

# Letters

## Revival? What for?

Dear Editor:  
Last week's Champion carried a picture of what they intend to make Main St. look like. What makes anyone think that spending thousands of dollars on that kind of proposition is going to help our downtown?  
First, if one faces reality, to do what is proposed would be like putting a new rug over a dirty floor, or wearing a fur coat but going without shoes. It would be great to have what we once had, a thriving town and a pretty Main St., but it cannot be that way at the present time.  
Why? Well, to begin with, the whole town (and especially our Main St.) needs cleaning up, and a fine levied on polluters and litterbugs. Our streets are a disgrace to the community. All one has to do is walk around and open their eyes to the filth around the place.  
Secondly, Milton stores do not want to open at the times when folks have the most time to shop, which is evenings. After working all day, who wants to rush to a store to get shopping done before 6, when they can go out of town and shop leisurely?  
Ken Elsley is, so far, the only one who

sees the sense in opening the store at nights.  
Also, the stores are going to have to be realistic and quit catering to the very young, and the thin people. There is nowhere in Milton for the larger person to shop. After all, God didn't make us all size 12, now did He?  
I feel the town would be better off to use that money to build some place for people to live who are blessed with children. What are these people to do, children are the joy of the world, along with our animals who are not wanted in apartments either.  
No, I think before the taxpayer is stuck with the bill for this deal, you VIPs should see Main St. as it is, and always will be, not spend good money for nothing.  
Milton could be the best town around for shopping, as it was years ago, but I'm afraid it will take more than flowers and new seats outside the stores, to bring life back to Main St. When something dies, there is usually a very good reason for it doing so. And we know the reason.

Edith Sharpe,  
Millside Dr., Milton.

## Re-align priorities

Dear Sir:  
Councillor Terry Mannell's recent resignation as Chairman of the Solid Waste Management Committee is an expression of sheer frustration at the program of resource recovery.  
For all taxpayers in Halton who want the reduction and reuse of garbage as opposed to wholesale dumping, Mr. Mannell's admission that a close-up observation proves to him Halton Region does not view new methods of garbage management as a priority, can only leave taxpayers dismayed.  
For the past five years, no other single regional issue has commanded as much press, public comment and use of public money for hearings as has the issue of improved garbage disposal.  
When is Halton Region ever going to begin representing the taxpayers by listening to what they, the taxpayers, voice as a need?  
Improved methods of garbage disposal are needed now in Halton, not some time in the lazy, distant future.  
The region promised the OMB and promised the people that improved methods would be acted on, but the promise has been broken, or worse, ignored by inaction.  
In his letter of resignation, Councillor

Mannell said, "I refuse to be used any longer... by a council which has misled the public." It would appear that the larger issue is one of the public's being used or misused on an issue to which scores of Halton taxpayers have devoted countless hours of work in the past five years.  
The region should realize that public funds would be better spent on something useful such as resource recovery that the public wants, than something negative like a hearing to push through a dump the the public does not want.  
Present council inaction on resource recovery and garbage reduction reflects a long outdated attitude that Halton taxpayers and voters of the energy conscious '80's are not about to accept.  
Councillor Mannell's reaction to the Regional inaction is a sign to be heeded by those elected to keep Halton moving forward positively and productively.  
Now is the time for those regional councillors who do not have a commitment to resource recovery to realign their priorities to the public interest and to act immediately.  
Mrs. C. Morgan,  
Burlington.

# Housing plan under fire

A charitable foundation which wants to build a 123-unit non-profit housing complex in Milton will probably not now be able to go ahead.  
On March 31, representatives of Halton Community Credit Union and a consortium of people representing a building-management-developer appeared before Milton Council to get site plan approval for the subdivision which had about 15 per cent of the units set aside for rent-gated-to-income families.

At the meeting the density of the project, although it is within the zoning limits, and the question of just what group was really behind the plan, caused Councillors to get cold feet and demand more information from staff.  
Basically a landowner would sell the land to Tridel Construction on approval by the town of the site plan. Tridel would then build the project and, on completion, would turn it over to the Domus Charitable Foundation which would retain Del Realty Inc. to manage the site.  
The suspicion cast on the project by council resulted last week in the Halton Community Credit Union, which was prepared to act as a "community sponsor" for the project, to back out.

Under Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation regulations, charitable groups can build non-profit housing but they must have a sponsoring group from within the community.  
Last Monday night Dennis Marsell, secretary of another charitable foundation with links to Domus, appeared before Committee of the Whole to seek site plan approval from the town.  
In the meantime, Mr. Marsell said a move on the part of council towards site plan approval "might cause the credit union to reconsider."

However, Councillor Rick Day said he had been in contact with the credit union just prior to the meeting and had been told "the credit union said they are not likely to reconsider. I give you that for what it's worth."  
The major question came at the end of the meeting when Councillor Blanche Hinton asked what the Domus Foundation would do if it could not find a new community sponsor.  
Clerk Roy Main said he had been told that if such a group could not be found within a week,

Domus would have to back out, as the interest rates moving up weekly would preclude getting mortgage money.  
The rest of the councillors—although some wanted it to go ahead—were all critical of the plan. Some did not like the density, some were concerned about who would be backing up the units, while others were suspicious of garbage pickup problems.  
The most vocal was Councillor Rick Day, who called the plan "a load of crap."

