



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

A picture's worth 1,000 words

The fence around the construction area of the expanding Halton Centennial Manor has been decorated by talented E.C. Drury High School students. Here, Craig Thomson and Chris Campbell admire their mural which dons the fence near the Martin House.

Farmers to save most tax money if market value assessment passes

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new regimen, they can shift from community to community and, to some extent, from property class to property class.

For example, overall Oakville property values are slightly higher than those in Burlington. Burlington residents would pay roughly \$4 million less in taxes under the new rules, and Oakville people, largely because they're closer to Toronto, would pay about \$4 million more.

In Milton, residential property taxes on single homes and multi-unit dwellings of less than six apartments will go up approximately \$453,000, overall.

That's an increase of 2.5 per cent, from about \$18.3 million to slightly more than \$18.7 million.

Farm taxes, while representing a much smaller slice of the government revenue pie, will go down 19.3 per cent overall, to roughly \$2.3 million from almost \$2.9 million.

Commercial taxes in Milton (for things like retail properties) will decrease by \$244,000, a 5.5 per cent decline from approximately \$4.5 million to \$4.2 million.

Industrial land will take a 2.8 per cent hit, with taxes on the whole bumped up \$283,365 from about \$10.1 million to approximately \$10.4 million.

When all is said and done, if the new system is adopted anyone in Halton who has a home worth \$200,000, for example, will pay \$1,351 a year in education taxes and \$320 in regional taxes, no matter where they live.

The only differences in property taxation will be for local municipal levies.

In Milton, local taxes are currently

the lowest in Halton, at about \$535 a year.

Oakville residents pay \$646, in Halton Hills it's \$698 and in Burlington homeowners spend \$727 a year on that city's services.

Treasurers from the four area municipalities are examining the regional plan and are to report back to their various councils in the spring.

Milton's comments are expected to centre on possibly phasing the changes in over a two or three year period. Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale has suggested the same thing.

Hobby shop issues Nintendo challenge

Nintendo fans can show off their skills in an upcoming tournament sponsored by Main Street business Hobby Happy.

The video game tournament will be held Friday, Feb. 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Owner Angela Silcock said a prize will be awarded to the player with the highest score after five minutes.

A \$1 fee is required to enter. For more information, call 878-7934.



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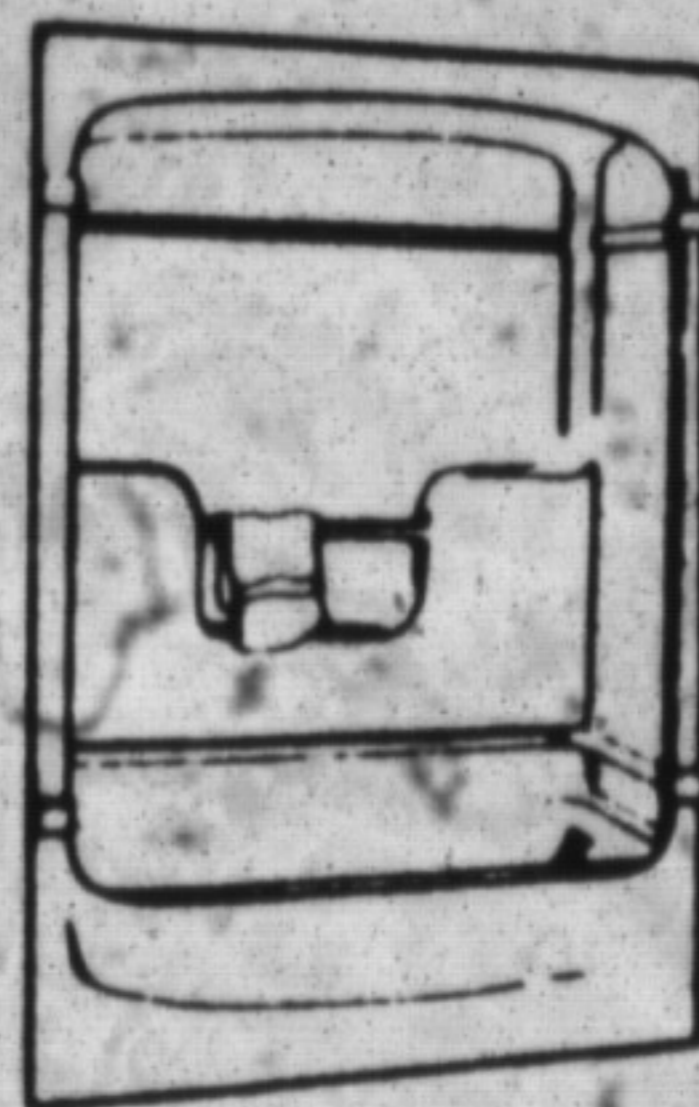
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