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**Halton police eyeing \$150,000 software upgrade**

By Ian Holroyd  
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Halton Regional Police (HRP) are looking to upgrade and streamline the way it manages its training records.

According to Deputy Chief Bob Percy, the systems the service is currently using are inefficient and ineffective when it comes to meeting Provincially-legislated standards.

"The bandages are now wearing off and the box is now empty," Percy said. "We need to look for something different."

With this in mind, the HRP board recently approved the execution of a single source contract to purchase talent management system software from British Columbia-based software company, GeoMetrix Data Systems Inc.

However, the upgrade comes at a price. The software is quoted at \$100,000 with an additional cost of \$50,000 to acquire the services of Buchanan Technologies, a Mississauga-based IT consulting firm, to help implement the program.

According to HRP Chief Stephen Tanner, the price tag is well worth it.

"We often talk about the expense of informa-

tion technology and systems and software to support what we do on a daily basis," Tanner explained, "and this has been an area of concern for quite a long period of time."

Under the Police Services Act of Ontario, there are a variety of training courses officers must receive. In addition, police must be able to retain records of all training and be able to make them available to the Ministry of Community Safety in the event of an audit.

In 2003, the HRP began using Microsoft Access, a database management system, to keep track of its service firearms.

In 2010, a second Microsoft Access database was created to track training records and a third was implemented to assist in preparing the annual Use of Force Report.

A HRP board report suggests this system is "no longer suitable for operational needs" and the program it uses is at "end of life."

The report states the prospect of data corruption and lack of application dependability puts the department at risk of non-compliance with regulatory guidelines. It also recommends a "comprehensive and integrated approach to the management of training records."

