

Steve does Elvis with Men II Boys

What do you get when a bunch of baby boomer men start singing in the basement? In Milton, it's Men II Boys.

The men's chorus, which uses the motto 'It's never too late to have a happy childhood', will travel down memory lane Sunday in a concert at St. Paul's United Church.

The group of four tenors, three baritones and three basses from Milton, Campbellville and Brampton will present the 'King and Us' featuring popular Elvis Presley impersonator Steve Kabakos with the Tennessee Valley Band and Memphis Sound.

The combination of Mr. Kabakos and the two-year-old Men II Boys seemed natural, said band member Graham Troake. The 3 p.m. concert will focus on hits from the '50s.

"We have been singing at birthday parties, anniversaries and special events for two years now. We're just happy to pay for the gas and the beer," he said.

Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and student. They are available at Coulter Music and Delacourt's on Main Street.



Photo by STEVE LeBLANC

Hot items

Detective Kim Duncan (left) and Constable Gary Collins sort through \$50,000 worth of stolen property seized by police last week.

Growth will probably begin in eastern Milton

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

The march of new development in Milton will likely begin in the east.

Halton Region planning and financial staff were at Milton town council last week to explain their rationale for choosing to develop lands to the east of the current urban area, that is, east of Thompson Road.

The choice is still subject to more public debate and a regional council resolution.

Region staff also explained that creating a dual water system would be prohibitively expensive. The idea behind that was to utilize well water for current residents and Lake Ontario water in new growth areas.

According to Dave Birkett, Halton's director of budgets and fiscal policy, the additional cost for such work would be about \$14 million on the \$96 million project.

Scenario unacceptable

In addition, if the systems were kept separate, some of the costs would not be allowable under development charges legislation and would have to be carried on water rates, according to Mr. Birkett. Such a scenario is unacceptable considering the regional council guideline which states that current taxpayers will not finance the costs of development.

"It's important to know that we are not recommending any course of action at this time," said Halton development review manager Pat Murphy.

Mr. Murphy explained that with

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PAT MURPHY

commercial-industrial lands slated to be developed even further to the east, it makes some sense to first develop the area between that property and the current urban area.

Region planners have identified five potential options for development, targeting various areas surrounding the current Milton urban area.

Mr. Murphy said that a February 5 public meeting drew 400 interested people. Their comments supported the east growth scenario.

An analysis of the eight objectives assigned to phasing the development ranked the east growth plan first in seven of the categories. While an east-west scenario ranked second, no other plan scored nearly as high. Objectives included location, planning constraints, and proximity to commercial-industrial zoning.

Mr. Murphy explained that the eastern development proposal also reduces servicing costs by about \$13 million in the initial development, because the branch lines of

the main pipe from Lake Ontario will first be located in that area before spreading out to cover other development locations.

"It is clear the east-southeast plan is a fairly strong winner," he said. "The key is the ability of landowners to front end financing of (water) services."

Developers will put \$36 million up front to pay for the servicing costs. Such an arrangement is fairly common in the development industry. Up front costs are returned to developers as the project proceeds.

Mr. Birkett said the call to initially develop 6,200 housing units and 700 hectares of commercial-industrial lands was made because that represents the current over-capacity in the south Halton water treatment system. Such capacity would have to be replaced as the Milton project proceeds, he explained.

Several hurdles

There are several hurdles the plan must carry before it is a go sometime in the fall of 1998. There is a landowners' meeting to get commitments for the front end financing this month.

In May a report will go to Halton's planning and public works committee. In June the Region's administration and finance committee will look at it and a week later council will set the course for future action, with official plan amendments and agreements set for the fall, Mr. Murphy said.

That done, laying the pipe to bring water north from Lake Ontario could begin. Once the pipe is in place, homes could be built, probably beginning in 2000.

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