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Looks like the 'big pipe' is coming to Milton soon

Major growth becoming reality following decision

By **BRAD REAUME**

The Champion

Massive growth in Milton is a go. An elated Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said that with approval of the big pipe option for water servicing to Milton "we'll be able to get on with the expansion."

Thursday a joint committee of regional councillors agreed, with surprisingly little dissent, to the so-called 'big pipe' option.

The decision capped months of negotiations regarding a possible connection to the Peel Region water system. In the end, they broke down.

The latest decision was not without controversy. The three companies chosen to develop a plan for private sector involvement in the project were dumped and the tendering process re-opened.

This despite several pleas to maintain the list of qualified companies even though the scope of the plan had changed considerably since they were chosen.

Some councillors still skeptics

Several councillors also expressed doubt that current residents of Halton will not be on the hook through higher taxes to help pay the costs of growth.

Joe Rinaldo, Halton's commissioner of corporate services, said the initial \$37 million to kick-start the \$96 million initiative will come from developers. After that an additional development surcharge, estimated by land development lawyer Howard Mott at \$7,500 per home, will apply.

"I hear what your saying, I'm just not really buying it," said Burlington Councillor Ralph Scholtens, when Mr. Rinaldo outlined the deal.

Mr. Rinaldo explained the development surcharge has been used on other Halton projects to make sure that growth pays for itself. He added developers had made it plain that the up-front money and the surcharges are acceptable.

"I'm happy. It's over for the most part," said Mr.



"Much still has to be done, but I know now it will happen, as long as it passes at regional council."

GORD KRANTZ

Krantz. "There was a major shift from all the close votes we had in the past which kept the process moving forward."

Mr. Krantz said the delay in making a decision may have been beneficial because five years ago the housing market was so stagnant, developers may not have been anxious to provide money.

"This is just the beginning of the solution," the mayor added. "Much still has to be done, but I know now it will happen, as long as it passes at regional council."

The move must be ratified by the whole of Halton council at a meeting tomorrow (Wednesday).

Committee members heard a cacophony of opinion prior to making their decision. Michael Bourgon, past

• see **WATER** on page 19



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Pick of the crop

Six-year-old Mike Miller shows off his decorated basket filled with the red apples Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will distribute during this week's annual Apple Days.

Some new faces get in the races

Three new candidates were added to November's municipal election list just prior to press time.

Among them were Erica Andrew and Paul Tait, who will try to claim the one remaining public school trustee seat. Also, Frank Wilson will now challenge Ward 2 incumbents Art Melanson and Wally Hunter.

Those who had indicated their candidacies

by noon Friday were: Incumbent Gord Krantz, Colin Best (mayor), incumbent Barry Lee (Wards 1 and 3 regional councillor), Rick Malbouef (Wards 2 and 4 regional councillor), incumbents Brian Penman and Rick Day (Ward 1 councillor), incumbents Art Melanson and Wally Hunter, Frank Wilson (Ward 2 councillor), Lieven Gevaert and Irene Greer (Ward 3 councillor), incumbents Ron

Furik and John Challinor (Ward 4 councillor), incumbent Joe Deoni (separate school trustee), Erica Andrews and Paul Tait (public school trustee), Sharon Barklay (Ward 1 hydro commissioner), Bill Rowney (Ward 2 hydro commissioner), Murray Inglis (Ward 3 hydro commissioner), Jack Robertson (Ward 4 hydro commissioner).

The deadline to register was 5 p.m. Friday.

NEWSLINES


Concert for MADD on way

Mothers Against Drunk Driving's Halton chapter will host a fundraising concert in Milton next weekend.

The John Robert Wilson Memorial Concert will be held Saturday, Oct. 18 at St. Paul's United Church.

Performers will include the Halton Regional Police Mixed Chorus, the York Regional Police Male Chorus, the eight-man a cappella group Off-Beat, Father Mark Curtis and Bill Hamel accompanying singer Isabelle Varty.

