By ROB KELLY The Champion

Burlington Mayor Walter Mulkewich blasted proposed social service and business development spending rollbacks at Halton regional council Wednesday, saying other areas should instead be targetted for the cuts.

He found both an ally and an opponent among his fellow Burlington representatives. In supporting Mr. Mulkewich, Bob Wood warned of 'a "hidden agenda" to dismantle social programs. But Doug Greenaway characterized funding some social services as contributing taxpayers' money to charity without their consent.

ing choices have taken place. But at one of the earliest sessions last week, the health and social services committee recommended slashing \$150,400 in regional grants to eight community service agencies, the rationale being that they are large enough to weather the funding loss.

In a follow-up meeting Tuesday, the committee revised its stance, instead halving the proposed cutback to \$75,200 and spreading it out among 11 of the 43 outside agencies. Halton supports to some degree.

However, Mr. Mulkewich doesn't want money siphoned away from the grant program. Halton's budget review committee, which will evaluate the health and social services Regional council isn't scheduled to committee recommendations, must approve the 1993 budget until mid- "go back to (regional) staff and say, February, and only preliminary 'where are you going to find the

There are 380 conservation areas in

the province that attract 4.5 million

visitors every year for recreational

In addition to the copies circulated

in today's newspaper, Focus on

Conservation can be picked up at

any Halton conservation area, local

library, municipal town halls and

several commercial outlets. Any

business, schools or retail outlets

wishing to distribute the tabloid can

do so by calling the authority at 336-

and educational experiences.

meetings regarding difficult financ- money to put the whole \$152,400 back in," he insisted.

"We're going to have to get our priorities straight," Mr. Mulkewich said. "To take what amounts to a broad-axed approach is not really helpful to anyone.

"The worst two budgets to cut are business development and social services," Mr. Mulkewich warned. The regional business development office is attempting to nurse, an economić renewal by luring new employers to Halton, yet is faced with a proposed 14 per cent decrease from its 1992 approved budget of \$673,400, he pointed out.

"The real hidden agenda is, 'let's go at the social services budgets until we get rid of them," Mr. Wood said.

"I have some serious concerns about some of these cuts," said Oakville councillor Stephen Sparling. He suggested instead that councillors look at taking the money out of the roads and utilities budget.

"One of the decisions I have made is that perhaps the spending of tax dollars for charity, and this is what we are talking about, is a fundamental disagreement with my philosophy," councillor Greenaway said.

The regional funding "was originally intended as seed money, to get things started," so the groups could fundraise later on their own, he said.

"To suggest this was intended as seed money is not the understanding the community has or past (regional) councils have." Mr. Mulkewich replied. "We get a big bang for our buck. It's an investment. It's not a giveaway to charity."

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale said the discussion amounted to "preempting the budget process" since there is still much work to be done. 'Some of these options may be ones' we choose not to execute."

Environmental news and local events featured in new tabloid

Twice a year the Halton Region beyond Halton's watershed with a Conservation Authority is spreading / section on Ontairo conservation the news about the local environ- areas and the Niagara Escarpment. ment through a

new tabloid newspaper. The first

issue of Focus on Conservation is inserted today's

Champion. In addition to providing information about Halton's natural environment, the publication will serve as a guide to programs, services and facilities of the local conservation areas.

Focus on Conservation includes a six-month calendar of events that lists dozens of family activities available at HRCA properties from January to the end of June.

The publication also has more than a dozen vouchers with free passes to the parks and discounts on certain services. There's even a special section for children called "Leaf, the Kid's Environment Page".

Brian Penman, chairman of the conservation authority and an editorial contributor to the new publication says, "Halton has a rich natural heritage of significant resources including wetlands, forests and Ontario's great wall, the Niagara Escarpment. The authority wants more people to know about the local natural resources and how they are being conserved."

