

Provincial plan cuts Halton in four areas

\$3 million more grants in proposal

Touching on the financial aspects of the proposed regional governments for Peel, Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Arthur Meen reviewed provincial grants.

Regional municipalities will receive an annual per capita grant in lieu of the present unconditional grant.

The formula calls for a basic \$8 per capita plus \$3.25 per capita where a regional police force is established. A further amount is based on population sparseness.

In 1972 the unconditional grants to the three areas amounted to about \$7,000,000. Under the proposed restructuring regional municipal grants would total about \$10,000,000, Mr. Meen pointed out.

"The province may also make discretionary payments to regional and area municipalities where the impact of changes in local tax structure is severe. Other discretionary payments may be made to help develop regional services."

The province will also pay the chairman's salary for his first term of office, the cost of the first elections and assistance toward management and other studies.

"We promise to listen"

"We want your comments and criticism, and we promise to listen to them carefully," Arthur Meen, Parliamentary Assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario declared Tuesday night at Mohawk College when he outlined municipal reform for Peel, Halton and Hamilton-Wentworth areas.

"Beginning in the next couple of weeks and before the end of March we hope to hear from all municipal leaders with comments and suggestions", Mr. Meen declared.

He suggested submissions should be directed to the Hon. John White Treasurer, Queen's Park, Toronto.

No specific recommendations were advanced for the composition of the area councils. The province left to the area, the question of how big the council should be and whether members should be elected at large or by wards.

Responsibilities of the regional council will include development of the official plan, approval of subdivisions, land separations, water, sewer, public transit, regional (county) roads, traffic control, welfare, police, county

Strike in Toronto slows Milton mail

The postal workers' strike at Toronto slowed down local mail last week. Eight letter carriers, one full time clerk, a night clerk and one part time clerk at the Milton Post Office were told not to report for work Friday, because there was very little mail being received. The Post Office didn't open Saturday.

Postmaster Walter Bell said "most of our incoming mail comes via Toronto and the airport" and both those terminals have been picketed by striking union workers. Only four small bags of mail arrived Friday, he said. Outgoing Milton mail was not being accepted in Toronto either.

Service was back to normal Monday.

102 homes, apartments, stores, parks, school

Approve south subdivision

A 75 acre plan of development on the south Milton boundary was accepted by Milton Council Monday subject to the concurrence of Milton Planning Board.

The plan provides for 102 single family lots, a number of them bordering the valley of the Sixteen Mile Creek. A total of 21 acres of stream valley is to be untouched.

Stores, apartments
The plan also provides for commercial developments at the Ontario-Derry corner on a five acre parcel and apartments

