

Unique housing proposal under review

An idea jointly proposed two years ago by Mayor Russ Miller and a local businessman to provide affordable housing in Halton Hills has not yet been forgotten.

Miller and local real estate businessman Phil Carney drafted a unique proposal to put houses on the market for under \$100,000.

A brief was prepared and submitted to then Minister of Housing, Chaviva Hosek. It has since been filed for review by the current minister, John Sweeney.

"The proposal hasn't gone

anywhere, really. I wrote to Sweeney and he said he was going to take a look at the proposal," Miller told this newspaper. "It's not really dead, but it needs revising and some variations. Hopefully we can sit down and discuss it with him soon. We're asking if the Province can't say yes, then let's look at something else."

The idea is to construct homes that are roughly 1,000 to 1,200 sq. ft. in size, somewhat along the lines of those built during and after World War Two, commonly referred to as

"wartime houses."

The concept also includes the possibility of an innovative condominium-type ownership. The Town may also supply piped water and the homes would be serviced by individual or communal septic tanks and tile drainage systems.

"I've not given up, and I'm still working on it," Miller said, although Carney has bowed out of the negotiations because "he's tired of banging his head against the wall," he added.

Although the cost of housing has

skyrocketed since the original proposal, Miller seemed confident these homes could still be sold for around \$110,000. The idea is to provide them for the lower to mid-income families.

"If we get a willing land owner with some money, a willing government who says yes and will cut through the red tape, and a willing municipality, it can be done," Miller said. "It's got to be a joint project with the Province, but sometimes I have to question how serious the Province actually is about affor-

dable housing."

A location has tentatively been found for these affordable homes, but the mayor refused to say exactly where, except that it is in the rural area.

An important part of the plan is the avoidance of speculation by including a condition that buyers must sign an agreement to sell only at the inflation rate for the time of residence.

The homes may also be limited to first-time buyers only, but these details are still to be worked out.

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Gas station robbed by armed man

Halton Regional Police are continuing their investigation of an armed robbery at the Silvercreek Shell Station Tuesday.

At about 8:40 p.m., a lone male suspect carrying what police believe was a handgun entered the service station at Trafalgar Rd. N., and Hwy 7.

Once the culprit was inside, the attendant handed over an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect then fled the scene, a police spokesman said. There were no injuries.

The suspect is described as a white male, with a slim build. He is believed to be about 30-years-old with a bushy moustache. At the time of the incident he was unshaven wearing dark clothing, dark glasses and hat.

Paint scratched

About \$500 damage was done when an unknown culprit used a sharp instrument to scratch the door of a car parked at a Queen St., Acton residence sometime over the weekend.

Shoplifter caught

A 49-year-old Brampton resident has been charged with theft after someone tried to leave the olde Hide House without paying for a \$450 leather jacket Saturday.

Inside

Halton's first treatment centre for women addicts opens. Page 2.

Premier looks for that Halton horse of a different color. Page 3.

Why the big education bash? our education writer asks. See Page 4.

Cancun the feature vacation place on the Travel Page 9.

Sean Connery mesmerizes in The Hunt for Red October, David Giammarco says. Page 7.

Kevin Callan's ferret has cancer. See story on Page 12.

Teeth bared in Milton fluoride fight

By PAUL DORSEY

Halton Region officials were warned Wednesday they're in for a fight if they try again to impose water fluoridation on Milton residents.

Recent research has given new life to the old debate: preliminary laboratory findings by U.S. researchers has suggested a link between fluoride and cancer.

Preliminary or not, the discovery's announcement in the national news media has rekindled an emotional 30-year old debate, and Milton Councillor Bill Johnson this week helped give it the same "pro-choice" angle found in the abortion controversy.

Johnson quoted Milton Mayor Gord Krantz as saying earlier that fluoridation means "you die young, but with a beautiful set of teeth."

Dr. Graham Pollett, the Region's Medical Officer of Health, must contend with strong public opposition — affirmed by a 1,284-456 vote in a 1971 referendum — if he wants to do something about Milton's poor dental grades.

According to a 1988 survey, only 50 per cent of five-year old children in Milton have never experienced dental problems, compared to a provincial average of 68 per cent.

Elsewhere in Halton, where municipal water supplies are dosed with fluoride, Acton has the best dental showing: 78 per cent of its five-year olds are problem-free. Burlington stands at 75 per cent, Oakville at 73 per cent and Georgetown at 69 per cent.

The same survey found that seven- and 11-year olds in Acton and Georgetown are at greatest risk of having dental problems among Halton children, but Pollett has recommended no action to counter the trend, focusing instead on the relatively more serious problem facing Milton five-year olds.

Pollett says the sooner kids get fluoride — even in the womb if possible — the better their teeth will be. Fluoridating the municipal water supply is the best way to ensure they get it.

But "nined out of ten" people who have phoned Mayor Krantz since the Region's renewed intention was announced two weeks ago

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Halton Hills Citizen of the Year Jessie Hayes is congratulated by Halton North MPP Walt Elliot at a dinner held at the Lion's Club in Georgetown Tuesday. "Jessie is an excellent representative of the people that quietly go about doing what they do year after year," Elliot said during the ceremony honoring.

SCOTT KLINE/Independent/Free Press

11 hurt in two vehicle crash

Eleven people — 10 from Georgetown — were hurt Wednesday when an Arc Industries mini-bus and a Chevrolet Blazer collided at the intersection of James Snow Pkwy. and Main St. in Milton.

According to police, the Blazer was travelling south on James Snow Pkwy. and collided with the eastbound 16 passenger mini-bus.

"The resulting collision caused the mini-bus to overturn, trapping several of the occupants," the spokesman said.

Firefighters struggled to free the nine passengers and the driver of the mini-bus.

All of the bus passengers — who ranged in age from 27 to 65 — are Georgetown residents and all but

the driver were treated and released from Milton District Hospital. Lindsay Harnett, 35, also of Georgetown, is listed in stable condition at the hospital.

The driver of the Blazer, 26-year-old Thomas Jarman of Jerseyville, Ontario, was uninjured.

The investigation into the cause of the accident continues.