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Milton expansion could affect Halton Hills

By BEN DUMMETT
 The Herald

The planned expansion of Milton could result in Halton Hills growing beyond its capacity of 60,000 people.

Halton Regional Planning and Public Works Committee recommended Wednesday a \$2.97 million study be commissioned to determine if Milton's existing stream and well-based servicing system could be expanded temporarily to accommodate further growth in Milton.

The recommendation will go before Regional Council this Wednesday for final approval.

Any temporary expansion of Milton's existing water services would be accompanied by additional water being supplied to Milton by a pipe from Lake Ontario, said Halton's Director of Policy Research, Ho Wong, following the meeting.

Mr. Wong said once the pipe is extended to Milton, which could happen within 10 to 15 years, the open space in Halton Hills bordering Milton just north of Hwy. 401 could be transformed into an industrial park with full urban services.

Mr. Wong said the servicing needed to support an industrial park in this area could be in place

five years after the pipe is extended to Milton.

The possibility of growth in Halton Hills, however, doesn't stop here.

Existing water and sewage services in Halton Hills means urban areas of Georgetown and Acton now have the potential to grow from the current total population of approximately 33,000 people to 60,000 people. But if the pipe was extended to Milton it wouldn't be unrealistic for future councils to extend the pipe northward permitting Halton Hills to grow beyond its current capacity, said Mr. Wong.

He stressed however, that would be a political decision that won't need to be made for at least 20 years.

Using his crystal ball to look 50 to 100 years into the future, Mr. Wong said there is speculation, especially at the provincial level that Acton and Georgetown may have no choice but to accept the pipe being extended to this area.

Mr. Wong explained provincial studies show at some point, the global warming effect could dry up Halton Hills' existing water supply. If that happens, Halton Hills would need the pipe just to provide water to the existing community, he said.

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Symphony Orchestra summer home put on hold

By BEN DUMMETT
 The Herald

It will be a long time if every, before the sounds of Mozart or Bach fill the summer air over Scotsdale Farm located near Ballinafad.

A decision on whether Scotsdale Farm will be shortlisted as one of six locations to be considered as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's summer home has been delayed more than six months, confirmed TSO Summer Home Project Manager Marion Hart Tuesday.

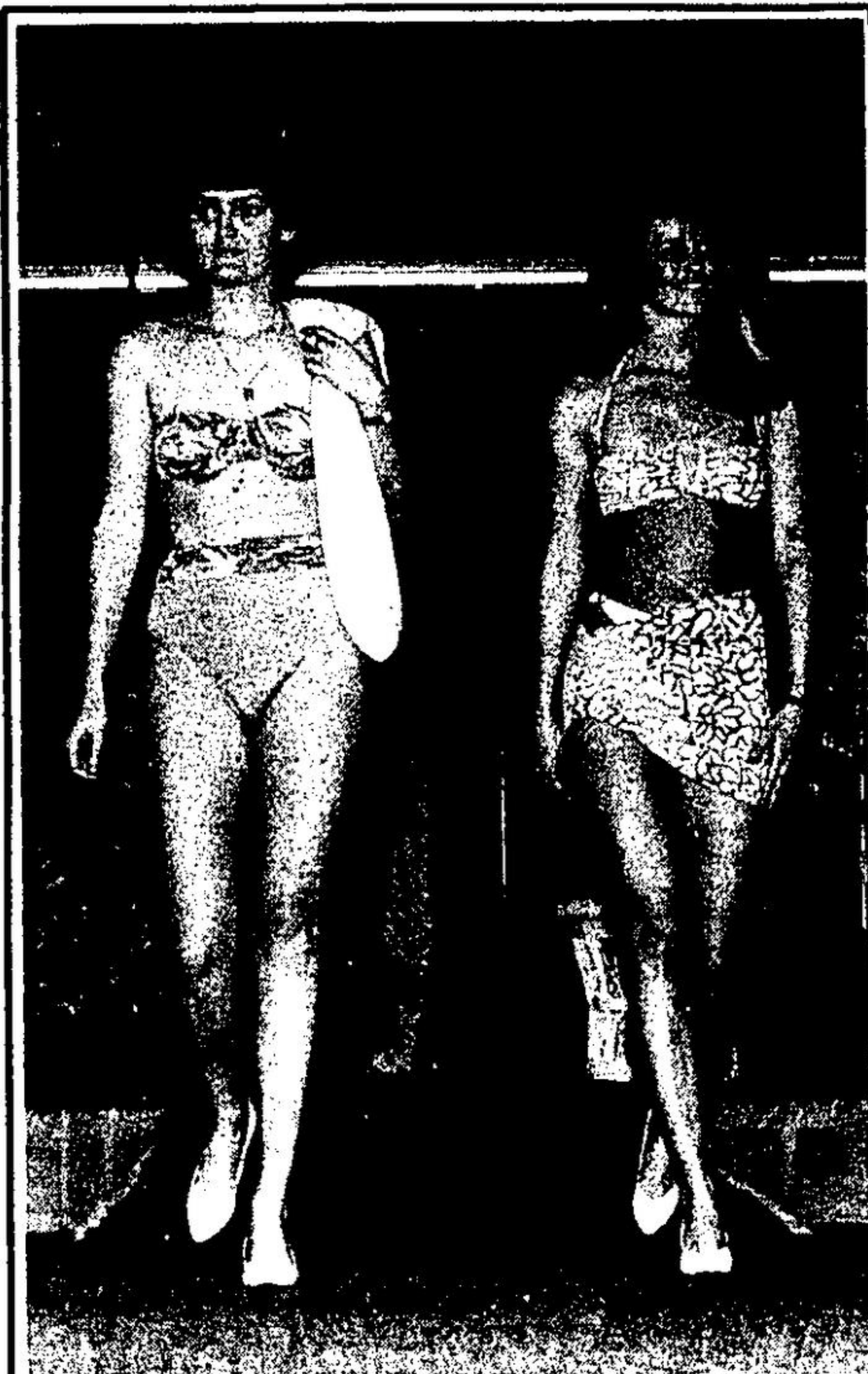
The TSO was to have whittled down the original 17 possible locations to a shortlist by this past September. The Orchestra

administration decided to put the entire project on hold recently for six months, explained Ms. Hart.

