

Benjamin Moore
The Colour Experts

Bergsma's Home Decor
194 Main St. E
Downtown Milton
905.876.4922
www.bergsmashomedecor.com

READ BY 150,000 PEOPLE EACH WEEK

JULY 29, 2005
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 13

THE HALTON COMPASS

REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

KAREN'S FLOWER SHOP

487 Labrier Ave. Milton
905-878-2881-Toll Free 1-888-878-2881
www.karensflowershop.com

2006 budget directions set by Regional Council

By MANDI HARGRAVE

Taxes are expected to rise as indicated in the 2006 Budget and Business Plan approved by Halton Regional Council on Wednesday July 13.

Mark Scinocca, Director of Financial Planning and Budgets for Halton Region said there are many major factors that influence the budget. One of those is the growing regional road system that Scinocca said requires additional capital investment.

"We have to widen the roads. There are a number of improvements we have to make to the road system and there's maintenance of that road in the form of winter control and summer maintenance programs," he said.

Annualized funding is also needed for the new Creek Way Village Long Term Care Facility in Burlington, which will open later this year.

There is also increased social assistance funding pressures as well as social housing costs, which are Halton's portion of the pooling to assist Toronto.

"We have a number of provincial programs that are directed by the province; we have our public health programs, our social assistance programs, our employment programs, we have services for the seniors, and we have social housing. All of these are partly provincially funded," said Scinocca, "and the region has to put in its own share of the funding."

"There are legislative requirements on certain service levels in order to carry out those programs. In the province their policy direction changes those programs from time to time. They may end up giving us more funding but they also want us to hire more people to provide better service levels," he said.

"The other driver is just the normal inflation in terms of renewing contracts, we've outsourced the collection of waste collection, and there's cost pressures there in terms of the cost of collecting waste. We have hydro that is a significant cost, particularly in our water and sewer system. It's a major driver. A lot of the equipment installed in those plants like ozonation, UV, and a filter belt in the wastewater treatment plants are all hydro intensive. Those rates have been going up significantly over the past few years. We've tried to implement cost saving measures in that area but the quantity of hydro we're going through and the costs have been going up significantly."

Council has directed that the guideline for the Tax Budget is a 3.3 per cent increase, which excludes Police Services. This means for a homeowner with a property assessed at \$250,000 their property tax increase would be about \$26.

The guideline for the water and wastewater rate is 8.4 per cent. This reflects legislated requirements for enhancements to the water and wastewater systems and significant capital investments. If this is approved the average homeowner's annual combined water and waste water bill will increase by about \$51.

The Federal Gas Tax agreement that was recently announced will provide Halton with an additional \$3.7 million this year. It will be spent on eligible infrastructure projects including water, wastewater, waste management, roads and bridges.

Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline said, "The Federal Gas Tax agreement will infuse Halton Region with more than \$30 million over the next five years, providing our community with a source of stable, predictable funding for five years, towards an 'environmentally sustainable' municipal infrastructure. This money will support initiatives towards cleaner water, cleaner air and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to name a few."

