

# Halton teachers to rally against system cutbacks

5—The Canadian Champion, Friday, February 23, 1996



Halton teachers prepare to voice their concerns to the provincial government at a massive two-day labour protest in Hamilton.

## One more kick at can

People interested in commenting on Greater Toronto Area (GTA) reform will have a second chance at Town Hall Monday night.

Town council heard submissions from several people last week as Milton puts together a position on the matter. Debate was sparked by the recent release of GTA reform proposals by Anne Golden's panel.

People who wish to speak Monday night should register with the town clerk at 878-7211. Mayor Gord Krantz also invited written submissions.

The Monday meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Milton will make a presentation Thursday to the provincial panel gathering comments on the Golden Report.

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10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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### RRSP

EXTENDED HOURS

By TIM WHITNELL

Special to The Champion

Teachers from Halton Region will have a strong presence at this weekend's workers' protest rally in Hamilton.

About 1,200 educators, representing all five teaching federations in Halton, will converge on Steeltown for "Hamilton Action Days", a pre-planned weekend of protest organized by the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL).

The OFL hopes several tens of thousands of people will show up to rail against massive spending cuts proposed by Mike Harris' provincial government, which, not coincidentally, is holding a policy conven-

tion in Hamilton this weekend.

There will be pickets, parades and rallies today and Saturday in Hamilton. The latter day is expected to have the greatest participation with a 12:30 p.m. rally outside Cops Coliseum.

Several Halton-based organizations and unions will be visible at the two days of demonstrations, but none will likely have a higher profile than the region's teachers.

Richard Brock, president of the Halton elementary chapter of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA), said Halton units of the OECTA, the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers Federation, the Ontario Public Schools Teachers Federation, the Federation of

Women's Teachers of Ontario, and the French-language teachers federation will march on Hamilton to protest, among other things, the \$600 million in announced funding cuts to education.

"At this point in time the government has to take a look at all it's doing. It will dismantle the education system as we know it," stated Brock.

The director of education for the Halton Roman Catholic School Board said he had no comment on the protest. However, Fred Sweeney said a letter has been sent to Catholic teachers union representatives saying any teacher who takes off work Friday to attend the rally will be docked a day's pay and may be subject to further discipline.

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## Event

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