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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Higher mom, higher

Spring isn't the only thing in the air lately as Crystal Hill gives son Owen a bird's eye view of the situation at the Mill Pond, where the two enjoyed a little fun and sun.

Business groups oppose the eastern growth focus

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

Balanced east and west Milton growth is essential to the future of all local merchants, say leaders of two business groups.

Opposing Halton Region's call for initial growth in southeast Milton, the heads of the Milton Chamber of Commerce and the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) say they think merchants in the centre core will suffer.

"We don't believe there will be any net savings, especially if downtown businesses suffer and fall," said Chamber president Jamie Burton.

DBIA chair Bruce Sinclair said he believes eastern-only growth would create a satellite town with its own stores and services and encourage shopping and entertainment in Mississauga and Oakville.

"If the historic downtown core is in the western quadrant of the new Milton and unable to benefit from increased traffic and growth then quite simply it will die," Mr. Sinclair said.

But Halton Region recently announced it intends to first develop lands to the east of Thompson Road. Financially speaking, that plan is the most feasible, said regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf.

He said if money was no object, he would prefer the east-west scenario, but unfortunately that's not the case.

"They're legitimate concerns, but we have to do what's best for everyone concerned. We have to look at the big picture."

Halton development review manager Pat Murphy has said eastern development would reduce initial servicing costs by about \$13 million, because the branch lines of the main pipe from Lake Ontario would be situated in the area before spreading out to cover other locations.

Developers would put \$36 million up front to pay for servicing costs.

But Mr. Burton said he doesn't buy the financial rationale.

"It has to be realized that any and all local development costs will be borne by the developers and not by existing taxpayers. If the developers are prepared to pay, then we'll all be better off if we maintain a centred growth plan," he said.



"The main issue is protecting our historic downtown core, which Destiny Milton calls for."

— SANDY MARTIN

The Chamber and the DBIA heads say the regional preference is in complete contradiction with Milton's master plan, Destiny Milton.

"The main issue is protecting our historic downtown core, which Destiny Milton calls for," said Chamber general manager Sandy Martin.

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

The business groups plan to make a presentation to town council May 4 followed by a visit to regional council May 19.

Time to move on, says Joyce

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

Joyce Savoline says Halton gave the chlorination fight its best shot.

"Council has gone to the wall on this," the regional chair said. "We tried to communicate with the province but they can't get around their own rules. It's time to say we've given it our best shot and its time to move on."

Ms Savoline walked council briefly through the process of trying to get Milton an exemption which would allow residents to drink untreated well water. However, provincial officials insisted on several contentious conditions before issuing such an exemption.

One requirement was that the Halton Medical

• see FIGHT on page 3



NEWSLINES

Counselling for women

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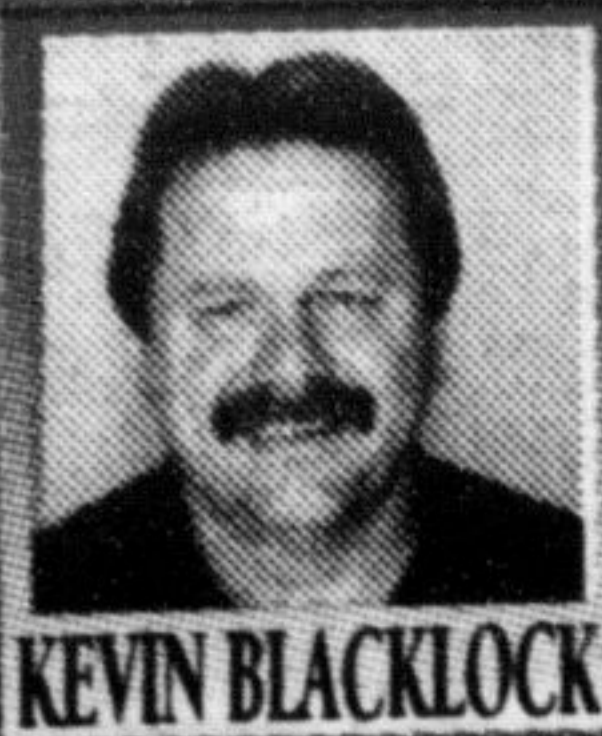


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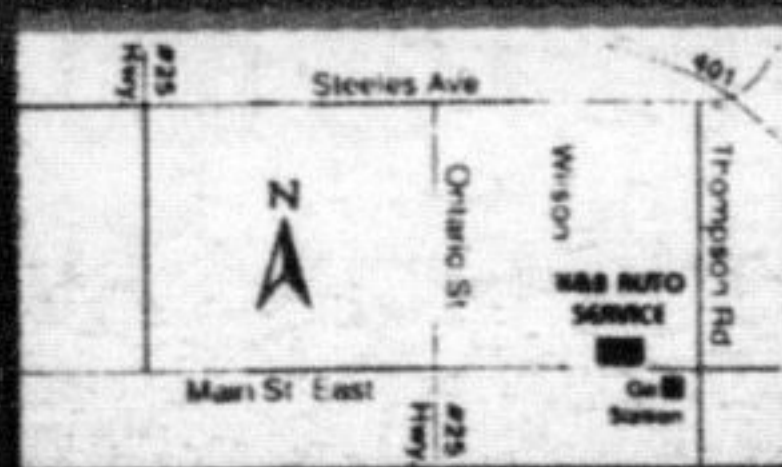
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