The scope of the tabloid goes

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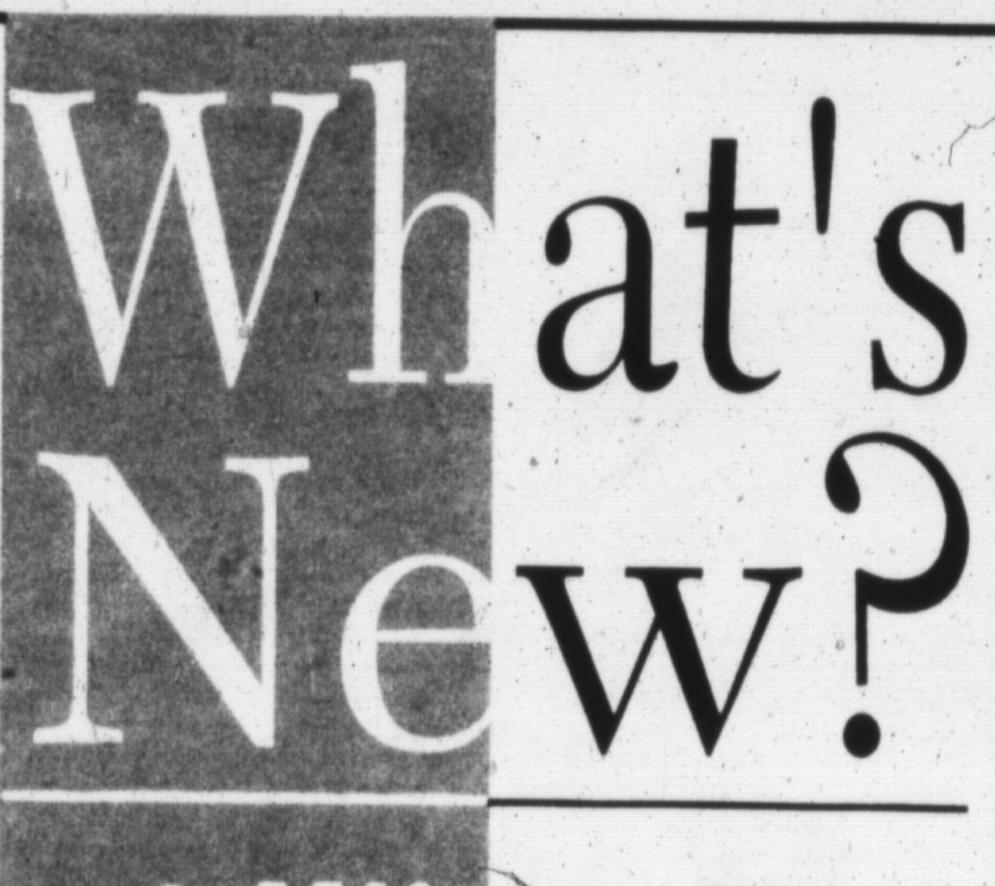
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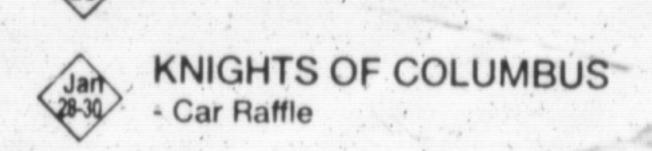
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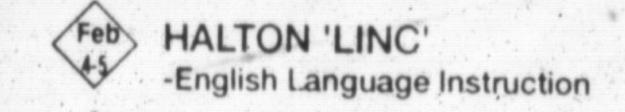
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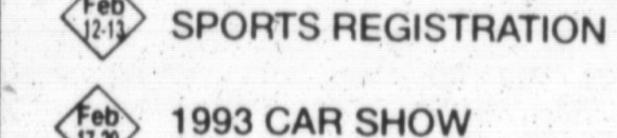


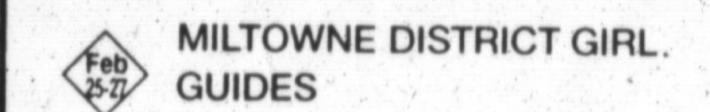
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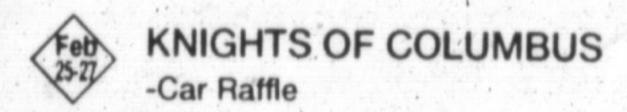
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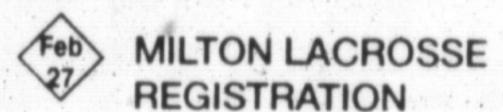












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