Halton to have two GTA seats

By KIM ARNOTT

Special to The Champion

The latest of the GTA proposals is now on the table, and Halton municipal politicians will have a few weeks to comment on its viability.

The newest plan, which calls for the creation of a Greater Toronto Services Board to co-ordinate services and infrastructure planning, was presented to GTA mayors and regional chairs in Burlington recently.

Retired Oakville civil servant Milt Farrow, who was commissioned by the provincial government to create the strategy, told the politicians that his recommendations will ensure the Greater Toronto Area remains economically viable.

"Much of what is in this report, if not all of it, came from my discussions with the people in this room," he said.

"The main reason this whole thing was put together was to make sure the GTA stayed number one in the world."

The plan calls for the creation of a 28-member board to co-ordinate infrastructure development, resolve inter-regional issues, operate GO Transit,



"I really don't have a great deal of problems with this." **MAYOR GORD KRANTZ**

develop a long-term waste management strategy for the GTA and provide a forum for discussion and liaison with various levels of government.

Under Mr. Farrow's recommendations, Halton is generally supportive of the plan. would have two representatives on the board: The regional chair and one mayor. Representation throughout the GTA would be based on population and would be re-aligned every three years.

Advisory rural and urban issues committees, with representatives drawn from each of the area municipalities, would provide guidance to the 28member decision-making body.

The new board would have the final say on such issues as water and sewer development, interregional transit, GO Transit, waste management

and economic development, and would allocate costs to various municipalities based on a user-pay model, explained Mr. Farrow.

"We've got a lot of infrastructure in the ground in this area and we've got to optimize every nickel before we build any more," he said.

That is likely to involve service delivery which crosses municipal boundaries, such as the proposed water delivery for Milton by Peel Region, and Milton Mayor Gord Krantz sees that as a positive thing.

Mr. Krantz says he believes co-operation beyond "man-made boundaries" makes sense, and

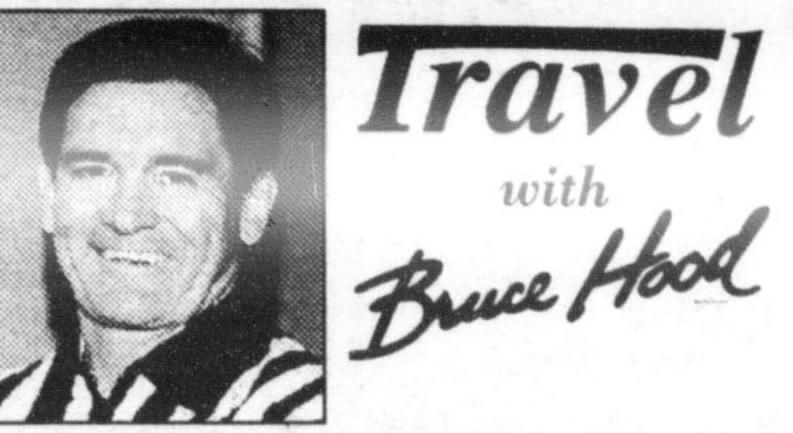
"I really don't have a great deal of problems with this," he said, following the presentation.

The proposal also seems reasonable to Burlington Councillor Denis Lee, who also holds a seat on Halton regional council.

"Given the provincial government's mood and position, this is probably as good a way as any for us to address the problems this area is going to face," he said.

"But there are a tremendous amount of warts and wrinkles that need to be worked out."

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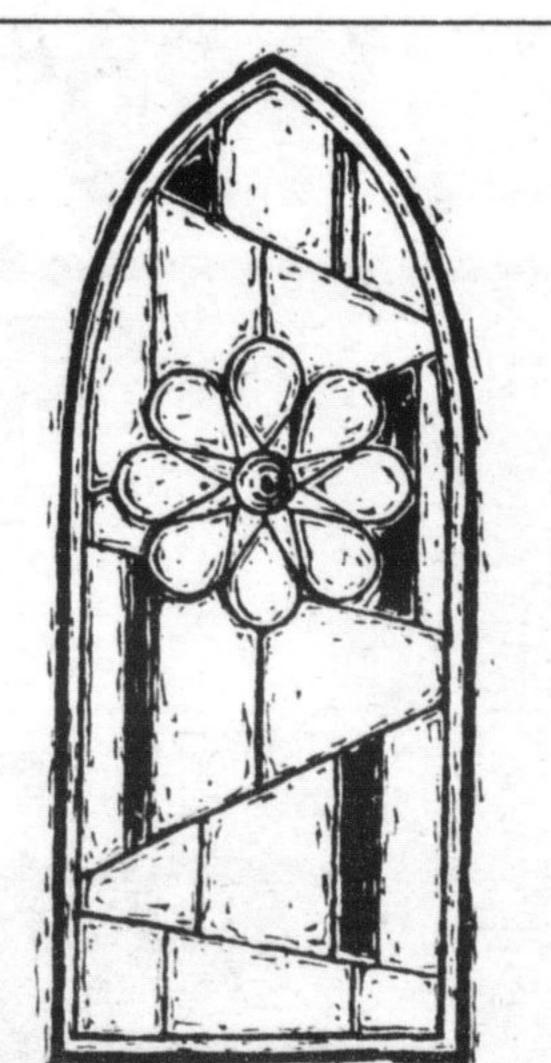
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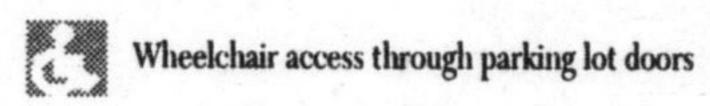
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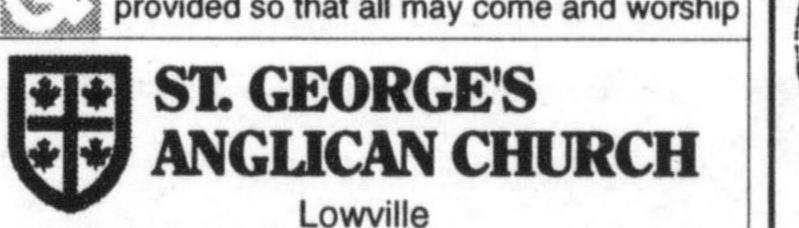
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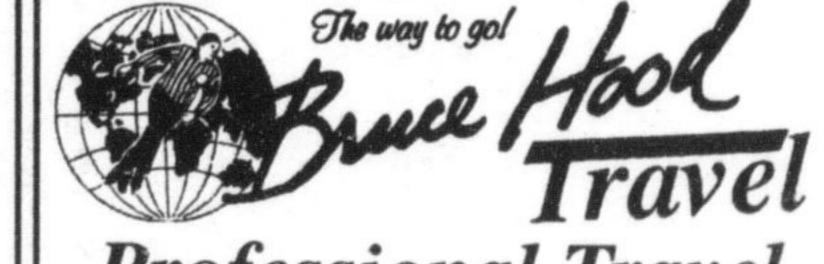
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