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VOLUME 132, NUMBER 10

MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3, 1990

40 CENTS

44 PAGES

Task force to study need for 49 more cops

By NORMAN NELSON

A special task force set up by Halton regional council will look into a controversial provincial study which recommended Halton Regional Police Force increase its staff by 49 officers.

With the Province on one hand trying to beef up enforcement and angry Halton councillors on the other side trying to save taxpayers money, Halton's police commission ultimately opted for a phased approach, hiring only 23 additional officers this year.

Many local politicians, however, were still hopping mad at the close to 15 per cent increase this amounted to in the police budget, which they in turn blamed for tipping the overall regional tax hike into double digits at close to 10.5 per cent.

Outside of glaring their teeth, their hands were tied, because although regional taxpayers foot the bill for the police, the budget is under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Police

• see MORE on page 4

'Elusive smell' closes Foster school portable

An "elusive smell" that continues to keep students out of one of three portables at E.W. Foster Public School poses no health risk, said Gerry Cullen, the Halton Board of Education's supervisor of plant operations.

"We've not been able to trace it back to a chemical base," he told *The Champion* yesterday. "Generally, that takes the concern away from a health matter."

"It stinks, but it's safe." He described the smell as being similar to "a locker room or a pile of dirty socks."

He said the portable, ordered closed by the health department on Sept. 24, won't be reopened until the "obnoxious odour" is removed.

A staff room at the school has been hastily converted into a classroom to temporarily house the students.

Of the 150 portables in use throughout the Halton public school board, he said it's the only one where there seems to be a problem.

He stressed that a recent study carried out by the Halton health department concluded there is no difference in air quality between portables and regular classrooms.

The portable in question had a similar problem around the same time last year, which was fixed by installing a better exhaust fan.

But this year the odour reappeared again. "We don't know at this time if they're related," he said.

After searching the portable thoroughly, staff have concluded that the carpet is about the only item capable of absorbing an odour. "Wallboard, ceiling tile and wood beams just don't absorb odour very well."

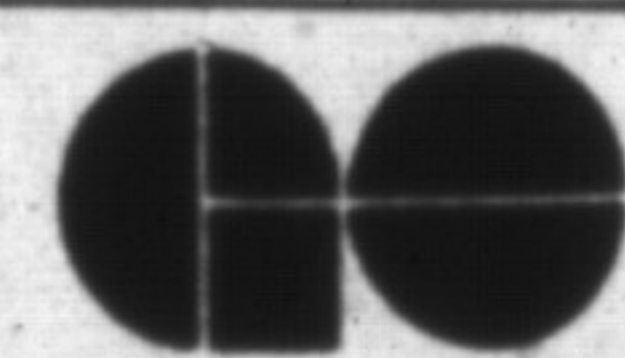
If it's not the carpet, which is currently being removed, said Mr. Cullen, "then we'll start scratching our heads again."



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Class act

Halton Queen of the Furrow Sandra Egger didn't miss an opportunity to put her plowing skills to the test. The Milton teenager finished first in Class 2 of the Halton Plowing Match Saturday. The rain held off for the event which took place at a farm on Sixth Line north of No. 10 St. in Milton Hills. See story on Page 9.



More GO train trips on track

You'll be able to get up and GO more often as of Oct. 29.

GO Transit will expand service to Milton with an additional train outbound from Toronto during the evening rush hour and a round trip to Toronto leaving Milton at 6:15 p.m. and returning by midnight.

As well, three round trips will be added from Union Station to Erindale between 8:25 a.m. and 4:40 p.m., with bus service connecting to Milton.

The rush hour train will leave Union Station at 6:05 p.m. The 6:15 p.m. train departing Milton will take evening commuters back to Milton with an 11 p.m. departure from Union Station.

Although the incoming NDP provincial government will be re-evaluating some proposed GO train network expansion, the Milton service upgrading is certain, said GO senior information officer Ed Shea Tuesday.