The delay is due to "tough economic times," she commented. The TSO plans to reassess the project after another six months, said Ms. Hart. She wouldn't speculate if the project's shelving would be considered during the reassessment.

Toronto-based consultants Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan Limited were hired last summer to conduct a market study to determine which six sites of the 17 would consistently draw the most people. The consultants were to have made recommenda-

Continued on Page 2



Spring fashion show

The Acton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society was the beneficiary of funds raised at the Spring Fling fashion show staged Tuesday evening at Acton Legion. Elizabeth's Fashions, Bridal Boutique, and Victoria Lane Children's Wear presented the spring and summer ladies and childrens fashions to a very enthusiastic and appreciative audience. In the picture above, Sylvia (left) and Bonnie model hot items in this year's swim wear. More pictures on Page 9. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

OMB hearing proposed

Halton Region Planning and Public Works Committee recommended Wednesday that an application to build a mixed commercial and residential complex at Acton Boulevard and Queen Street in Acton be referred to an Ontario Municipal Board Hearing.

The recommendation will go before Regional Council this Wednesday for final approval.

According to a Regional staff report, the referral is being done on behalf of residents neighboring the property who object to the application.

The development application calls for a commercial space of 4,000 square feet to be built on the ground floor with three or four apartments on the second floor. The property is the former site of the Canadiana Restaurant, the report states.

Halton Planner Rash Mohammed, the report's author, explains the residents' concerns centre on the construction of second floor apartments. Those concerns include increased density, traffic and a devaluation of surrounding properties if the application is approved, said Mr. Mohammed. As well the residents also argue the existing parking facilities are inadequate

to accommodate the increased number of cars and trucks traffic that would result if the complex is built, he commented.

According to the Halton Hills Official Plan, the property is currently designated Highway commercial which means construction could only happen if the official plan was amended and there was a zoning change.

Mr. Mohammed said Halton Hills planning staff have indicated the development proposal would have no adverse impact on the surrounding area. In fact, the local planning staff says the project would help rejuvenate the area, according to Mr. Mohammed's report.

He indicates the Regional planning staff's only concern is the availability of water and sewage facilities to service the development. However, the Region is obligated to refer development applications to the OMB upon request as long as the request isn't deemed "frivolous or vexatious or is made only for the purpose of delay."

Although the Region doesn't object to the development proposal, Mr. Mohammed said he doesn't believe the residents request for an OMB hearing is either frivolous, vexatious or a stall tactic.

Development charges back on agenda

If you thought changes to the Region's development charges had been finalized, think again.

According to a Regional staff report released Wednesday, staff is recommending Halton charge developers \$1.10 per square foot for non-residential buildings.

Halton charges developers a fee for non-residential construction to help pay for services such as roads and sewage systems that need to accompany any new development project.

Developers are currently charged 85 cents per square foot for commercial and industrial buildings. If the fee is increased as recommended, the collected fee from developers would cover 39 per cent of the cost to pay for accompanying services. The remaining 61 per cent of the cost for servicing would be collected through the general tax rate, the report's author and Halton Treasurer, Joe Rinaldo, said.

Earlier this year, Regional staff recommended the development charge be increased to \$2.80 per square foot. Local developers balked saying the increase would drive them out of the Region.

If approval was given for the fee to increase to \$2.80 a square foot, then no general tax money would be required to help finance projects accompanying development projects, explained Mr. Rinaldo.

The most recent recommended development charge increase comes after a variety of other options were considered, including keeping the charge at 85 cents per square foot for at least two years.

The \$1.10 per square foot recommendation will be presented during a public meeting Tuesday at the Region's administration building in Oakville, April 2 starting at 9:30 a.m.



Education budget approved

Halton Board of Education trustees approved the 1991 budget of \$274,388,635, an increase of \$20 million over 1990 expenditures, at a special meeting Wednesday night.

Local education taxes are expected to increase by 8.55 mills or \$56 on a residence with an assessed value of \$6,500 bringing the total education tax bill to \$1,164.

See next Wednesday's Herald for full details on the budget.

Prizes galore available at "Lifestyles" show

While at the "Lifestyles of Halton Hills" show April 6 at Georgetown and District High School, one of the many activities to participate in is the Health Safari.

By participating in this fun competition visitors will have the opportunity to win one of many prizes.

A grand prize that is a package of family recreation activities that includes membership passes to conservation areas, passes to use Halton Hills pools and a \$50.00 recreation program activity certificate will be awarded. There will be hourly Blue Jay tickets, Argo tickets, Georgetown Globe Productions tickets, cook books, certificates to dine out, sportswear, sporting goods and more.

As visitors enter the high school they will be asked if they want to participate in the Health Safari. Participants will be given a "guide" to the Safari that instructs them to visit various locations in the school and answer questions from displays or get involved in demonstrations. After meandering around the school and completing the Health Safari, participants can deposit their "guide" in the draw box at reception and wait with great anticipation to hear their name called as a prize winner.

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