

Let's cut red tape — developers

Halton's developers, like businessmen in many other industries, are feeling the weight of the recession and are looking to local government for help.

Members of the region's planning and public works committee last week approved establishing a series of special committees to review aspects of the development industry in Halton in an effort to make life easier for the developers.

The idea for the special studies was raised by the Halton chapter of the Urban Development Institute (UDI).

In a letter to councillors, Bill Robertson of UDI said profits in the development industry have been slipping severely in recent

years and local government help is needed to restore some of the industry's health.

"In these economic times the industry is becoming more and more concerned about the ever increasing costs of development which are being demanded by the present development process," he wrote.

"Revenues simply have not kept pace with the dramatic rises in costs and the complexity of the process, so that we are now at a point where it is becoming more uneconomical and unfeasible to proceed and develop our projects," he added.

According to Mr. Robertson the development industry is especially concerned about the subdivision agreement Halton currently

uses, the design criteria and standards applied to subdivisions and the planning process and the effects of the new provincial Planning Act.

The changes being sought by the industry, he said, would make the development process less complex, with benefits for their profits and the general community.

"The land development process is extremely important and vital to our industry as well as the Region," he wrote.

"It is in our mutual interests that any improvements affecting this process itself and development in Halton Region should be actively pursued by both parties.

The common objective, as we view it, should be to encourage growth and develop-

ment by improving the efficiency of the process and reducing costs where ever possible without affecting the quality and standards of development that have been established in Halton."

Committee members agreed to the special studies, with any changes to the process the region currently uses to be approved by regional council.

In an interview after the committee meeting, Mr. Robertson said he hoped the review he suggested would be positive experience for both the region and developers.

"We're here in a proactive way because otherwise it is very negative and you don't get a lot accomplished," he said.



United Way canvassers needed now

Do you have three or four hours to spare in the next few weeks?

Do you think you could knock on 30 Milton doors?

Do you want people in desperate straits, maybe yourself or someone you know, to get help when they need it?

Then you could be just the person the United Way of Milton residential campaign needs.

The door-to-door canvass of Milton is in high gear right now but there are areas where the fund does not have a canvasser.

Heather Smith, United Way of Milton, manager said, that as of last Thursday, 47 volunteers were needed to make sure Milton would be covered.

Each volunteer would be asked to go to 30 houses in Milton. There is no time limit, volunteers can do their canvass in one swoop or over many days.

Being a volunteer isn't hard either. It's just a matter of telephoning the United Way at 878-2550 and saying you would like to help.

Not only will the volunteer be told about the 24-member agencies but will be trained in how to discuss the need of United Way in Milton with residents.

In its second year of operation, the United Way of Milton campaign also is hoping those people who live here remember to make sure their donation comes to Milton.

"If someone lives in Milton but works in Toronto, Mississauga, or another area community, they may be making a donation as part of a payroll deduction plan.

"If that is being done in say, Toronto, then the money will go to United Way in Toronto not here.

"We would hope that anyone from Milton making a donation through the payroll deduction option would tell their employer or paymaster to make sure the donation is marked to come to the Milton United Way.

"We have forms available for that purpose, if they should be required," Heather Smith said.

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Tax break for foam opposed

By LINDA KIRBY Staff Writer

The Town of Milton will challenge the province's decision to award residents whose homes are insulated with urea formaldehyde, a tax reduction ranging from 75 per cent for the taxation year of 1982 to 35 per cent for the taxation year of 1983.

In a report to council members Monday evening, Don Lougheed director of finance for Milton, stated the province has failed to properly investigate the foam insulation issue and the ramifications of the tax reductions.

Mr. Lougheed has received the approval of council to proceed with an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board for the taxation years of 1982 and 1983, based on the findings of a study commissioned by his department into the subject of homes insulated with urea formaldehyde.

Results of the study of 17 homes in the Milton area indicate tax reductions should be given in the neighborhood of 10 to 30 per cent, depending upon the extent of urea formaldehyde in the homes, said Mr. Lougheed.

He said he is now aware that some 27 homeowners in Milton will be appearing before a tax assessment review court today (Wednesday) appealing the 35 per cent provincial figure.

He said some of those homeowners will be asking for a 35 per cent reduction (those who had no reduction in previous years) while others will be requesting an even higher tax cut.

Mr. Lougheed said the Town will be requesting that the assessment review not be held until the Ontario Municipal Board has come down with its ruling on the Milton study.

"If they (O.M.B.) find our information to be correct, I expect to see an adjustment on the 75 per cent and 35 per cent figures... that will set a pattern for rulings throughout Ontario."

According to the finance director, Milton is the sole municipality to challenge the province on this issue.

He noted the study (conducted by Stephen Saxe and Associates, Georgetown) revealed that homeowners with that type of insulation have not experienced problems selling

See NO page A2



John Guest couldn't leave the leaves alone when he and his classmates explored the changing seasons at Mountsberg Friday. Brenda Mayes' Grade 1 class from E.W. Foster Elementary School enjoyed a tour of the woods aboard a tractor-drawn wagon, a puppet show and were given a better understanding of how nature prepares for winter. (Staff photo by Jon Borgstrom)

Conflict over?

Almost a year after they were first laid, Don McMillan may finally see the end of conflict of interest charges levelled against him.

Just before the 1982 municipal election charges were laid against the former Nassagaweya councillor alleging he breached the Ontario Conflict of Interest Act by arguing and voting in favor of reductions in the size of a small subdivision in Moffatt.

