

Agriculture office amalgamates with Peel

The Georgetown-Norval area has been selected as the new location for the Ministry of Agricultural and Food (OMAF) offices, when Halton and Peel offices amalgamate next year. No specific building has been selected yet.

Currently there are two offices in the regions, one in Milton and the other in Brampton. Maria Hartley, acting agricultural officer for Halton will return to Orangeville where she was previously employed by the Ministry. The current Peel agricultural officer, Barry Sinclair will become the Halton-Peel representative effective September 1.

With the consolidation, the number of professional staff members will be maintained. There will be two farm management specialists in the new office instead of a half-time specialist in each office.

"A single office, centrally located in the Halton-Peel area, will provide producers with improved facilities and enhance the delivery of programs and services," according to the OMAF minister, Elmer Buchanan.

Ralph Shaw, director of agricultural representative branch said there has been a shift northwards in the province of agricultural

producers, and the number of farmers in this area has dropped. When Statistics Canada conducted their last farm census in 1986, there were 834 farms in Halton and 824 in Peel. On average, there are 1,782 farms in each of the 14 counties in south central Ontario.

It was logical to combine the two offices, Shaw said, to avoid duplication of personnel, resources and equipment and to provide a more efficient and effective service.

Agricultural offices deliver OMAF programs, provide educational opportunities and advise farmers on management.

Bell's got new phone numbers for us in '93

People should begin thinking about changing their stationery and ordering new business cards because in 1993 everybody is going to have a new phone number.

Everybody will have a new area code, to be more specific.

It was supposed to be a big secret until late March, when Bell Canada was going to unleash a public relations blitz relating to the change. But advance word

leaked out last week. The only secret left is what the new area code will be, and Bell isn't telling yet.

The problem, say Bell officials, is the giant communications company is running out of numbers in the densely populated 416 area code, so the 416 area will be split into two parts. Metro Toronto will retain 416. All other 416 municipalities get the new number.

The new code will extend from

Niagara Falls, around Hamilton, Halton and Peel Regions, north of Toronto and to the eastern communities, such as Oshawa, and Port Hope.

Approximately 1.7 million customers will get a new area code, said Bob Shaver, an area manager for Bell.

Free Clothing

Mountainview Baptist Church is holding a free clothing day for the whole community on Sat. March 16, noon-3. All donations are welcome.

Getting up Steam

The Esqueping Historical Society will be hosting a slide presentation by Charles Cooper called "Getting up Steam" which is about the history of trains and local train stations. The date is Wed. March 13 at 7:30 p.m. For more information call Karen Hunter at 838-2109.

Riding Clinic

Rockwood Trail Riders Youth Club are holding a riding clinic at Mill pond Farm, Mar 17 from 1-4 p.m. For more information call Donna at 853-0827.

R.I.D.E. is working overtime

Halton Regional Police will receive \$8,000 for overtime costs of the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) program for the 1990/91 year. This announcement came from Ontario Solicitor General Mike Farnan.

The funding for Halton Region is part of a \$600,000 allocation to 97 municipal police forces in Ontario to pay overtime to officers in the R.I.D.E. program this year.

"We consider it money well spent," says the Solicitor General. "R.I.D.E. is a proven, successful

community-policing initiative which assists significantly in deterring impaired drivers. This funding has allowed many municipal police services across Ontario to expand law enforcement efforts and to provide a valuable service to the public."

A total of \$1.2 million has been allocated in the next two years for the R.I.D.E. program.

"The R.I.D.E. program is credited with bringing about a major change in the public perception of impaired driving in Ontario," states the Solicitor General.

DEVELOPMENT CHARGES PROPOSAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

On December 12, 1990 the Regional Municipality of Halton received and tabled a draft study prepared by C.N. Watson and Associates Ltd. that recommended new development charges and policies. The purpose of the study was to review and update Halton's development charge policies and practices to ensure their conformity to the Development Charges Act, 1989. The study also examined to what extent should growth-related capital costs be recovered from development or existing ratepayers.

Comments were received from the public in writing, and submissions were received at the Public Information Meeting held on January 9, 1991. Regional Staff subsequently prepared a proposal based on the C.N. Watson report and the public's comments, and presented the proposal at the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting held on February 27, 1991. As a result, following further consideration of these submissions, the Region is now proposing additional revisions to the development charges proposal which will be considered at a Special meeting of the Region's Administration and Finance Committee which is a Standing Committee of Regional Council.

All interested persons are invited to attend the Special meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee which will be held on:

DATE: **Tuesday, April 2, 1991**

TIME: **9:30 a.m.**

PLACE: **Council Chambers
Regional Administration Building
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, Ontario
L6J 6E1**

Those who are interested in these revisions to the Development Charges Proposal can obtain a draft copy of the staff report from the Finance Department, Regional Administration Building, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville after 3:00 p.m. on March 20, 1991.

Any comments or requests for further information regarding this proposal, may be directed to Dave Birkett (ext. 345) or Mark Scinocca (ext. 626) at 827-2151, 878-8113 (Halton Hills), 853-0501 (Acton), 639-4540 (Hamilton), the Regional Municipality of Halton, Finance Department, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario L6J 6E1.

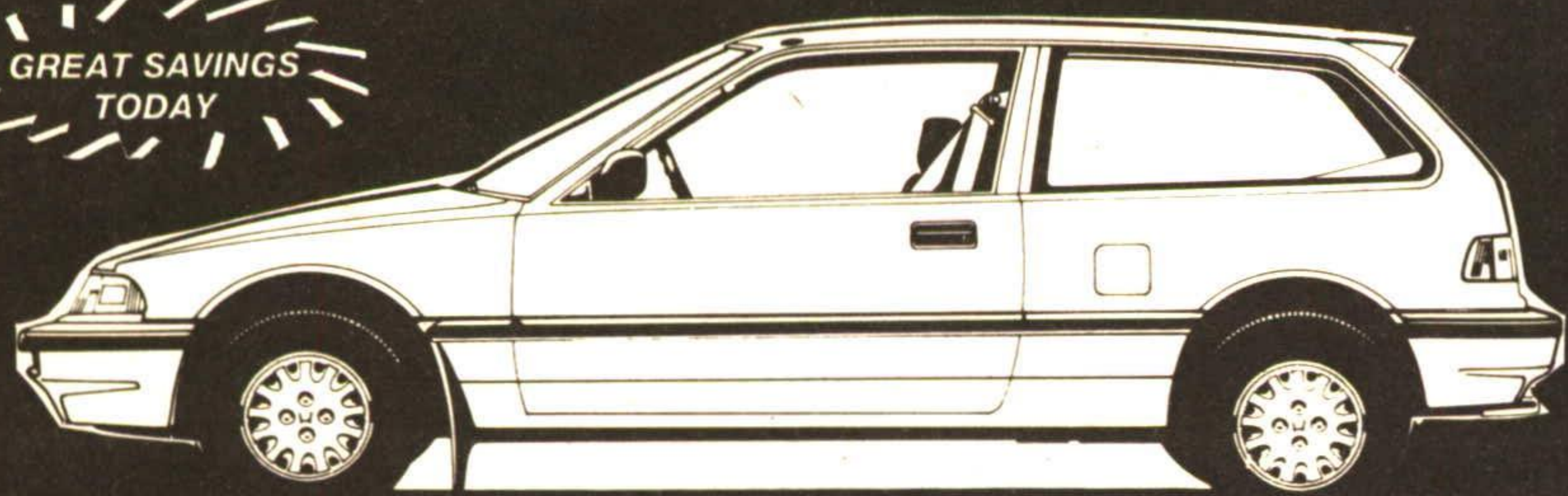


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