From the Office of the Mayor

Kathy Gastle

As part of its continuing commitment to provide value to Halton Hills' taxpayers and to safeguard our natural environment for future generations, Council recently reached an agreement with Halton Hills Village Home Inc. (HHVI) concerning the lands along the east side of Main St. (8th Line), generally south of the 15 Sideroad. Among other matters, the agreement results in the immediate transfer of the valley lands to the Town and sets out the conditions to ensure that HHVHI's development occurs in an environmentally responsible fashion.

These lands have been owned by HHVHI since the 1970s and have been designated, in part, for residential development since 1985. The lands also include a portion of the valley that the Town has hand an interest in acquiring since the mid 1980s through an option agreement.

In addition to obtaining the valley lands, the safeguarding of significant environmental features and minimizing the expenses associated with a long and costly Ontario Municipal Board hearing has been an important Town objective.

In keeping with these public policy objective, in May of 1999, Council directed staff to hire the appropriate experts in fisheries, archaeology and hydrogeology to investigate the impacts of HHVHI's proposed development on ground and surface water quantity and quality and significant wetlands, and to review areas of concern raised by the public.

Parallel to the subdivision review process, the Town initiated legal action against HHVHI in 2000 to enforce the terms of the valley land option. The Town's valley land area claim involves lands east of Mountainview Rd., in the area of the Region's water pollution control plant, to complete the connection of the valley lands to the Hamlet of Norval. It also involves lands west of Mountainview Rd. in the Silver Creek valley to Main St., and northerly on the east side of Main St. to above 15 Sideroad to Reid Court.

The settlement agreement addresses the lawsuit and the plan of subdivision. The agreement immediately transferred ownership of the valley to the Town and placed stringent conditions on the plan of subdivision. HHVHI has revised the plan of subdivision to reduce development in the northern portions of the site and pulled back along the top of bank edges as identified by Credit Valley Conservation. The settlement agreement and the plan of subdivision have been fully reviewed by

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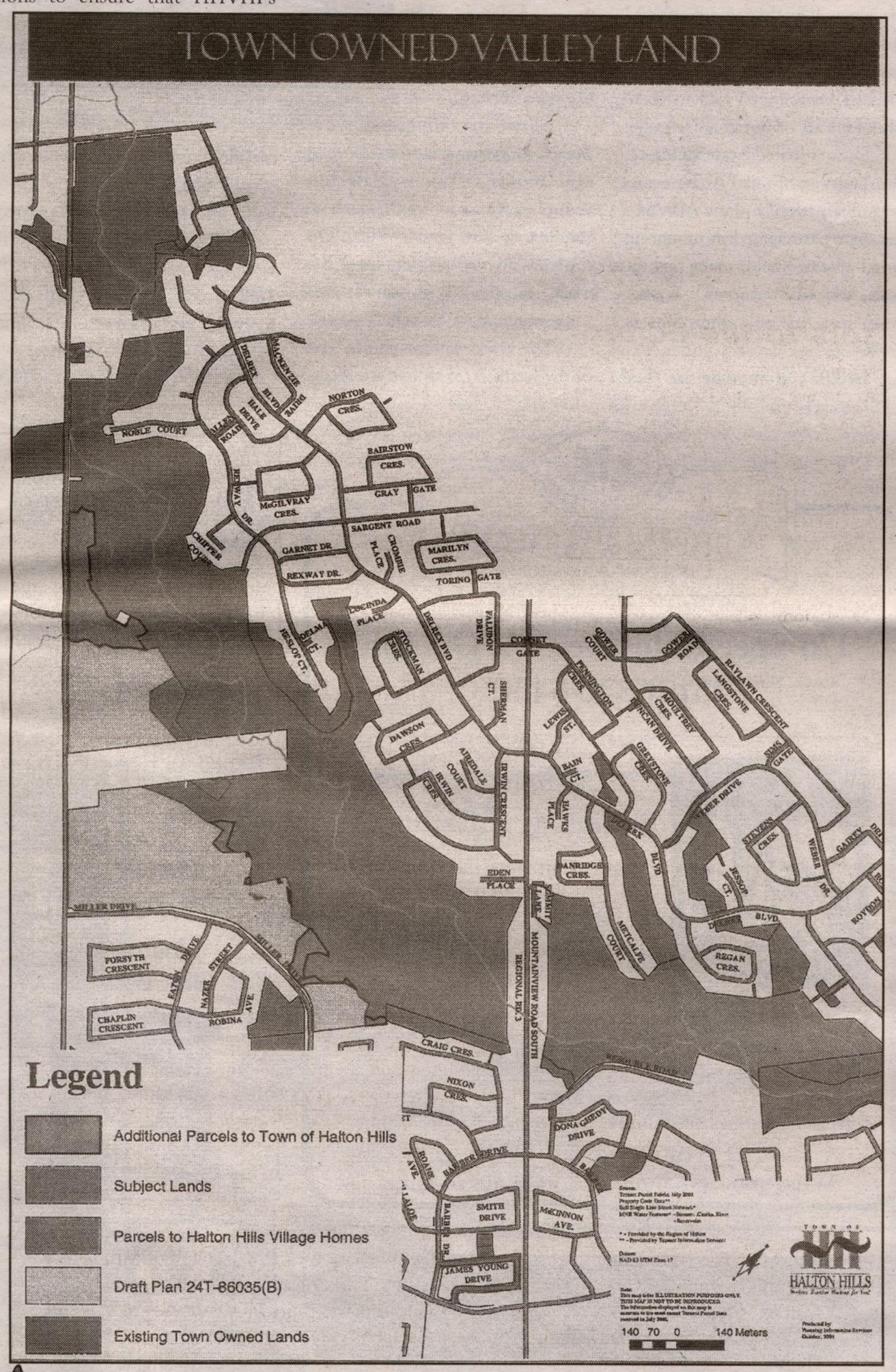