## Council ready to renegotiate plans

Milton Council has agreed to look into a new form of phasing development which may be unique in Ontario.  
Town staff will look into the question of allowing the developers of the Bronte Meadows subdivision to receive one occupancy permit for every building permit issued. This does away with a provision that 75 per cent of each phase must be completed and sold before occupancy permits are issued.  
The object is that in times of high building costs and a scarcity of mortgage funds, it will allow the two major builders in Bronte Meadows to at least proceed.

There are problems, however, particularly with the provision of supplying services. Also of concern to the town is the problem of sending garbage trucks and fire trucks in over muddy roads from the entrance of the subdivision to the far end where the houses may be built.

The idea was first proposed by Murray Goldman, president of Goldfan Holdings, the developers of Bronte Meadows.

The council meeting he attended found almost all the councillors negative to the idea and as a result, Mr. Goldman stormed out of the meeting.  
In the meantime Campbell Thompson, the former Milton clerk who resigned to go and work for Goldfan.

had been to see Milton staff and he appeared at last Tuesday's meeting to report most of the stumbling blocks "had been resolved."  
Mr. Thompson said it was not a question of trying to pull a fast one on the town, but the serious lack of mortgage money which has brought Bronte Meadows almost to a standstill.  
The original plan was to have the 266 units in Phase One completed in 1979 with Phase Two of 183 planned for completion this year, and the last phase of 130 units completed and sold by 1981.  
"But we could not have predicted what was going to happen in the marketplace," he said.  
So far there have been only 13 occupancy permits issued with nine now pending, nowhere near the Goldfan target.

Mr. Thompson said his firm is committed to Milton and has a large financial stake in seeing the subdivision completed.  
He said by granting one occupancy permit per building permit issued, the subdivision would "at least see a contiguous stream of development... and it would help alleviate much of the difficulties in momentum."

He noted that in the past Goldfan had come to the aid of the town. When a site for the new arena was needed, Goldfan donated part of its lands.

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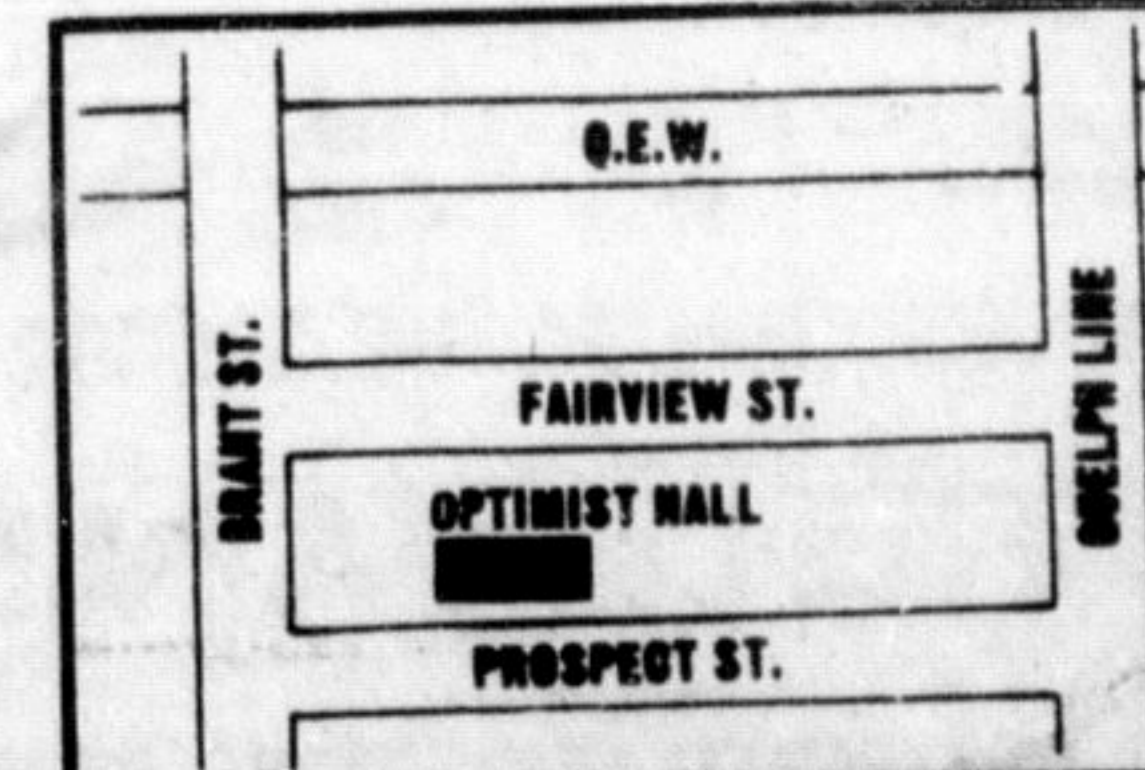
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## Bus budget bolstered

Changes in the provincial formula for funding small municipal bus systems will help Milton, according to Finance Director Don Lougheed.  
He told council Tuesday night the new formula will mean the net cost to Milton ratepayers for Milton Transit will be less than first anticipated.  
Milton qualified for an extra \$4,374 as a municipality with a growth factor greater than four per cent; and for \$3,038 which goes to a municipal transit system not receiving 50 per cent of the fare revenue.  
The expenditures for 1980 are \$93,200. Fares expected are \$34,000 and the grants provide a total of \$31,712—leaving a net cost to ratepayers of \$27,488.

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