



Hamburger helpers

The sale of 200 hamburgers and about 50 hotdogs by a Grade 11 class at Milton District High School added to the hospital expansion fund. Class representatives Eric Chudleigh (left) and Paolo Gayeton handed the cash to Morley Richardson of the expansion fund committee last week.

It's murder on the budget

Halton's unprecedented seven homicides this year have combined with rising gasoline costs to play havoc with the police department's operating budget.

Burlington Councillor Jim Grieve, a member of the Halton Police Commission, mentioned the extra workload created by the murders in defence of substantially increased costs for police "executive cars."

While higher gas prices are the main culprit, he told the administration and finance committee recently, a large number of Halton police officers have been tied up with murder investigations often involving trips to other southern Ontario centres.

"When the perpetrators and victims are from London or Guelph, the costs are significantly more," he said.

"We get results, though.

You'll notice there were three people arrested on one homicide in Guelph Tuesday."

Overspending by the police department was only one factor among dozens examined by the committee last week as treasurer Joe Rinaldo submitted his second in a series of reports on 1985 budget variances.

Mr. Rinaldo told councillors that provincial subsidies for three different Halton agencies and services were far below expected this year.

The grant for Halton Centennial Manor was \$200,000 below the amount requested, for the Children's Aid Society \$140,000 and for general health services \$41,000 lower.

In the hope of alleviating the difference, he said, Regional staff will continue negotiating with officials of the ministries of health and community and social services for the full amounts requested. Staff will also continue restricting "controllable expenditures" and pay close attention to budget variances, Mr. Rinaldo said.

"It really bothers me that you have all these high-priced people sitting around all day negotiating," Oakville Councillor Carol Gooding commented.

Mr. Rinaldo acknowledged that it is "very time-consuming and very frustrating" process, especially for Halton's program supervisors who can't implement new programs until the end of the year because the funding is not yet settled.

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