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Students take acting and writing talents to festival

By KAREN SMITH

Student-written plays will represent two local schools in the Sears Drama Festival this year.

E.C. Drury High School as well as the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf both have entries in the province-wide high school drama competition.

The four-day contest for Halton gets under-

way Tuesday night at Burlington Central High School.

Competing among 13 schools, Ernest C. Drury will stage *Terminal*, a play which examines problems faced by deaf people, said teacher and counsellor David Hicks.

He said mostly female students showed interest in putting together an entry for the festival. As a result, the group decided to address

the topic of being a woman, as well as deaf.

"It's a minority within a minority," added Mr. Hicks.

The production stars deaf students Connie Russell, Bonnie Russell, Jeanine Gingras, Belinda Thompson, Christina Gomes-Simoes, Diane Brooks, and David Hamen.

It also includes students from the adjacent high school for hearing students, Josh Ilott,

and six students who will volunteer their voices for the play.

Mr. Hicks is a co-director along with deaf students Lowrie Barry and Patti Trosimenkoff. Another teacher, Blanche Hinton, is the producer.

Terminal is the first Sears Drama Festival entry by the deaf school in the last three years.

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The Canadian Champion

Weekend edition

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Be my Valentine

Three-year-old Perry Flight gets a Valentine's kiss from Dot Bartlett, a client of Halton Centennial Manor's day program for seniors, Milton Place. Perry often visits the Ontario Street home for the aged with a Manor volunteer.

Tax cuts for some in proposed system

By ROB KELLY

Some people are going to be in for an unpleasant surprise under the proposed new system for collecting property taxes in Milton — but then again, a good many others are getting a break.

Average homeowners in Milton will have to pay more, while farm owners will pay substantially less.

Halton Region plans on implementing market value assessment taxation in 1993, if all goes according to schedule. It means a common year — in this case 1988 — is used as the start line to figure out how much homeowners should pay in property taxes, based on the value of their holdings as appraised in 1988.

Currently the four area municipalities work on different base years. Milton's is 1975, Halton Hills employs a 1980 benchmark and both Burlington and Oakville use 1984. When Halton collects regional and educational taxes, regional finance officials must use a formula called equalization. It's cumbersome, complex and involves more or less counting up from the base year in order to arrive at an annual tax levy.

Under the new market value assessment, relatively recent property value shifts will be taken into account so that taxes more accurately reflect the current prices properties in each of Halton's communities would fetch on the open market.

Although regional taxes as a whole aren't supposed to go up under the

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Night for love

Capture the magic of love at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre tonight (Friday) by skating with your sweetheart on the pond and warming up with some hot chocolate.

The annual Valentine Magic event will feature a "sweetie" contest and card making as well as horse drawn rides through the moonlit woods. The magic begins at 7 p.m. and continues to 9.

Mountsberg is located on Milborough Line, just west of Campbellville. For information call 854-2276.

Will you win or lose in new tax game?

The impact of the proposed changes to Halton Region's tax system will be varied, with some Miltonians paying less and others paying more.

As far as who is going to foot the proposed market value assessment tax bill specifically, the data hasn't been broken down to that extent yet. But of the 9,009 residences in Milton, 57 will have a property tax increase of 30 to 35 per cent.

A further 314 will get hit with a 25 to 30 per cent increase, while 418 will pay between 20 and 25 per cent more. There are 320 homeowners starting at a 15 to 20 per cent increase, 637 confronted with a 10 to 15 per cent hike, 777 in the plus 5 to 10 per cent bracket and 1,257 who will either stand pat or get no more than a 5 per cent boost.

More homeowners will pay less taxes than those facing increases under the new scheme, although the reductions, as a percentage of the taxes currently paid, will be less.

The assessments on 3,281 residences will either stay the same or go down by as much as 10 per cent. A further 785 homeowners will see their bills trimmed between 10 and 15 per cent. At the far end of the savings spectrum, 254 properties will drop by 15 to 20 per cent and 72 will plummet by as much as 25 per cent.

There are 1,804 farms in Milton and 67 per cent of their owners will enjoy tax decreases of between 20 and 50 per cent.



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