# Study reveals GTA residents HALTON HILLS TERM believe quality of life is tops

By LISA TALLYN

Staff writer

About 70 per cent of people living in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) believe their quality of life is as good or better than anywhere else in Canada a recent study has revealed.

The full results of the two-year long study focusing on quality of life done by the Greater Toronto Coordinating Committee, were presented at a meeting of the GTA mayors at the North Halton Golf and Country Club in Georgetown Friday (October 20). Robert Millward, commissioner of the City of Toronto Planning and Development Department presented the results.

Those polled cited their perception of rising crime rates and the poor outlook of the economy as serious concerns.

A total of 42 per cent of those participating in the survey said crime was on the rise in the GTA and 21 per cent said unemployment was also worsening.

Despite the fact the GTA is the safest metropolitan region in North America, the crime rate in Toronto has declined by 7 per cent and incidents of crime are below the national average, 75 per cent said the crime rate has increased somewhat or a lot.

There was also a gender gap revealed when people were asked if

they felt safe in their neighborhood after dark, 50 per cent of men said they felt very safe while only 18 per

In an effort to address the perception people have of crime in the GTA the mayors passed a resolution requesting the chiefs of police and police commissions within the GTA provide some proactive suggestions.

"There is a clear perception job opportunities are poor or very poor and half of those with jobs are afraid of losing them," said Millward. The study results showed 63 per cent of those asked felt the

## Mayors send clear message

In a clear message to the people of Quebec the mayors of the Greater Toronto Area passed a resolution last Friday (October 20) calling for one united Canada.

The mayors supported the resolution unanimously at a meeting of the mayors held at the North Halton Golf and Country Club in Georgetown.

MP Barry Campbell, chair of the GTA Federal Liberal Caucus, agreed to read the resolution in the House of Commons.

standard of living of today's young people will be somewhat or much lower in the future.

cent of women said they do.

A total of 59 per cent surveyed said they favored increased spending on environmental protection, 53 per cent on youth programs and 52 per cent on police services. An increase in education spending was supported by 49 per cent, 46 per cent favored an increase in literacy spending, 40 per cent on seniors programs and 41 per cent on public health.

> "The public has strong views on land use and development. There is strong disagreement with the concept that growth is automatically a good thing," said Millward. He added two-thirds of residents somewhat or strongly disagree with the statement "The more the GTA grows, the better it gets."

> Sixty per cent feel new housing development should be built in areas that are already developed.

When questioned about ethnic and cultural diversity 32 per cent of respondents rated relations among different racial and ethnic groups as excellent or good, 46 per cent rated them as fair.

Seventeen per cent said there had been an improvement in relations in the past few years, 47 per cent felt relations had stayed about the same and 33 per cent felt there had been a deterioration in race relations.

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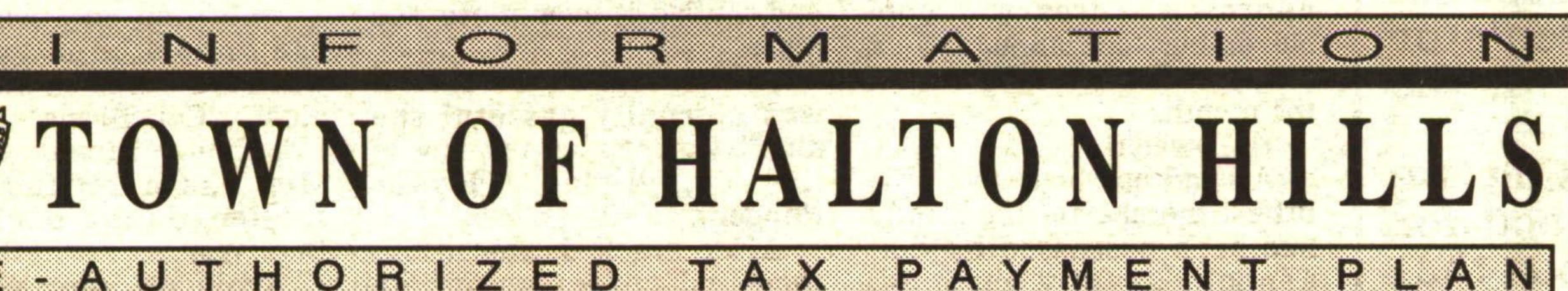
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Taxpayers now have two more options available for the payment of realty and business taxes through the Town's pre-authorized tax payment plan. This Plan allows for payments to be automatically

withdrawn from your bank account on predetermined dates. Participation in the Plan eliminates worries about missed due dates and related late payment charges. It is also economical as you no

longer have to write and mail cheques or stand in line at the Civic

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### Who is eligible?

You are eligible to join the Plan if your current property tax payments are up to date. Any arrears must be paid before you can

#### How do I join?

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- Ensure that your property taxes are paid up to date.
- 2. Complete the Authorization Form.
- 3. Attach a blank cheque marked "void" to your completed application form and mail or deliver it to our office.

You only need to join the Plan once and can withdraw at any time. The Town would appreciate notice of your withdrawal at least 30 days prior to the next withdrawal date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL US AT (905) 873-2600. 233

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