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# THE HALTON COMPASS



REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

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## The proposed urbanization of North Oakville

By BERNADETTE WARD

In one of the last steps before presenting their plan to council, urban planners unveiled their contemporary, yet old world vision for a future north Oakville at a public meeting on February 8, at Town Hall.

Citing a focus on design excellence as a cornerstone of their plan, representatives from two design firms laid out future development for three key areas in north Oakville: Trafalgar and Dundas, Regional Road 25 and Dundas and Neyagawa and Burnhamthorpe.

"When you're standing in these areas, you'll feel good about where you are," said Liz Howson from the firm Macaulay Shiomi Howson.

"We imagine this to be a comfortable place for families to live and work close together," she added.

Each area has been designed with four common principals in mind: the promotion of compact, pedestrian friendly streetscapes, provision of transit, mixed land use and the fostering of an attractive community.

"WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE PLAN AHEAD,"

Buildings have been designed with permanence and gradual intensification in mind.

"We've got to make sure that we plan ahead," said Howson.

To this end, the designers emphasized that urban standards were used as opposed to suburban ones.

"How can we make this an intense, vital area at the north end of Oakville?" said Anne McLroy of the challenge faced by the design team.

The areas, which will take an estimated 25 to 30 years to develop, will be a combination of residential, institutional, commercial, office and retail space with varying degrees of density and which the designers intend to have feed into Oakville's Secondary Plan.

The design plan incorporates features intended to appeal to the pedestrian such as 50-foot minimum frontages with parking at the side, in rear or underground and promotes a "compact building form" by use of canopies, colonnades and building recesses.

"They are scaled to the pedestrian and their use - this is the goal," said McLroy.

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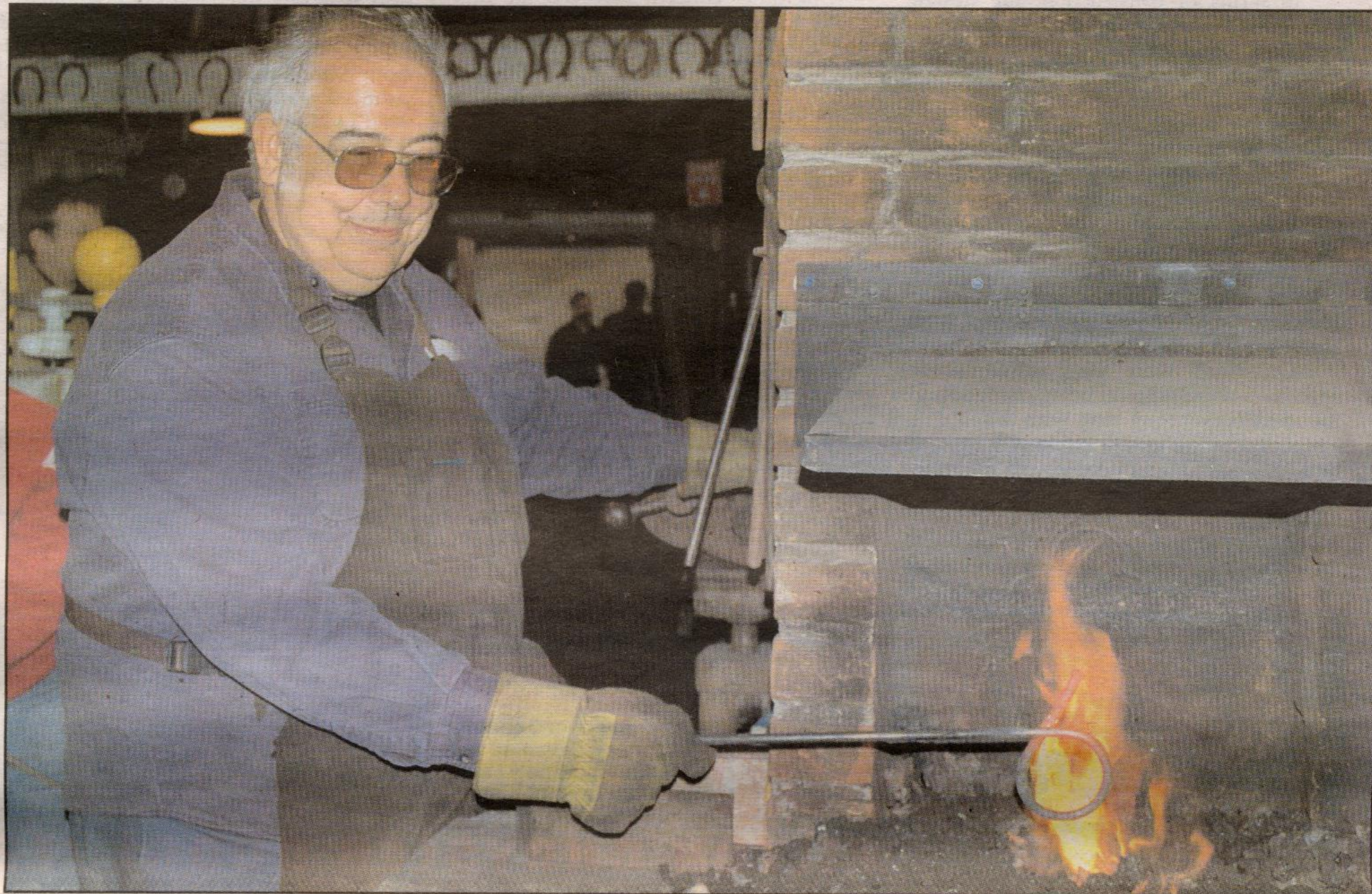


PHOTO BY BERNADETTE WARD

The Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association held its annual meeting at Waldie's Blacksmith Shop in downtown Milton on February 12 with some 40 blacksmiths attending. A historical site restored through the efforts of the Waldie family, the Milton Historical Society and the provincial and municipal governments, the shop is unique in that it has always operated at this site. The shop is currently open on Wednesdays and Saturdays and offers smith classes as well as tours for schools and other community groups. Here, Darwyne Hourie, the forge master, stokes the fires for a demonstration. For more information about the shop, call 905-875-4156 or try their website at www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca.

## Gary Carr to vote against same sex marriages

By ANN KORNUKA

Halton MP Gary Carr has decided, after weeks of deliberation on same sex marriages, to vote no to the Civil Marriage Act Bill C 38. This proposed bill would give same-sex couples the same marriage rights as heterosexual couples. The Canadian Courts have said that the admittance to civil marriage for same-sex couples is a matter of equality, and denial of that access is discrimination. They ruled that to permit equal marriage does not infringe the freedom of religion, but rather enhances it. In his press release, MP Gary Carr said, "I want to thank all of my constituents that took the time to email, call, and write me about this very important issue. It is a very difficult issue and I appreciate the strong feelings on both sides of the debate. After lengthy discussions from constituents on both sides I have decided to vote against the bill."

On Friday, February the 11, homes in the Halton area received amongst the usual myriad of weekly grocery flyers a letter flyer funded by a Toronto group called *Concerned Canadian Parents*. This flyer urged the community to take action to pressure MP Gary Carr to vote no, using such words as, "tampering with the definition of marriage will spell disaster for the moral and social welfare of our country." It went on to say, "The suicidal rush to fundamentally

change a 6000-year-old institution is canker that will destroy the roots of Canada's living tree."

Deborah Eaton-Kent, a Halton Hills resident was "extremely disappointed" with Mr Carr's decision. Deborah said, "This is about human rights and equality and we all should be treated and recognized as equals. The Liberals brought this bill forward and now it's as if my family is not allowed these rights."

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