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# The Canadian Champion Weekend

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## Police union warns cuts 'into bone'

By **TIM WHITNELL**

Special to *The Champion*

Jim Dawson isn't happy about some of the working conditions and changes being thrust on Halton police officers, and he let a high-ranking official with the provincial government know so.

Appropriately enough, Constable Dawson, president of the Halton Regional Police Association (HRPA), had the final rebuttal to Attorney General Charles Harnick's speech last week at the Police Association of Ontario's 64th annual general meeting, held at the Burlington Holiday Inn.

Const. Dawson, who represents well over 300 officers, the majority of whom are front-line constables, asked the Conservative minister somewhat rhetorically how Halton could be under-served from a policing aspect when the region is so wealthy.

"Police stations have closed here and there are fewer officers despite Halton being one of the richest regions in the province," Const. Dawson told Mr. Harnick before a delegation of several hundred front-line officers and administrative members representing police forces from across the province.

Const. Dawson appeared dis-

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satisfied with Mr. Harnick's general response to his comments. Early in his speech, the attorney general had said, "Because there are no additional dollars to spend on making the system bigger, the solutions we have to find are those that do not require new funding."

"It is not a matter of asking everyone to work harder, it is asking if there is a better way to fight crime without throwing money at the problem."

But funding and front-line policing are directly related, stressed Const. Dawson.

"All we've seen is more (provincial) transfer (payment) cuts. We're directly involved in changes to the staffing formula. We've cut well into the bone."

"The financial imperative is what's driving everything now. We've got to look beyond that and consider the people imperative."

