#### **HHCC** set for Mayor's luncheon

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the 6th Annual Mayor's Luncheon Dec. 10 at noon at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

Mayor Russ Miller will highlight the town's past year. Guest speaker will be Linda Leatherdale, editor of Your Money for the Toronto Sun. Contact the Chamber 877-7119 for more information or to make a reser-

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## **MVA D-Day fast approaching**

By Dianne Cornish

Halton Hills councillor Rick Bonnette of Acton is calling it "D-Day." Halton Hills mayor Russ Miller refers to it as "a hot issue." They're both talking about the possible reconsideration of Market Value Assessment (MVA) and its implementation across Halton Region on Jan. 1, 1993.

Wednesday afternoon, Halton Regional Council confirmed the scheduling of a meeting on MVA to be held at regional headquarters in Oakville, Dec. 2, beginning at 6 p.m. It's Bonnette's intention to reintroduce consideration of MVA at that meeting, although as of Wednesday there was no indication that any regional councillor voting for implementation of the new tax system has changed his or her mind on the issue.

Regional council is evenly split on the issue. On Sept. 23, Halton Hills and Oakville regional councillors voted solidly against MVA, while Burlington and Milton representatives supported the tax reform. The result was a 12-12 tie, broken by regional chairman Peter Pomeroy who voted for the proposal.

Since then, Bonnette and Oakville councillors have spearheaded a drive to rekindle discussion on the issue.

However, under regional council's rules of procedure, someone from the majority side of the issue must present the reconsideration motion before discussion can begin. As yet, that hasn't happened. But because it could happen sometime between now and the Dec. 2 meeting, regional council has agreed to a request from Oakville Council that an evening meeting be held Dec. 2 to accommodate taxpayers who might want to speak to council about MVA but cannot attend a day meeting ness commitments.

Regional council meetings are generally held in the afternoon. Rather than reschedule the full agenda until the evening, councillors decided to meet as usual at 1:30 p.m., at which time they'll discuss items on the regular agenda. The evening meeting will focus solely on MVA, in particular a report from regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo on the phase-in formula of MVA across the region.

It was clear from discussion around the council table that many councillors feel the meeting will attract several delegations and will last late into the night.

Councillor Bonnette, one of Halton Hills' representatives on regional council, said during an interview two weeks ago that he sees Dec. 2 as "D-Day."

Just the hint of reconsideration has caused rumblings. Last week, the Halton Board of Education deferred a decision on whether it will support a phase-in of MVA.

Instead, trustees chose to reexamine the issue after regional council's Dec. 2 meeting. Because about 58 per cent of all Halton tax dollars support the boards of education, both the public and separate school boards have been asked to approve the phase-in of MVA over a four-year span.

Public school trustees also voted 12-6 in favor of a recommendation made by Oakville trustee Cheryl Reid that the school board request the Minister of Revenue to reassess properties in Halton Region at 1992 values for purposes of MVA. Under the region's proposed scheme, MVA will be based on 1988 property values.

During Wednesday's discussion at regional council, it was noted that the purpose of the upcoming MVA meeting isn't to re-debate

because of employment and busi- the whole issue. Delegations will be required to speak on the treasurer's phase-in report and there's a 10-minute limit imposed on all

> As regional councillors debated the merits of an evening meeting, several observations were made.

> Burlington mayor Walter Mulkewich asked Pomeroy to clarify "the purpose of the meeting." Pomeroy said the meeting is being scheduled to review the regional treasurer's phase-in report.

> However, when Mulkewich asked Pomeroy to rule on restricting delegations to that subject alone, the regional chairman couldn't offer a guarantee because if a motion for re-consideration is made five days before the meeting, discussion at the MVA meeting could become more broad-based.

> "I think people should have the right to speak on MVA because it is a hot issue," Halton Hills mayor Miller said.

Milton mayor Gord Krantz, however, predicted there'll be a lot of repetition from groups who address council. Burlington councillor Doug Greenaway said it should be made clear that all delegations must speak about the treasurer's report. He warned that the number of delegations on the issue might be more than council can

"There should be a maximum number of delegations," Greenaway said. "I think we'll make a mockery of this process," he cautioned, referring to what he perceives as a possible re-opening of discussion on MVA.

Regional council didn't vote to restrict the number of delegations and there was no cap put on the length of the MVA meeting, although Burlington councillor Ralph Scholtens suggested council should adopt a cut-off time.



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