



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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We'd be junior partners

Right now Milton Mayor Gord Krantz is supporting the Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB) because he thinks it will be good for development in Milton.

And, he is quick to point out, Halton Region has been anything but effective when it comes to moving forward the pro-growth agenda Mr. Krantz favours.

Still, Mr. Krantz should keep a long-term perspective here. For many years to come, no matter what growth benefits Milton obtains, this community will be a small voice in GTSB decisions.

Meanwhile, the chorus from Toronto will wail away, demanding this, that and the other thing from the supposedly more affluent suburbs. The pleas may include tax money, landfill space and various schemes aimed at bailing out unwieldy Toronto infrastructure or capital projects.

Make no mistake, the GTSB will become a new level of municipal government, GTSB czar Milt Farrow has already admitted as much.

For in truth, what does municipal government do for the most part beyond provide services that will fall under the umbrella of the GTSB?

Where the GTSB gains power, others will lose.

So while in the short term the GTSB may prove better for Milton than Halton Region ever was, if Mr. Krantz is right and it supersedes Halton — in the long run Milton may not like what it gets served up as a junior partner in the business.

Rob Kelly

It gives us some pause

We're prepared to give Dusty Papke, the new director of education for the Halton public school board, the benefit of the doubt. But the first major decision to come out of his office seems a bit, shall we say, odd.

Contradicting recommendations contained in the board's much-vaunted Renewal Project, and seemingly ignoring the fact the board is still millions of dollars over budget, Mr. Papke has decided to increase the complement of superintendents.

He claims the new superintendents are needed. According to Ministry of Education guidelines of one superintendent for every 5,000 students, Halton should have eight or nine supers. And that may well be so.

But the fact remains, the board is short \$5.5 million dollars in its 1997 budget. And, although the cost of the new superintendents might be much less than that, how is the board now supposed to approach the secondary teachers and ask for the huge concessions they need?

Again, giving Mr. Papke the benefit of the doubt, let's say the superintendents are needed. Still, is this the message the board wants to be sending to those they still are negotiating contracts with, especially the secondary teachers? How, in good conscience, can negotiators for the board go to the bargaining table and demand concessions when they, themselves, haven't been tightening their belts? Appearance still counts for something in this world, and the board is sending out the wrong signals to both teachers and taxpayers.

We are all doing more with less, so why can't the Halton board?

From The Burlington Post



Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the July 24, 1996 issue

- Officials reported that a shift to province-wide actual value assessment (AVA) would have a negligible impact on Halton residents. Residents in communities with older property assessments were expected to take the brunt of AVA adjustments. "Because our current assessment numbers are closer to the current market we won't experience the same growing pains as places like Whitby and parts of Toronto," said Mr. Jim McQueen, Milton's director of finance.

- Seventeen-year-old Milton District High School student Alysia Gabriel lost her long battle with cystic fibrosis. Gabriel had been an outspoken activist for sufferers of the disease, working closely with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Toronto chapter. A service was held for Miss Gabriel at Grace Anglican Church.

- The Ministry of Natural Resources announced its new initiative to curb rabies in the Milton area. Small, yellow packets of rabies vaccine were to be dropped from an airplane onto green spaces in the area.

20 Years Ago

From the July 27, 1977 issue

- Otto Jelinek announced that, contrary to a front page story published in The Etobicoke Gazette, he was not considering running in any of the Toronto ridings, but would

stick to his decision of one year prior and run in Halton. Jelinek had been contacted by representatives of the Etobicoke Centre riding, the Etobicoke Lakeshore riding and the High Park-Parkdale riding. Jelinek denied allegations he was waffling on his choice of riding. "This is the choice I made and this is where I'll seek the nomination," he said.

- Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA) officials were preparing to present an appeal to the Ministry of Housing in regard to the proposed expansion of Glen Eden Ski Area. The HRCA's expansion proposal was turned down by the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) because parts of it conflicted with NEC policy. The proposal included an additional ski run, the construction of a triple chair lift and the building of a new ski chalet. Bill Warwick, director of the HRCA's conservation services, was confident the appeal would be granted in the authority's favour.

50 Years Ago

From the July 24, 1947 issue

- Two of the four bandits that made off with \$105,000 from Campbellville's Bank of Nova Scotia and two female accomplices were being held in the Halton County Jail. The other two bandits, Leo Brunnel and Garth "Dusty" Miller, were the subjects of a province-wide search by Ontario Provincial Police. Posters bearing photos of the wanted robbers had been sent to border cities and larger centres throughout Ontario.

Pud

by Steve Nease

