

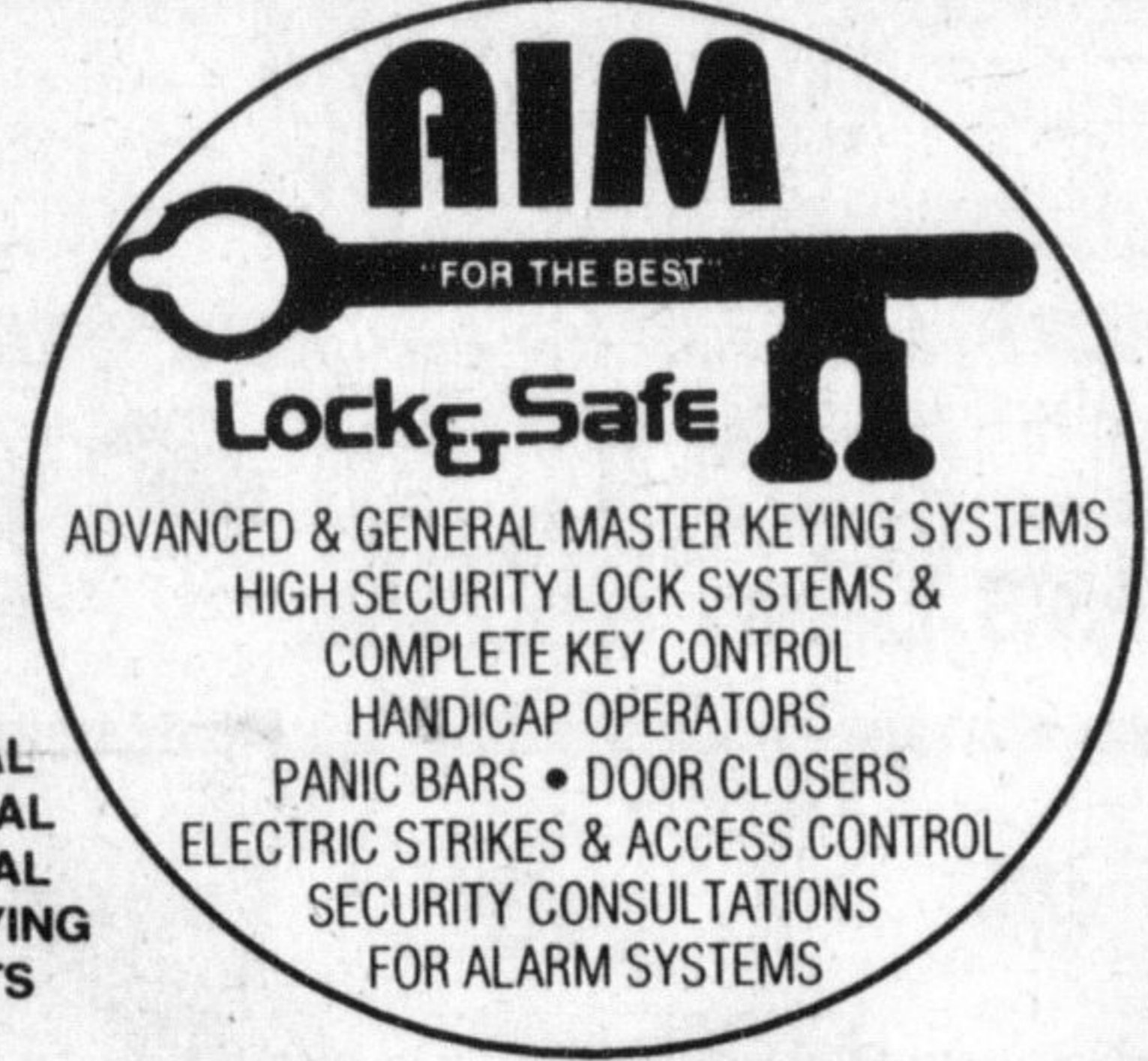


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CHAMBER NEWS
A Monthly Newsletter of the Milton Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement: To provide leadership in promoting, influencing and enhancing the well being of the businesses and the community of Milton.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
by Mike Shepherd



There are many signs around us that remind us that summer is drawing to a close. The mornings are noticeably cooler, the children have returned to school and the roads seem just a little bit busier.

The end of summer is a time of new beginnings for the Chamber. With our fiscal year end of September 30 fast approaching, we have busied ourselves with finalizing the past year and planning for the year that lies ahead. The planning process at the Chamber takes on many forms. The obligatory financial budget gives rise to a review of all aspects of our organization. We are careful to ensure any changes we make are consistent with the mission of the Chamber.

Since the Chamber is simply a collection of people working together, it is natural that in addition to strategic and financial planning we have a need to also look at succession planning. A significant amount of what the Chamber does is influenced by the advice and guidance of volunteer committees and a Board of Directors. It is in this regard that I would like to ask for your assistance.

