

Numbers confuse some

Students today are so barraged with calculating machines and print-out answers, they may have problems knowing what a correct answer should be before it comes spinning off a machine.

Brendan Kelly, Halton Board of Education mathematics co-ordinator, said results from the second international mathematics study showed that estimation is poorly done internationally. The studies showed a poor ability

of the part of students to know what kind of approximate answer they should expect before hitting a keyboard.

Mr. Kelly describes this as "number sense" or an ability to know what to expect as a correct answer.

Training for this skill should start at the Grade 1 level he said. Children might be shown a picture with a certain number of items, then the picture should be withdrawn from the children and then questioned as to how many items were in the picture.

In the past, he said, people were trained to value their own precision in mathematics. However, with machines taking over the precision, people will be called on for more mathematics judgement to ride herd on machines.

People often feel that math is a step-by-step process to arrive at the precise answer instead of "thinking in common sense," he said. The calculator now puts the math student in a position more remote from the number, he said.

Students must be able to round off numbers and today's demands on science require manipulation of enormously large numbers.

Some candidates saved

Otto Jelinek was a winner in more ways than one in the Sept. 4 federal election.

Not only did he get re-elected to Parliament and get a Cabinet post to boot, but recently released campaign expense figures show the Halton MP actually made money with his win.

The returns show he received \$41,480.32 from 394 individuals and companies. Expenses were \$36,156.73 for a net balance of \$5,323.59. In addition to that, regulations in the Elections Act allow a candidate receiving 15 per cent or more of the popular vote to recover 50 per cent of election expenses, and that would amount to about \$18,000 in addition to the \$5,323.59.

In the NDP camp, Kevin Flynn will be getting 50 per cent of his campaign expenses back. He also was able to make money gaining about \$3,000 more than the \$10,082 spent

on the campaign.

The fiscal state of the Liberal campaign is much more gloomy.

Halton Liberal candidate Oriana Currie spent \$42,508.50 - by far the largest amount of any Halton candidate - and just under the legal limit for Halton of \$43,386.91.

Contributions to the Currie campaign were shown as \$20,686.28 which is less than half the total expenses.

Campaign manager Al Wilson said his group will probably break even because they will be able to recover 50 per cent of expenses through the Elections Act. The Liberals also received more than 15 per cent of the popular vote.

And while he won't get any of his expenses back, Green Party Candidate Chris Kowalchuk came out something of a winner spending \$546.87 of the \$555.21 he received

Tower named after OUT spirit Austin

Continued from page A1

It is thought measurements from the tower should take about a year so the winds in the four seasons can be sampled. The tower is expected to be named after Chris Austin who died suddenly at Christmas. Mr. Austin was the driving force behind the foundation of Omagh United Taxpayers (OUT) a group similar to MEAG.

Mr. DeMille said a study like the one being commenced by MEAG usually costs \$100,000 or more to conduct.

MEAG is only able to undertake such a venture because some of its members have volunteered their time, their training and their expertise to the project.

Dr. Anton Davies, an air quality engineer, has recruited a highly qualified team to do

this work for us at no charge.

