

Chudleigh report gives Halton a global perspective

by Donna Danielli

Halton has more to offer than you might think.

The Halton area is continuing to advance its reputation for being a region adept at housing global marketing companies.

On January 15, 2002, Ted Chudleigh, MPP Halton released his report entitled *Keeping Ontario Industries Competitive in the Global Marketplace*.

This report is the culmination of months of discussions with representatives from the chemical and construction sectors and roundtable meetings with experts in Ontario and the United States on the issue of access to early stage risk capital for emerging firms.

Mr. Chudleigh referred to Halton as a growth area in the report, an opinion shared by many in Halton.

"Once we have developed our 1,000 acre Industrial Park along the 401 corridor, we will offer something special to market at a global level, as a strategic location with highway access and a nearby airport," Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle commented. "It will boost our local economy to welcome prestigious industries to Halton and Halton Hills."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz also stressed the importance of considering Halton's location as one of strategic significance.

"As one of the GTA communities, we're centrally located," he explained. "We access the biggest airport in the country, two major railway systems and the international shipping lanes in Hamilton and Toronto. Many people don't realize that multi-millions of dollars of imports and exports go through those ports. The marketplace looks at how to get their products to market and we are key to that distribution area."

Regional Councillor Barry Lee sees Halton's strength in the global market from a different standpoint.

"We purposely planned for a ratio of industrial and residential lands in the Halton Urban Structure Plan to create a community where people can live and work," he said. "The availability of industrial and commercial lands attracts global market companies such as Magna, Karmax and Zennon Environmental to Halton."

Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline points to a number of factors as key to Halton's position as an important part of Ontario's success in the global mar-

ketplace.

"Quality of life, diversity, and our location make us particularly attractive. Quality of life is huge from an economic standpoint. Companies see that as an advantage, as where they want their families and employees to live."

In his report, Mr. Chudleigh emphasized the importance supporting the formation of the Toronto Angel Group to screen business opportunities and introduce entrepreneurs looking for investors to "angel" investors who are willing to invest in them and take them under their wing.

"He's on the right track," commented Chairman Savoline. "Halton has had extensive experience in angel forums as one of the founders of the Golden Horseshoe Venture Forum."

Bob Runciman, Minister of Economic Development and Trade

has announced the Ontario government is prepared to move immediately on several key recommendations in the report, including working with the construction industry and setting up an advisory council, investing \$100,000 through the Prosperity Demonstration Fund to support the formation of the Toronto Angel Group, and hosting an Angel Investment Forum in April 2002.

"The Ontario government constantly seeks new ways to ensure our businesses can attract, maintain and retain investments and jobs," said Minister Runciman. "By moving forward immediately on some key recommendations, our government is working to ensure that our province maintains a vibrant capital market - a market that is essential to Ontario's economic expansion and international competitiveness."

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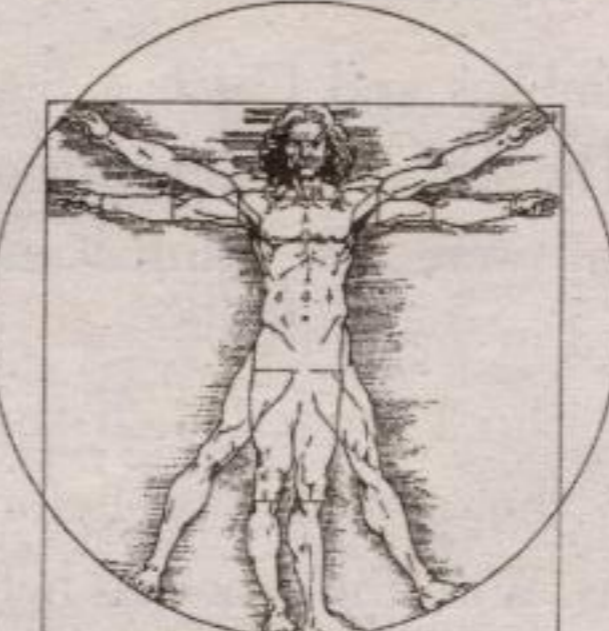

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