

Sharp increase in building permits issued

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald

Halton Hills experienced an increase of more than 100 per cent in building activity in 1989 over the previous year - the largest jump in Halton Region, according to a Regional report on construction.

Oakville had the second largest percentage increase in building activity among the Region's four municipalities after construction jumped by 14.2 per cent in 1989.

Just over \$88 million worth of building permits were issued for construction in Halton Hills last year, the report says. And the Region's executive director for business development Brent Kearsé expects future increases in construction in Halton Hills, saying the town has "madly been trying to get development off the ground (in Georgetown and Acton)".

The greatest increase in construction in the town happened in the institutional sector - the building of schools and government buildings - which jumped by 334 per cent last year. The growth is attributed to the new civic centre, said Mr. Kearsé, the author of the report.

The next two largest percentage increases were in the miscellaneous and residential sectors, he said. Miscellaneous construction, such as the building of additions or renovations, increased by 297.8 per cent. And the town issued \$80.4 million worth of house building permits in 1989, an increase of just over 146 per cent over 1988. Residential building permits accounted by far for the greatest number of building permits issued in Halton Hills last year. Mr. Kearsé attributed the

large number of residential building permits to the housing developments in Georgetown west



Brent Kearsé

and Georgetown south.

From a business point of view, meaning the number of jobs created by one form of building over another, the Region ranks the industrial and commercial sector number one, the institutional sector ranks number two, the residential number three and miscellaneous number four, said Kearsé.

Mr. Kearsé said the development firm, Enterac - that firm behind the major leasing developments in Halton Hills has plans to add to Georgetown's industrial and commercial sectors in the coming years and the Canada Packers, owners of the Beardmore lands, same in Acton in the future.

Construction in the industrial sector increased by 73.4 per cent

last year. About \$1.7 million worth of industrial sector permits were issued in 1989.

The commercial sector was the only one of the four sectors in Halton Hills to drop in construction activity between 1988 and 1989. It decreased by just over 30 per cent.

The growth of overall construction in Halton Hills last year reflects that of the Region which grew by 10.7 per cent in 1989.

A total of \$838.1 million worth of building permits were issued in Halton in 1989.

Although the provincial economy isn't expected to be as healthy in 1990 as it was last year, "Halton's excellent location advantage should buffer it from any economic downturn," said Mr. Kearsé. People will always want to move into the Golden Horseshoe area, he said.

Milton was the only municipality in the Region to experience a decrease in overall construction in 1989. It dropped by 36.8 per cent last year, the report says.

Only homebuilding in Milton increased last year. Just over \$25.9 million worth of residential permits were issued an increase of 7.6 per cent.

Construction activity in Milton in all other sectors last year fell mainly because servicing constraints (water) limited development, said Mr. Kearsé.

Burlington and Oakville experienced increases in overall construction in 1989 and 3.2 per cent and 14.2 per cent respectively.

Burlington's commercial sector had the largest increase - 182.1 per cent - of any of the other municipalities' commercial sectors. And Oakville experienced the largest percentage increase - 135.8 per cent - in the industrial sector.

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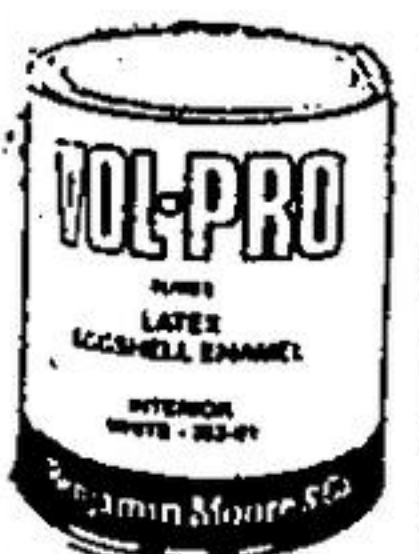
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