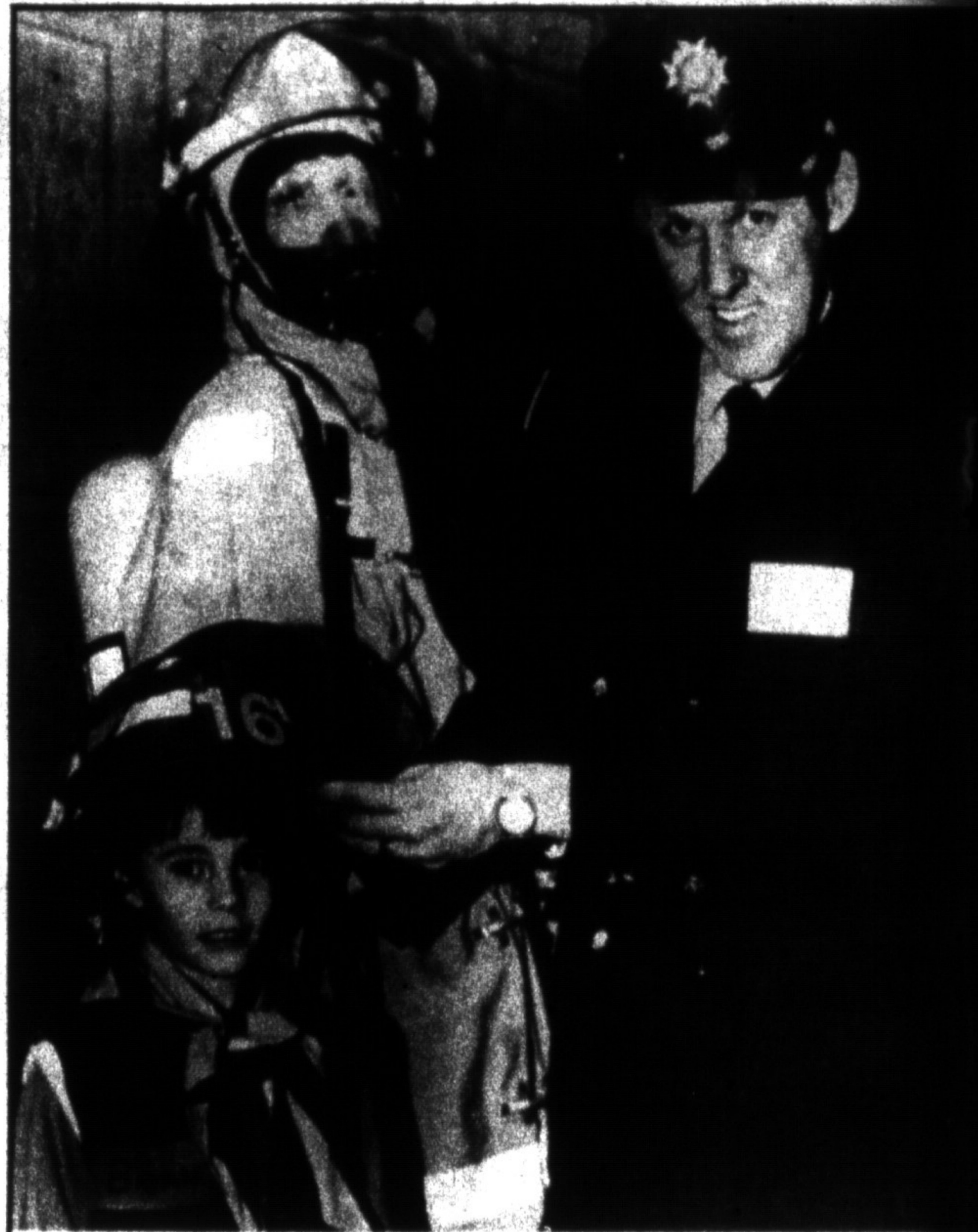
"Our only costs will be out-of-pocket expenses such as the cost of the tower and the erection, the instrumentation, and the insurance."

Mr. DeMille said the OWMC has concentrated on clay as its criteria for the selection of a site. But they have not done any air quality testing.

While it is possible to understand their claim that

clay is necessary to protect ground water from accidental contamination, we know for sure that our air is going to be contaminated by emission from the incinerator.

"Wouldn't we be protected from the certainty of air contamination at least as much as the OWMC claim they are protecting us from possible, just possible, ground water contamination?"



Government Opens Up

Last week was Local Government Week in Ontario and last Wednesday night town doors were opened so residents could come out and meet the councillors and staff of town and find out how these people do their jobs. Here firefighter Murray McCormick shows 12-year-old Bryan McLean how fire equipment is used.

Milton Springer's seek "royalty" for Winter Carnival

Milton Springer's Gymnastic Club in co-operation with the Milton Winter Carnival are seeking two youngsters to act as Prince and Princess of the Milton Winter Carnival.

Children between the ages of five and seven must be nominated by their parents to participate in the contest. The winner will participate in carnival events which begin Feb. 8, 1985.

Nominations are being accepted until Feb. 6, 1985.

By **MONIQUE McCANN** AT **878-3385**

After 6 pm

Judging will take place at the Milton Springer's Gymnastic Club.

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