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# The Canadian Champion Weekend

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## NEWSLINES

### Join the Army Monday night

Blitz night, the primary annual fundraiser for the Salvation Army, is this Monday (May 2) in Milton.

The Salvation Army in Milton is attempting to recruit 250 volunteers to canvass door-to-door in this important Red Shield Appeal event. Funds raised are used to maintain the Salvation Army's community services.

Volunteers who can help out from 6-9 p.m. Monday evening are asked to call 876-2420 or 875-1022.

### MCIS on the move

Milton Community and Information Services is on the move from their current location in the lower level of the Optimist Centre.

The agency, which houses Information Milton, the North Halton Housing Registry, CHERISH Parent Child Centre and is the Milton base for more than 15 social service agencies, will have a new home effective Monday, May 2.

The private home daycare program offered by CHERISH will operate from the new location while the toy library, drop-in centre and children's programs will move in August.

The new location is at 540 Childs Drive on the main floor of the Martin House in the Alendale complex. Entrance is from Childs Drive and there is ample parking and a bus stop at the front door.

There will be a new phone number for all the services offered by MCIS: 875-4636. Call for further information.

## INSIDE

### Features

Opinion ..... 6  
Dateline ..... 16  
Omagh ..... 20  
Classified ..... 21-23  
Real Estate . RE1-RE8

# Man flees collapsing 36-foot wall

By BRAD REAUME  
The Champion

Doug Walsom was working in his father's shop at 140 Market Drive on Tuesday afternoon when he heard a strange squeaking noise.

Toiling over a red Chevy pickup, trying to fix the rocker cover, he heard the squeak again but ignored it.

A few minutes later, startled by the same noise, much louder, he looked towards the ceiling in time to see the top of a 36-foot high concrete block wall beginning to collapse.

He ran for his life.

"The noise was real loud once and that caught my attention," Mr. Walsom said. "I looked up

and saw the top coming down. I didn't stick around to see what happened."

What happened was the entire wall, separating two industrial shops, collapsed in a heap, mostly into Mr. Walsom's work area. The falling concrete blocks crushed two cars and a pickup truck and damaged a tractor-trailer rig inside the building. No one was hurt in the incident.

Fire investigators explored the possibilities that a vehicle had nudged the wall, or perhaps the regular pounding of machinery had weakened it, but both ideas were dismissed.

John DeVries, Milton's building director, said the likely cause was a construction defect which, with both shop doors open, allowed the wall to act as a diaphragm when the wind blew. Mr. De-

Vries said no construction permit was issued for the 96-foot long wall, built in 1991, with what appeared to be insufficient lateral support.

"We're looking for engineers' reports and we have requested a report from the Ministry of Labour before we decide if further investigation is necessary," Mr. DeVries said. Those reports will determine if charges will be laid.

A damage estimate was not available at press time. Similar walls in other parts of the same building are being inspected. Mr. DeVries said that inspection of the wall would have caught the construction fault.

In any event, Mr. Walsom presently has a much closer relationship with his work neighbour.

□ Picture on page 14

## Board falls short, taxes set to climb 1.3%

By KATHY YANCHUS  
Special to The Champion

After months of deliberation, the Halton Board of Education has fallen short of its targeted zero per cent mill rate increase.

But public school trustees at Monday night's finance committee meeting weren't ready to take any blame for recommending a 1.3 per cent mill rate increase and quickly pointed an accusing finger at the provincial government.

School board officials had expected provincial grants to be reduced and they even built in a 7 per cent decrease in the 1994 operating budget. What they hadn't prepared for was an 11 per cent drop — or \$6.8 million less — in Ministry of Education and Training grants.

After learning about the grant reductions, trustees had to approve further cuts to the budget to bring the mill rate down from 1.9 per cent. To meet their targeted zero per cent mill rate increase, trustees would have had to shave the budget by an additional \$3.8 million, or \$1.8 million to reach one per cent.

Instead, trustees recommended approval of the \$282,710,980 operating budget which requires a 1.34 per cent mill rate increase. This translates to an extra \$17.94 on the educational portion of the average property tax bill.

The budget went forward for final approval at last night's meeting of the full board. Results were not available at press time.

Finance chair Penny Siebert called  
• see AVERAGE on page 3



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Broadway Brandon

Brandon Lillie, surrounded by co-stars, is Sky Masterson in Milton District High School's production of *Guys and Dolls*. The musical runs from May 4-7 at the new MDHS theatre. Tickets are \$6-\$8 and are available through the front office.

## JK coming but Board drags feet

Junior kindergarten could be in some Halton public schools starting next January.

School trustees have reluctantly agreed to send a plan for junior kindergarten classes to Ontario Minister of Education and Training Dave Cooke.

Trustees voted 9-7 in favour of the move at a Halton Board of Education meeting recently. However, they refused to give their stamp of approval to the plan until June.

Board chair Dave Whiting said the board's unusual decision to submit an unapproved plan results from its reluctance to implement junior kindergarten in the region. The board is obliged by a new provincial law to bring in the costly program.

"We've opposed it (junior kindergarten) right from day one and there still has not been a great demand for the program in Halton, and I think the trustees are caught up with that."

"I mean, here's a program we don't want — we never wanted. It's being forced on us and it's hard to swallow."

The board's decision came within hours of a deadline for the plan's submission to the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training. The decision followed almost three hours of lively debate by trustees who tried unsuccessfully to win a number of amendments to a recommendation for the plan's approval.

Burlington trustee Anne Barbu finally got a nod of approval for her proposal that the plan be submitted to the Ministry and returned for the board's approval by June. The original recommendation by board staff was to immediately approve it.

"I want the plan to go as is, but I  
• see JK on page 3

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