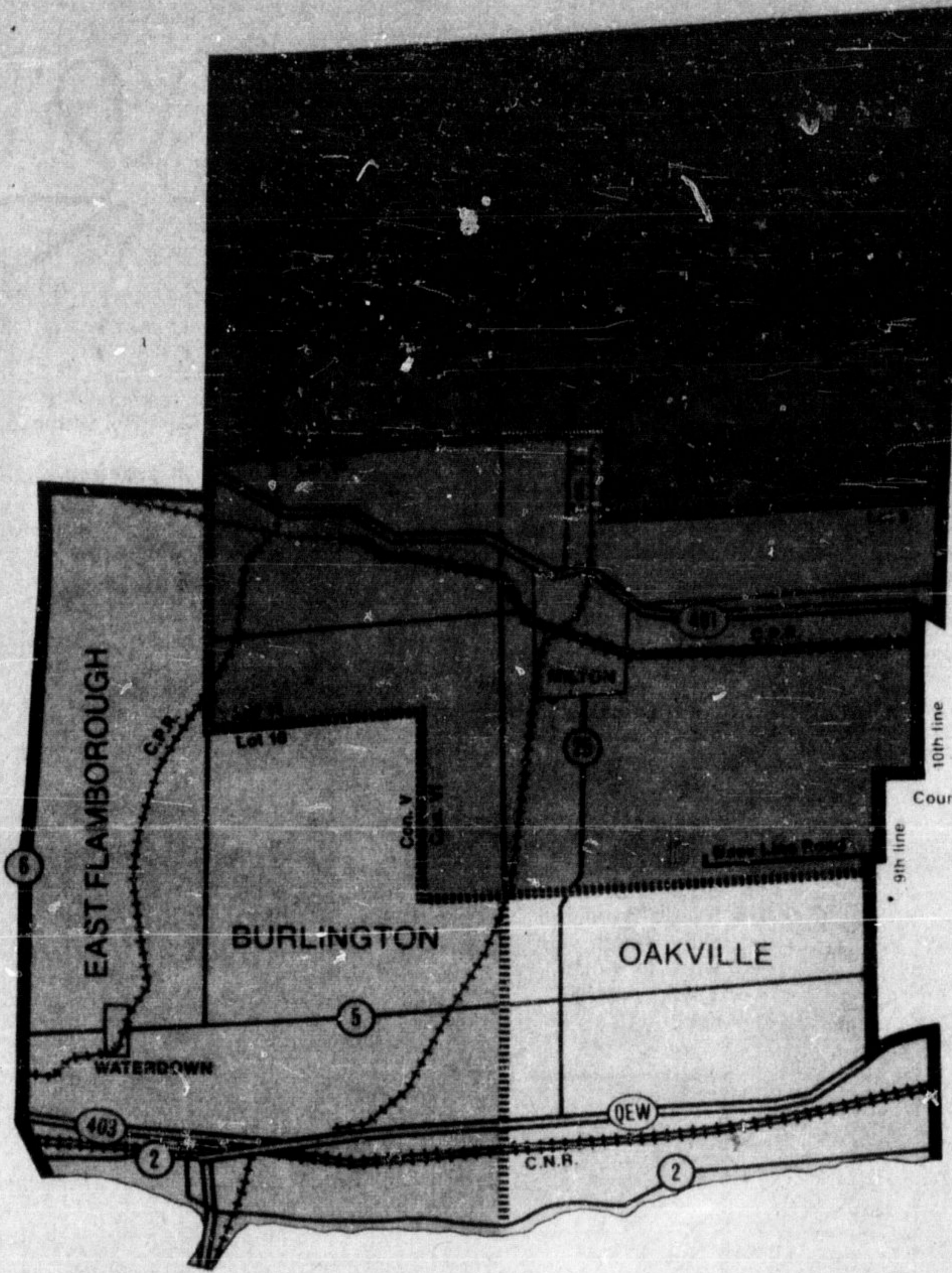
adjoining it to the north. A medium density parcel of nearly nine acres is to be located on Derry Road on the west side of the valley.

Council approved the provision of a 2.5 acre school site in this development which will adjoin a further 2.5 acres in the development just west of Valleyview.

Commercial St. will extend directly south past the High School to intersect with Derry Road.

Outlining the plan to Milton Council, engineer W. L. McCroriston pointed out the enclosure of the water course that will come from the Chaingate Development on Bronte St. has been approved by the Conservation Authority and it will be led to the Sixteen. Council also approved an

agreement with Ricenberg Developments Ltd. under which the developer agreed to prepay capital lot levies to cover engineering expenses in designing a \$200,000 pumping station and force main to deliver sewage to the treatment plant. The station is to be designed to serve the full south neighborhood over to the Third Line.



HALTON REGION proposed by the Ontario government would cover most of the present County of Halton. It would have four area municipalities: Burlington (lower left) would consist of most of the present Town of Burlington, East Flamborough and Waterdown. Oakville (lower right) would include all but a northern and eastern sector of the

present Oakville. Central Halton would be centred on the community of Milton. North Halton would be made up of Acton, Georgetown and the northern two thirds of Nassagaweya and Esquesing townships. Names used for the area municipalities are temporary.

Treasurer explains reform

Better planning, fair taxes

Municipal reform is the only alternative to destructive competition for industrial and commercial taxes. Treasurer John White said in Hamilton Tuesday. He told a public meeting largely attended by municipal councillors and officials from Peel, Halton, Hamilton and Wentworth that competition has led to widespread misuse of resources and urban sprawl. The minister said the government's proposals for reorganization of municipalities west of metropolitan Toronto will lead to better planning and a fair share of the total tax dollar.

Details of the proposal were given by Arthur K. Meen, MPP for York East and parliamentary assistant to Mr. White. Mr. Meen will meet municipal representatives in the area in coming weeks and later attend public meetings to discuss the proposals. Mr. White said the government supports the principles behind the proposals but he said he is willing to make changes in the details where they will improve the reorganization. The minister recalled that several studies have been made of local government reform in the

area but were rejected because of local indifference or opposition. "No matter how good a proposal looks on paper it won't work without the support of the people who must live with it and make it work," he said, adding, "I have never felt optimistic about the stability of a shotgun marriage." The proposal is the second one presented by the government in the past couple of months. Residents and municipal leaders in communities east of Toronto are reviewing proposals presented at a meeting in Oshawa on December 18.