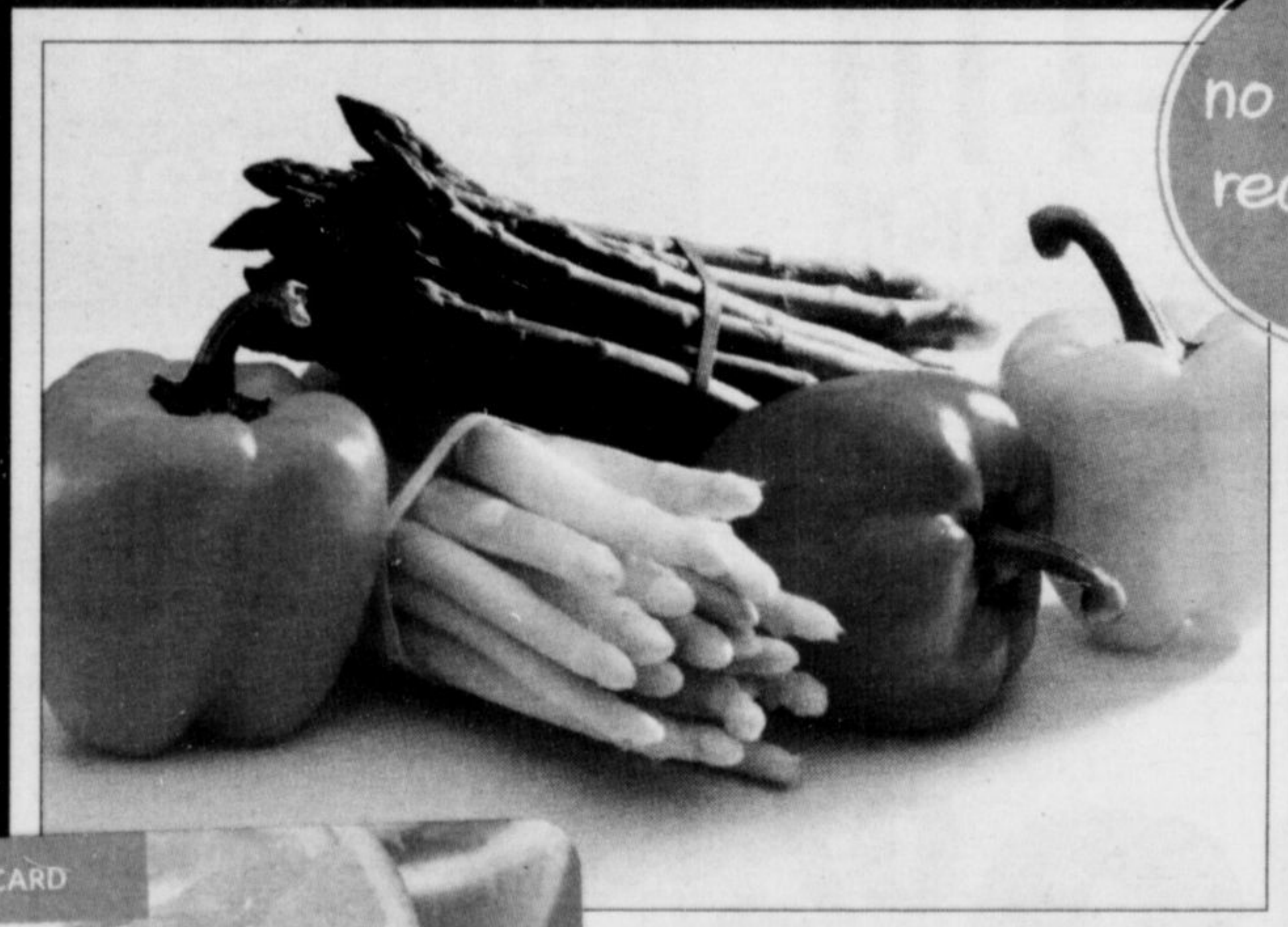
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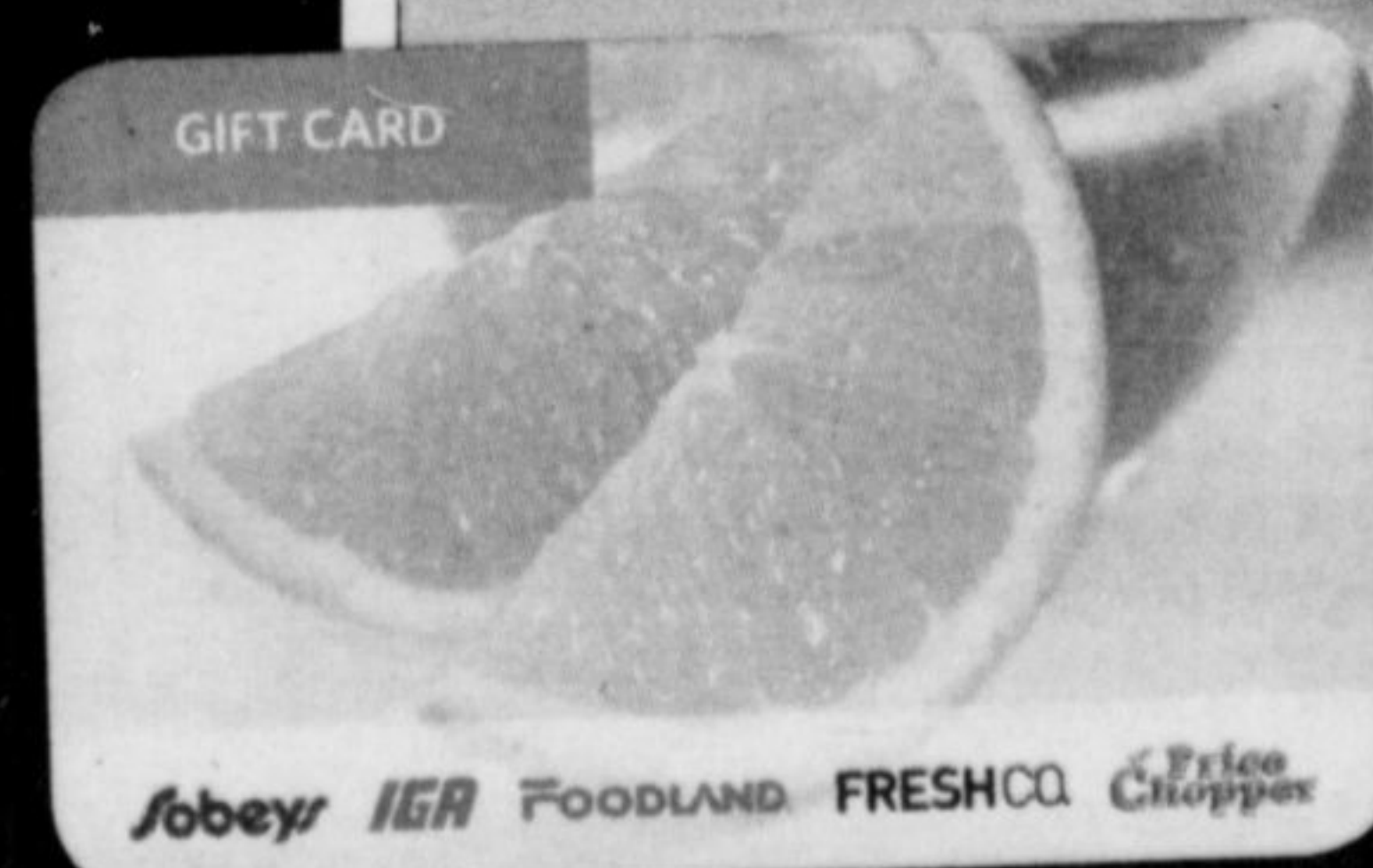
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