• see CUTS on page 11

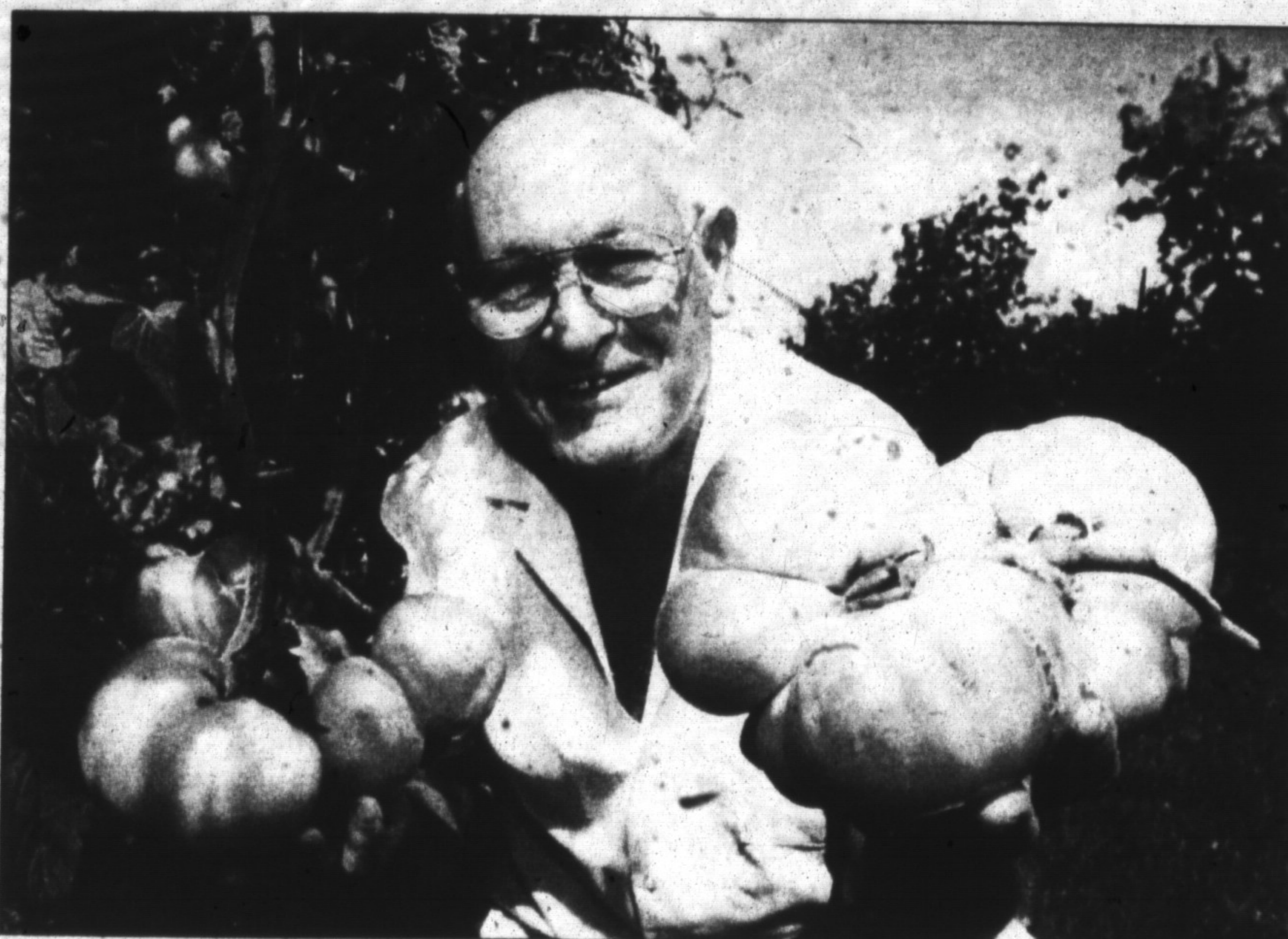


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Killer tomatoes

Pino Nonis grew more than 50 huge yellow tomatoes — some weighing more than 1 kg — at his escarpment garden overlooking Derry Road. He says he prefers yellow tomatoes over red ones because they aren't acidic.

## Scotch Block split on development

By **BRAD REAUME**  
*The Champion*

The planning blueprint for a Milton with 85,000 people was passed by town council Monday night, not without controversy.

"This is an ambitious plan to give us

50,000 more people," said planning director Mel Iovio.

Councillor John Challinor called it "ground breaking" in Halton Region and among other municipalities in Ontario, and added, "It's superior in every way to previous plans."

But several contentious sections of Milton's new municipal official plan will be studied further, or are awaiting decisions in other jurisdictions.

There appears to be a split between groups for and against development in the Scotch Block, an area east of Highway 25 and south of Five Sideroad.

Development had been considered for the area but it was removed from consideration after a June public meeting in which citizens who support Scotch Block remaining rural came out in force.

"We were told that if we had no objection to the proposed plan then we didn't have to do anything," said Scotch Block resident Tom Bhalla. "A number of people took advantage of our absence and changed council's mind. One meeting and a handful of people should not have that kind of influence on council."

However, Councillor John Challinor was unconvinced.

"Yes, we have to react to the residents who live in the area but we also have to look at the hard facts of development," said Mr. Challinor. "Raising the issue is raising false expectations. A lot of hard services would have to go in. It's probably not going to be developed in my lifetime."

Other sections of the new official plan came under scrutiny. Landowners in the

• see OFFICIAL PLAN on page 16

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### Golfers help Leslie

Members of Trafalgar Golf and Country Club raised a whopping \$65,000 for Leslie Wells, a summer employee who is wheelchair bound after a pool accident earlier this summer. The money was raised through a tournament for 280 golfers last weekend, an associated dinner and auction.

"This was initiated by members of the golf club," said general manager Martha Watson, "all in support of one of their employees." She said there is also a trust account for Ms Wells at the Main Street location of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Milton.

Ms Wells was a summer student employee and worked at the club as a waitress. Photos of the tournament appear on page 7.



Tom Gallinger & the staff at Gallinger Motors are pleased to welcome Rick Book to the outstanding staff at Gallinger Motors. As the new Collision Centre Manager, Rick brings with him over 15 years of body shop experience in the Halton area, and is an I-CAR trained professional.

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