

Budget above Halton guidelines, cops try to toe line

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

The Halton Regional Police Services' \$38.2 million 1995 operating budget will be unveiled before Halton Region's administration and finance committee today (Wednesday).

The budget, up \$287,200 (three-quarters of one per cent) over last year, is also \$87,200 higher than regional council-approved guidelines. Earlier this fall, regional council ordered all regional bodies to flatline budgets at 1994 levels.

Halton Police Chief Peter Campbell and police services board Chair Barry Quinn are expected to put the budget

before the committee this afternoon.

"The police services board have requested that the 1995 budget be approved as submitted. However they will endeavour to maintain spending in 1995 at the council-approved guideline," says a report to the committee from regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo. Police hope to meet the Region's guideline by keeping numerous positions vacant in 1995, said Mr. Rinaldo's report.

Savings achieved in 1994 will be used to cover an anticipated \$750,000 cost attached to the use of new firearms — a provincial mandate requiring at least 65 hours in additional training for each local police officer.

The Halton police will also plan to add four new people to their ranks in 1995 — three uniformed officers and one civilian.

The three officers will be involved in the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program but their positions won't be attached to the police budget, as one will be jointly funded by Halton's public and separate

school boards and the other two, funded by DARE Halton, a community fundraising group.

The new civilian position, a fire alarm coordinator to work with the police service's new mobile radio system, was approved in the 1994 budget. The new radio system is expected to be up and running by next fall.

The 1995 police capital budget

totals \$350,000 — \$270,000 of which will come from the tax-supported operating budget and \$80,000 from police reserves.

The 10-year capital forecast meets overall regional guidelines but an accelerated timing of projects within it puts the most impact on the 1996/1997 budget — at \$2.1 million and \$804,000, respectively. Requirements in other years don't go

above \$500,000 and remain at zero for several years.

"Staff are concerned with the accelerated timing of the projects," reported Mr. Rinaldo. Regional staff want to meet with the police to review the timing factor.

The police budget is expected to go before regional council, after its committee hearing today, next week for approval.

Sib-Jel plan

Controversial housing approved

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
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The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) will allow Sib-Jel Investments to build 41 non-profit townhouses next to Milton's fairgrounds despite nearby residents' arguments that the project is incompatible with the area.

The decision was announced in a written ruling dated December 7. The reasoning behind the ruling isn't expected until later this month.

An OMB hearing on the issue began in Milton in August and wound up in Toronto last month.

Newly elected Ward 2 Councillor Wally Hunter had represented over 200 area residents in a fight against the project. The complex was seen as a high density development in what residents consider a lower density neighborhood.

The project will, however, serve to boost Milton's deficient quota for non-profit housing. Under NDP policy, 25 percent of new development must be affordable housing.

Sib-Jel lawyer Gordon Petch had pushed for an early decision by the OMB. Mr. Hunter wants the OMB to spell out its decision in writing so he

has something to take to the local residents. The OMB hearing was resumed briefly in the autumn after OMB officers wanted more information on noise and lighting effects from the fairgrounds on the proposed townhouses.

While Sib-Jel commissioned stud-

ies on both, the Town then responded with a review of the studies and pushed for revisions on noise and lighting. Mr. Hunter took advantage of the sustained concerns to continue to underline the issue of incompatibility, from a municipal planning perspective.

Gala combined concert this weekend at Grace

The Milton Choristers 26th Annual Christmas Concert this weekend will feature a host of local talent as the Choristers are complimented by 41-voice Milton Children's Chorus, the Grace Memorial Handbell Choir and members of the Kade School of Dance and Performing Arts.

The production, which will run Saturday Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. and Sunday Dec. 18 at 4 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church, will be Gloria Tibi Domine, composed by Barrie Cabena, a music professor at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo.

Soprano Mary Jane Corradetti and Bass Paul Bulla will sing solos. The entire production, comprising a cast of 110, will be directed by Gordon Burnett of the Choristers. The two choirs will also sing a selection of traditional and modern-day carols.

Professor Cabena will accompany on the organ. He has performed widely in Canada, the United States, Europe and Australia, in addition to composing 29 organ sonatas, an opera for children and many choral arrangements.

Tickets may be obtained from choir members at the door, at Peggy's in Milton Mall, or by calling 878-1331. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, free for children under 12 years old.

