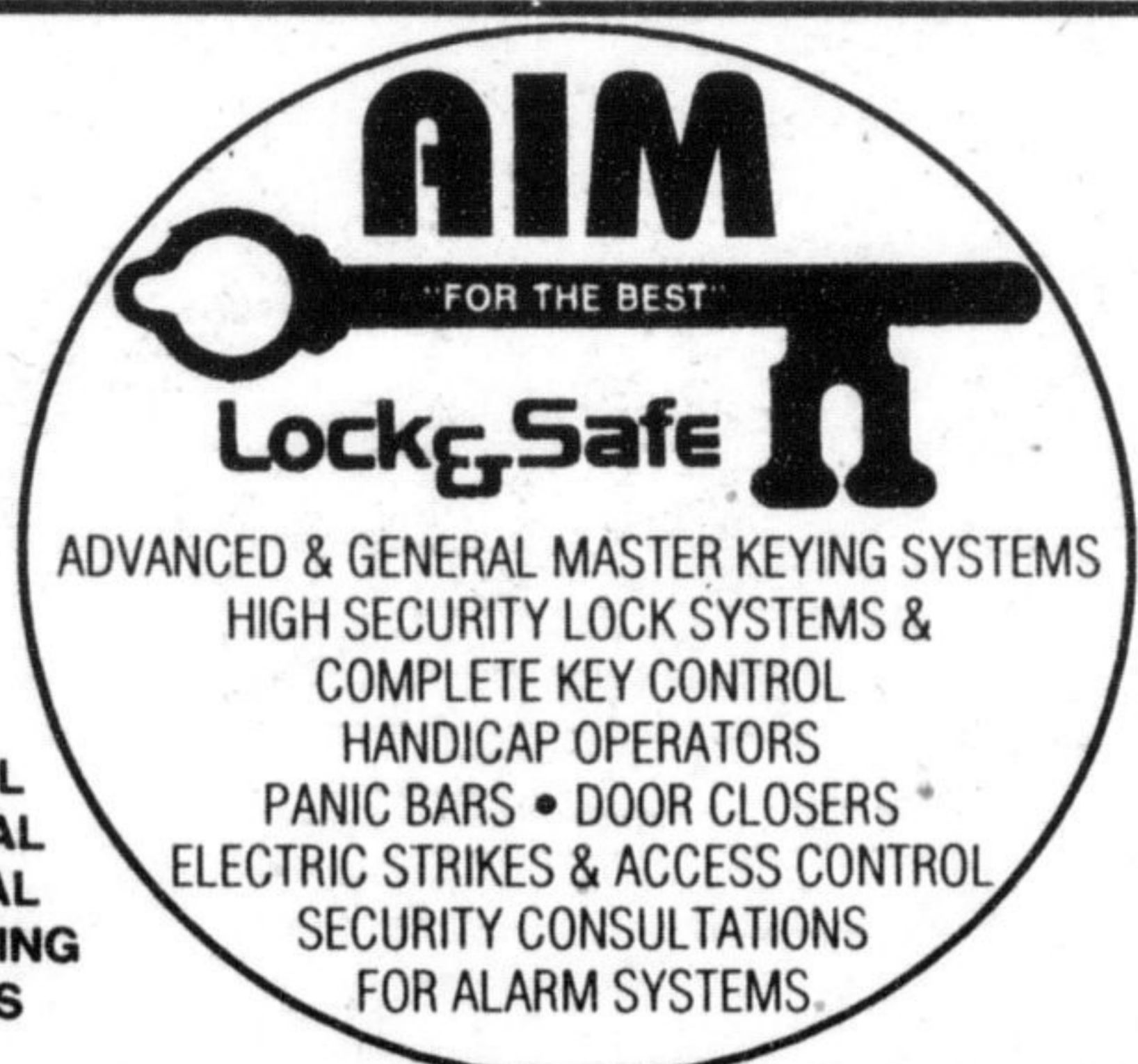


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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Jamie Burton

**Be Part of the Future of Milton**

In our Board and Committee Seminar last month we discussed the Chamber and its role in Milton. We unanimously felt that the Chamber should champion causes and venues that would allow all groups in the town help shape the future. Dialogue between the Town, the Region and the many organizations that make up the framework of the community is always helpful.

