Pay raise for Halton councillors

from HALTON on page 8

Mr. Greenaway said that at Burlington city council he had led the fight for a wage freeze among both politicians and municipal staff, but a similar exercise at Halton Region would be fruitless because council has already agreed to pay employees one per cent more for 1992.

down the line," Mr. Greenaway told

council. "But we didn't do that. So I lost my faith in freezing this salary because it does not mean a thing."

If council supports paying staff an extra 1 per cent and does not accord itself the same increase, in essence the message is "they are worth it and you are not," Mr. Greenaway added. "I'd like to understand the A salary freeze "was meant to go rationale of freezing your salaries and not freezing those that work for

you. I challenge each and every one of you to tell me why you are doing

Halton Hills councillor Rick Bonnette supported the freeze. "We all knew what we were going to be paid when we put our name in a hat to run for council," he noted. Yet, "a year or two down the road" the issue of money "becomes a debate."

Oakville councillor Fred Oliver acknowledged that everyone initially understood the going rate of pay, but "I don't think I know anyone who takes a position knowing they will not get an increase."

Burlington - Mayor Walter Mulkewich argued that the accepted arrangement is being altered if council doesn't get a raise, since the stipend is usually bumped up according to a formula involving cost of living increases and other employee settlements. "We all knew what the rules were, but the rules are being changed."

In backing the freeze proposal, Oakville councillor Kevin Flynn contended that council must alter its expections in the face of hard fiscal reality. "This is a very different world we are in now."

In an attempt to circumvent similar debate in the future, councillors asked regional staff to prepare a study of possible financial impacts several-year term if politicians' raises are automaticaly hitched to a formula involving consumer price index increases and other employee settlements.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Draw donation

Stella Bennett (left) and Hedi Novak display a print the Harrop Restaurant and Gallery is donating to Halton Centennial Manor for a draw at the annual Manor Christmas bazaar tomorrow (Saturday).



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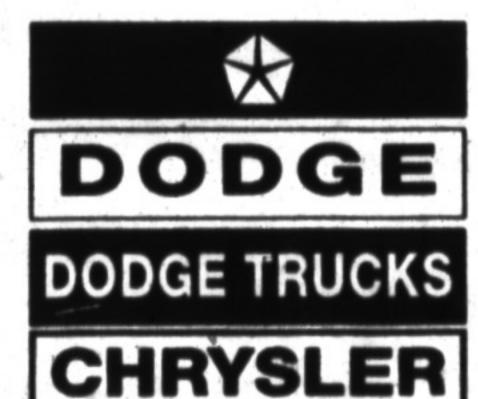
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