

Penman warns Halton Hills that it is time to talk

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

Brian Penman has issued a stern warning about the possibility of a shoot-out for industrial growth along Highway 401.

Referring to his northeastern neighbours as "cowboys", the Ward 1 councillor said Halton Hills has refused to share in development study costs but may be eager to reap the rewards once the 'big pipe' hits Milton.

The 'big pipe' — expected to be up and flowing by 2001 - will allow for 200 to 300 hectares of industrial growth in Milton's Hwy. 401 district and/or along the Hwy. 401 corridor in Halton Hills.

There's no guarantee Milton would be first in line for industrial growth, despite the fact that it's in the final stages of planning and Halton Hills has just begun their own studies.



Brian Penman

Mr. Penman stressed the need for dialogue with Halton Hills regarding respective hopes for growth and the possibility of sharing resources.

"We'll be ill-served if we ignore each other," he remarked.

His comments came recently at Milton's administration and planning committee meeting, during a presentation and debate on the Halton Urban Structure Plan (HUSP).

Milton planning director Mel Iovio outlined a handful of different phasing options for industrial and residential growth.

The five options were made public Thursday at a Bishop Reding Secondary School meeting.

Initial growth, councillors learned, should begin by 2001. In addition to the 200 to 300 hectares of business land, water and waste water capacity for 6,200 more residences will become available between 2001 and 2007.

Long-term growth projections have Milton growing by a minimum of 50,000 people by 2016.

Mr. Iovio also told of how Zenon Environmental's water filter treatment system could afford the town up to 750 units of interim residential growth (or its industrial equivalent) as early as next

"I want it stressed that there should be little if any financial impact on property tax owners (for this growth)," said Mayor Gord Krantz, who reminded councillors of south Halton's stand against carrying the burden for expansion in Milton.

Responding to these statements, Mr. Iovio explained that developers who look to existing infrastructure and minimize the financial impact on property taxpayers will be given first crack at decision time.

HUSP will cost roughly \$100 million. Halton Region hopes to get approximately \$40 million in up-front money from developers and then feed back development charges to pay for each phase of the project.

Milton will zero in on one specific phasing option within the next several weeks while Halton Region will finalize plans to proceed by May.



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