If you have ever thought that you would be interested in being more involved in what the Chamber does, you may want to consider a position on the Board of Directors or on one of the standing committees as an ideal way of ensuring your particular interests are being addressed by the organization. A nomination committee has been formed by the Chamber to deal with this very important aspect of the future of the organization.

Each standing committee and the Board of the Chamber are responsible for providing leadership in promoting the well-being of the business community of Milton. The goals and objectives through which the mission is fulfilled are as follows:

- providing a leadership role in the development and promotion of the community, the Chamber and its member businesses.
- promoting excellence in the business community and in public administration
- communicating issues and Chamber activities or services to members, the business community and the public.
- influencing all levels of government on specific issues affecting business and community
- encouraging and supporting entrepreneurship
- fostering collegiality in the business community and
- providing support services to Chamber members and the business community.

If you think you would like to play an integral role in an exciting and dynamic organization, we would certainly like to hear from you. Either call Sandy at the Chamber office or contact me for additional information on the various opportunities within the Milton Chamber of Commerce.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
by Sandy Martin



I want to share some information with you, the ratepayers of Milton and Halton. Our municipal politicians are being confronted with making some of the most serious and difficult decisions of their careers. The decisions revolve around how they will cope with the massive downloading from the province to the area municipalities. The impact of the "Who Does What" announcements will affect our lives for years to come.

The Chamber Government Relations Committee met on Wednesday September 3, 1997 with Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline, Mayor Gord Krantz and Joe Rinaldo, Director of Corporate Services, Region of Halton to discuss the reality facing Halton Region and Milton specifically. I would like to provide you with a brief summary of what Joyce Savoline shared with us:

Halton has been hit harder than any other municipality in Ontario by the changes announced by the Province. In 1998, property taxes on an average household (\$185,000 market value) in Halton will increase between \$407 and \$491 to cover the additional costs transferred by the Province. Halton understands the need to share the burden of social costs across a larger tax base. But as everyone except the Province has recognized, these costs should be paid for from income taxes and not property taxes.

Pooling of costs within the Greater Toronto Area penalizes municipalities, such as Halton, which have worked hard to reduce costs, maintain services and hold the line on property taxes. Now Halton residents will pay for the higher service levels and less efficient administration in Toronto

The Province is fixing Toronto's tax problems on the backs of the other GTA Regions. The result will be a lowering of business taxes in Toronto at the expense of higher residential property taxes in Halton.

Today, homeowners in Halton pay between \$250 - \$900 more in property taxes than Toronto residents. Pooling will make this situation even more unfair, by further increasing the tax burden on Halton residents.

The Provincial Announcements are based on financial data that is misleading and incomplete. For instance, the Province continues to exclude almost \$1 billion in costs that are being transferred to municipalities.

Since 1992, the Region of Halton and the four Area Municipalities have cut more than \$36 million from their budgets to absorb Provincial cutbacks. At the same time, our population has increased by 27,000 people and we have continued to provide quality services at an affordable cost to our residents. Minister Leach is misinformed when he says that municipalities can absorb these new responsibilities and reduce property taxes by finding only 2.3% per year over the next three years through efficiencies. In reality, this means that we must cut our services by 27% to find these efficiencies. (Of the total tax paid to the municipality only 15% is under the control of the Region, the balance goes to the Police and to administer programs mandated by the Province, some of which have been frozen for three years, resulting in an inability to reduce costs).

The Regional Chairman and her colleagues from the Area Municipalities met with the four Halton M.P.P.s recently to outline their concerns and will meet with them again September 5 (today). If you are concerned contact Mayor Krantz at 878-7211; Chairman Savoline at 825-6000; or M.P.P. Ted Chudleigh at 878-1729.

IMPACT ON BUSINESS

The area Chambers of Commerce asked the area M.P.P.s at a meeting held in Burlington last week about how these changes would affect our business communities. Unfortunately, the assessment roles usually released in December will not be available until April of '98 so any changes to the business community will not be seen until the final tax installment. Joe Rinaldo did tell us that in all probability the shifts would take place within the existing industrial/commercial property tax class. As more information is available we will make it known to the Milton business community.



The generous donation of Marley Roof Tiles by Stirling Building Products allowed the town to maximize their capital budget allocation for a new (asphalt) roof for the Train Station in Chris Hadfield Park, home to the Milton Chamber of Commerce. The old roof had two and a half layers of shingles which took the crew over a week to remove. They then installed the new light weight Marley tiles in a few days. The colour and style of the tiles have rejuvenated the historic building and acts as a landmark for the Town.

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Congratulations to North End Nissan for once again for being the recipient of the **CERTIFICATE OF PERFECT PERFORMANCE** for 1997. The Industrial Accident Prevention Association Halton-Peel Division presented this award to North End for Achieving another full year without a compensable claim.