

# MVA challenge set for region

• from BONNETTE on page 1

pointed Mr. Bird acknowledged that, "I can't get him to agree to a meeting." In reference to Mr. Bonnette's self-imposed deadline, he added, "it looks like we're going to have to wait until December 2."

Prior to the regional council meeting, Mr. Bird had appeared more bouyant about his chances of swaying councillor Carter. "I would hope to have a meeting with Don Carter and the (Oakville) chamber, whenever Don Carter's available."

As far as the chamber's tactics in flooding Mr. Carter's ward with leaflets, Mr. Bird added, "they're going to tie the can to somebody and right now it's his. I can appreciate that he's not happy. But we've got to try to get him on side."

"I can't see how a meeting now would be conducive to any solution," councillor Carter said after speaking with Mr. Bird.

"It would not be a productive meeting. It would be a waste of time. I don't mind meeting with somebody who has an open mind, but the chamber has indicated their position very dramatically."

Mr. Carter reiterated his thinking on MVA, saying more than 26,000 Burlington residents would enjoy a tax decrease while only 13,000 are hit by an increase, and that he must support the change based on that overall gain despite adverse effects in his own ward. Also, MVA is "a system that is fair, fairer than (taxation) has been," Mr. Carter added.

Mr. Bonnette said he doesn't "really condone the

strategy of the Oakville chamber, but I don't deplore their actions either. They're very desperate. Who can blame these people for taking desperate measures?"

In order to have MVA reintroduced for debate at regional council, someone who supported it must formally request the question be reopened. Mr. Bonnette is hopeful his group will succeed in getting a pro-MVA councillor to trigger a new debate on Dec. 2. "By that time, maybe some of the wounds will have healed a little bit."

One variable that could prove decisive will be the position adopted by the area school boards, which spend more than half of every property tax dollar Halton collects.

The boards have been asked to agree to a four-year MVA phase-in program outlined by regional council. The public board is expected to consider the issue next Thursday (Nov. 12).

Pro-MVA councillors such as Burlington Mayor Walter Mulkeiwich tend to downplay the importance of school board approval for phasing in the tax changes. Wednesday Mr. Mulkeiwich stressed board trustees were being asked only about phase-in timing, not about the overall merits of MVA.

But after the meeting, Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale said if the school board refuses to phase in MVA, it will effectively kill the controversial tax plan. If the board balks, "I expect the issue to be revisited (by regional council) and I expect the issue to die," Ms. Mulvale said.

