

# Burlington is the surprise loser as MVA numbers are crunched

By BRAD REAUME  
Special to The Independent/Free Press

Burlington was the surprise loser in the market value assessment (MVA) study released at Halton regional council on Wednesday.

Burlington taxpayers will have an additional \$3.3 million added to their current property tax load while residents in Oakville, Halton Hills and Milton will experience an overall reduction.

The \$2.6 million study is based on 1992 market values and was commissioned after a prior analysis based on 1988 values was determined to be skewed due to the real estate boom of the late 1980s.

In that initial study Oakville taxpayers were hit with a \$4 million hike.

Based on 1992 real estate market values, Oakville taxpayers will save \$1.14 million, Halton Hills taxpayers \$2.16 million and Milton taxpayers more than \$24,000 compared to current property taxation. MVA is scheduled to be implemented on January 1, 1996.

Councillor Rick Bonnette, who was instrumental in getting the MVA base year changed from 1988

to 1992, was pleased with the results of the study.

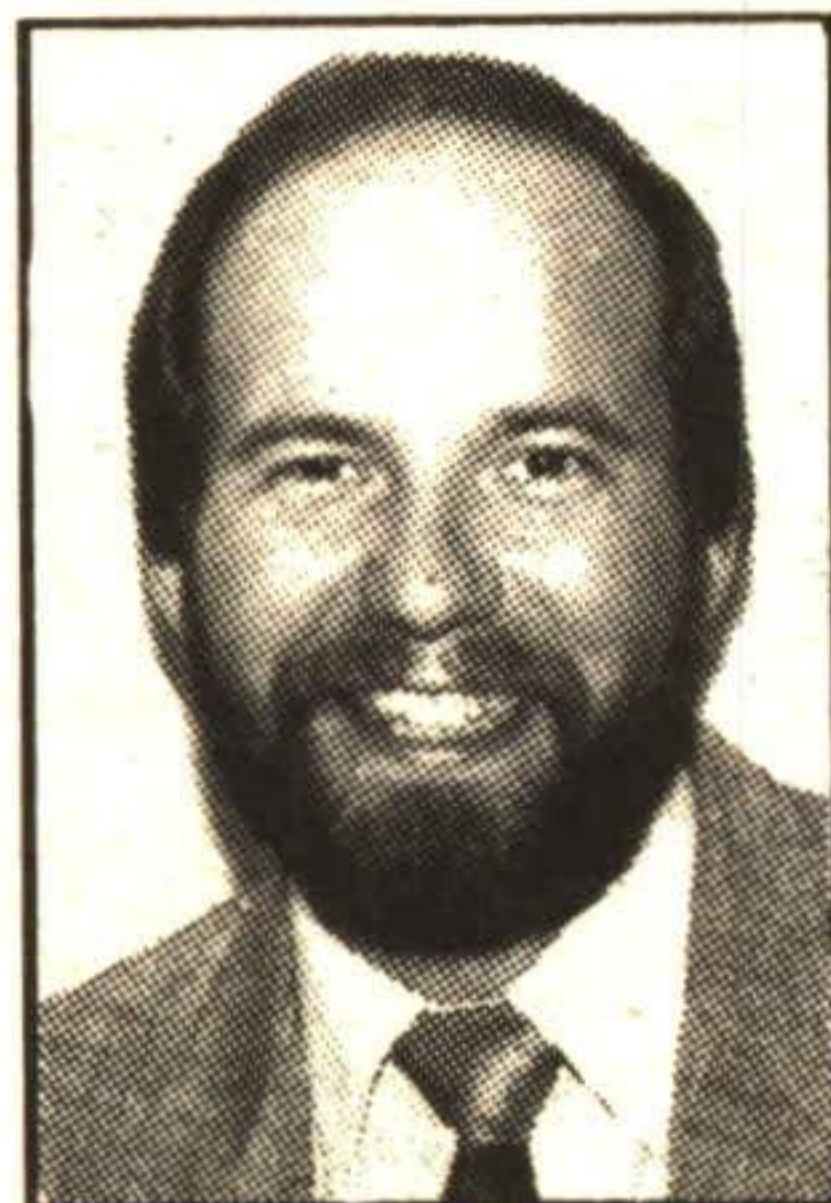
"While there are going to be some (Halton Hills) residential tax bills going up, overall the results are a bonanza for Halton Hills."

Bonnette said area farmers will definitely benefit from the new system.

"Eighty five per cent of area farms are going to drop down in taxes," said Bonnette.

"We are thankful for the 1992 numbers but the assessment is automatically

updated every four years and it could shift again," warned Oakville mayor Anne Mulvale. "It is morally wrong. People will be facing the same gun barrel four years from now. There have been huge shifts within categories. There will be severe strain on commercial areas and businesses will be behind the eight ball at the worst possible time."



RICK BONNETTE

Halton Hills received a dramatic decrease of \$2.1 million in property taxes, though every property in the multi-residential sector will be hit with an increase. Milton received a negligible drop in taxation.

"As a politician I see 50 per cent of the people will be happy and 50 per cent will be not so happy," said Milton mayor Gord Krantz. "It's like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. What do we achieve?"

"The intention is to redistribute taxation and assessment on a more equitable basis," said Ontario assessment commissioner Cathy Farr. "Similarly valued properties will pay similar amounts in tax. You don't get that now."

Phase-in proposals will be entertained with an eye toward easing any shock of large tax increases. Those proposals will likely be dealt with at a local level.

"Taxation was not fair in the time of the Romans," said Burlington councillor Bob Brechin. "The Sheriff of Nottingham was not blessed with any taxation insight; at least Robin Hood didn't think so. This is the fairest system we've had in Halton. We are moving in a positive direction."

<p><b>Store gutted by fire</b></p>	<p>A fire which gutted the Terra Cotta General Store Friday morning is under investigation by the Ontario Fire Marshal's office and Ontario Provincial Police.</p> <p>The King St. store, which had been closed for about a year-and-a-half, and the apartment above were both vacant when the</p>	<p>blaze occurred. The store was undergoing extensive renovations.</p> <p>Town of Caledon Fire Chief Boyd Finger said firefighters were at the store until about 8 a.m. Friday battling the blaze.</p> <p>The damage estimate is set at about \$200,000. There were no injuries.</p>
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<p><b>KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 116 Main St. S. Minister Rev. Peter Barrow B.A., B.D. MORNING WORSHIP &amp; SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 A.M. TIME FOR REFLECTION AND RENEWAL Ministers Office 877-2848 Secretary's Office 877-7585</p>	<p><b>THE BAHA' FAITH FROM A-Z</b>  <b>ONENESS</b> The entire human race is one family. Our differences of race, culture, nationality, religion, class or personality are sources not of apprehension or suspicion, but of beauty, appreciation and enjoyment. Sponsored by the Baha'is of Halton Hills, 878-6138</p>
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