Ratepayer criticism refuted

New school opening in 1974

Suggestions contained in a letter to Milton Council that there "is no intention of the Board to build a permanent school to handle the increase in population that development has caused" were refuted at Council Monday.

The W. D. Ratepayers' Association complained the W. I. Dick School is badly overcrowded and that it is not a temporary situation. "I don't think the ratepayers are aware there is a school site in the Dorset Park development and that it has been purchased by the County Board of Education. A school is planned for opening in September 1974", Mayor Brian Best pointed out.

Below capacity
Bruce Lindley, superintendent of the finance with the Board told Council W. I. Dick School had a capacity of 285 students and in September 210 were enrolled. The

addition of two portables on the site increased the capacity of the school by 70 pupil places. Enrolment in the school has increased by 44 students since September and a similar increase is expected to the end of June.

The Ratepayers' Association registered complaints about the portables pointing out they were located, as is the school, in the flood plain and it was necessary for students to go out of the portable to the main school to use toilet facilities.

Mr. Lindley explained the Board has 53 portables in the system, all being occupied by children in similar situations. He noted the Department of Education is very strict about permitting construction of new elementary schools and currently requires that when a new school opens it must operate at 90 per

cent capacity. He suggested until the projected September 1974 date, pupils would have to be handled at W. I. Dick school or a group transferred to the J. M. Denyes school.

Would have trouble
"Unless the influx of students comes faster than it has, we will have trouble getting a new school approved", Mr. Lindley observed.

Turning to the complaint about the portables being located on the flood plain, Mr. Lindley pointed out the floor level was about equal to that of the school. He estimated this elevation was two to three feet above the road elevation at the Woodward St. bridge.

The Ratepayers' Association asked council, in its letter, to "place a moratorium on the further development of this area (Dorset Park) until we have had an opportunity to clarify the question of both school facilities and also the problem of ground drainage".

Dynamite
Mayor Best took exception to the Ratepayers' letter directed to the Board of Education, with a copy to council, dealing with ice-breaking action at Woodward St. bridge. Mrs. Russell pointed out the ice breaking has been done in the past "by either the use of a rented ice-breaking machine or by the use of dynamite, or by both". The letter pointed out they would not permit the use of dynamite on their properties (which include the creek bed) in the future.

"I've checked this dynamite reference and it was used on one occasion, by an expert, more

Milton in Central Halton unit

Regional government proposals released last night at Mohawk College carved Halton into four area municipalities and established the county as a two tier regional government.

The province accepted Milton arguments for a four borough region and proposed the town as the focal point in a 92 square mile municipality with a projected population of 14,500 the smallest of the four.

"We agree that there is a separate, identifiable community of interest centred upon Milton and stretching across the middle of Halton County," A. K. Meen, parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer said in detailing the proposals.

The regional municipality of Halton will cover virtually all of Halton plus Waterdown and East Flamborough Township. A small part of Oakville on the eastern boundary will be transferred to Peel.

"Rather than following the boundary suggested by Milton, we would rather see a boundary line further south so as to include the growth centres of North Oakville and North Burlington, both of which are part of the development plans for the Toronto Centred Region," Mr. Meen declared.

"Within the next few months, the government of Ontario will be announcing the routes of the parkway corridors intended to separate those growth centres from their southern counterpart." When that announcement is made the final location of the southern boundary of Central Halton can be adjusted to coincide with the parkway corridor," Mr. Meen announced.

Mr. Meen emphasized the province intended to confine major urban growth in the future to zone one of the Toronto Centred Region which covers only the southern section and part of the central area. "The rest of the central area and all of the northern area are zone 2."

A regional council of 23 is proposed for Halton. Central Halton would have three, North Halton four, Oakville six, and Burlington nine representatives. The chairman, a full time position, will be appointed by the province for the first term and paid by the province. Subsequently the chairman will be chosen by the Regional Council. Representatives on the Regional Council will also serve on the area council.

"Admittedly, the people who serve on both councils have a heavy work load... but there is no better way of achieving the co-operation and the unity of purpose you need between the two levels of councils," Mr. Meen suggested.

No specific recommendations were advanced for the composition of the area councils. The province left to the area, the question of how big the council should be and whether members should be elected at large or by wards.

Responsibilities of the regional council will include development of the official plan, approval of subdivisions, land separations, water, sewer, public transit, regional (county) roads, traffic control, welfare, police, county

forests, garbage disposal, industrial development, emergency measures and capital borrowing.

