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NEWSLINES

Homeless youth charged in break-ins

A youth who was living on the streets of Milton has been charged in connection with recent car break-ins in the area.

The charges follow a Halton Regional Police investigation into a break-in at the Rotary Park snack bar July 8, in which the same youth was arrested.

A limited amount of property has been recovered and will be returned to the car owners, police said.

A youth, whose identity is protected under the Young Offenders Act, is charged with three counts of break, enter and theft, and the same number of thefts.

Police say detectives cleared 29 car break-ins as a result of the investigation.

The youth was held in custody pending a bail hearing Friday in Milton provincial court.

INSIDE

Senior funding

Halton North MPP Noel Duignan has announced more than \$200,000 in funding for a new senior's centre, as well as cash for the Campbellville Lions Club.

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Splish splash

Kylie Finn, 18, of Milton gets a pail of water over her head during the Fire Fighters' Association of Ontario Convention held at the fairgrounds on the weekend. Kylie won the Miss Ontario Firefighter crown, beating 15 other contestants. Dumping the water are Milton firefighters Ian Gibbs (left) and Greg Orpen. More photos on page 3.
Photo by Graham Paine

Region trims budget by \$5 million

By SAL BOMMARITO
The Champion

Halton regional council reluctantly voted to slash \$5 million from its 1993 budget at a special meeting last Thursday, to offset provincial government imposed cutbacks.

Councillors made it clear they weren't pleased with the move, however, in light of what many regional politicians see as the provincial NDP policy of funding its own new programs while preaching financial restraint to municipalities.

Burlington councillor Bob Brechin drew the approval of his colleagues when he spelled out regional government's indignation.

"It's very frustrating to be confronted with this social contract legislation when we have a labour government which is disregarding restraint and paying for new and enhanced programs on the backs of its employees," Mr. Brechin said. "It's unconscionable to do."

Councillors approved a strongly worded resolution asking the province for a full accounting of any new programs or program enhancements, as well as a rationale for such funding in light of announced fiscal restraint policies.

"It's a reaffirmation of what (Halton) has said in the past, that we like to be consulted and we want to see the bottom line," said Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale. "We want to be true partners."

Council also formally approved a \$2.2 million reduction in spending related to social contract legislation, \$1.9 million for expenditure

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AIDS test recommended for transfusion patients

Officials at Milton District Hospital are advising anyone who may have received a blood transfusion at the hospital between 1978 and 1985 to immediately consult their physician about being tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"The hospital has provided all general practitioners on staff a list of recipients," Dave Wilson, the hospital's assistant executive director, said. "Anyone, wondering whether they did or did not receive blood during the 1978 to 1985 period may find out by contacting their family physician," he added.

Records indicate 731 people received blood at the hospital during the seven-year period, Mr. Wilson said. The hospital has received about two dozen requests for information since Richard Schabas, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer, issued a public advisory last week.

Dr. Schabas issued the advisory after reviewing results of a study by Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, which revealed six patients who had heart surgery between 1978 and 1985 have since tested positive for HIV. It was determined the heart patients had received tainted blood.

Mr. Wilson said individuals who call the

hospital because they believe they may have received blood during that period of time, but just aren't sure, are advised to consult their physician.

"Contacting your family physician is much easier. If they want to have the (HIV) test, (their doctors) have to order it. If they call the hospital they'll be referred to their doctor," he said.

Mr. Wilson said once a doctor has consulted with a patient and it is determined a blood test is necessary, the hospital is more than willing to provide it.

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