

Water woes winding down

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president of the Milton Chamber of Commerce, and developers Gordon Shipp, Hugh Herron and Mitch Fasken all spoke in favour of a timely solution to Milton's water problem.

Tom Muir, representing a Burlington based taxpayers' watchdog organization, slammed politicians for taking too much time to make their decisions.

He said he was able to arrive at an accurate assessment of the price of the big pipe option after 10 minutes of study using existing public documents.

"I hope you feel you got your \$1 million worth or whatever it cost for those studies," he said.

Mr. Muir accused regional officials of hiding the cost of growth and charging existing taxpayers to fund it.

"You can't complain about provincial downloading while you are doing it to taxpayers without telling them," he said.

Several of the companies originally shortlisted by Halton to tender on an expanded version of the work, spoke against the process being restarted due to the reduced scope of the project.

They suggested Halton had a moral obligation to keep the original shortlist because of money the companies have spent and due to the time required to re-tender.

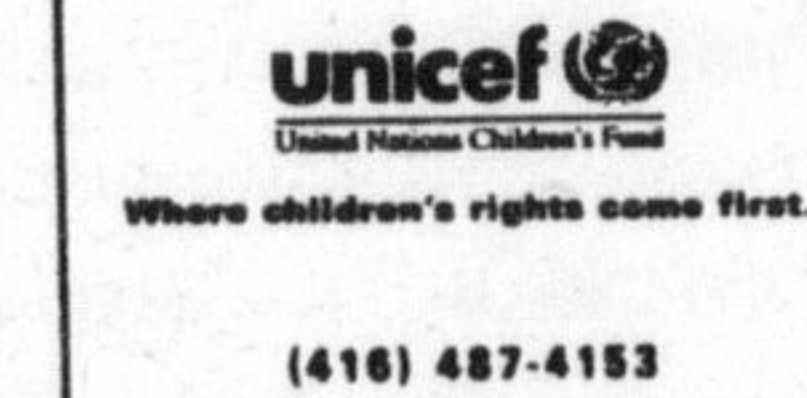
Council met behind closed doors to consider the legal ramifications of reissuing the tender. They decided to dismiss the original shortlist by exercising an escape clause stating that the initiative could be abandoned at any time for any reason.

Burlington Councillor Rob MacIsaac said he wanted a full accounting of how estimates for the project dropped from \$500 million to less than \$100 million. He said he was fearful that some parts of the work had been deferred from the new plan, only to be done later at a higher cost.



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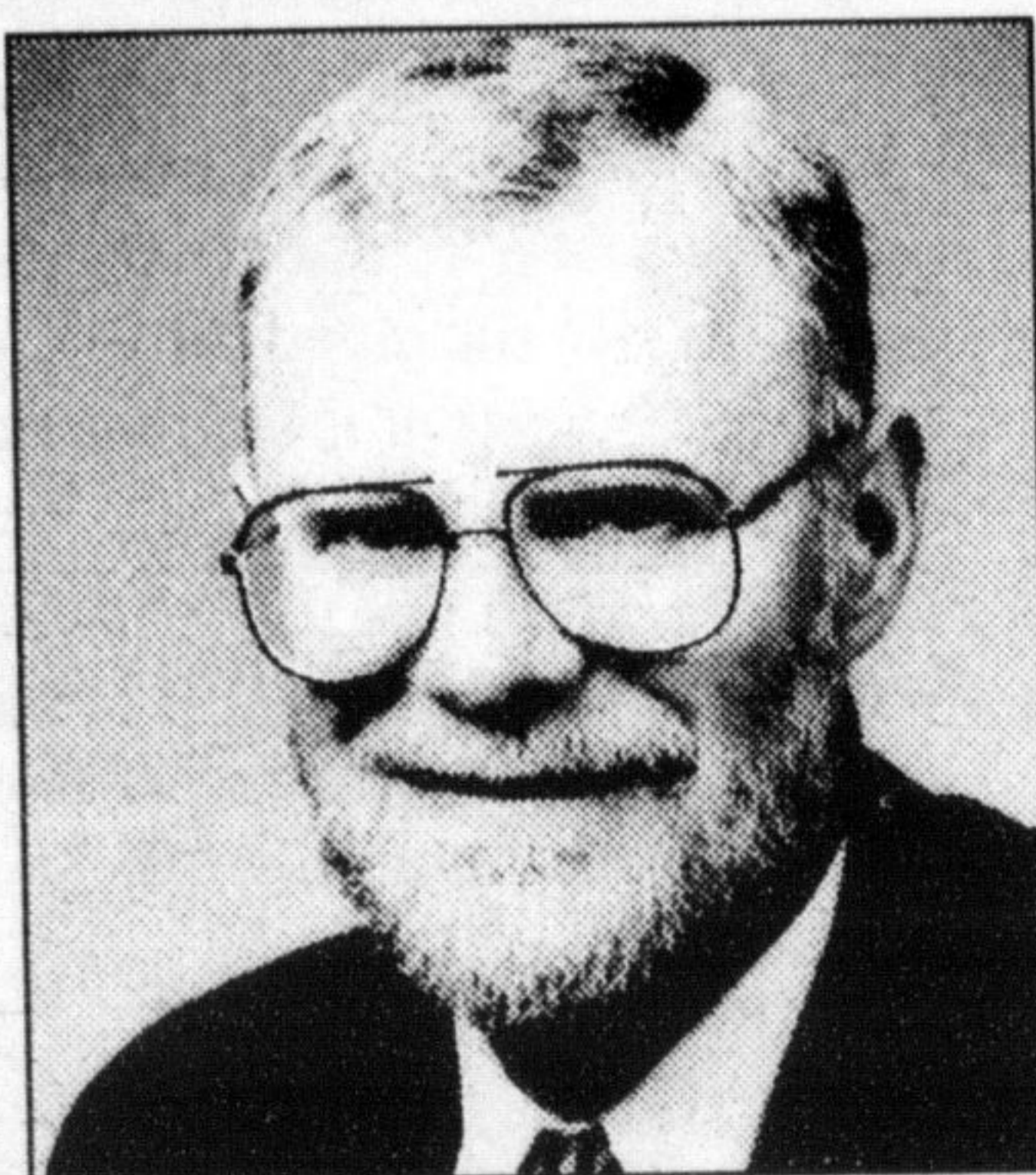
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