3—The Canadian Champion, Friday, November 6, 1992

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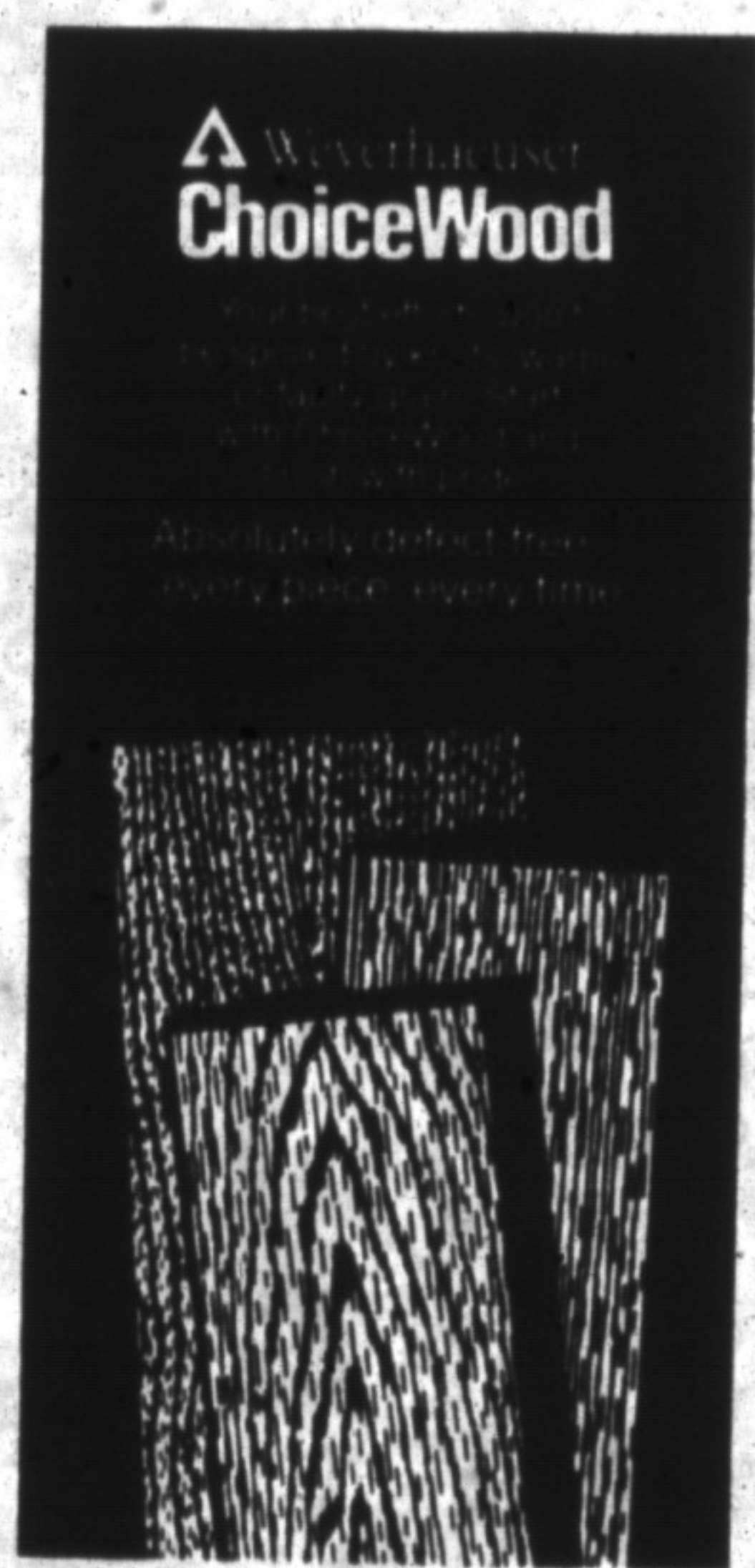


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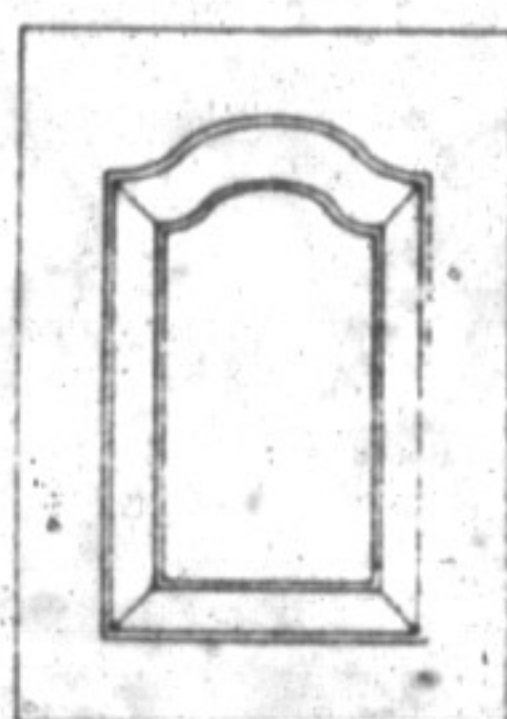
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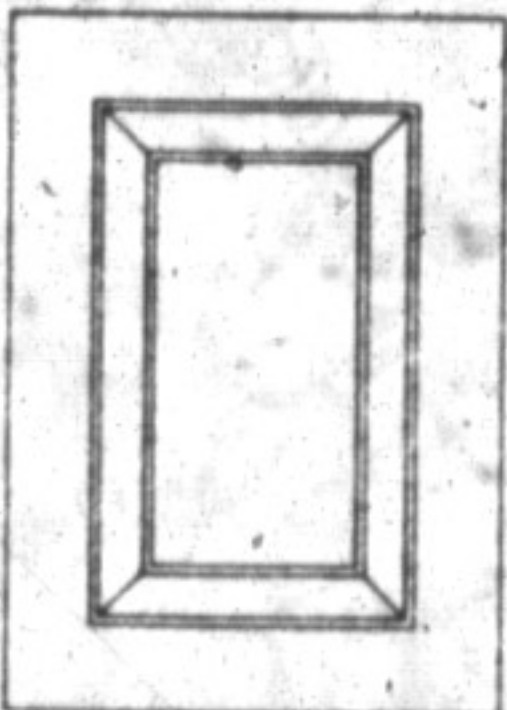
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