

NEWSLINES

Art heist

Halton police are seeking information on the whereabouts of a painting stolen from The Gallery in September.

The unique painting of a witch doctor could be used by devil worshippers or cult followers, according to a bulletin released by police.

The piece of art is painted on a 12" by 18" masonite panel in an 18" by 24" gold frame with a blue velvet matt.

The sorcerer's face is white and he's wearing a light coloured headdress and horns painted on a powder blue background.

On September 15, two males entered the Main Street art store by smashing a front window with a lead pipe. They removed the original mixed media painting by Andre Szasz.

The painting is valued at several thousand dollars.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Halton police at 825-4777, ext. 2115.

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E.C. Drury High School held its high school commencement last week and honoured several of its students.

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Council aims for 1% budget hike

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

Milton councillors are aiming for a one per cent operating budget increase in 1993 — about \$85,000 — and if they hold to that goal it will mean some tough choices as the process unfolds over the next few months.

Originally the recommendation before town council's general committee Monday night had been to hold the line at two per cent, but Ward 2 councillor John Challinor tapped into a groundswell of support when he proposed rolling it back a percentage point.

Milton collected \$8,506,823 in property taxes for local government use in 1992. That's only a minor portion of the total tax levy — the school board hits homeowners for more than twice as much, and Halton Region's property taxes are roughly half again Milton's.

Still, although Milton lays claim to the smallest slice of the property tax pie, the Town will be hard-pressed to trim expenditures as much as councillors currently think possible, documents tendered by municipal treasurer Jim McQueen indicate. Milton would need a tax hike of more than 10 per cent to carry on business as usual next year.

Milton has more than \$1.1 million in new debt to begin paying for the leisure centre, with the 1993 installment pegged at \$228,000. Declining tax and building permit revenues will mean a \$150,000 shortfall, as the recession drags on. New staff hired in 1992 will be on the payroll for a full year, which means an extra \$285,000 in wages.

To top it off, salaries for part-time firefighters are expected to climb by \$50,000 and the municipally-sponsored disabled transit service is proving popular, so much so that it will cost another \$40,000 to run.

That amounts to \$681,000 in additional

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Fraud charge laid

A secretary for the Fero Waste Disposal Company in Milton has been charged with defrauding the public in connection with alleged overcharging of customers.

Halton police are continuing an investigation into allegations of incorrect invoices at the Steeles Avenue facility. Revenue Canada excise/GST branch is also involved in the investigation.

Anyone with inquiries should contact Detective Sergeant Mike Eacrett at 878-5511, ext. 2115.

Bruce Hood takes run at federal political arena

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

Former National Hockey League referee Bruce Hood is used to being second-guessed by thousands of people, roundly condemned for his decisions and told in no uncertain terms by complete strangers that he doesn't know what he's doing.

Laughing, Mr. Hood said in that sense his hockey career gave him a solid grounding for the political position he's now seeking.

Mr. Hood, 56, will take a run at the Oakville-Milton federal Liberal nomination in hopes of wresting the seat in Parliament from incumbent Otto Jelinek sometime in 1993.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Somber remembrance

Memories of those who died in two world wars and Korea were the focus of the annual Remembrance Day parade and service Sunday. Second World War veteran George Winney was among local legion members who marched along Main Street to the cenotaph along with police and cadets.

The Milton native appears to have few illusions about the public perception of politicians at present, but says he's undaunted. "It reminds me a bit of refereeing. People are constantly challenging you. There's a constant level of stress. I did it for 20 years and enjoyed the challenge of it."

So far Mr. Hood is the third person to bid for the Oakville-Milton Liberal nod. He will face Bonnie Brown, a 51-year-old Oakville resident and longtime Liberal activist who has carried the party banner unsuccessfully against Mr. Jelinek before, and David Bazar, a 36-year-old chartered accountant.

Mr. Hood runs a travel agency in Milton and spent most of his life in the town, but now

lives in Oakville. He's long had sports connections there, through hockey and baseball, and in the late 1980s was one of the founders of a now defunct community newspaper, *Oakville Today*.

How Mr. Hood fares with Oakville voters will determine his success or failure, probably both at the nomination, and should he prove successful there, in the ensuing election. Oakville's burgeoning population hovers around 100,000, while urban Milton (south of Highway 401) adds only about 24,000 residents to the riding.

"I've made inroads down there in many ways," Mr. Hood said Monday. "What I have

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