Radio and television personality Harold Hosein will host the concert, which will start at 7 p.m. Proceeds will fund public education the purchase of an advanced alcohol testing unit. For tickets, call 844-0096.



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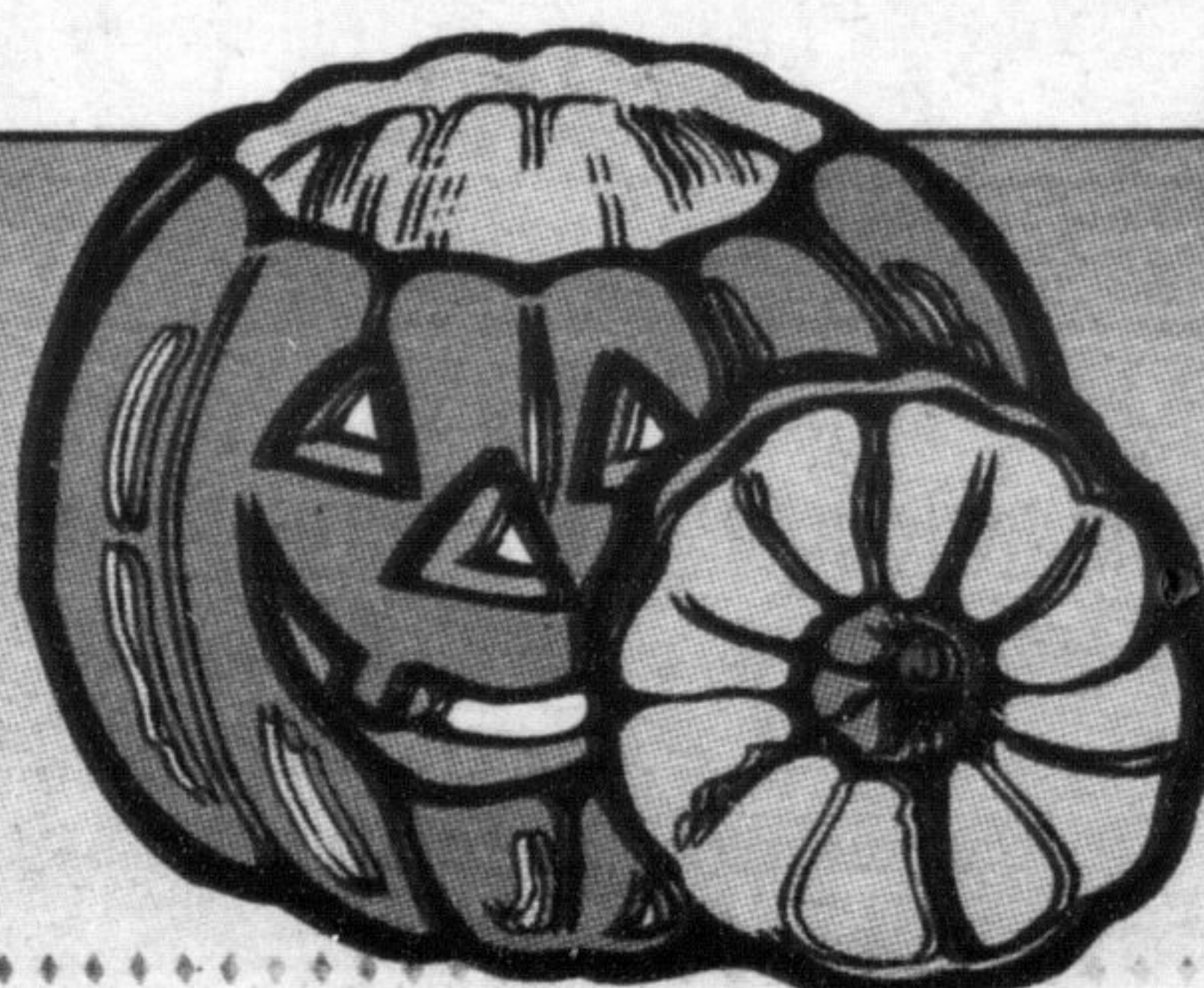
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