

# Ninth Line land use in question

By DONNA DANIELLI

As Milton continues to grow, there are increased pressures in the Ninth Line Corridor to permit urban development. In this area, bound by Hwy 407, Ninth Line, Hwy 401 and Lower Base Line, landowners have filed applications for zoning to be changed to allow urban development.

While these applications have until now been turned down or deferred, the Town of Milton, in partnership with the Region of Halton, recently began work on a land use strategy plan for the Ninth Line Corridor.

Although a report from the Halton Area Planning Directors concluded there was no need for additional urban land, the Town and Region are continuing to examine the need for urban land during each five year Official Plan Review.

## A vision for the future

By DONNA DANIELLI

Smart communities use new technologies and a vision of the future to provide better health care delivery, better education and training, and new business opportunities.

In Spring 2000, Halton Region Council directed staff to develop a smart community vision for Halton to generate economic growth and improve the overall quality of life within Halton.

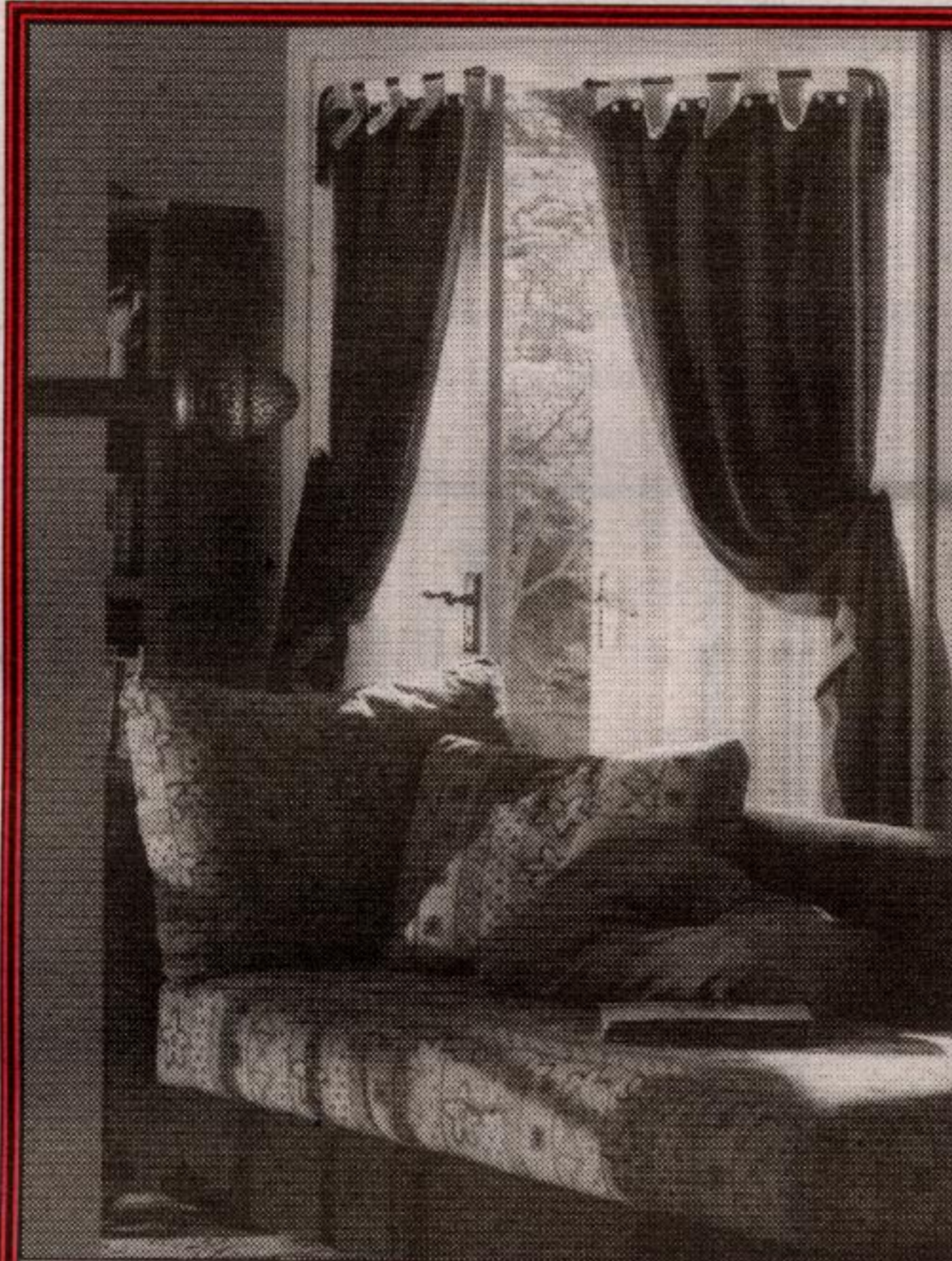
A Connecting Halton Steering Committee has been created of 23 representatives from a wide variety of sectors in the community. Members include representatives from the public libraries, Conservation Halton, 4H, Town and Regional staff, and one member of Regional Council. Recently, \$50,000 in community funding was secured for the Connecting Halton project to develop a business plan under the Connect Ontario program. This funding was provided by the Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology. It is expected to take up to 12 months to complete the Connecting Halton Business Plan.

In a report to regional Council, Carleen Caroll, Director of Community Relations summed up the project saying "The Connecting Halton project supports Halton's goal of achieving efficiencies and improved effectiveness of the delivery of Halton's programs and services to meet the growing demand for electronic and other new service delivery channels."

Pressure has continued to mount in this area though. On April 5, 2002, the Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Mississauga confirmed that the City had purchased 80 hectares of land in the Ninth Line Corridor for urban use. It is expected that the City will apply for amendments to the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law for the building of 11 lighted soccer fields, one senior soccer field, one cricket patch, a skateboard facility, a BMX bike facility, a leash free facility and an indoor soccer facility. There is also some spec-

ulation that this land will be used by the Mississauga Fire Dept. for an academy for training emergency service personnel.

The Ninth Line Land Use Study would consider a number of land use alternatives and recommend the most appropriate scenario, given the planning considerations and cost. Hemson Consulting, with its experience with the Halton Urban Structure Plan and other planning studies, will undertake this study which is expected to be completed by the end of June.



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