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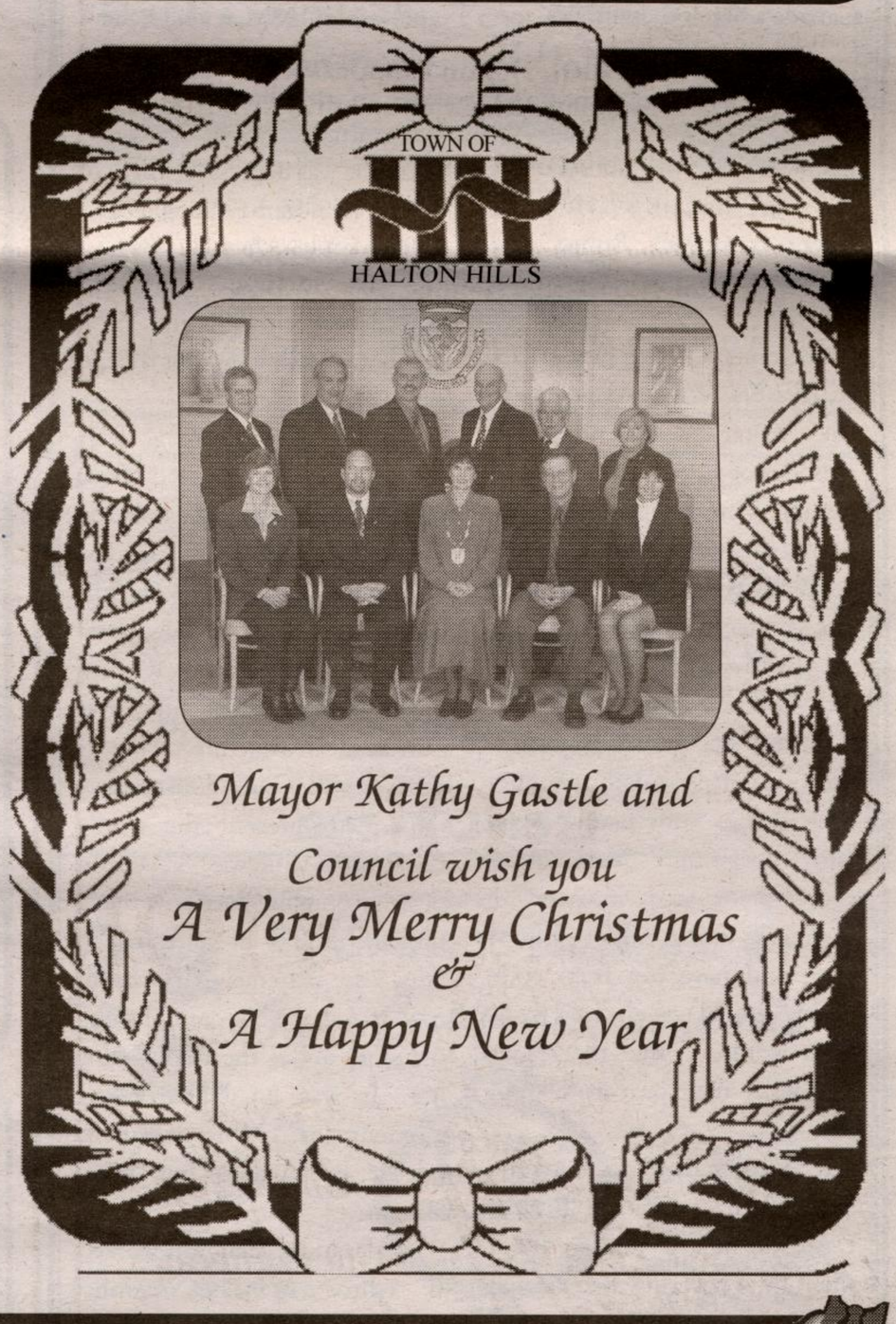

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