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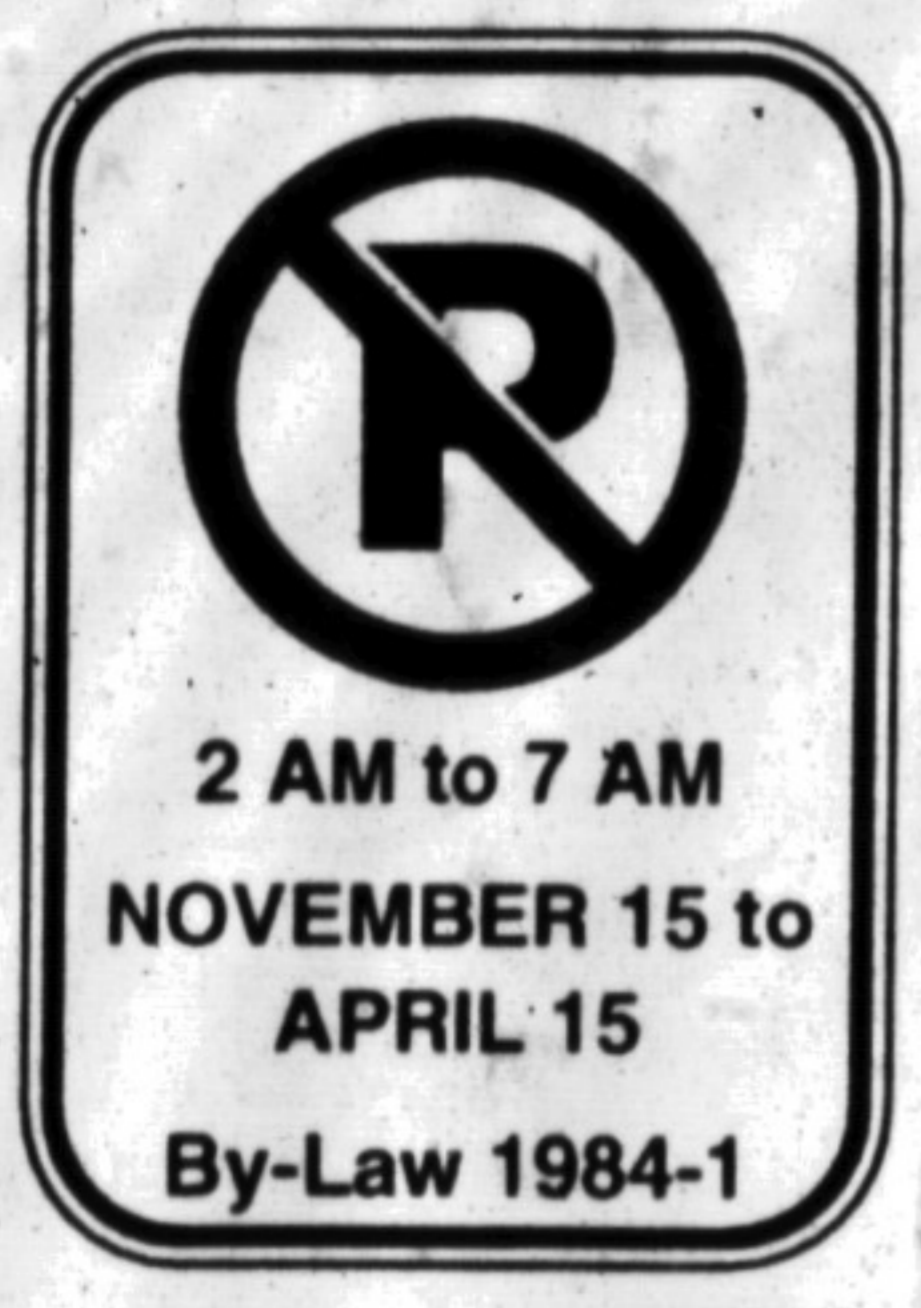
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NOTICE TO VEHICLE OWNERS

BY-LAW 1984-1



By-law 1984-1 prohibits parking on any Town street during the winter months from November 15 to April 15, between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

This By-law is intended to assist Town works crews in our effort to remove snow during the winter months.

While this By-law is in effect, Halton Regional Police will take appropriate measures to assist us which can include Towing.

Your cooperation is requested.

J.D. Matthews, P.Eng.,
Director of Public Works
Town of Milton

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR THE NEW YEAR Qualified Fitness Instructors for the Leisure Centre

Minimum Requirements: F.O.L.P. or equivalent training
current first aid & CPR certification
previous teaching experience

Instructors required for the following timeslots:
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 6:30 am - 7:15 am
Mondays 12:10 pm - 12:50 pm, Thursdays 9:15 am - 10:15 am

Interested applicants should apply with a resume & copies of certification to the Leisure Centre.
Attention: Susan Rose, Recreation Co-ordinator

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