Continued on page 3

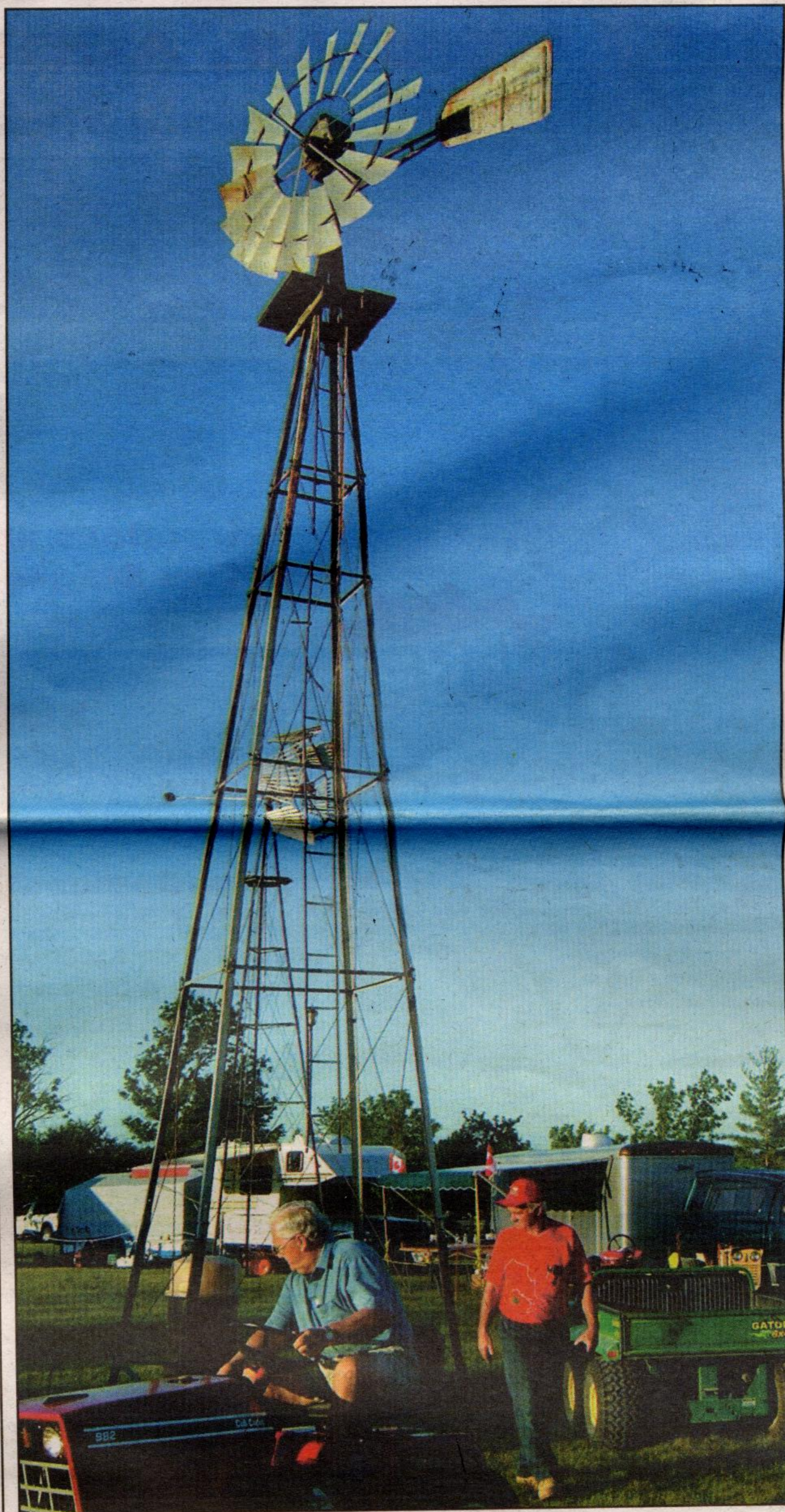

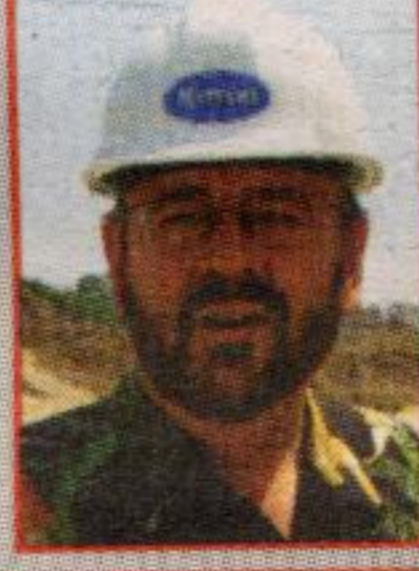


PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA

Enthusiasts prepare for the day's events at the Antique Tractor and Toy Show held at Country Heritage Park. See story and more photos on page 15.

WHAT'S INSIDE

	Student	Tractors and Toys 15	
	Entrepreneurs . . . 5	Cruisin' on a hot	
	Jeff Lumby 13	summer's night .17	

THE BRAZEAU GROUP
NO HOME TOO HUMBLE! NO HOME TOO GRAND!
Top 1% in Canada*
WWW.MILTON-REAL ESTATE.COM

ROYAL LEPAGE

Meadowtowne Realty
Independently Owned and Operated, Broker
475 MAIN ST. E., MILTON
905-878-8101


JOSEPH Brazeau, B.A.*
* Royal Le Page * Sales Representative


VIRGINIA Brazeau, R.N.*

1800 SQ FT | POPULAR LINDSAY MODEL


\$317,000

ALL BRICK NEARLY NEW 4-BDRM family home. Aprx \$16,000 in upgrades. 2-stry ceramic foyer w/ oak railing. Fam rm open to ceramic eat-in kit w/ patio drs. Quick access to 401 @ James Snow Prkwy. Immediate possession available. Excellent value!

5 ACRES | 10 MINS TO 401/MILTON


\$649,000

WOODED SETTING PROVIDES PRIVACY! Long circ drive, 3-car gar. 5+bdrm w/ numerous updates, Fr drs, gleaming hrdwd flrs. Fam rm w/ patio drs, firepl opens to e/in kit w/ w/out to lrg deck. Stone firepl in liv rm. A rare find!

REAR VIEW 1.38 ACRES | 10 MINS TO MISSISSAUGA


\$434,000

SET BACK FROM ROAD, backing onto & w/ walking path thru woods! Pine & maple flrs. 2-stry liv rm w/ brick firepl. Kit opens to fam rm w/ w/out to wrapping deck o/looking gardens, woods, garden shed. Excellent value in this location!