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The Canadian Champion Weekend

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NEWSLINES

Young girl sexually assaulted

A Milton man has been charged with sexual assault in connection with an incident Sunday evening.

The victim, a seven-year-old girl, and her two sisters were visiting a family acquaintance at his home in rural Milton. Coming from out of town, the girls intended to stay overnight.

The suspect was alone with the victim at about 8 p.m. when he sexually assaulted her, Halton Regional Police allege. A short time later, the victim told her 12-year-old sister what had happened. The girl called her parents, who came to the home and took the children to an area hospital.

The girl was not physically injured during the attack. She was examined and released from the hospital.

Police arrested a suspect at his home Wednesday morning.

A 62-year-old No. 10 Side-road man faces charges of sexual assault, sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching.

He was held in custody pending a bail hearing yesterday (Thursday) afternoon in Milton Provincial Court.

Foolish prank injures boy

A 12 year-old Milton boy sustained minor injuries during an altercation with two other youths Wednesday afternoon.

Police report that the victim was riding his bicycle on Wilson Drive near Robert Baldwin School at about 2:50 p.m. when he was approached by two other young riders.

The youths held a rope between them which, when they past the victim, caught him around the neck and threw him off his bicycle. The 12-year-old was taken to Milton District Hospital where he was treated for bruises on his throat and later released.

Investigation into the incident is continuing.

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Peel eyes Milton's east border

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

Peel is eyeing Milton's east border and may use additional water servicing as bait for a Milton-Mississauga border re-alignment.

Milton is proceeding cautiously on the proposal that would re-align the town's boundary west from Ninth Line to the new Hwy. 407.

Calling "annexation" by Peel "a very significant issue for the very near future," Town planner Mel Iovio presented his top priorities to council Monday.

In early September, Peel Regional Council recommended exploring the issue and sought a formal Milton response. December 31 was set as a response deadline, but to date the Town hasn't answered.

Mr. Iovio said a report will be done in January and if the proposal looks beneficial, Milton will deal with conditions.

Should Milton agree to the plan, it would be "in the driver's seat" in negotiations for the lands within its borders, according to the Town's chief administrative officer, David Hipgrave.

"The possibility that would exist would be that some servicing could come our way from any excess capacity Peel may have," said Mr. Hipgrave. However, he said, Peel, which doesn't plan on going through a formal annexation process, could expect "tough and intense" negotiation from Milton.

The Milton lands involved stretch along Milton's eastern border of Ninth Line to where the Hwy. 407, right-of-way and hydro corridor exist. Hwy. 407, Ontario's first toll highway, will stretch 69 km between Hwy. 403 in Oakville and Hwy. 48 in Markham. In Milton, it'll run from the town's south boundary, just north of Hwy. 403, north to Hwy. 401.

Construction of Milton's portion of the highway should start in early 1997 and end in 1998. There will be interchanges at Hwy. 403, Derry Road and Hwy. 401; and overpasses at Lower Base Line, Britannia Road and Ninth Line south of Hwy. 401.

"Of course it is of some concern," admitted Mr. Hipgrave of Peel's proposal, however he said any potential advantages for Milton must be explored.

"Although there is a limited benefit to Peel or the City of Mississauga in pursuing an adjustment to the Peel/Halton municipal boundary west of Ninth Line, the construction of Hwy. 407...will create a barrier that will function as an urban separator and would create a logical urban boundary," says the Peel report.

While Peel has additional water and sewer servicing capacity, Milton has a very limited capacity. The Town is exploring every possible

