murray Heit, a member of the van committee.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said the local club has "raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to go to the town for many community projects." One of the biggest, he recalled, was

the Milton hospital expansion which involved "in excess of \$100,000 at one crack ... I also salute them."

Community projects

The local Lions, with approximately 50 members, run many fund-raising events including a Monte Carlo night, Christmas stocking draw, stag night, spaghetti dinner and food booths at Steam Era and the Fall Fair.

They're always looking for new ways to encourage ordinary citizens to become more philanthropic, so they in turn can support more community projects.

In the mid-1980s, they were one of the first groups on the house draw bandwagon, and this year they're planning to hold a duck race at the Mill Pond with "substantial prize money."

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