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NEWSLINES

Milton man still in serious condition

Miltonian Frank Warris, 69, was listed in serious condition in the intensive care unit of Hamilton General Hospital yesterday. Mr. Warris was injured in a head-on collision on No. 5 Sideroad Monday.

Mr. Warris was driving a 1990 Ford Aerostar van eastbound at 7:10 p.m. when it collided with a westbound 1992 Plymouth Sundance near his home.

Leonard Brownlow, 43, of Birchway Place in Acton was killed in the crash just west of Highway 25.

The accident is still under investigation by Halton Regional Police's Public Safety Unit.

Victim support group begins soon

A support group will begin in mid-February for female victims of sexual violence.

The Halton Rape Crisis Centre will offer the program in a "safe, structured and encouraging environment" to adult and adolescent females, said centre spokesperson Karrie Hatton.

"Groups address the effects of violence and work toward developing an understanding of and response to societal violence," she said.

For more information, contact Ms Hatton at the Halton Rape Crisis Centre, 825-3622.

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Chudleigh wary of sending Metro local tax money

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh is not exactly leading a cheer following this week's release of the Golden report outlining reform proposals in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

"It's a report submitted to the provincial government. It helps define the parameters of the discussion," he said. "The official line on the GTA is the current system isn't working and is overly expensive and needs change."

He said any changes to governing the GTA should be in place by the beginning of 1997, in time for municipal elections slated for November of next year. To maintain that timing, legislative changes should be debated in the fall or even as early as this spring, according to Mr. Chudleigh.

He said he expects considerable debate on issues surrounding GTA reform and encourages it. "The changes introduced will be contentious."

"My personal experience of government is that lower-tier municipalities are fiscally responsible. Municipal government in Toronto is in fiscal difficulty, the provincial government is in deeper still and the federal government is in the biggest difficulty. The bigger the government the more financial trouble it is in. 'Bigger is better' does not necessarily mean a lot to me."

The report advocates a 30-member council to oversee the entire GTA, and the abolition of regional government.

Mr. Chudleigh pointed out that the Tory Common Sense Revolution election platform talked about smaller, more responsive governments.

The report also suggests pooling business taxes among the regions and Metro Toronto to finance education. As well,



"Until I see some responsibility taken by Metro Toronto regarding their situation then I'll be damned before I'll agree to any sharing of taxes from my area."
 Ted Chudleigh

to create a standard business taxation level, it advocates hiking suburban commercial taxes and dropping Metro Toronto's.

Like many suburban politicians, Mr. Chudleigh sees this as something of a bail-out, to correct past mistakes for which Metro Toronto has only itself to blame.

"Until I see some responsibility taken by Metro Toronto regarding their situation then I'll be damned before I'll agree to any sharing of taxes from my area," Mr. Chudleigh said.

"Remember, the areas surrounding Toronto are all coloured blue after the last provincial election. We are not going to turn our backs on those that elected us."

Mr. Chudleigh agreed "a healthy Toronto is the best of all possible worlds" but said the focus would not be on "a healthy Toronto at any cost."

