

Mayor optimistic about Town's future -- despite recession

By STUART JOHNSTON
Despite the poor condition of today's economy, there are plenty of development proposals in the books to keep Halton Hills going strong, Mayor Russ Miller said during the fourth annual Mayor's Luncheon Wednesday.

"I know that sometimes it seems that we're not going to get any development happening in Halton Hills, but hopefully we'll see good, orderly development in Town in the near future," he said.

The annual luncheon, a Cham-

ber of Commerce-sponsored event, was held at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

During his speech to the modest crowd, the mayor acknowledged that Town revenues are down because of the slump in the building industry, but noted there are many applications ready to begin.

Using maps of Georgetown and Acton as a guide, Miller pointed out areas across the municipality are waiting to be developed.

Although quite a few developments are on hold because of water

and sewage restrictions, Miller said he expects many of the problems to be resolved within the next several months, "if all goes well."

"A year ago, the vision was that we would see Halton Hills develop (quickly) to a population of 60,000 people, but since then, we've had water and environmental concerns," he added.

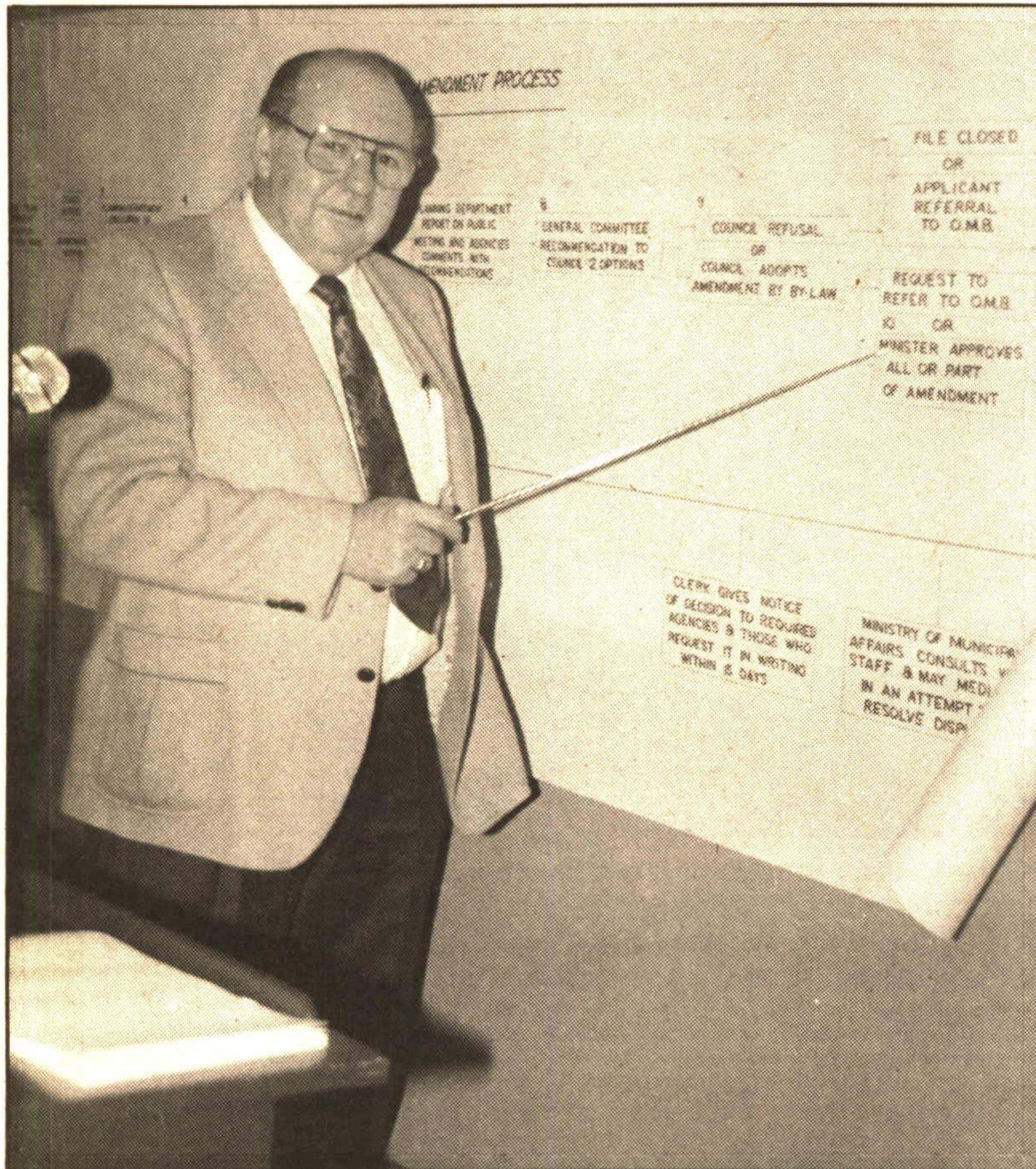
Miller noted that Test Wells 15 and 21 are undergoing pumping tests, which will, when completed, substantially increase the development capacity of Georgetown.

