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NEWSLINES

Broken mirror means bad luck for Milton driver

The superstitious belief that a broken mirror is bad luck held true for a Milton man Wednesday.

The 57-year-old Prince Street man faces several charges, including impaired driving, after a pick-up truck crossed the centre line of a rural Milton road as a Halton Regional Police cruiser approached from the opposite direction.

The mirrors of the vehicles collided and broke off, said Sgt. Frank Phillips, Halton Regional Police spokesman.

"The driver of the pick-up did not stop after the collision and continued southbound," he said. "The officer was able to turn around and catch up to the vehicle approximately 2 km from where the collision occurred."

No one was injured and damage to both vehicles was minor.

The incident took place on Sixth Line, just south of No. 15 Sideroad, shortly before midnight.

The man also faces one count of driving with over the legal limit of alcohol in his blood as well as Highway Traffic Act charges of failing to stop for police and failing to share half the road.



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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Brave soul

Eight-year-old Glen Jenkins struggles with his helmet straps while trying to keep warm. Skating on the Mill Pond, Glen braved frigid temperatures on the weekend to take part in some recreation.

Taxpayers object

Council nixes pricey phase-in scheme

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

The phase-in is out. A plan to phase in some of the extreme effects of Market Value Assessment (MVA) was overturned by town council Monday night in front of a full house of concerned taxpayers.

Several taxpayers told council they were upset with having to defer the property tax relief MVA is designed to provide, and at the same time pay \$200,000 earmarked for phase-in program costs.

Resident Michael West summarized the view of those against the phase-in. "I believe in the principle 'Love Thy Neighbour' but 'Love Thy Neighbour' does not extend to subsidizing his property taxes."

The phase-in program lost 7-4, with councillors Wally Hunter, Art Melanson, John Challinor and Mayor Gord Krantz backing the plan.

The full effects of MVA will be felt by taxpay-



"Don't miss what's happening here. It's regional government and the boards of education. Especially the damned boards of education."

- Rick Day

ers when property taxes are due in the spring. Under the phase-in plan, those getting large decreases then would have helped offset costs for those getting large increases, for a period of three years. The full effect of MVA would not have been felt until the fourth year.

Ward 1 Councillor Rick Day said he changed his position on the phase-in program because it would have had a negligible affect on most properties, and because many of the increases were due

to poor assessments, which should be appealed.

Other councillors representing rural taxpayers were also concerned with the unknown effects the phase-in program could have on some farm properties.

There were several cited instances in which a farm property was entitled to a decrease in taxes under MVA, but would actually get an increase. This is due to provincially funded farm tax credits reductions, which could offset gains with MVA.

Despite some reassurances from provincial officials, rural councillors were not convinced administrative changes would correct the problem.

Councillor Challinor defended the phase-in idea, saying property taxes have long been levied on an unequal basis. He referred to the difference between the urban and rural mill rates, saying the urban part of town subsidizes the rural one.

Rural resident Richard Hall said he was concerned that council would authorize the expendi-

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