

Industrial park passes its final hurdle

By Jim Robinson
Official Planning Amendment 7 (OP 7), the bylaw which will create 1,100 acre industrial park along Highway 401 through Milton, is for all intents and purposes ready to be implemented.
Prophesying a speedy resolution to the seven-year-old council headache, Mayor Gord Krantz said Monday "I am of the opinion we can resolve this particular item very quickly."
And indeed Milton planner Bob Zsadanyi bore this prediction out as he explained all

the buyouts of 19 residents listed in the Milton pro-tem agreement with the developers in the projected industrial park area "have been totally achieved or are in the final stages."
Solicitor Roger Beaman, who has been acting for the 19 residents said that just three minutes before the general council committee meeting began Monday night he had been presented with a cheque and a signed agreement which would mean the purchase of the last residence in the industrial park area.

While everyone seemed pleased, some of the developers and solicitors including Mike Wier representing Kanef Properties and lawyer-developer Harry Funk showed some concern when they learned there is yet one "iffy" buyout which had just surfaced.
Mrs. Judy Coughlin, owner of a home on a portion of land near Fourth Line was never specifically named in the pro-tem agreement as were the other 19 residents. According to the agreement reached between the town and the developers, each

resident named was to have his or her home purchased before any plans of subdivision would be entertained in the Milton Planning Department.
What Mayor Krantz called a "gray area" with regard to Mrs. Coughlin has resulted because she was not specifically named, and it could mean she is not legally part of the pro-tem agreement or the buyout clause.
Mr. Weir said he thought the developers should get together and costshare a buyout of Mrs. Coughlin so there would be no

remaining legal cloud over the Official Plan Amendment 7 plans.
Mr. Beaman confirmed to The Champion he intends to help Mrs. Coughlin and will be meeting to find out what can be done.
Mayor Krantz said at least three times the Coughlin matter will "not be a problem", and when questioned by Mr. Weir again, said he was convinced the Coughlin matter will not stand in the way of OP7.
Mrs. Coughlin told The Champion "I just want to be bought out. Who is going to buy the home if there is industry all around it?"

The Canadian Champion

An Inland Community Newspaper - Serving the Community for 119 Years

VOLUME 120 - NUMBER 48

MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1981

36 PAGES - 25 CENTS

Region deficits top \$1.1 million

Halton Region has piled up over \$1.1 million in deficits in the sewer and operating budgets over the past four years.

Preliminary 1980 audit figures show a \$451,238 shortfall in property tax services (all operations funded by tax dollars or the operating budget) and \$723,533 deficit in the sewer account, which is financed by charges to sewer users.

Last week new Halton treasurer Gerry Lawson presented an analysis of the region's year end positions stretching back to 1975 to finance and administration committee.

The report caused considerable confusion, but interviews with Acton councillor Dave Whiting, Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy and Lawson finally cleared the fog.

Police budget near 15% ceiling

Bringing in a 1981 Halton Regional Police operating budget with a 15 per cent increase over 1980, a feat deemed impossible two weeks ago, has almost been obtained.
The budget of 1981 projected two weeks ago with a 23 per cent increase was cut back to 16.6 per cent by the start of Thursday's Regional Administration and Finance Committee meeting.

By the time that meeting was over, the budget was down to a 15.72 per cent hike over 1980, and councillors were told more trimming would be looked at in hopes of paring the last .72 per cent.

Halton Police Commission Chairman, Harry Barrett said he, the members of the commission, the regional staff including Chief Administrative Officer Dennis Perlin, and police had held several late night meetings.

The last went on the day prior to Thursday until well into the evening hours.

By Thursday morning the 1981 police operating budget had been cut back to \$13,134,858 through a number of cuts. At that point it represented at 16.6 per cent hike over the 1980 expended figures of \$10,929,403.

Mr. Perlin pointed out recently arrived 1980 audited figure would result in a dropping of the \$290,000 overpayment to police officers at the end of the year to approximately \$267,000 which in turn lowered the 1981 operating increase over 1980 to 15.72 per cent. Some other savings based on the auditor's report may yet be used to bring in the budget at 15 per cent, a ceiling set by regional council when it first received the preliminary budget one month ago.

In that budget, it appeared there would be a 33 per cent increase in the regional levy for 1981. To that end, department heads were ordered by council to go back and not return until they could halve the projected increase.

Two weeks ago Mayor Barrett said the police commission, which was looking at a 23 per cent hike, had not held meetings and when meetings were called a quorum could not be guaranteed.

Mayor Barrett, who had been involved in all past regional police budgets had not been involved this year and had left things to commission member and Burlington Councillor Jim Grieve, who is in Texas.

As Mr. Perlin had to have the police budget by April 9 in order to get the final draft regional operating budget ready for a full council meeting April 15, Mr. Barrett took over and forced through a number of cuts.

If the budget, as recommended by committee last Thursday is approached by Council at the April 15 meeting, it will mean the hiring of six new police officers.

Also being hired are 14 civilians which will free a further five officers from answering telephones so they can go out on the street.

Police Chief Jim Harding told the committee the 11 officers in total would be apportioned to the region where need is greatest.