The first charges laid against him were dismissed in a brief County Court hearing when the judge determined the charge was improperly laid.

It was laid again following a complaint by a private citizen.

Noel Cooper, the lawyer acting for Mr. McMillan, said the case will go to court again on Friday and is scheduled to be finished on Monday.

If the judge concludes Mr. McMillan did break the law he could declare his council vacant and bar the veteran member from holding any kind of public office for up to seven years.

After the charges were laid Or. McMillan filed lawsuits against developer Brian Ambler, Mr. Ambler's company and against realtor Gus Goutouski.

Those cases have not yet been tried, pending the outcome of the conflict charges.

Emergency plan ready

When emergency hits Halton we'll be ready.

At least that is what Adelina Urbanski, regional emergency planning co-ordinator, hopes will happen if the time comes.

To make sure, Mr. Urbanski is setting up an emergency seminar to bring together all the emergency services and plan the strategy.

"It's a starting point," says Mr. Urbanski. "A stepping stone to begin all the work which will have to be done."

Mr. Urbanski is inviting representatives from the Red Cross, school officials, local and regional councillors, police, fire and ambulance attendants to the day-long seminar Oct. 21 at regional headquarters.

The seminar is intended as an informative session on how agencies deal with an emergency. It will also deal with the question of which agencies are called to the scene and what is involved, should a disaster occur.

The day-long seminar is also expected to indicate any weaknesses in emergency planning co-ordination and response that should be worked on in Halton.

Surplus may rear welcome head

By STEVE ARNOLD Staff Writer

As Halton's financial managers go into the last quarter of 1983 the possibility of a surplus on the 1983 budget has appeared.

According to a report presented to members of the administration and finance committee last week, the region is now projecting a surplus ranging between \$462,000 and \$905,000 on its tax supported operations for the year.

Despite the generally rosy picture, however, there are still concerns over

the budget for Halton Centennial Manor and the day care program.

In his report treasurer Joe Rinaldo said the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services has not yet approved the Manor's budget for 1983 while they debate with regional staff over \$540,000.

He explained the provincial staff have taken a strict stand on allowing the Manor its 1982 budget plus a five per cent increase.

Regional staff are arguing for higher allowance to cover personnel

costs because high absentee rates make it necessary to spend higher amounts for part time help.

The provincial staff also insist on calculating the personnel budget with a vacancy factor, while the region wants it based on having all positions filled on the Manor staff.

A settlement of this dispute is not expected until November, he added.

A drop in the number of fee paying children enrolled in the regional day care centres is also causing concern with the possibility of a \$36,000 shortfall in revenue.

The need to keep with provincially set staff to child ratios could mean overspending the budget for part time help by \$14,000, he added.

Water and sewer budgets should have surpluses totalling almost \$800,000—money which will be transferred to a reserve to even out rate increases in the future.

A \$36,000 surplus in the operation of the garbage is also expected, despite the fact the amount of garbage being buried there has fallen by nearly 10 per cent over last year.

Inside

Three-Year Term

A Milton resident has been sent to prison for three years for his part in a Milton milk store armed robbery. Story page 3.

Parade Time

Santa's coming to town for the annual parade along Main St. but he might have a tough time as the route isn't sprinkled with green and not white. To find out what that means, turn to page 5.

Rabies Clinic

Ontario is now considered the rabies capital of Canada and Milton veterinarians are banding together on Nov. 5 to do something about it. Story page 8.

Reps In Action

Milton's house-league and rep hockey teams began their first full week of action and we've got a complete rundown in the Sports pages. Turn to B1 and B2.

First Section

Police Blotter 2
Editorials 4
Columns 4
Years ago 4
Legion News 5
School opens 9

Second Section

Game & Fish B3
Sportscoreboard B3
High School Sports B4
Curling Cues B5
On the Courts B6
Entertainment B6
Dateline B6
Classified B7-B9
Who Does It B10

Third Section

Real Estate RE1-RE8
Dateline RE4

Fourth Section

Home Improvement 8 pages

Inserts

Loblaws, Super Save, K-Mart, IDA
Drugs

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Robbery suspect charged

A 20-year-old Brampton man who was out on parole for a number of offences, has been charged in connection with the armed robbery of two female store clerks at Becker's Milk Store on Wilson Dr. two weeks ago.

Mark David Pickford of 1105 Queen St. East, appeared for a bail hearing in Milton Provincial Court Monday afternoon, following his arrest earlier that day on a charge of armed robbery.

He was denied bail and has been held over until Monday to set a court date.

Mr. Pickford was residing at a halfway house at the time of his arrest by Halton Regional Police.

The arrest and subsequent charge came after Halton police received information on the suspect from Peel Police Friday.

Police have issued a warrant for the arrest of a second man wanted in connection with the same incident.

Two men, both masked, entered the variety store Thursday evening Oct. 6 at ap-

proximately 10.10 p.m. and brandishing a gun and a knife, emptied the cash till of an undisclosed amount.

Neither of the two clerks nor a customer in the store were hurt in the robbery.

Fallen egg is no yolk

Remember Murray Opsteen and his gravity defying egg?

Well his sunny side turned dark last Wednesday when he found the egg had finally fallen over.

Murray, 15, first balanced the egg Jan. 10, 1980 and it had stayed in the perpendicular ever since.

When asked if he tried to put the egg back up, he said he'd had his yolk and wasn't going to try again.