



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Room to spare

After some rummaging around, Stephanie Cragg, 5, finds an ample raincoat and scarf with help from Carole McLaughlin at a recent Grace Anglican Church rummage sale. Proceeds will help fund the church restoration and leftover items go to local charities.

DBIA's Martin new Chamber manager

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

Sandy Martin means business. The executive director of the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) for the last 10 years is the new general manager of the Milton Chamber of Commerce. Ms Martin, 41, will now deal with the entire Milton business community after being hired Monday. The Milton native sees the new position as a "good challenge." Although she said she will miss her close contact with downtown merchants, Ms Martin will still maintain "interaction with them on a different level."

She will take over as general manager Nov. 23. After nine years on the job, John Lawrence left the position last month "to pursue other interests." Ms Martin will bring with her an extensive knowledge of the Milton business community and the town as a whole, said Chamber president Carol McDonald. "Because of Sandy's long-standing involvement in Milton and the skills she has demonstrated with the DBIA, we are anticipating a smooth transition at the Chamber offices," she said. "We are looking forward to capitalizing on her ideas, her knowledge and her enthusiasm for this position."

• see SANDY MARTIN on page 14

Bonnette to tackle MVA again Dec. 2

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

The anti-market value assessment (MVA) coalition at Halton regional council has set a date for the showdown on the issue. Halton Hills councillor Rick Bonnette has picked Wednesday, Dec. 2.

Mr. Bonnette made the announcement at regional council Wednesday, but there has been no political change that could serve to fuel his optimism about overturning MVA. Burlington councillor Don Carter, seen as a vulnerable swing vote, has refused to desert the pro-MVA faction.

Market value assessment property taxation passed at Halton council in late September when regional chairman Peter Pomeroy broke a 12-12 tie that saw Oakville and Halton Hills oppose it while Burlington and Milton endorsed MVA. The largest impact is a \$4 million shift in taxes from Burlington to Oakville, but there will be changes in all four area municipalities.

Following Wednesday's meeting, Oakville councillor Keith Bird spoke quietly with Mr. Carter in an attempt to re-open informal dialogue on MVA. But Mr. Carter turned down Mr. Bird's offer to arrange a meeting with the anti-MVA faction.

Last Friday Mr. Carter had been scheduled to meet "over coffee" in his words, with Oakville Chamber of Commerce president John Hogg to discuss MVA. Mr. Hogg had hoped to convince Mr. Carter to reconsider his support for it.

Mr. Carter cancelled the meeting when, early last week, leaflets began circulating in his downtown Burlington ward slamming his MVA stance and warning residents their taxes would go up because of it. The Oakville Chamber of Commerce distributed them.

In the wake of the cancellation, the chamber held a press conference last Friday morning to announce they would step up their leaflet campaign, investigate possible legal challenges to MVA, and even look at mass civil disobedience tactics such as blocking the Queen Elizabeth Way.

After his discussions with Mr. Carter, a disap-
• see MVA on page 3

NEWSLINES

False report nets probation

A former Milton woman who made up a story about being bitten on the neck by a robber was given a suspended sentence Monday.

The judge ruled the 19-year-old woman, who lied to police to hide cheating on her boyfriend, be put on probation for 18 months. He also ordered her to perform 150 hours of community service work.

Now a resident of Ottawa, the woman pleaded guilty in August to public mischief after reporting the made-up story to police in July.

The woman claimed a robber bit her neck and slashed her arm with a knife while she was walking on Ontario Street near the CNR overpass.

She said the alleged attacker tried to take her purse, and when she resisted, he bit her on the right side of her neck.

Court heard the woman made up the story as an explanation for a hickey she received while fooling around behind her boyfriend's back.

INSIDE



There's a new play in town. The Mark of Cain, and Penny Carlos is directing it.

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Memorial services

Remembrance Day services are planned for Sunday and Wednesday by members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 136. A parade will leave the legion hall on Charles Street at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 8 and end at the Victoria Square cenotaph in front of town hall for a service. A second tribute to those who died in the First World War, Second World War and Korea is planned for Remembrance Day at 11 a.m. at the Evergreen Cemetery cenotaph.

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