In 1995 work was completed on a far-reaching document called "Destiny Milton". Several task forces throughout the area compiled it. It's now time to revisit that document and see how far we have come and where we should go from here. That is not to say that we would take the time and expense of the original effort. But, moving into the new millennium all of us should focus on how we would like the place that we live and work in to be. This takes input from all areas of the community. With that in mind, a number of the Chamber volunteers have been meeting to discuss the value of hosting a one-day seminar. The name would be "Milton and Its Future Beyond the Year 2000". We would hope to bring together representatives from the Chamber, the Region, the Town, BIA, Service Clubs, Community groups, the hospital and individual citizens groups. It would be a chance to hear and discuss Town plans. There might be workshops on growth and change. A forum where everyone could help formulate ideas for the future.

This is a great community and this is a chance to provide input to the planners of the future. This is a time to hear about other members of the community and their plans. Sound interesting?

With an undertaking like this we need help. We will be getting in touch with all the groups possible in the next few weeks to get their comments and, hopefully, their support; but we will need lots of help. So, if you think that you would like to be part of helping to shape the vision for the future, please give us a call. We'd be happy to include you.



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Sandy Martin



**1998 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Death and Taxes are the only constants, they say, but the tax system will change drastically in the 1998 taxation year. Recent decisions by the Provincial Government could have significant impacts on Milton property taxes and/or municipal services.

In our Government Relations committee meeting we were given a general overview of the Town of Milton's 1998 Municipal Budget. The following dates have been scheduled by the Administration and Planning Committee to consider the Municipal 1998 Budget. These are public meetings and you are urged to attend.

**WHEN:** Tuesday February 17, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday February 18, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday February 24, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday February 25, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Milton Town Hall, 43 Brown Street (corner of Mary and Brown Street), Council Chambers (2nd floor)

**TOPICS COVERED:** User Fees, Reserve and Reserve Funds, Operating and Capital Budgets

Your Assessment Notice will be arriving at your residence or place of business within the next few weeks. As of January 1, 1998, property assessment is based on Current Value Assessment or CVA. The reassessed value of your property will now represent the estimated market value of your property as of June 30, 1996. It is critical that you examine your assessment information and ask questions about the evaluation of your property. The assessment appeal period for 1998 has been extended to June 30, 1998 to deal with the expected number of appeals.

The introduction of CVA, the elimination of Business Occupancy Tax (BOT), the downloading of services from the Province to the upper and lower tier Municipalities all combine to make the 1998 budget the most challenging in decades. Residential and Commercial / Industrial property owners are urged to pay attention to their Assessment Notices and to attend the public meetings set aside to consider the 1998 Municipal Budget.

**COMING EVENTS...**

**Thursday, February 12, 1998**  
**MPP BREAKFAST**  
**Muddy Duck Restaurant - 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.**  
Speaker - Ted Chudleigh  
Topic - Where We've Been & Where We're Going!  
The Achievements of the Common Sense  
Revolution & the Future of the Harris Government.  
Call the Chamber at 878-0581 to confirm attendance.  
Members - \$15 Non-members - \$18

**Wednesday, February 18, 1998**  
**INFORMATION SESSION BREAKFAST**  
**Bavarian Chalet - 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.**  
Speaker - Barry Malmsten  
Region of Halton CAO and Staff  
Topic - Halton Urban Structure Plan  
Call the Halton Region, Business Development at (905) 825-6300 to confirm attendance.  
Members - \$15 Non-members - \$18

**Friday, February 20, 1998**  
**1ST IMPRESSIONS COUNT**  
**Chamber Boardroom - 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**  
Learn how to make your presentations sizzle!  
Facilitated by Chris Pohlkamp of Nova Training & Consulting. Call the Chamber for more details at 878-0581.  
\$8.00 p.p..

**Tuesday, February 24, 1998**  
**BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**  
**North End Nissan & Muddy Duck Restaurant**  
610 Martin Street  
5 - 7 p.m.



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