

# Child restraint saved baby in serious crash

Being thrown against the windshield, dashboard or steering wheel of your car when it hits a solid object at only 50 kph is equivalent to falling off the top of a three storey building.

"The force of the human collision is as great as 100 times the force of gravity (on your body)," says Const. Scott Mason of the Halton Regional Police. He then points out that the speed

limit on most town and city streets is 50 kph, and it seems relatively slow when compared with highway speeds.

That's probably why a lot of people are under the false impression seatbelts aren't that important when they're just driving across town, or to the corner store.

But the above analogy, coupled with the fact that a high number of traffic

accidents happen close to home, shows how such thinking is really just tempting fate.

Last year Halton tied a record high for the number of fatal traffic accidents in the region, and police say a little more than half, or nine, of the 17 deaths not involving motorcyclists and pedestrians may have been prevented if the victim had been wearing a

seatbelt.

The same holds true in Halton Hills. There were four traffic deaths in this area investigated by Halton Regional Police, and two of them may have been prevented with the use of a seatbelt. Nineteen-year-old Phil Miller of Georgetown was killed Oct. 1 in a single-car collision on the Fourth Line near 17 Sideroad, and 25-year-old John

Camara of Brampton was killed in a single-car accident Aug. 15 on Five Sideroad near Winston Churchill Blvd.

In both cases, the two drivers were killed after being ejected from their cars. And in both cases the passengers in the two cars were wearing their seatbelts and they were not seriously injured.

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# Week End

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# Board eyeing \$233 million budget

## News briefs

### Land shuffle

In a rather unique land shuffle, an abandoned Ontario Hydro right-of-way backing onto homes on Chelvin Dr. will be deeded by Halton Hills Hydro to the Town and then divided amongst abutting private property owners. To expedite the transfer of "landlocked" property to neighboring homeowners, the Town will re-deed the right-of-way as a single block of land instead of having 35 separate severance applications. Four pieces of property along Flamingo Ct. and Rexway Dr. will, however, be sold to developers as building lots.

### Sheared beaver stolen

A sheared beaver fur coat was stolen from Acton's olde Hide House at about 4.30 p.m. Wednesday, according to police. The coat is described as cinnamon, medium brown with fox trim and is a short evening jacket worth about \$1,400. Police are investigating.

### Albert St. break-in

An Albert St., Georgetown home was broken into sometime between noon and 5 p.m. Tuesday, police report. Entry was gained through a rear door with may have been left unlocked, according to police. A VCR worth about \$700 is missing.

### Medical assist

The fire dept. responded to an Acton home Wednesday morning to assist an elderly lady who had difficulty breathing. The fire fighters remained at the McDonald Blvd. home until an ambulance arrived to transport the 77-year-old to hospital.



Photo by Ted Brown

## They're all heart

Work That Body owner Laurie Burns leads a group of women as they exercise for pledges, with donations going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The women worked their

bodies for the charity Wednesday morning while another group exercised that evening.

By ANGELA BLACKBURN

The Halton Board of Education is looking at an 8.2 per cent hike in its 1989 operating budget.

That means the \$223.2 million budget is \$17 million more than the board spent last year. And since the board overspent last year's budget by \$2 million, it's \$19 million more than the 1988 budget of \$204 million.

"In the Board of Education, unless you make long range plans it's hard to decrease the budget. I know you've heard it all before but I'll say it again," board business superintendent Jerry Jenkins told trustees at their first finance committee budget meeting Monday night.

Jenkins told trustees that 77 per cent of the total operating budget is devoted to salaries and benefits. Those salaries and benefits will chew up \$170 million of the \$233 million in 1989—an increase of \$13 million over last year.

The 1989 preliminary budget began with an 8.5 per cent increase. Board staff eliminated \$200,000 to realize an 8.4 per cent increase.

Then trustees set to work Monday and went through an itemized list of 17 possible reductions. After much debate they finally agreed to all the reductions and chopped \$447,000 more out of the budget to bring the increase down to 8.2 per cent.

But that's just the operating budget—salaries, benefits, transportation, debt charges, supplies and services, tuition fees and capital requirements.

Next Monday finance committee trustees will take a look at what new initiatives, which they've already approved in principal subject to the budget, might be cut for more savings.

Highlighting those new initiatives are: a planning assistant; transportation assistant; first aid instruction; outdoor education; a Special Services review; Perdue's integration committee; a learning centre for the south; crisis intervention; equipment for visually impaired; library funding; clerical staff and drug, health and safety curriculum updates.

Among the items cut this week were program funding for teachers to promote gender equity; leadership courses for principals and vice-principals; a junior repair technician and video clerk; additional media equipment; a professional library; athletic events teacher coverage; computer equipment for field testing computer programs; funding for the supply of computer and furniture to education rooms in local hospitals; an extra travelling computer lab; and increased security measures for schools.

Burlington trustee Noel Cooper suggested the cuts—totalling \$447,000—be approved immediately, but the committee chairman, Burlington trustee Dave Coons, called that "crass" and

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HALTON HILLS

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