

# Goal set to limit hike

from COUNCIL on page 1  
 revenue required from taxpayers, not counting inflation. Mr. McQueen is tacking on another \$55,000 for that, a figure he came to by predicting two per cent inflation and subtracting an expected 1.5 per cent growth in revenues thanks to at least some businesses moving to Milton and providing new taxes.

In short councillors, if they are to successfully follow through on their own recommendations, will have to slash roughly \$650,000 out of the 1993 budget — the \$736,000 tab of extra costs plus inflation, minus the \$85,000 council has set as its one per cent goal.

Mr. McQueen told councillors they'll probably have to look at both cutting the levels of service the Town provides and charging more for various fees and programs.

The treasurer also said Milton

will be hard put to stash away as much money as usual in interest-bearing reserve funds. Usually more than \$400,000 goes to that. As well, Milton usually puts about \$1 million from current year taxes into capital projects, such as the leisure centre, but it will be difficult to maintain that level, Mr. McQueen warned. "We have some dilemmas ahead of us."

Mr. Challinor had originally advocated a freeze on municipal spending increases, but said spending decisions made by council over the last year "eliminated the possibility."

However, "I think one per cent is reasonable."

Ward 3 councillor Marion Howard backed him up, saying she knew "it's going to be very hard" but that "we have to set guidelines at the beginning of the process."

# Library will be told to pinch pennies

By ROB KELLY  
*The Champion*

In the opening round of municipal operating budget discussions Monday night, town council's general committee made it clear they expect Milton Public Library to hold the line at a one per cent 1993 increase.

But councillors also agreed, after some discussion, to have senior staff members meet with the library board in an attempt to smooth over any ruffled feelings stemming from the hard-line approach, which has been adopted without input from library board officials.

The Town channels more than \$1 million per year into library operations. But municipal officials have had scant say in forming the library budget, Town treasurer Jim McQueen indicated Monday night.

In the past senior Town staffers have briefly reviewed preliminary library budgets, suggested changes, and "sometimes changes are made, sometimes they are not made," Mr. McQueen explained.

Ward 2 councillor John Challinor asked if Mr. McQueen had spoken to library board members about the new procedures. Told he had not, Mr. Challinor warned that "maybe this is a bit of hardball. We have a good

relationship with these people. I'd like to see that maintained."

"The idea is to put some conformity into budgets," Mr. McQueen said. "This is a large outside board that depends on the Town for 90 per cent of its funding. The idea is to set limits for the library board at the same limits as the Town. That has not been the case. The level of (budget) increase experienced by the library has been higher than Town departments as a whole."

In 1992 the library got a 6.76 per cent budget boost, about \$73,000. Overall, the Town only budgeted a 2.5 per cent tax hike.

Ward 2 councillor Colin Best defended the library, saying provincial pay equity programs had been responsible for a "huge increase" in its overhead during the past two years, and that council originally agreed to fund a sustained book collection drive, which also drove up costs.

But Ward 1 councillor Brian Penman said the annual budget process is "the one time" in any given year that library board representatives "fall short." The tidings of tough times should be brought home to the library "with or without foreplay," Mr. Penman added.

# SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN'...

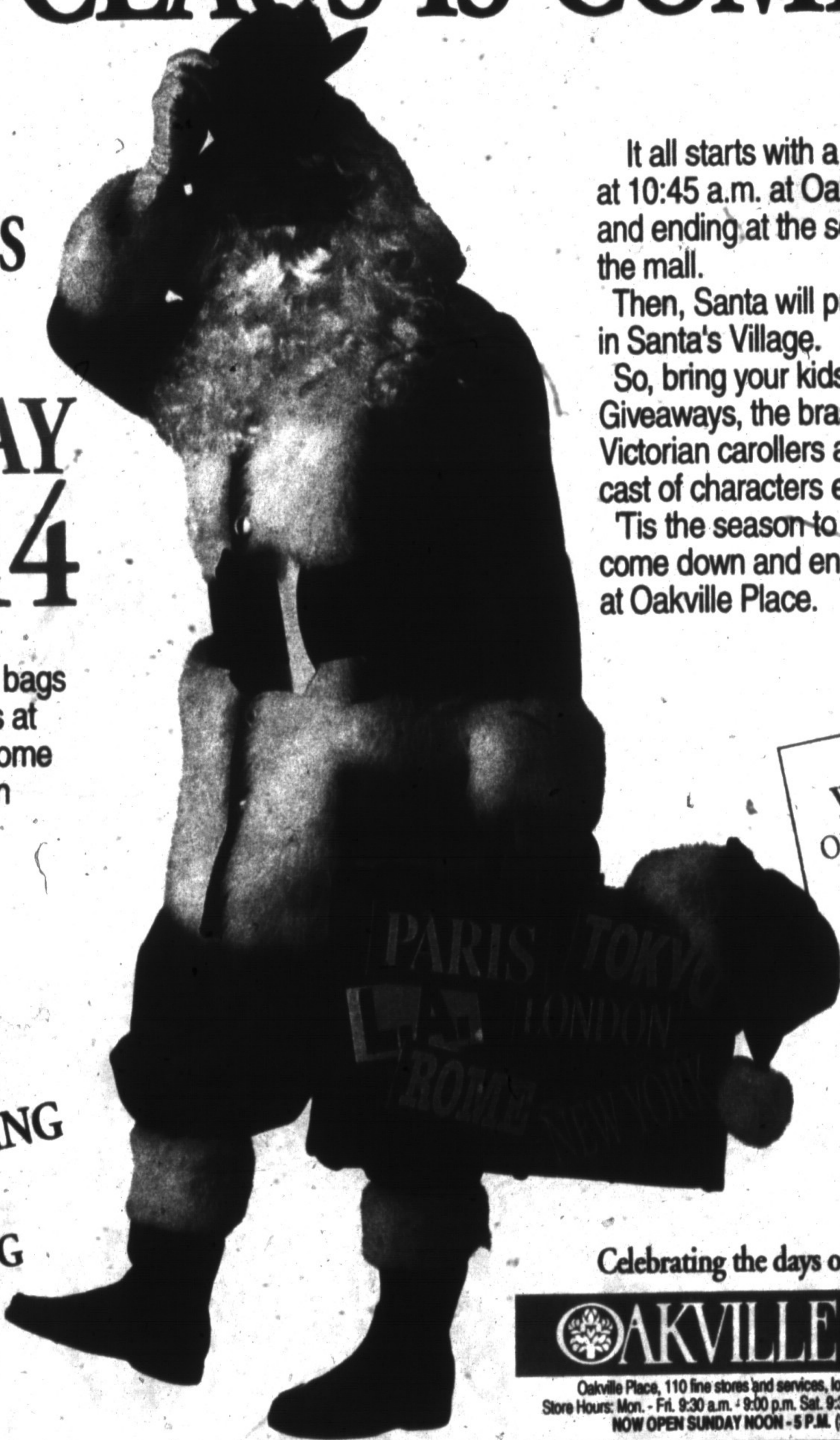
## SO, BE THERE FOR GOODNESS SAKE!

## SATURDAY NOV. 14

Santa Claus is unpacking his bags and settling in for the holidays at Oakville Place. So, why not come down and help us greet him in fine style?

OAKVILLE PLACE IS OPEN EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT 'TIL NINE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 14.

FREE GIFT WRAPPING November 14, 21 & 28 From 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.



It all starts with a parade beginning at 10:45 a.m. at Oakville's Holiday Inn and ending at the south entrance to the mall.

Then, Santa will proceed to his castle in Santa's Village.

So, bring your kids. Enjoy the Free Giveaways, the brass band, the Victorian carollers and let the sprightly cast of characters entertain you.

'Tis the season to enjoy yourself. So, come down and enjoy Santa's arrival at Oakville Place.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA ONLY \$4.99 PLUS TAXES PRICE INCL. NEGATIVE

Celebrating the days of future presents.

### OAKVILLE PLACE

Oakville Place, 110 fine stores and services, located at QEW and Trafalgar Road. Store Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. (Starting November 14th) NOW OPEN SUNDAY NOON - 5 P.M. (Some store hours may vary.)