Region reserves eyed by police board to cover shortfall

By ANGELA BLACKBURN. Special to The Champion

The Halton Regional Police Services Board doesn't want to cut service to cope with provincial cuts so it's eyeing a regional reserve fund for a one-time bail out for 1993.

million to offset decreased grants under the province's Expenditure Control Program and proposed cuts under the Social Contract program.

But chairman Barry Quinn said the board is committed it won't come at the expense of police service.

"We want to do all this without

our (police) association to ensure service is not reduced to the public. It's important to our board and to our associations too," said Mr. Quinn.

As the chairman put it, the first The board has to find about \$2 blow comes in the form of an \$897,000 cut due to provincial cuts.

Blow number two doesn't yet have a firm dollar figure attached. It's how much social contract talks might leave the board short on staff compensation. Mr. Quinn said he's heard numbers like \$1.2 million.

"Will the region consider using

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We hope to come to agreement with a hailstorm with hail the size of golf balls as far as this board is concerned?" board member Paul Lafleur asked of regional officials who attended Thursday's board meeting.

"What I see the reserves doing, is, if we have an ongoing reduction in services, we can't sustain them on an annual basis on reserves. However you're being asked to come up with some \$800,000 and to achieve all that in 1993 is almost impossible. We can help with a one-time problem in terms of that," said Halton Region finance director Joe Rinaldo.

The region has numerous reserve funds totalling approximately \$89 million. Many however are legally earmarked for specific project like energy-from-waste.

reducing service to the community. rainy day funds considering we're in cies would be illegal, Mr. Rinaldo, spell out the bad news. told police officials.

> However two funds, one totalling \$1.3 million (a tax stabilization reserve) and another contingency fund of \$1 million could be used.

> Regional officials also want police to re-examine their budget, service and staffing.

The police budget is administered through Halton Region.

In 1993, the region's \$238 million budget uncludes a \$41 million (including capital) police budget.

The provincial Expenditure Control Program and social contract is leaving Halton Region short of a projected \$5 million total, \$1.9 million in unconditional grants \$897,000 of which has to come from the police budget.

Mr. Rinaldo and Halton Region's To use them for a bail-out of CAO John Burke were at Thursday's staff associations in order to address numerous regional boards and agen- police services board meeting to the financial pinch.

Mr. Rinaldo said social contract talks could leave the region short \$2 million to \$2.8 million for staff compensation.

Again some of that will come from the police budget. Deputy Chief Wayne Jessop noted some 82 per cent of the police budget is staffing.

Mr. Quinn said Thursday \$350,000 earmarked for a 1 per cent police services pay increase in 1993 won't be considered this year.

Another \$260,000 earmarked for a consultant's design study for a new Milton police station will also be

After region officials made their presentation, the police services board met Thursday afternoon to discuss the matter confidentially.

The board is also meeting with its

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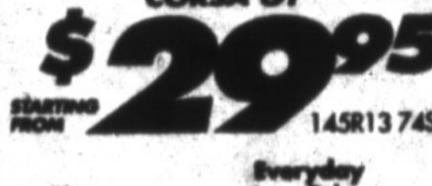
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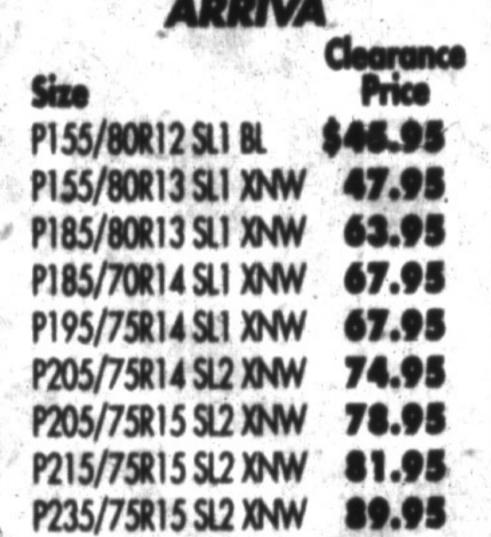
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