In addition, the proposed underground reservoir to be located at the southwest corner of 22 Sdrd. and Trafalgar Rd. will go a long way towards solving Georgetown's water problems, he added.

"That's an important part of our water distribution system — it should put the pressure up enough to meet the demands of our water consumption as well as the needs of our fire department," he said.

"Hopefully, that will be built in 1991."

He added that the Town may "ask developers to pay lot levies upfront" in order to have enough money to bring the new water systems on line.



Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller briefly ran through the planning process as part of his speech during the fourth annual Mayor's Luncheon, held at the North Halton Golf and Country Club Wednesday afternoon.

When asked how much developers pay in terms of studies in order to get their applications approved, Miller replied that "there's really no way to get a handle on the figure."

"It varies from application to application, but I know it's not cheap," he said. "There are so many studies that we require — \$100,000 can be eaten up very fast...It's one thing I never got involved in. The only times we hear about the costs are usually when the developer says he can't go on any longer because of the expense."

"I know Enterac (now Halton Hills Development Corporation) put millions of dollars into their development (in Georgetown South). There's all sorts of components that must be met — policing, conservation and the environment. It's very costly."

A good example, Miller says, is the Region's proposal to twin a sewage pipe through the Silver Creek Valley. Now on hold until consultants complete their studies, it may have to go through an Environmental Assessment. If that happens, the costs of the project will skyrocket.

"If the valley goes under an ESA -- I don't even want to guess -- but it will probably be at least a million dollars without even thinking about it," he said.

Rural resident chases burglars from home

An Eighth Line, Halton Hills resident chased Wednesday burglars from his home Wednesday afternoon.

According to police, the victim was at home sleeping at about 2:10 p.m. when he was awakened by the door bell ringing and knocking at his front door.

As he was getting up, the victim heard the sounds of his garage being opened. He called 9-1-1 and a short time later heard the rear door of the Eighth Line and 32 Sdrd. residence being smashed.

"When one of three culprits was upstairs and saw the complainant they fled the scene," a police report said. Police believe the suspects all in their mid-20s fled in a Ford Mustang.

The first suspect is a male, white, 183 centimetres (6-foot) tall, and 82 kilograms (180 pounds). He had shoulder length, dark hair and was clean shaven. He was wearing a grey hooded sweater and dark pants.

The second suspect was a male white, 183 cm (6-foot) with a medium build. He was wearing a dark nylon ski jacket with a white and orange horizontal strip running all the way around.

There is no description of the third suspect.

Police are asking that anyone who may have seen the suspects or their vehicle in the area contact Crime Stopper 1-800-668-5151 or Detective Sergeant Mike Eacrett at 878-5511 ext. 415.

Students on TV

Harrison Public School has taken a different approach to their Christmas concert, by deciding to make a television program out of it.

The concert will be televised three times: Monday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.; and Monday, Dec. 24 at 2 p.m.

Timing and magnitude of fee hike criticized

"I think it's being snuck through."

Alan Johnson wants to know why the Town is hiking rental fees for its recreational facilities, but he's more upset about the manner in which the increases have been presented.

Johnson told the *Week End* that total annual charges paid to the Town by the Georgetown Figure Skating Club will jump from \$40,000 to \$55,000 because of the two rate hikes proposed next year and the Goods and Services Tax.

He questions the need for an initial, double-digit increase Jan. 1 when the Town's expenses for things like wages and electricity are rising by only five to seven per cent.

And he wonders how the Town can justify a 15 per cent administration fee hike next July.

But most of all, Johnson is upset by what he calls "a bureaucrat's trick to whip (the increase) in."

User-groups appear to have had little notice of the magnitude of the increase, he said, and the Figure Skating Club, at least, never received the fee hike report presented to councillors this week and due for ratification this coming Monday.

The groups are expected to co-ordinate their responses in less than a week at a busy time of year.

"It's not a very open way to conduct government," Johnson said, expressing concern that such increases could force some groups to curtail activities.

Those providing healthy diversions for young people, in particular, shouldn't have to grapple with expense hikes like this, he said.

"What do young people do instead, hang around the donut shops?"



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