Also being set up is a drug enforcement squad with six members. Two of the members will be non-active with the rest out in what Chief Harding called the "twilight world" of drug trafficking in Halton.

The police will also be getting a \$36,000 mobile command centre which was deleted from the budget last year. The specially equipped truck will be used at emergencies

or at scenes of crimes.
One of the amounts which may change the 15.72 per cent figures by Wednesday's budget discussion is a 50 per cent Ontario grant to help purchase bullet-proof vest for all active officers on the force.
This means half of the projected \$80,000 cost would be another saving.
Mayor Barrett said he was pleased "we've come in right on budget."
Councillors recommended the 15.72 increase with a provision efforts be made between now and Wednesday to hit 15 per cent.

Whiting said it appears to him that the region has been "knowingly or unknowingly" deficit financing for the past four years, something which is illegal, and he says he has loads more questions to ask about the deficits. He also wonders why the province hasn't stepped in and why nobody put a stop to the financing blunders. After first examining the report he feared the region might have accumulated up to \$2.3 million in deficits, but that was because of the way the figures were presented and the fact he assumed the region wouldn't deficit finance.

Lawson explained deficits from one year must be carried on to the next and covered. However, as Pomeroy points out, Halton hasn't been taking in as many tax dollars as were needed for several years now. He prefers to say there has been an underlevy problem, not a deficit. The region has simply been spending more money than it was taking in.

The region ended 1977 with an operating (Continued on Page 2)



-Jane Muller, Milton Champion

Egg-ceptional example

If this is an example of the size of egg Vincent Campbell expects from the Easter Bunny Sunday morning, he may be disappointed. The five-year-old painted this giant egg Friday morning in his Kindergarten class at Percy Merry School. Classmates also created Easter story books from egg-shaped paper and made bunny puzzles in preparation for Easter weekend.

Pearce objects to Ma Bell rates

A RR2 Rockwood resident, Glen Pearce, is fed up with poor service and ever increasing rates from Ma Bell and has decided to raise his objections with the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

Pearce has filed a four page brief with the CRTC outlining his problems with the 854 or Campbellville exchange.

He plans to attend regional CRTC hearings on Bell Canada's request for a 30 to 40 per cent rate increase next month and is

seeking the backing of other Bell customers, particularly those living in north Nassagaweya, who are unhappy with paying more and more for service which doesn't improve.

Municipal councils are receiving copies of his brief and are urged to support his protest.

"I would suggest the commission (CRTC) entertain a concept of establishing and publishing some form of standard that the telephone company must measure up to in order to maintain its rates. This standard should be published so that there would be no doubts as to what is expected. We and the company would know what is to be expected in the service contract, and there would be no room for the current type of argument that implies: 1) that there couldn't be a problem because it's Bell Telephone equipment, and 2) that you must be exaggerating with the number of complaints you are lodging," Pearce writes in his brief.

Pearce finds the rate increase application "rather presumptuous" on the part of Ma Bell. "The company has convinced itself that it has the right to demand more and more and deliver less and less," he says.

(Continued on Page B9)

Only here for the beer!

Thieves were not greedy when they decided to pay a visit to the Brewer's Retail store on Millside Dr. in Milton Monday night.
After smashing a window to gain entry to the beer outlet, thieves departed with only one case of beer, report Halton Regional Police.
An investigation continues.

Inside today's Champion

Raises held up

Three regional department heads have been informed their raises will be held back pending a review of their future with Halton Region. Story Pg. 2.

Chief warns of danger

Halton Regional Police Chief Jim Harding says he does not have enough men or equipment to adequately cover Halton. He said he needs 85 more men to do the job. Story and picture Pg. 3.

Mary 100 years Young



It was a gala birthday party for Halton Centennial Manor's "Young" centennial Thursday. Story and picture Pg. 5.

Champion yet again

The Champion's News Editor Jim Robinson was one of a handful receiving the Royal Bank-Toronto Press Club's annual Business Writing Awards. Story and picture Pg. 7.

Centre volunteers

The overwhelming success of The Centre in Milton has brought a call for volunteers who are desperately needed. Story and picture Pg. C5.

SECTION ONE
Regional Roundup 2
Conservation budgets settled 3
Editorials, Columns 4
More PD days sought 5
Council Briefs 6
Police raise \$200 for cancer 7
What's with the court house 8
Beef up region security 9
Sludge quality improves 10

SECTION TWO
Sports News and Views B1 to B4
Classified Advertising B5 to B8
Real Estate B9 to B12

SECTION THREE
Halton Helping Hands profiled C1
Omagh, Drumquin C2
Entertainment C3
Recipe C6
Hi School News C10
Institute annual meeting C5
Milton Players reviewed C4

Special supplements
Salute to Minor Hockey, K-Mart, The Bay, Woolco.



-Richard Forster, Milton Champion

A stormy start

What a way to begin a marriage, as Neville Johnston, Jim Steeves and Judy Liut star in the Milton Players' production of "A Marriage Proposal." The one-act

play was one of three productions presented last week. Review and more pictures on page C4.