The Area municipalities would be responsible for subdivision agreements, zoning, adjustments through the committee of adjustment, land drainage, local streets, local parking, fire, parks and recreation and garbage collection.

Licensing will be a responsibility shared by the two levels.

The collection of taxes is

suggested as an area responsibility but Mr. Meen noted a technical report from Halton indicated this could be done at the regional level. The assignment of this responsibility was left open for discussion.

The province, in addition to paying the salaries and expenses of the chairman during the first term will pay the cost of the first elections, salaries of regional staff from the date of appointment until the following January 1, and make contributions toward other initial expenses in the region.

May implement region in '74

There was no indication in the Regional Government proposals presented to councillors and municipal official Tuesday that indicated when regional government was likely to be implemented in Halton.

The province has, however, set March 31 as the deadline for receiving comments and briefs on the proposals.

In a speech in Oakville earlier the Hon. James Snow indicated legislation might be submitted to the Legislature before the June recess, which would allow for new elections to be held in October to elect the first council. Implementation would then be possible on January 1, 1974.

REACTION

Milton is happy

"The people of Milton should be very happy to be retaining their identity as a lower level municipality," Mayor Brian Best concluded at the end of Tuesday's proposal presentation. "This is going to be the best form of government to serve the people of Halton."

Best said some of the recommendations on regionalization that went to the province from municipalities were given "without rationalization or logic" but Milton's frequent briefs were well thought out and well documented. "I am glad the provincial government has sat down and rationalized the whole thing," he said, and ended up with four borough units in Halton. Three things in the province's proposals delighted the mayor — first, that Halton remains as a unit; secondly, that Burlington stays in the county; and thirdly, that Milton and surrounding lands will remain as a unit of their own.

Milton and Acton councillors, planning boards and staff had

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MILTON MAYOR Brian Best and Councillor Art Melanson were happy after learning Milton would form the core of a fourth borough in regional government in Halton.

(Photo by R. Downs)

Mayor \$5,000; councillors \$2,000

Raise council salaries

Increases in the honorariums paid to members of Milton Council were approved Monday by Council.

The action came after committee study of honorariums paid to other municipal officials in the county and was approved Monday by all members.

Under the new schedule the mayor will be paid \$5,000, a \$500 increase over last year's \$4,500. Council salaries will move to \$2,000 compared with last year's average of \$1,400 for the average of 70 meetings scheduled.

This year's schedule permits members six absences from meetings during the year. Absences beyond that will reduce the honorarium.

Other fees paid in Halton show Acton's mayor receiving \$3,000 and councillors \$20 a meeting; Georgetown pays its mayor \$4,500 and councillors \$2,500. In Oakville the mayor receives \$9,000, the reeve \$4,500, the deputy reeve \$4,250 and the

councillors \$4,000. In the townships Nassagaweya pays its reeve \$1,500 and deputy reeve \$1,250 with councillors receiving \$1,000. An average of 35

meetings is held. Esquesing pays its reeve \$2,200 and councillors \$1,500 to cover evening meetings. Additional fees are paid for day meetings.

Second time

Four horns stolen from H.S. music room

For the second time in a month, thieves have broken into the music room at Milton District High School and stolen a number of musical instruments.

The second break-in was reported Thursday morning, and happened some time between 10 p.m. Wednesday and 8.20 a.m. Thursday. Milton Police said a clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and cornet valued at \$1,009 plus an electric spray painting compressor, hose and gun valued

at \$100 were missing.

Smash window
Entry was gained by smashing a skylight window in the music room. School officials said there was \$10 damage to the window.

In mid-December thieves broke in via the same route and made off with \$2,500 worth of musical instruments. Three young men were charged with that theft and the instruments were recovered.

Dorset Park carrier service starts Monday

Milton Post Office plans to introduce letter carrier delivery service to the first 100 homes in Dorset Park subdivision next Monday, Jan. 29.

Postmaster Walter Bell said one of the smaller letter carrier routes in Milton will be extended to cover the Dorset Park area. Eventually the new subdivision at the north-east corner of Milton will need a letter carrier walk of its own.

Sparse areas
Bell said only the most densely

populated areas of the subdivision will be served initially, and the route will grow as more homes are occupied. "Some of the people living there won't be getting delivery right away as their area is too sparsely populated," he said. Those residents will continue picking up their mail at the post office building on Main St.

The postmaster noted residents wanting mail service must have their house numbered, and must have a mailbox, mail slot or other accepted receptacle for the mail.