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MUNICIPAL PUBLIC FACILITIES CHRISTMAS HOURS

Town Hall:
Please note the Municipal Offices will be closed for the Christmas Week, from Thursday, December 25th, 1997 until Friday, January 2nd, 1998. The Municipal Offices will re-open on Monday, January 5th, 1998 at 8:30 a.m.

Leisure Centre and Arenas:
Please note that the Leisure Centre, John Tonelli Arena and Milton Memorial Arena will be closed as follows:

December 24th at 4:30 p.m.
December 25th - all day
December 26th - all day
December 31st at 4:30 p.m.
January 1st, 1998 - all day

For further information, on programs and operational schedules during this Holiday Season, please contact the appropriate facility, noted below, or Town Hall at 878-7211.

Leisure Centre at 878-7946
John Tonelli Arena 878-2671
Milton Memorial Arena 878-4163

Seniors Activity Centre:
Please note that the Seniors Activity Centre will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from Monday, December 22nd, 1997 until Friday January 2nd, 1998. The Seniors Activity Centre will re-open on Monday, January 5th, 1998 at 8:30 a.m.

For further information please contact the Seniors Activity Centre at 875-1681 or Town Hall at 878-7211.

Mayor Krantz, Members of Council and the Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all the residents of Milton, a holiday blessed with peace, prosperity, health and happiness and best wishes for the upcoming year.

Gord Krantz says the pace of local change accelerating

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

No individual step taken by the Town of Milton in 1997 was particularly significant, according to Mayor Gord Krantz.

However, there were numerous little moves forward which, together, can be seen as a great leap for the Town, he explained.

Mr. Krantz pointed to major new businesses in Milton, a plan for growth, a Town Hall reorganization, new efficiencies with road maintenance, community safety plans, and a major technology upgrade as important moves into the future.

Specifically he said 1997 produced:

- 200 jobs at Johnson Controls
- A land purchase by auto parts giant Magna Corporation
- The purchase of the old police offices near Town Hall
- A deal with Halton Hills and Halton Region to streamline road plowing and maintenance
- House numbering in the rural area,
- A Town website
- A move to extend Milton's local telephone calling area.

While the past seems productive the future is very uncertain. Much is clouded by speculation on municipal reorganization.

Despite being shelved just before recent municipal elections, the possibility of major alterations in jurisdiction remains high.

"I can't emphasize enough these are changing times," said Mr. Krantz.

He acknowledged that change is driving plans to prioritize the Town's core services and pledged to continue the process no matter what plans emerge from the provincial government.

"The internal and external boundaries are certain to change within the next 10 years, perhaps even the next five," said Mr. Krantz.

So far the provincial government has only strongly suggested amalgamations between towns, and to their credit according to Mr. Krantz, they have not pushed.



"If one level of government has to disappear I would say the local level should remain in some form."

— GORD KRANTZ

The Mayor said he expects a debate to reduce local council numbers early in the term. He said he supports a move to nine council members from the current 11.

A more drastic reorganization would have to be considered in the light of a potential move to full-time councillors, he explained.

"I certainly support the notion that there is too much government in Canada," he said.

The issue of a popular election for regional chair would appear to be back on the agenda, but Mr. Krantz said he will continue to oppose it.

He said under such circumstances there is virtually no chance for a candidate from north Halton to win the job. Currently the chair is elected by the members of regional council.

The same system exists in other Greater Toronto regions of Peel, York and Durham. In Hamilton-Wentworth the chair is elected at large.

Mr. Krantz admitted there is potential for a City of Halton but explained that amalgamating Milton and Halton Hills as one city, and Burlington and Oakville as another likely makes more sense.

