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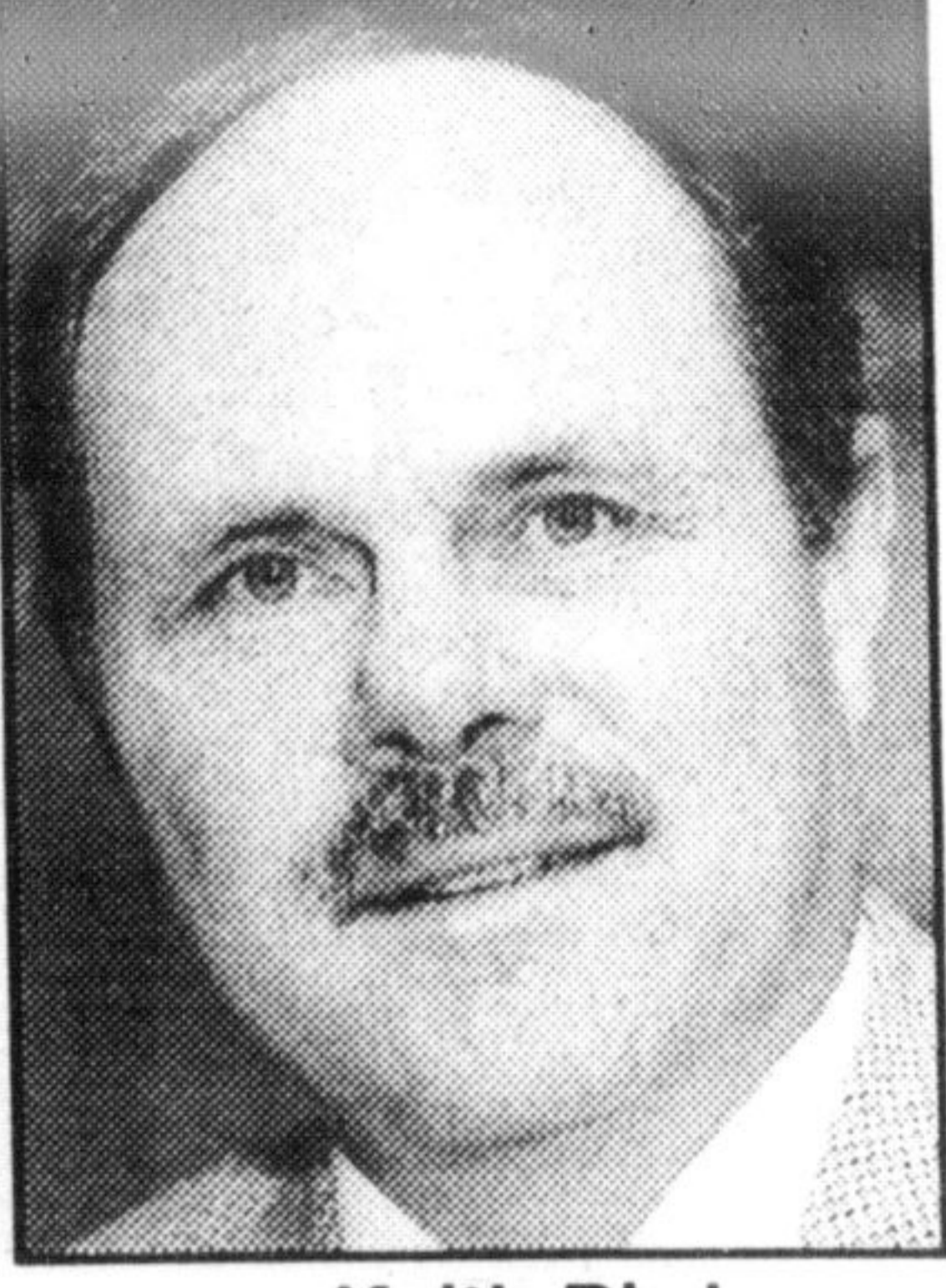


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Growth plan passes major, and probably its last hurdle

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

It looks as if Milton will soon be awash in water. A lack of water and water treatment facilities have caused a 15 year moratorium on population growth in Milton. On Wednesday a joint committee of regional councillors voted unanimously in favour of financial aspects of the Halton Urban Structure Plan, a nearly \$100 million scheme to bring water to Milton and north Oakville.



Gord Krantz

Keith Bird

Private developers have contributed \$62 million to get the pipe built. The pipeline will generate residential construction which, through an estimated \$11,000 in special regional development charges per home, will provide the money to pay back developers. The financial plan still needs to be approved by full council next week.

In the end, fears of a water shortage in Burlington may have inspired Burlington councillors to lend their support.

Several Burlington councillors seemed opposed to the plan in the early stages of debate on Wednesday. However they quickly voiced support when Milton Mayor Gord Krantz suggested a high level of scrutiny be applied to an \$85 million upgrade of the Skyway Waste Water Treatment Plant in Burlington.

Without upgrades to that plant Burlington would face a development freeze in as little as 18 months.

An angry Mr. Krantz used his trump card after Burlington Councillor Mike Wallace suggested Halton Region maintain some sort of control or approval of specific development plans in Milton. That planning power rests solely with individual municipalities.

Mr. Wallace did eventually support the plan, and suggested that removing development pressure from Burlington and shifting it to Milton and Oakville was his prime motivation.

The financial scheme, which was supposed to have no impact on existing taxpayers, calls for a \$10.6 million revolving loan to be paid into the project from Halton reserves.

Despite the fact the loan will be repaid by develop-

ers as construction proceeds, some councillors saw it as a violation of council instructions and were loathe to support it.

In addition some councillors said that \$4 million which will be unrecoverable through development charges on industrial expansions is a further charge to Halton community.

Joe Rinaldo, Halton's commissioner of finance, said these industrial development charges cannot be collected due to provincial legislation and therefore can't be considered a cost to the community associated only with HUSP.

Oakville Councillor Keith Bird said he did not want to see Mr. Krantz trotting businessmen down to Halton Region requesting a waiver on all development charges in order to entice business into Milton.

An angry Mr. Krantz, barely able to contain himself, loudly told Mr. Bird that Oakville politicians should be careful not to do the same thing. Just as the debate threatened to become more confrontational Halton Chair Joyce Savoline insisted on returning the proceedings to order.

Several people told committee members to defer the plan.

Frank Gue, president of the Taxpayers' Coalition of Halton, said the impact on existing taxpayers is not clear. He added that the assumed growth rate of six

• see UNANIMOUS on page 21

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THE COUNCIL OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON intends to hold **two public meetings** to deal with Current Value Assessment (CVA) and related tax policies.

Regional Council will be meeting jointly with the four Area Municipal Councils for an **Information Session** relating to Current Value Assessment (CVA) and proposed 1998 Tax Policies on

Wednesday, June 24, 1998
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
in the Regional Council Chambers

Regional Council **will hear delegations** from any/all interested persons or agencies on



Thursday, June 25, 1998
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
in the Regional Council Chambers

If you have any questions or wish to register as a delegation at the Thursday, June 25, 1998 meeting, please call the Office of the Regional Clerk, prior to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 1998 at a number listed below.

The Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of Halton
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: from Burlington/Oakville (905) 825-6000
Milton/Toronto (905) 825-6000
from Halton Hills (905) 878-8113
from Guelph/Acton (519) 853-0501
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