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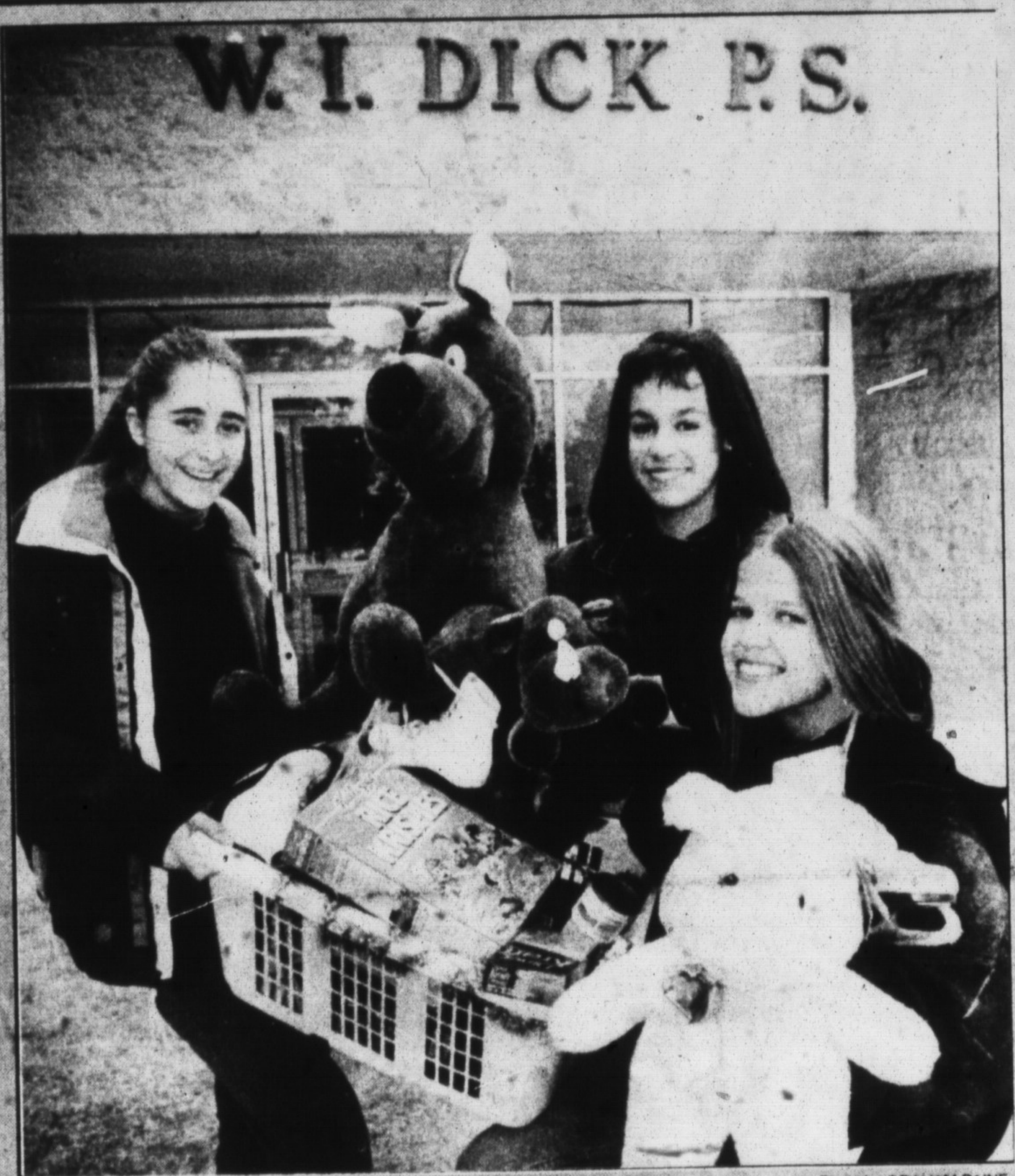


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Everybody helps

Representing three classes from W.I. Dick Public School, (left to right) Sarah Tammemagi, Erin Kelly and Heather Rollwagen help collect just some of the food, toys and other goods collected by the student population in an effort to help the needy this Christmas.

Region promises

Wee water tax hike in budget

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

After clearing the hurdles of the previous regional council and newly elected council committees last week, Halton Region's 1995 operating budget was rubber stamped when it arrived at regional council Wednesday.

There was no debate of the budget, which holds no property tax increases but does hike water/wastewater user fees by 3.1 percent — adding \$10.50 to the average household's tax bill.

The water rate increase will raise \$9.46 million to upgrade aging water infrastructure (still \$1.43 million short of identified 1995 needs) and pay for the bulk of a five-year, \$4.6 million watermain upgrade plan. That's to ensure adequate water supply for firefighting, predominantly in Burlington where firefighters couldn't access water to battle a house fire earlier this year.

1995 regional taxes — property taxes and user rates combined — will tally \$741.46 for the average Halton residence — \$387.85 in property taxes and \$353.61 water/wastewater user rates.

Regional property taxes have actually dropped by \$1.98 since 1993, but so far they've dropped by only four cents for 1995 over last year.

The regional budget meets a no tax increase target set

by council earlier this year, a target preferred over regional staff's bid for a 1.5 percent hike to offset inflation, a move that would have added \$2.34 on the tax bill.

Water/waste water user rate hikes will see taxpayers digging deeper for an extra \$5 a year to pay for water system infrastructure upgrades and another \$5 a year for fire protection security.

Halton Region's \$199 million 1995 expenditure budget doesn't call for any service decreases but will see reduced provincial funding result in staffing cuts at the Region's home for the aged, Allendale (a reduction in part-time nursing hours). Overall, the Region's 1993 1,081 staff complement will shrink to 994 next year — almost a 10 per cent reduction over early 1990 staffing levels.

The additional infrastructure funding is a top priority said regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo. "If we don't do it today, all you're doing is deferring the liability to future residents and if you keep compounding it, it's probably going to cost you more," he told councillors last week.

At last week's administration and finance committee, Oakville councillor Kathy Graham said she has no problem justifying the \$10/year hike to Oakvillians tired of rusty, smelly water.

Mr. Rinaldo said assessment growth expected at one percent is coming onboard at 1.19 percent and will help maintain the flatlining of property taxes.