

More confusion than ever over Tory plans for Halton

• from TORIES on page AF3

organ grinders and monkeys could collect donations. It was unclear if property taxes would still need to be paid. "It will all fall into place," he said, rubbing his hands together. "Everything we've done so far is okay. Right?"

Halton Chair Joyce Savoline expressed her shock at the provincial government's brazen approach. "We weren't even consulted on this," she said. "We don't really care what they do, as long as we know about it first. I wouldn't want to comment further without getting a council direction, but we want to be involved in the process of eliminating ourselves."

Burlington regional Councillor Ralph Scholtens, recently nominated by the Progressive Conservatives to run in Halton for the next federal election, said the move was inevitable.

He added only municipal government will be disbanded and Halton will still fully share in all deficits accumulated by provincial and federal governments.

"Whoa baby, you better believe that," said Mr. Scholtens. "Just because you won't have a government doesn't mean you can avoid paying for it."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz agreed with the legislation but wished it had gone further.

"I rather suspect that you ain't seen nothing yet," said the mayor. "Of course there will be some hardship out there, but it'll all work out in the end."

Asked what else the populace might experience as government backed out of all responsibility, the mayor replied government will likely still be a "pain in the butt."

Municipal officials said bureaucrats will try to get other jobs which require a dogged determina-



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JOYCE SAVOLINE

tion to follow procedure.

"Given their skills they might try to become umpires or referees," one source said.

On the local scene, Milton Councillor Gerry Brooks applauded the move.

"I have always hated spending tax dollars," said Mr. Brooks. "But just as a point of clarification. This means no tax dollars will be spent?"

Outspoken Councillor Marion Howard said her colleagues were a little too sure of themselves and some plan should be in place for unforeseen problems.

"%*#& and \$%#@!," she said, taking great pains to make her point very clear.

Mr. Chudleigh said the provincial government is pushing for a local solution.

"Each local municipality, school boards, police, fire and ambulance services, teacher's federations, hospital boards, rag-tag citizens groups will all likely want to vote on the proposal," he said. "However the government considers any poll non-binding.

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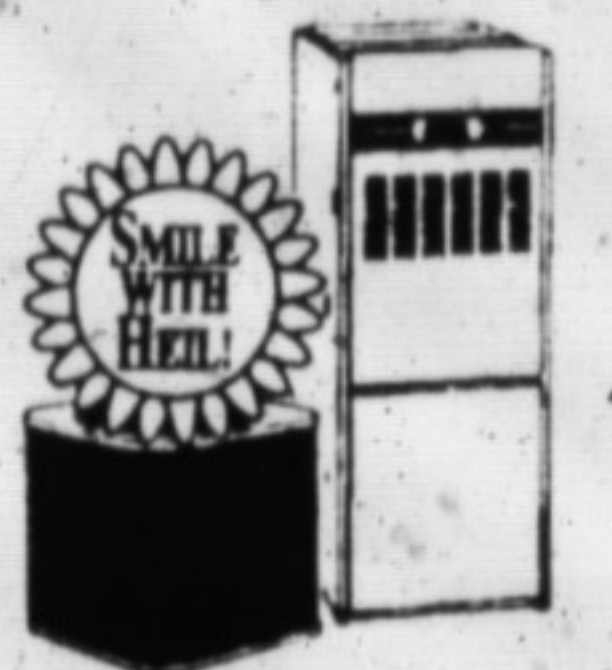
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