

# Town council opts for higher fees for its leisure services

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\$25,000 malpractice insurance — one of the many cuts threatened under the Harris government's omnibus bill, Dr. Suppal had said he would stop delivering babies as of January 1 if the hospital didn't respond to his request.

• Prominent local jiu-jitsu instructor Bob Kranstz was found not guilty of six counts of assault, stemming from allegations by six Maplehurst inmates that the correctional officer assaulted them during a strip search.

## FEBRUARY

• Halton's 1996 budget decisions were put on hold, pending probes

aimed at producing a 2 per cent tax cut. Burlington Councillor Jack Dennison — whose attempt to take a second look at the budget was largely turned aside at the budget review committee meeting — gained support for the measure at the full council meeting. "There is room in the budget for a decrease," said Mr. Dennison.

• Town council accepted increased leisure services user fee rates after hearing how target rates were set and current rates negotiated. Councillors approved the wide-ranging fee schedule and agreed to a mid-year report to establish general guidelines on user fees in all departments. Council also left the door open to possible changes

## 1996 IN REVIEW

in rates. Under the new rates, ice rental costs jumped 2.7 per cent or \$3 per hour, rental of the leisure centre gym rose 9.1 per cent or \$5 an hour while the cost of using a baseball diamond increased 30 per cent or \$6 for children and \$12 for adults. Sport field rentals leapt 48 per cent or an additional \$12 for youths and \$24 for adults.

• An armed man waited until the last minute to make an illegal withdrawal from the Bank of Montreal on Main

Street. A lone male made off with an undisclosed amount of cash in a robbery shortly after 3 p.m. — just prior to closing time. It was Milton's first bank robbery of the year.

• Most of Halton's political leaders voiced their opposition to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Task Force report at a Milton Chamber of Commerce breakfast. The mayors of Burlington, Halton Hills and Milton along with Halton Regional Chair Joyce Savoline and Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh discussed municipal reform and fielded questions from the business community focusing on taxation, governance and local autonomy. "If you have a corporation with

five divisions, like the five regions in the GTA, and four of them are working well and only one is not working, do you wipe out all five divisions?," asked Ms Savoline. "That's what the Golden Report proposes. The report focuses on fixing Metro Toronto. It doesn't work for Halton."

• Conflict of interest talk led to out-and-out conflict at a Halton Board of Education meeting. The controversy reached its peak when Milton trustee Flo Belford blew up at several colleagues before tendering her resignation from a committee. She unleashed a verbal attack on several trustees over allegations played out in the media

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