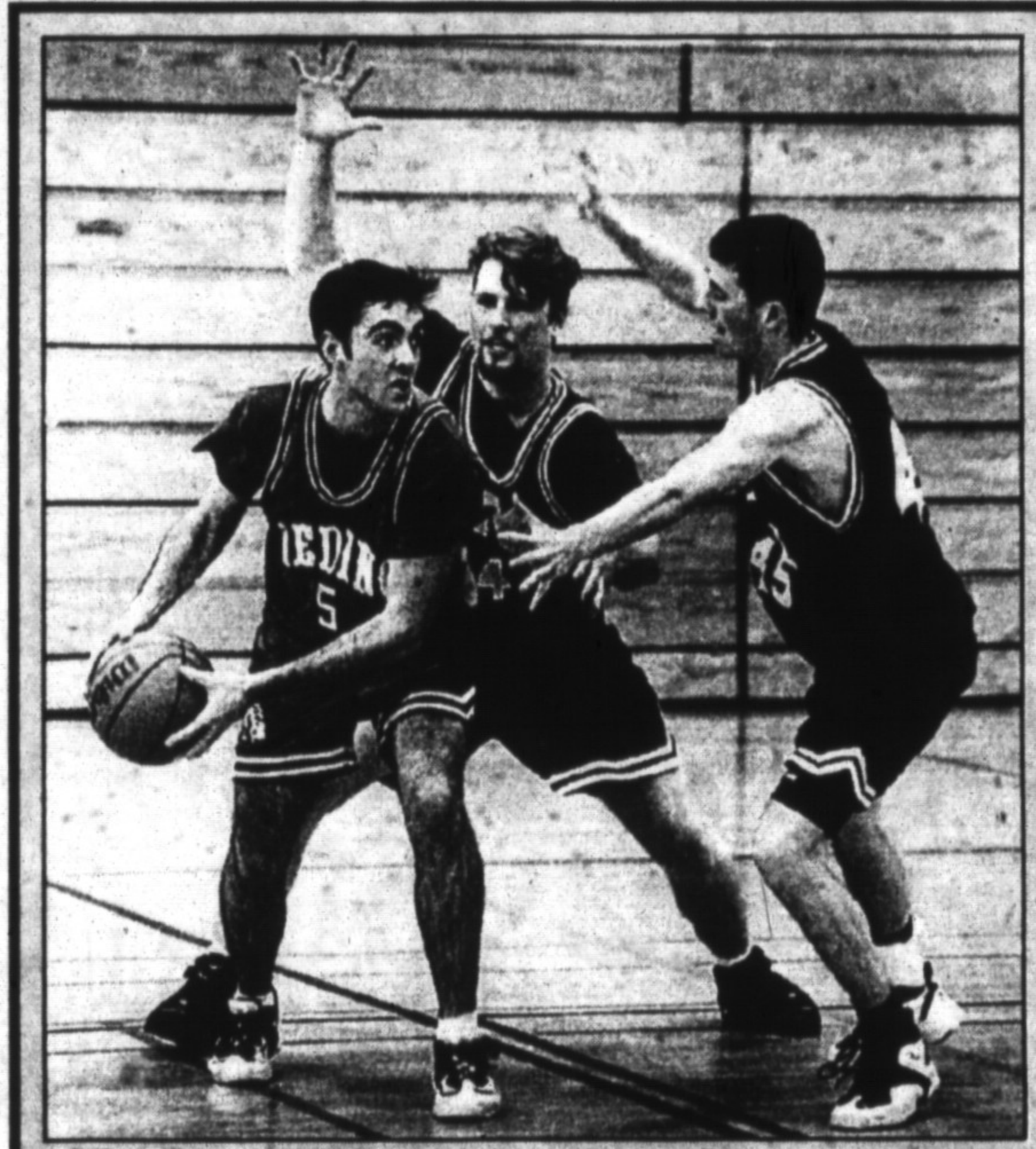


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Double coverage

Bishop Reding's Grant Williamson is well covered as he tries to make a pass during Monday evening senior boys basketball action at the Main Street secondary school. In a contest that was close to the final buzzer, the M. M. Robinson Rams ended up going home winners. The Burlington school beat the Royals 59-56.

Hayden trial put off again

The case of a retired firefighter accused of setting a series of blazes will not resume until May.

Following numerous postponements, the trial of Richard Hayden, 56, of Churchill Avenue is now scheduled to continue May 7 in Burlington provincial court.

The trial began in late November but was remanded in December while court officials ironed out a feasible continuation date in the backed-up system. The May trial date was set in Burlington Wednesday. Although the former City of York firefighter has pleaded not guilty to the charges, he hasn't contested evidence that he set vacant buildings such as barns and churches on fire in town from April 7-29, 1995.

Mr. Hayden's lawyer, Fred Forsyth, has

indicated he will raise a defence that his client isn't criminally responsible for the crimes due to mental illness.

The former City of York firefighter for 28 years was arrested April 29 in connection with a rash of fires that caused more than \$800,000 damage.

Court has heard Mr. Hayden admitted in a police interview that he set vacant structures on fire with gasoline, and later returned to the scenes to watch firefighters battle the flames because he missed his old job.

Mr. Hayden, who is currently being held in a psychiatric hospital, retired from firefighting more than a year ago after suffering a stroke that caused brain damage.

He faces eight counts of arson and three counts of break and enter.

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