

# Communities need to design their own future, MPP says



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MPP  
Halton North  
Liberal

The holiday season at the end of one year and the beginning of the next year is a good time to examine the achievements of the past year and the goals for the next. I would like to take the next few weeks to talk about 1989 in Halton North and to examine, as best as possible, the future.

When I was elected a little over two years ago, I wanted to represent Halton Hills and Milton because they were communities with which I had a great deal in common. Small towns like Acton and Campbellville reminded me of Chelsey where I had grown up. The sense of togetherness illustrated by the riding's strong volunteer sector indicated a "real" community. More than this, however, I was attracted to an area that was attempting to cope with an increasingly urban society in a way that would preserve the best aspects of a rural community.

I firmly believe that each community in Ontario should work out its own future as much as is practical for itself. Obviously, provincial highways and such things as environmental laws must be centrally planned because they affect everyone. Telling Acton, Thunder Bay and Barrie that they must

have the same laws about Sunday shopping or hunting simply "flies in the face" of the fact that each community is different and has local ideas and needs which must be respected. We are fortunate in Halton North to have Regional and local governments that are attempting to meet the challenges of increased growth and the problems created by Ontario's wealth through controlled development of housing, business and industry. It is the Ontario government's job to act in partnership with these governments to see that local needs are met without destroying local communities.

When I was first elected some areas of the social services were not as well supported in the riding as was necessary. While the Government has not provided everything that has been requested, I am proud of my government's record in this area in Halton North. The North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped has received capital and program funds during the last two years which have allowed for significant improvements into their service. Recently, the Halton Work Program was notified that it would receive funds to allow it to expand its services to Acton.

Other groups as diverse as the Halton Children's Aid Society, Milton Community and Information Services and the Halton Literacy program received help for special projects. In March of this year, it was confirmed that the Milton Rotary sponsored Milton Community Homes project would be built. This project, which will provide housing for needy families in Halton, is an excellent example

of federal, provincial and municipal co-operation being spearheaded by a local volunteer group.

The Provincial New Ventures Program is designed to aid new entrepreneurs. Special low cost loans have been provided to new small businesses which have had enough faith in their ideas to put up matching money to their own. The past two years have seen over 50 new business in Halton Hills and Milton. These ranged from drapery shops to cafes and a pest control agency. If the north of Halton Region is to be more than a bedroom community for Toronto then this type of activity is going to need more help and constant attention.

This week I talked about special grants which the government has provided to expand services and accommodate special services. This type of help is not the major example of the provincial government's impact on services in the riding. Each year the province returns millions of your tax dollars to the riding as transfer payments to the municipal governments and school boards. As well provincial projects which directly affect the riding must be funded. In my next Queen's Park Report, I would like to talk about this part of the relationship between Halton North and the provincial government.



## New Brownies

The 1st Limehouse Brownies had their enrolment in November. New Brownies are Ashleigh Paine, Kimberly Loxtor, Teri McCasin, Crystal French, Michelle Bronizewski, Eleanor Brooks and Gillian Berry.

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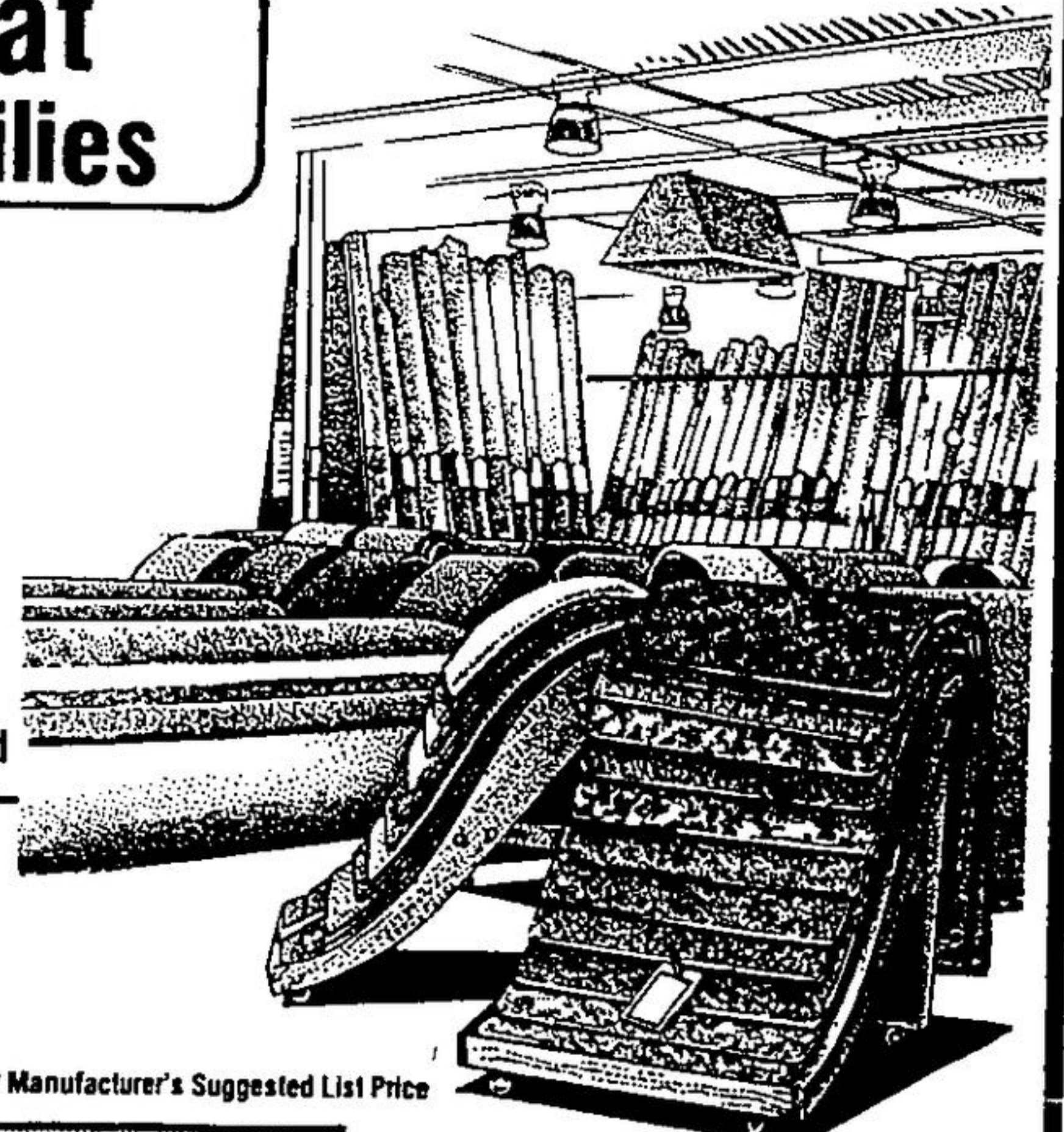
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