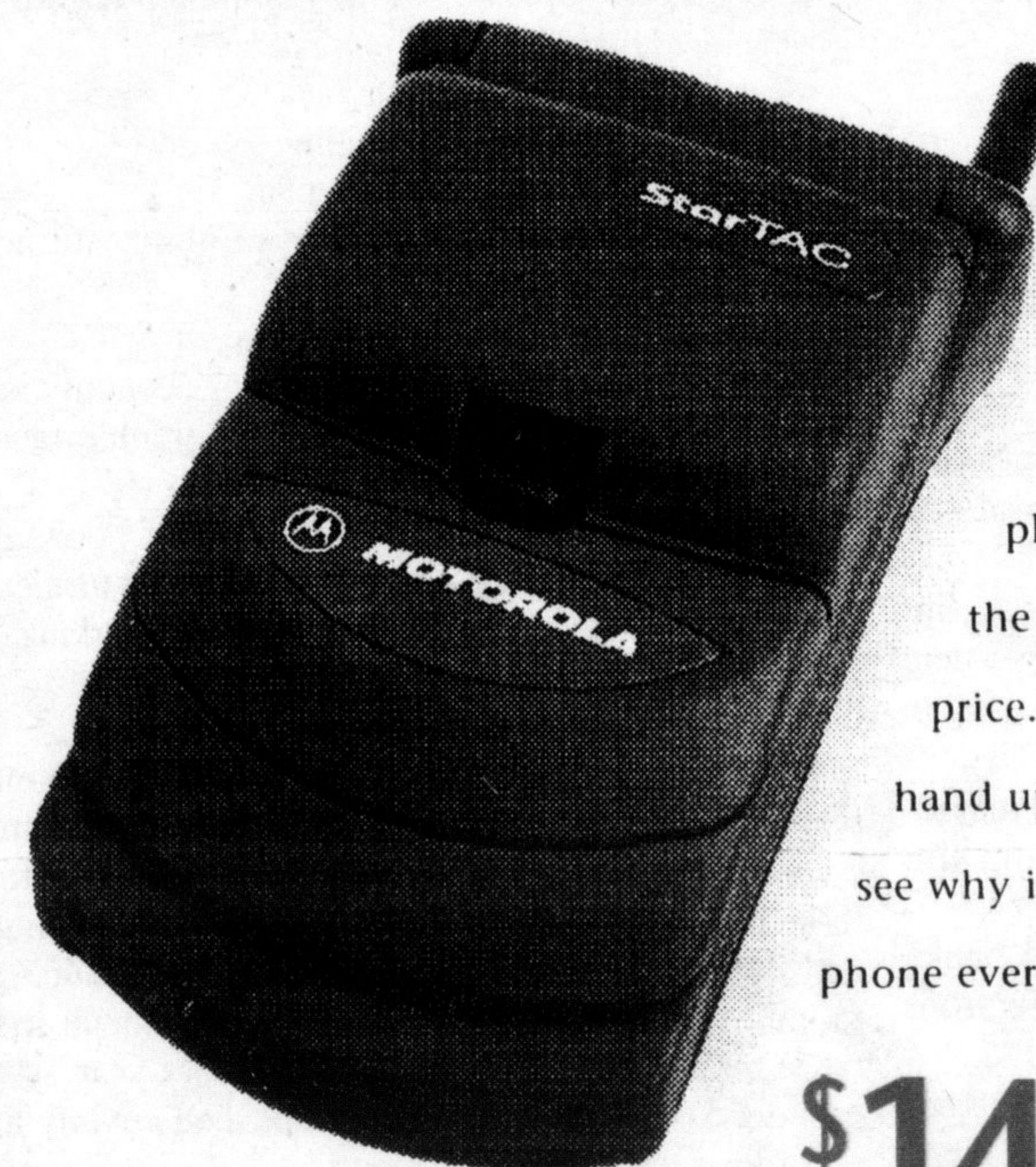
"I'm not in support of a City of Halton," said the Mayor. "If one level of government has to disappear I would say the local level should remain in some form."

Mr. Krantz says any discussion of moving parts of Milton to other municipalities is a political minefield.

Other issues for the upcoming year include managing local taxes. The Mayor says it's a question of bal-

• see FUTURE on page 15

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